

AIV·SCHINKEL· WETT_2027 BEWERB

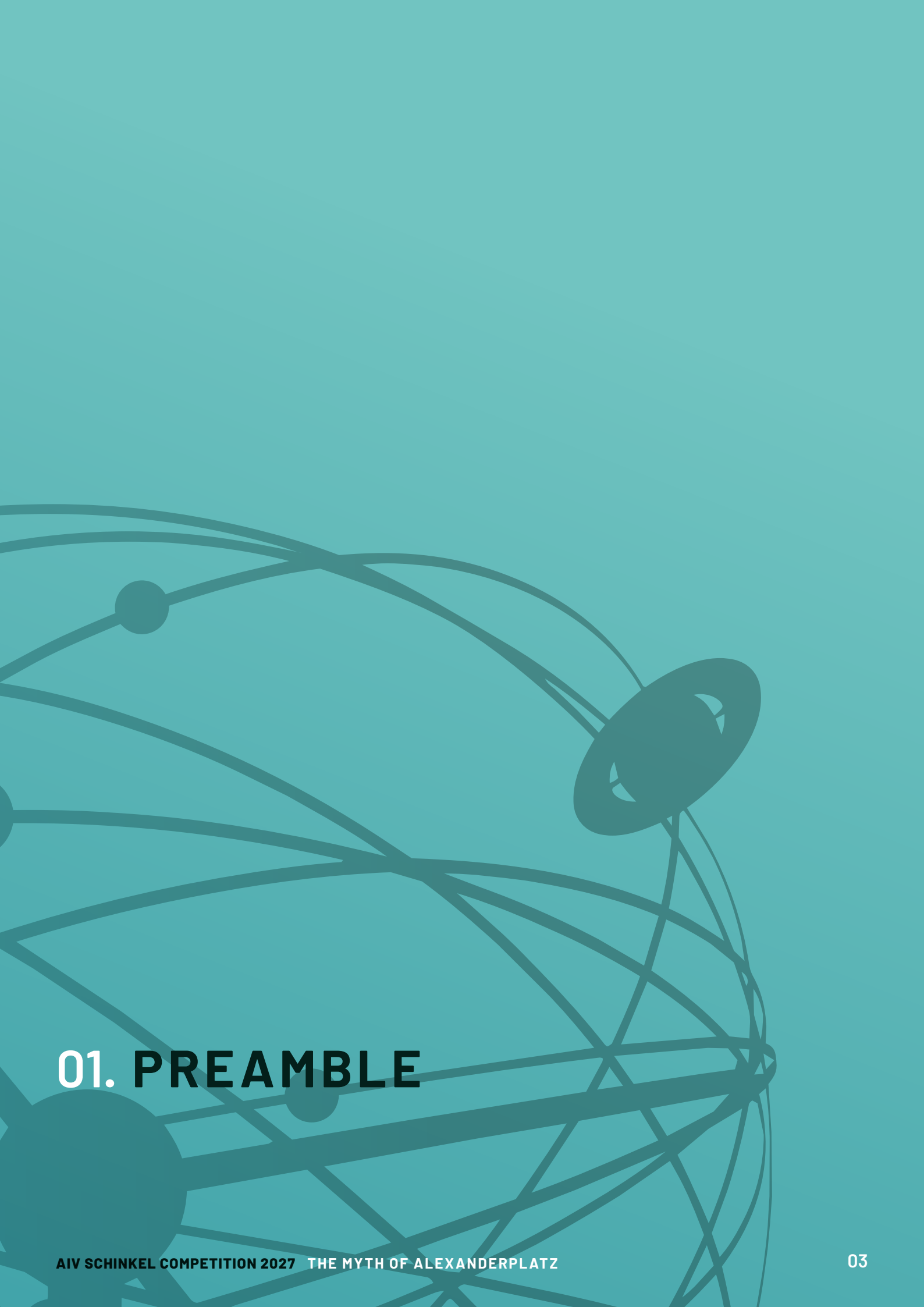
AIV SCHINKEL COMPETITION 2027

THE MYTH OF ALEXANDERPLATZ



Architekten-
und Ingenieurverein
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01. Preamble	03
1.1. AIV Schinkel Competition 2027	04 ►
1.2. Architects' and Engineers' Association of Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.	04 ►
1.3. History of the AIV Schinkel Competition	05 ►
1.4. Funding Bodies	06 ►
02. Brief	07
2.1. Subject of the competition	08 ►
2.2. Planning area	10 ►
2.3. Potential and shortcomings	
2.3.1. Historical development	11 ►
2.3.2. Building structure	12 ►
2.3.3. Heritage protection	13 ►
2.3.4. Existing overarching plans, strategies and concepts	14 ►
2.3.5. Open Space and Climate	15 ►
2.3.6. Transport and street spaces	16 ►
2.3.7. Social structure	17 ►
2.3.8. Housing and residential support services	18 ►
2.3.9. Culture and education	19 ►
2.3.10. Town centre, tourism and retail	20 ►
2.3.11. Stakeholders and networks	21 ►
2.4. Responsibilities of the specialist departments and services provided	
2.4.1. Collaborations	23 ►
2.4.2. Architecture (A)	24 ►
2.4.3. Urban Planning (S)	25 ►
2.4.4. Landscape Architecture (LA)	26 ►
2.4.5. Structural Engineering (KI)	27 ►
2.4.6. Mobility and Transport Planning (MoVe)	29 ►
2.4.7. Fine Art (FK)	30 ►
03. Procedure	32
3.1. Organiser and conduct of the competition	33 ►
3.2. Type of procedure	33 ►
3.3. Communication	34 ►
3.4. Eligibility	34 ►
3.5. Registration	35 ►
3.6. Competition documents	35 ►
3.7. Site visit	35 ►
3.8. Queries and Colloquium	36 ►
3.9. Submission	36 ►
3.10. Anonymisation of entries (code number)	37 ►
3.11. General submission requirements	37 ►
3.12. Copyright and liability	39 ►
3.13. Data protection	39 ►
3.14. Use of artificial intelligence	40 ►
3.15. Preliminary review and assessment procedure	40 ►
3.16. Assessment criteria	41 ►
3.17. Judging Panel	42 ►
3.18. Prizes	45 ►
3.19. Announcement of the results and exhibition of the entries	46 ►
3.20. Dates	46 ►



01. PREAMBLE

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1.1.

AIV Schinkel Competition 2027 An interdisciplinary network is being established by the Architects' and Engineers' Association of Berlin-Brandenburg e. V. (AIV) in collaboration with sponsors, jury members and universities, with the aim of providing answers to current planning and design issues whilst supporting young talent in their professional development.

The competition brief calls for creative, forward-looking solutions and encourages interdisciplinary thinking. As a competition for ideas and talent, the focus is not on immediate implementation, but on engaging with complex interrelationships, the existing built environment and the respective context. The aim is to spark the interest of the urban community in planning areas and to contribute to the public discourse on planning.

The competition comprises six specialist categories and encourages the formation of interdisciplinary teams. A jury comprising experts from various disciplines assesses the submitted entries and awards the Schinkel Prize and the special prizes. In this way, the competition also pays tribute to Karl Friedrich Schinkel's universal way of thinking. The competition is organised by the AIV's Schinkel Committee, which comprises around 50 experts working on a voluntary basis.

1.2.

Architects' and Engineers' Association of Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. The Architects' and Engineers' Association of Berlin-Brandenburg e. V. (AIV) was founded in 1824 by young 'Bauconducteurs' led by Eduard Knoblauch and is Germany's oldest association of technical professionals. Since 2020, the AIV has included 'Brandenburg' in its name to emphasise its connection with the metropolitan region. The association has made a significant contribution to the development of the architectural and engineering professions, as well as to the architectural and cultural history of Berlin, Prussia and Germany.

Its objectives include the promotion of building culture in its various facets. To this end, it critically and constructively monitors current developments in the building sector through events and publications. Furthermore, the association is dedicated to topics relating to urban and architectural history. In recognition of its outstanding services in this field, the AIV was awarded the Ferdinand von Quast Medal in 2007.

Today, the association has around 300 members from the fields of architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, engineering, law, art and other disciplines.

1.3.

History of the AIV Schinkel Competition

From 1829 onwards, current issues in architecture and urban planning were discussed collectively within the AIV in so-called 'monthly competitions'. Alongside lectures and excursions, these 'design exercises' were among the association's most important activities. In the same year, Karl Friedrich Schinkel also joined the association; his work and significance were already highly regarded during his lifetime. Since his death in 1841, the AIV has commemorated his legacy with the annual Schinkel Festival.

At the suggestion of the young architecture student Friedrich Adler, an annual competition for emerging professionals was launched in 1851; it took place for the first time the following year and was dedicated to Karl Friedrich Schinkel.

From 1855 onwards, King Friedrich Wilhelm IV endowed two generously endowed prizes for the disciplines of architecture and civil engineering, thereby further enhancing the competition's significance. At the same time, the pool of participants was expanded: young talents from all over Prussia were now able to take part. Award-winning entries were recognised as examination or diploma theses by the Bauakademie and, later, by the Technical University of Charlottenburg (now TU Berlin).

Over time, the scope of the competitions was broadened to include, alongside building construction and civil engineering, disciplines such as hydraulic engineering, railway construction and mechanical engineering. The substantial prize money was linked to a study tour of significant sites of classical antiquity. The impressions gained there were documented in lectures or architectural surveys and underscored the AIV's academic standards.

The AIV Schinkel Competition soon developed into a central event in the association's calendar. Even today, the award winners – who include, amongst others, Ludwig Hoffmann, Hans Poelzig, David Chipperfield, Udo Weilacher and Mike Schlaich – are honoured as part of the Schinkel Festival. Many former prize-winners now contribute to the competition's continued existence as members of the Schinkel Committee and the judging panel.

1.4.

Funding bodies

The competition would not be possible without the support and financial backing of numerous institutions. The AIV Schinkel Competition is supported, subject to funding, by:

- ▶ Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Construction
- ▶ Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing, State of Berlin
- ▶ Berlin Chamber of Architects
- ▶ Berlin Chamber of Construction
- ▶ Umbrella Organisation of German Architects' and Engineers' Associations (DAI)
- ▶ Association of Consulting Engineers (VBI), Berlin-Brandenburg Regional Association
- ▶ Karl-Friedrich-Schinkel Foundation of the AIV for Berlin-Brandenburg
- ▶ Hans-Joachim-Pysall Foundation
- ▶ Berlin University of the Arts
- ▶ erQ GmbH
- ▶ Filigran Trägersysteme GmbH & Co. KG
- ▶ Lenné Academy for Horticulture and Garden Culture e. V.
- ▶ S.T.E.R.N. Foundation for Social Urban Development
- ▶ Berliner Leben Foundation
- ▶ Association of Private Builders
- ▶ Association of Craft Restorers e. V.
- ▶ german-architects.com
- ▶ Current Competitions

Media partners include **wettbewerbe-aktuell** und **german-architects.com**.

In addition, a number of special prizes will be awarded // see 3.16 Prizes.





02. BRIEF

2.1.

Subject of the competition Alexanderplatz is at once a literary myth, a cinematic backdrop and the focal point of Berlin's everyday identity. Whether in Alfred Döblin's metropolitan novel **Berlin Alexanderplatz**, in Walter Ruttmann's **Symphony of a Metropolis**, or as the setting for historic turning points – from the barricades of the March Revolution of 1848 to the momentous cry of 'We are the people!' in the autumn of 1989: the square reflects the upheavals of German history.

Political system changes and competing visions of the city led to exemplary architectural manifestations in the 20th century. Peter Behrens' vision of a rational, uniformly developed 'cosmopolitan square', geared towards mass transport and commerce, was followed, after the destruction of the Second World War, by a radical transformation into a spacious socialist city centre. The result was a pedestrian zone whose scale was only brought to life by mass events, flanked by multi-lane thoroughfares that could only be crossed via pedestrian tunnels. The iconic television tower became Berlin's undisputed landmark.

The neighbourhood, which aspired to the 'world-class' standards of socialist modernism, was radically called into question following reunification. Hans Kollhoff and Helga Timmermann's 1993 masterplan envisaged a new block development featuring soaring towers. Political decisions were taken to ensure high urban density, a square on a traditional European scale, and a skyline of high-rise buildings modelled on Art Deco New York. For a long time, well-capitalised property developers could find no market for this in Berlin; a fundamental debate on high-rise buildings and a controversy over how to deal with the architectural heritage of the GDR ensued.

It went largely unnoticed that, apart from the privatised building plots on the square, neighbourhood-sized blocks of GDR-era modernist architecture – predominantly used for residential purposes – remained in municipal ownership and were managed by the Wohnungsbaugesellschaft Mitte (WBM). In the ground-floor areas, which during the GDR era had been carefully curated to house cultural institutions, restaurants and shops befitting a capital city, the WBM for a long time operated a market-driven commercial letting scheme without any particular design aspirations.

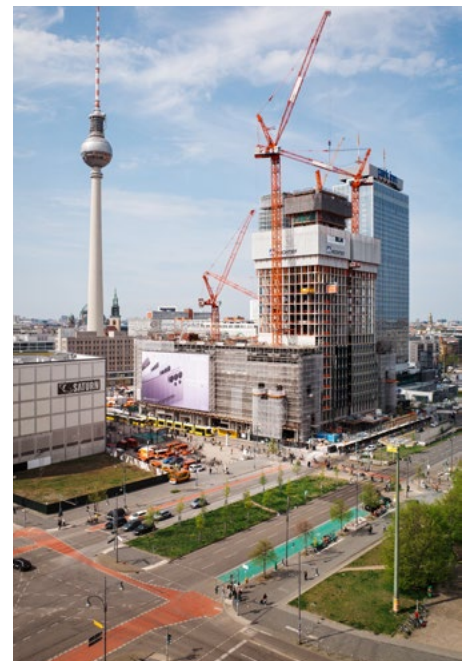
Both the architectural quality and the largely commercial nature of the completed projects fall short of the site's significance for the city as a whole. Design competitions and project supervision by Berlin's design advisory board, the 'Baukollegium', therefore became mandatory in 2008. In 2019, Berlin's high-rise concept made mixed-use developments and spaces serving the public good a city-wide requirement. At that time, however, building permits for Alexanderplatz had already been granted without these requirements. On behalf of the Senate, the district and the property owners, Kollhoff therefore updated the masterplan through a participatory process. The consensus outcomes were fewer high-rise buildings, the preservation of further GDR-era structures, and 'satellite squares' offering a pleasant environment at the interfaces with neighbouring neighbourhoods. »

02. BRIEF

2.1.

The landscape of contemporary urban development is once again undergoing a fundamental shift. Pioneering projects focused on the public good, such as the neighbouring, cooperative 'Haus der Statistik' neighbourhood or a project development company's proposal to house the Central and State Library within the Galeria department store, demonstrate that the future of a flagging retail centre may lie more firmly in the public good. With public urban development funding within the 'Berliner Mitte' framework and an investor-financed 'Business Improvement District', new instruments and resources are currently being mobilised for this purpose at Alexanderplatz.

The Schinkel Competition 2027 calls for the creation, from these multifaceted elements, of a positive, inclusive vision for Alexanderplatz and its neglected surroundings – one that does justice both to the site's mythical aura and to the everyday needs of diverse groups of users and visitors. The transport hub and commercial uses are to be complemented by new public, cultural and social offerings that also redefine the site as a space dedicated to the common good. By closely linking the six specialist areas – ranging from the transformation of existing buildings and the activation of climate-resilient open spaces to the creation of infrastructural links – the aim is to create a vibrant, equitable neighbourhood for a diverse urban community.



2.2.

Planning area The planning area encompasses Alexanderplatz and its immediately adjacent urban spaces. In addition to the square itself, the core area includes the major thoroughfares of Alexanderstraße, Otto-Braun-Straße and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, including their immediate surroundings. To the south, the core area is bounded by the Stadtbahn railway viaduct. This constitutes the actual scope of the competition.

The broader study area incorporates the neighbouring urban quarters and serves to situate the design within the urban context. This includes, in particular, parts of the Scheunenviertel to the west of Alexanderplatz and the listed buildings along Karl-Marx-Allee to the east. The spatial and functional interconnections with the neighbouring districts must be given due consideration in the design.

For the Architecture category, the focus is on the 'Haus der Elektroindustrie' and its surroundings. The Structural Engineering category addresses the Waisenbrücke as the neighbourhood's key link across the Spree.

Areas of expertise Alexanderplatz



Haus der
Elektroindustrie
A



Waisenbrücke
KI

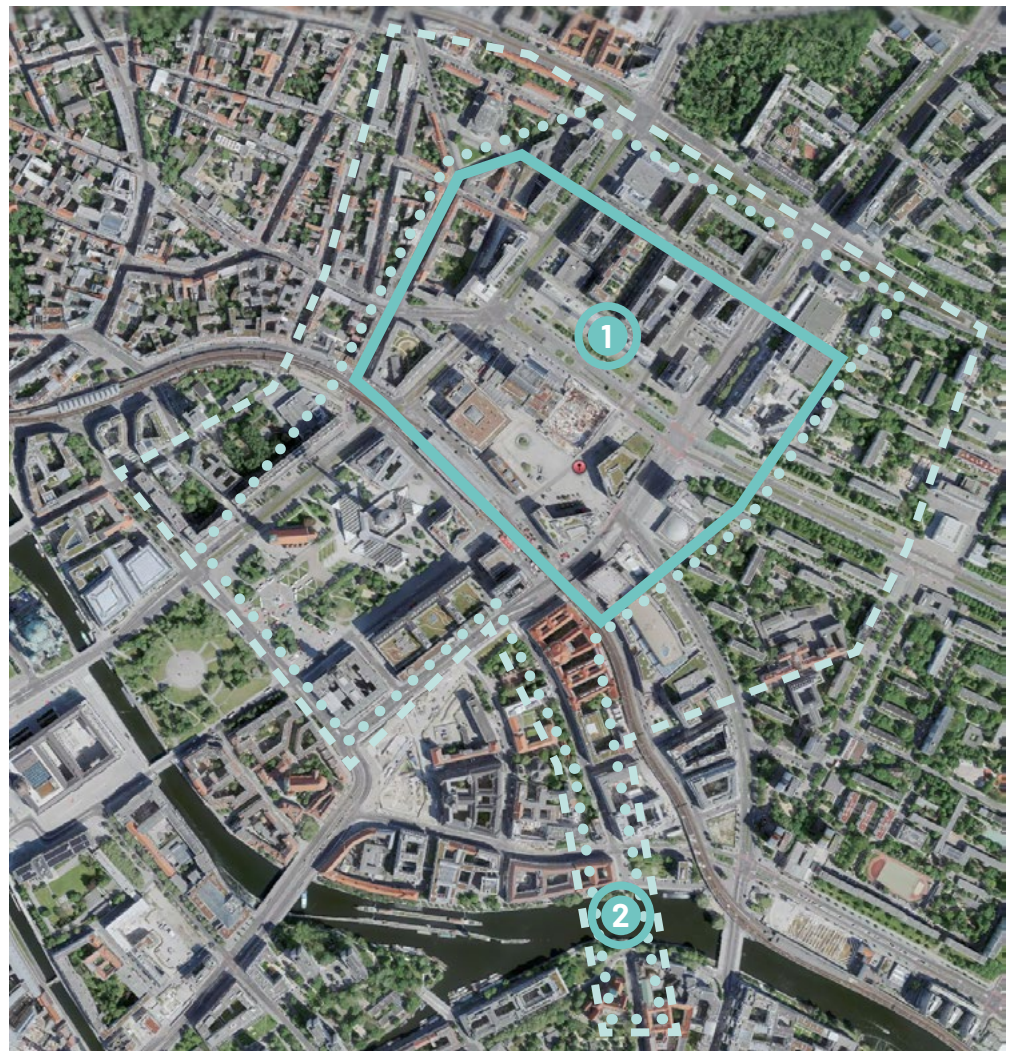
Area of operation
S / LA / FK



Area of operation
MoVe



Viewing area
S / LA



2.3. Potential and shortcomings

Note: The content presented in the chapter 'Potential and Shortcomings' is based largely on the Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK) for Berlin Mitte. For the purposes of this competition brief, the content has been selected, abridged and, in some cases, adapted to the specific brief. The full presentations and analyses of the ISEK are available on the website of the Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction and Housing.

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/stadtentwicklung/staedtebau/berliner-mitte/isek/>

2.3.1.

Historical Development Alexanderplatz traces its origins back to a medieval square in front of the Georgentor gate in Berlin's city wall. It was given its name in 1805, when Tsar Alexander I was received here. With industrialisation in the 19th century, it grew into the vibrant centre of the metropolis: in 1882, the tramway was opened and department stores such as Wertheim and Tietz established themselves there. During the 'Golden Twenties', immortalised in literature by Alfred Döblin's novel "Berlin Alexanderplatz", it was, alongside Potsdamer Platz, the very epitome of a cosmopolitan city. In 1929, an urban planning competition led to its redevelopment; this resulted in the construction of the Alexanderhaus and the Berolinahaus by Peter Behrens.

Following its destruction during the Second World War, Alexanderplatz was radically redesigned as part of the GDR's socialist capital city planning. As part of a central axis stretching from Karl-Marx-Allee to the Brandenburg Gate, the TV Tower, the Centrum department store, the Fountain of Friendship between Nations and the Urania World Clock were built. The square's area was expanded to 80,000 m² – more than four times its pre-war size. On 4 November 1989, the largest demonstration in Berlin's history took place here.

Following reunification, the masterplan for the redevelopment, drawn up by Hans Kollhoff and Helga Timmermann (1993), was developed. This envisaged replacing the GDR-era buildings with a 'city crown' comprising ten high-rise blocks. However, the lack of a construction boom significantly slowed down its implementation. With the opening of the ALEXA shopping centre in 2007 and the Saturn building in 2009, the square began to undergo increasing commercialisation and redevelopment. The listing of parts of the GDR-era buildings as protected heritage from 2015 onwards, as well as the decision to preserve the 'Haus der Statistik' in 2017, have put the master plan's original vision into perspective.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

1.3.2.

Building Structure At Alexanderplatz, two divergent urban concepts collide. GDR modernism created a socialist centre – characterised by strikingly positioned standalone buildings, expansive open spaces and wide thoroughfares – which isolated the square from the neighbouring residential districts. Major transport arteries such as Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, Alexanderstraße and Grunerstraße continue to bisect the urban space to this day, creating urban voids – in particular the oversized transport hub on Memhardstraße, which adjoins the small-scale structure of Berlin's first urban expansion from the 18th century.

Whilst the square itself was largely designed in accordance with Kollhoff and Timmermann's masterplan – the opening of the Saturn building in 2009 reduced the formerly expansive square area to roughly its historical scale – the peripheral areas are still characterised by car-oriented urban planning and unused open spaces. To the north-east of Alexanderstraße, the original masterplan can no longer be implemented, as the Haus des Reisens and the Haus des Berliner Verlages are now listed buildings. The central 'Haus der Elektroindustrie', on the other hand, is still earmarked for demolition – a decision that warrants critical scrutiny. The building plot, gained by narrowing the streets and provisionally landscaped, now forms a gap in the urban fabric.

The public-interest project 'Haus der Statistik' and proposals to house the Central and State Library in the Galeria department store open up new perspectives beyond commercial redevelopment. The pavilions planned along Karl-Marx-Allee could also develop into attractive landmarks with new uses and facilitate better connectivity of the site towards the east.



2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.3.

Listed Buildings

Alexanderplatz brings together listed buildings from three different eras within a very small area. From the pre-war period, the Alexanderhaus and the Berolinahaus by Peter Behrens (1930–1932) have been preserved. They are the only parts of the original competition design to have been realised and today form the south-western boundary of the square. In addition, the entire S-Bahn viaduct and the Alexanderplatz underground station are listed as historic monuments. From the GDR era, the TV Tower, including its surrounding landscape, and the 'Haus des Reisens' have been listed as historic monuments since the 1990s. As part of the reassessment of East German modernism, further parts of the GDR ensemble were granted listed status in 2015, including the 'Haus des Berliner Verlages' and the 'Haus der Elektroindustrie'.

This had immediate planning implications: the masterplan by Kollhoff and Timmermann was revised and scaled back to nine high-rise buildings. The 'Park Inn' hotel was to be retained and extended with an annexe; the previously mandatory tapering of the tower spires was scrapped. A high-rise site relocated behind the 'Haus des Reisens' would significantly impair its visual impact. The perimeter block development planned in place of the 'Haus der Elektroindustrie', with its advanced building line, would destroy the ensemble effect of the listed buildings and further fragment the urban space.

Added to this are significant archaeological sites: excavations have unearthed remains of the historic St George's Church, the drill hall and burial grounds. However, the diverse historical layers are barely discernible in the urban landscape. Heritage protection should be understood not as an obstacle, but as a starting point for high-quality further development.



2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.4.

Existing overarching plans, strategies and concepts

The Alexanderplatz district is designated in the City of Berlin's Land Use Plan as a core area with a retail hub of city-wide significance. Mixed-use areas are designated in the adjacent Scheunenviertel. Residential areas are located on either side of Karl-Marx-Allee. The Town Hall and the Marx-Engels-Forum, situated between the TV Tower and the River Spree, are designated as public green spaces. The main thoroughfares are not designated as priority roads for motorised traffic. The Urban Development Plan for Mobility and Transport aims to improve the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists. Plans for a tram route through Rathausstraße are not currently being pursued.

In the updated Alexanderplatz Master Plan of 2015, the number of planned high-rise buildings was reduced. 'Satellite squares' offering a pleasant environment are intended to better connect the neighbourhood to the central square. The 'Haus des Reisens' and the 'Haus des Berliner Verlages' have been listed as historic buildings.

In 2015, the civil society initiative Zusammenkunft Berlin (ZKB) successfully secured the 'Haus der Statistik' pilot project for cooperative and public-interest-oriented urban development. Two state-owned companies (BIM, WBM), the ZKB, the Mitte District Office and the Senate Department for Urban Development are jointly developing the existing buildings and building plots into a mixed-use neighbourhood. This neighbourhood is also intended to provide permanent accommodation for social and creative initiatives.

Following a participatory workshop process in 2019, it was decided to develop the Rathaus and Marx-Engels-Forum into permanent green open spaces. The competition concept by the firm RMP SL Landscape Architects is being implemented in stages.

Since 2025, projects serving the public good at Alexanderplatz and in the surrounding area have been eligible for urban development funding under the 'Berliner Mitte' framework.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.5.

Open Space and Climate

In terms of its climatic and open-space conditions, the competition area is characterised above all by an extremely high degree of surface sealing. This is due, on the one hand, to earlier designs that prioritised transport, public gathering and public space functions, which do not meet today's urgent need for green spaces. On the other hand, it is due to political and design principles that prioritise representation and functionality, but not climate protection and climate resilience.

The consequences – exacerbated by the extremely rapid acceleration of climate change – are significant overheating of the densely built-up and sealed-off areas, as well as a lack of cooling even at night. Existing trees and green spaces are drying out and require more watering. The heat on the vast, shadeless, sealed surfaces poses a significant health risk. These areas are therefore becoming increasingly unattractive and unusable in summer. During heavy rainfall events, there is a risk of flooding and damage. Existing buildings and infrastructure are also subjected to greater strain due to extreme heat and heavy rainfall.

The task for competition entrants is therefore to identify the existing green spaces and open spaces and to develop them into an enhanced, interconnected system of open spaces across the entire competition area. Particular emphasis is placed on strengthening climate resilience through measures to reduce impervious surfaces and increase greenery, as well as by creating shade and cooling solutions using trees, shrubs and green street furniture. In addition, a sustainable rainwater management system is to be established, enabling the management of rainwater through infiltration and storage in various blue-green infrastructure features. Another key aspect is the promotion of biodiversity through the creation of diverse habitats for endemic plant and animal species adapted to future climatic conditions. In addition, attractive and usable open spaces, as well as continuous green corridors, are to be created to enhance and interconnect the competition site ecologically, climatically and in terms of design.

The entire Alexanderplatz area is to be designed as an attractive, vibrant and 'breathing' space with a diverse range of green features that meets today's climate adaptation requirements.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.6.

Traffic and road networks

To secure its central role in Berlin's Mitte district in the long term, Alexanderplatz requires comprehensive transport and infrastructure measures. The area is currently characterised by wide, major road axes such as Grunerstraße/Otto-Braun-Straße, Alexanderstraße and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße. These roads present significant barriers to pedestrian traffic, which, moreover, lacks a coherent network. Although there are car-free areas – Alexanderplatz, the Nikolaiviertel and parts of Rathausstraße – connections to neighbouring neighbourhoods remain limited. Cyclists are channelled via accompanying paths, cycle lanes and protected lanes, as well as individual cycle routes, but a continuous network structure is lacking.

Public transport, on the other hand, is very well connected. Regional services, S-Bahn, U-Bahn, tram and bus routes operate at frequent intervals. Plans include the extension of the tram line towards Potsdamer Platz and a possible straightening of the tram route along Otto-Braun-Straße, should the road tunnel be scrapped. Measures already implemented, such as the relocation and narrowing of Grunerstraße, as well as the planned replacement of the Mühlen- damm and Gertrauden bridges, are intended to remove barriers and create new crossing points. Spandauer Straße is also set to serve as a connecting space between the Town Hall and the Marx-Engels Forum in future.

A strategic plan also provides for a cycle express route (East Route) via Alexanderstraße and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße. Overall, there is a call for a reimagined allocation of road space that distributes areas more equitably between non-motorised transport and motorised traffic. Individual measures are to be brought together to form an interconnected network of footpaths and cycle paths. Historical interventions have significantly altered the fragmented network of paths, and the wide thoroughfares now create considerable barriers. There is a particular need for improvement in terms of lighting, accessibility, quality of the public environment and climate adaptation, as well as in reducing noise pollution, particularly along Karl-Liebknecht-Straße.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.7.

Social structure

No small-scale statistical data on the population structure is available for the study area. The following statements therefore refer to the 'Berliner Mitte' planning area within the spatial system of 'life-world-oriented spaces' (LOR) and allow conclusions to be drawn about the social structure of the planning context.

At 22–23 per cent, the proportion of people under the age of 27 is below both the average for the Mitte district (27 per cent) and that for Berlin as a whole (26 per cent). The proportion of children and young people in single-parent households ranges between 20 and 27.8 per cent, which is also below the Berlin-wide figure of 27 per cent. Within the planning area, this trend is showing a slight decline. The proportion of people aged over 65 is 15–18 per cent, which is above the district average but below the Berlin-wide figure. At 52–57 per cent, the planning area has a proportion of people with a migrant background that is significantly higher than the Berlin average (approx. 40 per cent). Compared with the Mitte district (approx. 58 per cent), this proportion is slightly lower. The proportion of women is roughly in line with the Berlin and district averages. In the 'Overall Index of Social Inequalities in Berlin 2023', the planning area is classified as an area with a 'medium status index and stable dynamics'. The social indicators also point, on the whole, to a stable situation. The unemployment rate (2.2–3.5 per cent) and the proportion of the population receiving social security benefits (6.2–8 per cent) are below the Berlin averages. Similarly, the proportion of children and young people in single-parent households or receiving social security benefits is declining slightly.

These socio-structural conditions give rise to the task of developing an urban space that gives spatial expression to social diversity and supports the equal participation of different population groups. The design aims to strengthen the local population's sense of belonging to the area, to foster encounters between people of different generations, cultural backgrounds and life circumstances, and to enable diverse forms of engagement with the space.

Alexanderplatz is a residential area, a workplace, a transport hub and an international tourist destination. Here, the needs of residents, workers, commuters, tourists and other groups who use the public space overlap. The task is to translate these differing usage interests into a spatial concept that enables participation, strengthens social cohesion and makes Alexanderplatz an inclusive, identity-forming public space that can be experienced equally by different social groups.

Source: Berlin-Brandenburg Statistical Office, 2024.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.8.

Housing and associated facilities

In the vicinity of the competition site, the central residential areas are predominantly mixed-use residential zones, mainly complemented by retail and office spaces on the ground floors. Areas predominantly used for residential purposes are located on Fischerinsel, along the Märkisches Ufer and on Friedrichswerder.

New residential development projects are currently in the planning stage: on Breite Straße, at Molkenmarkt and at the 'Haus der Statistik', three new neighbourhoods are being created with a high proportion of socially subsidised housing, some of which is under municipal management. The high-rise buildings planned for Alexanderplatz – some of which are already under construction – will also be developed with a 50 per cent residential share, with the exception of the Commerz Real AG high-rise.

The so-called 'Memhardblock' in the area of Karl-Liebknecht-Straße and Memhardstraße is in need of regeneration. Plans are already underway to carry out the regeneration, as are further studies into a possible reorganisation of the junction area and the potential for new development that this might entail.

The area around Alexanderplatz, particularly south of the light rail line, lacks sufficient educational and sports facilities for local residents. This situation is exacerbated by the sometimes severe fragmentation of residential areas and their isolation caused by transport routes that act as barriers.

Providing residents with social infrastructure, housing support services and open spaces close to home competes with the economic interests of investors, commercial and office uses, as well as heavy tourist demand.

It is important to bear in mind the two- to three-fold cumulative impact on Berlin's city centre, as identified in the Berlin Environmental Atlas, which comprises high levels of noise pollution, air pollution and thermal stress.

The newly emerging residential neighbourhoods should be seen as an opportunity to reduce this pressure through the intelligent enhancement of the living environment and to create a balanced mix of the various interests.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.9.

Culture and Education Berlin's Mitte district is a cultural hub of international significance. With Museum Island, the Humboldt Forum, the Märkisches Museum and other museums, galleries, theatres and event venues, it boasts an exceptional concentration of cultural institutions. This offering is complemented by educational institutions such as the Central and State Library, the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music and the ESMT, as well as various campuses of Humboldt University in the immediate vicinity. Alongside the major institutions, there are numerous smaller and alternative cultural offerings.

Within this cultural fabric, Alexanderplatz is significant above all as a highly frequented public urban space. It is used occasionally for open-air events and is connected via the adjacent urban spaces to the cultural and educational venues of Berlin's Mitte district. In the immediate vicinity, along Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, there are galleries, theatres, music venues and entertainment options. Furthermore, the 'Haus der Statistik', currently under construction to the north-east of Alexanderplatz, is set to become an important venue for alternative cultural activities.

Despite the large number of cultural institutions, the individual venues have so far been inadequately linked with one another. The isolation of cultural venues is a significant shortcoming. At the same time, Berlin's city centre is dominated by institutional and tourism-oriented venues, whilst low-threshold cultural and educational offerings for local residents are less well represented. Rising commercial rents also make it difficult to secure and establish alternative art and cultural production.

Alexanderplatz and its surroundings therefore have the potential to link existing cultural offerings more closely with one another and with public space. Beyond its function as an event venue, the square can take on a unifying role within the cultural fabric of Berlin's Mitte district. In particular, the connections to neighbouring cultural venues and the opportunities for everyday, accessible and non-commercial cultural uses offer starting points for further development.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.10.

City centre, tourism and retail

As the 'Central Supply Area (ZVB) Alexanderplatz City Centre Core', Alexanderplatz fulfils supply functions ranging from city-wide and regional to international, and, as a location for government and administrative institutions, universities and major cultural institutions, it plays a role that complements the city centre.

Within the boundaries of the ZVB, there are approximately 270 retail outlets covering just under 120,000 m² of retail space. The range of goods on offer extends from items for immediate consumption to those for medium- and long-term needs. The catering options are concentrated around the TV Tower, at Hackescher Markt, along the commercial arcades of the S-Bahn viaduct and in the Nikolaiviertel.

Markets and events attract tourists and Berliners alike, including the antiques and art markets around the Bode Museum and at the Zeughaus, as well as the Christmas markets. In total, events and specialised markets take place on Alexanderplatz on up to 120 days a year.

The TV Tower, Alexanderplatz, Museum Island and the Nikolaiviertel, as well as the open spaces of the Rathausforum and Marx-Engels-Forum, the Lustgarten and James-Simon-Park, are among the most important attractions for visitors to Berlin.

Tourism figures for the Mitte district from 2019 show almost 15 million commercial overnight stays (43.2 per cent of all overnight stays in Berlin). Hotel accommodation is located close to the tourist hotspots as well as in quieter areas on side streets. The number of day visitors, who also account for a large proportion of visitors to Berlin's Mitte district, is unknown.

Shortcomings exist primarily in relation to the lack of a functional urban connection between the individual retail hubs, such as between Alexanderplatz and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, which are separated by a road, an S-Bahn station and an S-Bahn viaduct acting as barriers. The lack of places to linger, as well as the poor quality of facilities and design in public spaces and green areas, have also been criticised and should be taken into account in future planning.

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.11.

Stakeholders and networks The Alexanderplatz neighbourhood's development prospects are shaped by an unusually small number of major property owners. Since privatisation in the 1990s, internationally active project developers have been operating on the square itself.

The surrounding area is dominated by public and non-profit stakeholders. The blocks of flats, predominantly used for residential purposes, on Rathausstraße and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße, the Nikolaiviertel and the prefabricated blocks on Memhardstraße are owned by the state-owned housing association Mitte (WBM). Many large administrative buildings are owned by Berliner Immobilienmanagement GmbH (BIM). Wide streets and open spaces are managed by the Mitte District Office. In the residential neighbourhoods along Karl-Marx-Allee, many buildings are owned by housing cooperatives.

As a result, neighbourhood development is, on the one hand, extremely dependent on crises in the international and local property markets. On the other hand, public owners and co-operatives are consistently characterised by a lack of investment capacity.

Around the year 2000, major project developers financed the redesign of the square, the dismantling of major thoroughfares and pedestrian tunnels, as well as retail projects and the creation of underground parking facilities. However, the long-standing lack of demand for high-rise buildings gave the neighbourhood an image of stagnation and urban disconnection. Since the high-rises have been under construction, the project developers have been repositioning themselves. Market risks and a poor location image are to be countered through mixed-use development and the establishment of the Central and State Library. Within the framework of a Business Improvement District, the regeneration of the square can be privately financed.

In managing their portfolios, which shape the character of the neighbourhood, WBM and BIM take their outstanding location in the tourist centre of the German capital into account only in a few cases. During the GDR era, the ground-floor areas along the main thoroughfares were carefully curated: national and international cultural institutions, renowned restaurants and distinctive shops were integrated into everyday amenities.

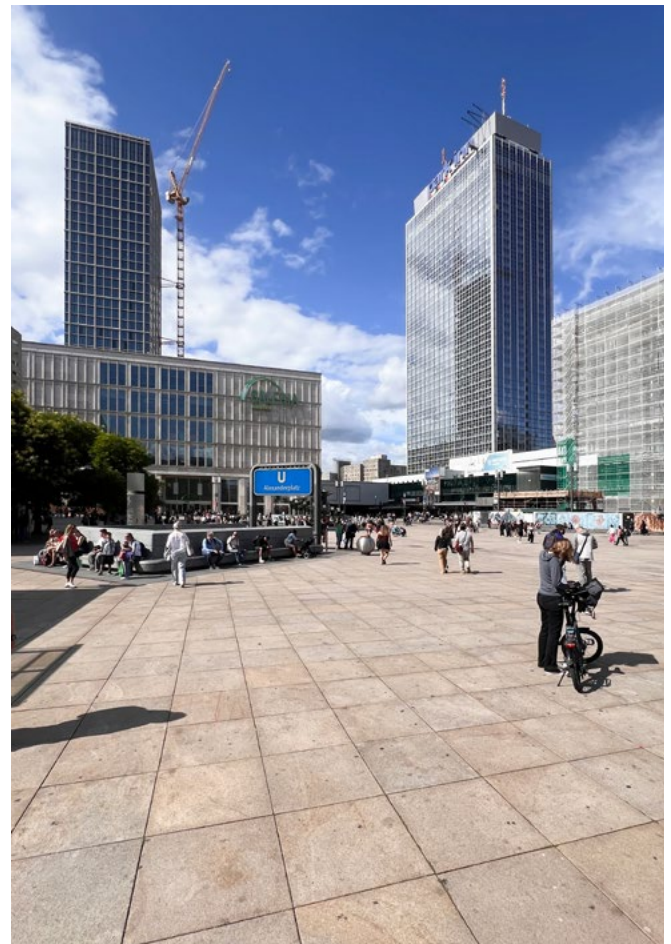
The 'Haus der Statistik' pilot project for cooperative and public-interest-oriented urban development offers the state-owned companies the opportunity – in collaboration with the civil society initiative Zusammenkunft Berlin (ZKB) and the Mitte District Office – to practise a long-term, non-profit-oriented partnership. Under the motto 'Allesandersplatz', the project has attracted international attention as an alternative to big business and big government at the metropolitan hub of Alexanderplatz. »

2.3. Potential and shortcomings

2.3.11.

Against the backdrop of 'Berliner Mitte', urban development funding is available to enable a creative and sustainable transformation in other areas around the TV Tower as well.

The Alexanderplatz neighbourhood, as one of Berlin's most important public transport hubs, is heavily frequented. Due to the developments mentioned above, local residents predominantly have a distant or negative attitude towards this metropolitan area. Young migrant residents of Berlin, on the other hand, are drawn to the iconic power of the TV Tower and the emerging cluster of high-rise buildings, to the large, easily accessible open spaces, and to the low-threshold retail offerings. The World Clock and the Fountain of Friendship are aimed at these communities. However, there is a lack of more contemporary design representations of Alexanderplatz's cosmopolitan character.



2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.1.

Collaborations The competition briefs for the individual disciplines feature numerous overlaps in content. Interdisciplinary work is therefore expressly encouraged. Participants are invited to form cross-disciplinary teams and to tackle the competition brief collaboratively.

Each task is assigned to one of the following disciplines: Architecture (A), Urban Planning (S), Landscape Architecture (LA), Structural Engineering (KI), Mobility and Transport Planning (MoVe) or Fine Art (FK). At least one team member must represent the respective discipline through a relevant degree. Additional team members may come from other Schinkel disciplines or from complementary fields such as environmental and materials sciences, geology, hydrology, building physics, sociology, the humanities, design, interior design or computer science.

All disciplines represented in the team must be specified on the plans and in the submission form on [wettbewerbe-aktuell](#).

Participants can use the following link to find potential collaboration partners and network with one another:

https://yopad.eu/p/SWB_2027_Mythos_Alexanderplatz-365days

Submission requirements for collaboration

For the submission, the guidelines under section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements' must be followed.

For interdisciplinary projects, participants must select a brief from one specialist discipline (A, S, LA, AI, MoVe, FK) and address it additionally from the perspective of a second discipline. The same display area is available for the presentation as for all other competition entries.

In the case of collaborative projects, the contributions of the participating specialist fields must be clearly identifiable and comprehensible. The explanatory report may be more detailed if necessary.

In addition, depending on the collaboration, the following documents must be submitted:

- ▶ for collaborations with KI: test reports,
- ▶ for collaborations with LA: planting concept including a list of plants.

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.2.

Architecture (A) Through a smart mix of uses, the 'House of the Electrical Industry' and the open space in front of it are intended to provide impetus for the robust further development of the site. The aim is to create a vibrant, inclusive space that does justice to its location in the city centre. Commercial, public, cultural and social facilities, as well as innovative forms of living and working, should complement one another synergistically. A particular challenge lies in establishing a coherent connection – in terms of programme, space and design – between the architectural heritage of East German modernism, the remnants of post-reunification planning and the neighbouring neighbourhoods.

Whether through the transformation of existing buildings, new constructions or process-oriented scenarios – the focus is on unifying architecture that impresses through its choice of materials, durability and recyclability, as well as through a high quality of space and the experience of being there. The aim is the intelligent further development of the site into a vibrant and identity-forming hub offering a high quality of life, work and living for an inclusive urban community in the heart of Berlin.

Architectural deliverables

For the submission, the guidelines under section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements' must be observed.

- ▶ Sketch plan, scale 1:2,000
- ▶ Integration into the urban context, oriented north
- ▶ Site plan, scale 1:500
- ▶ Roof plan and outdoor areas, north-oriented
- ▶ Ground floor plans, standard floor plans for upper storeys, elevations, sections at a scale of 1:500 with details of uses
- ▶ Detailed sections of parts of the ground floor, upper floors, elevations, section at a scale of 1:200
- ▶ Detailed information on uses, further explanations, etc.
- ▶ Detailed façade section and elevation, scale 1:25
- ▶ Explanations regarding construction and materials
- ▶ Two perspective views, at least one showing the building in its surroundings
- ▶ Derivation of the programme and design concept in free form (pictograms, sketches, etc.)
- ▶ Explanations regarding the ecological concept / resource conservation / sponge city / materials / circular economy / energy concept

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.3.

Urban Planning (S) The aim is to develop an urban development vision that approaches Alexanderplatz more from the perspective of the surrounding streets, rectifies shortcomings in urban spatial planning and traffic management, and creates a balanced network between the existing neighbourhoods. The aim is to generate momentum by enhancing public space. The aim is to establish pedestrian links from Alexanderplatz via Alexanderstraße to Mollstraße, to incorporate the various street spaces and alignments – such as Karl-Marx-Allee – and to reorganise the numerous traffic areas in favour of a diverse range of uses and public spaces. The aim is to demonstrate how the network of public spaces, with well-placed satellite squares, can also be extended into the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Building on the potential for new development along Memhardstraße and Alexanderstraße, and through a creative interplay with the existing built environment, the urban design proposal aims to demonstrate how different usage patterns and the structures of various stakeholders can be spatially integrated. A mix of functions comprising commercial and public-interest uses is to be developed. With a particular focus on the transitions between buildings and public space, the urban community is to be empowered to curate the green spaces and open areas. Likewise, suitable structures and processes are to be developed conceptually to enable 20 per cent of the building floor area to be cooperatively designed and utilised.

The focus here is on the following questions: What urban design qualities can positively redefine the ‘myth of Alexanderplatz’ in the 21st century? What added value does it provide for Berlin and Berlin’s identity in terms of its central location, densification, mixed-use development and urban culture? Can the high-rise be reimagined typologically as a curated stacking of urban uses and cultures?

Submission Requirements: Urban Planning

For the submission, the guidelines under section 3.11 ‘General Submission Requirements’ must be observed.

- ▶ Urban master plan at a scale of 1:1,500 (with a level of detail at 1:1,000), including proposals for development, open spaces, access and the treatment of existing buildings
- ▶ At least one detailed study at a scale of 1:500 (Memhardstraße / Alexanderstraße) with exemplary designs for new buildings and public spaces; including a section at a scale of 1:500
- ▶ A plan view or isometric projection of the urban design (height development and existing building ensemble)
- ▶ An atmospheric perspective from a pedestrian’s viewpoint
- ▶ Statements on conversion, refurbishment, transformation and development processes, including details of participatory approaches where applicable
- ▶ A land-use, open space and mobility concept, as well as statements on density and access

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.4.

Landscape Architecture (LA) For Alexanderplatz and its urban surroundings, a forward-looking open space concept is sought that productively engages with the site's urban heritage whilst also taking into account new demands on public spaces: quality of stay, opportunities for people to make the space their own, microclimatic improvements, protection from sun and wind, and diverse forms of urban coexistence. Climate adaptation measures such as rainwater management, reducing impervious surfaces, the resource-efficient use of materials and the promotion of biodiversity are key aspects of urban space development.

The focus is on Alexanderplatz itself and the surrounding public spaces, in particular the street spaces, extensions to the square and the forecourts of significant buildings, such as the 'Haus des Lehrers' and the 'Haus der Statistik'. These areas have substantial spare space and significantly shape the perception of the site. The basis is provided by the current plans and development plans, whilst retaining the 'Haus der Elektroindustrie'. Participants are to decide independently what role transport, public spaces, vegetation and urban connectivity might play in the future. Transport spaces are to be transformed with a view to sustainable mobility; this also includes a critical review of carriageway widths. Collaboration with the specialist departments of mobility and transport planning and/or urban development can generate synergies in this regard.

At the same time, key sightlines and the site's legibility on a larger scale must be taken into account. Local stakeholders – institutions, businesses, cultural venues, initiatives and residents – should be seen as a source of potential: how can open space encourage people to make it their own, revitalise neighbourhoods and enable new forms of public use? The aim is a multi-layered concept that reimagines Alexanderplatz and its surroundings in line with its significance – as a central, open and sustainable urban space in Berlin.

Submission requirements for landscape architecture

For the submission, the guidelines under section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements' must be observed.

- ▶ Derivation of the concept as a free representation in the form of sketches or pictograms
- ▶ Overarching study area, scale 1:5,000, oriented north
- ▶ Overall spatial design plan, scale 1:1,000, showing streets, squares and open spaces within the urban context, oriented north
- ▶ At least two detailed study areas, scale 1:200, one of which must be at Alexanderplatz; the second is to be selected depending on the concept, with a focus either on the street space or on the satellite squares
- ▶ One corresponding section per area of focus, scale 1:200
- ▶ Presentation of socio-spatial quality, mobility, materials, vegetation schemes, as well as measures for rainwater management and a climate-resilient city. Permissible forms of presentation include site plans, road cross-sections and scaled spatial drawings (no perspective views)
- ▶ At least one visualisation for one area of specialisation
- ▶ Presentation of the planting concept in visual form, supplemented by a planting list (to be submitted separately on A4 paper) and a description of the vegetation patterns, specifying key and structuring species, corresponding to the areas of specialisation

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.5.

Civil Engineering (KI) Coming from the (south-)west of Berlin, the cycle route to Alexanderplatz is very unattractive. Crossing the Spree without major detours is only possible via the Mühlendamm Bridge and the Jannowitz Bridge – both of which are heavily congested by other modes of transport and, in places, have poor visibility.

Until 1960, the Waisenbrücke connected Littenstraße in Berlin with Märkischer Platz in Cölln; it had existed since 1703, initially as a wooden bridge and, from 1894, as a stone bridge clad in red sandstone. Today, only the stone abutments on either side of the Spree remain visible, from which the former bridge connection can still be discerned.

The Structural Engineering competition sets participants the task of designing the Waisenbrücke as a pedestrian and cycle link to improve connections to Alexanderplatz, whilst allowing for potential future uses, thereby strongly supporting the shift in transport from motorised private transport towards cycling.

The design and structural system of the new bridge should meet the requirements for a comfortable cycle route whilst also improving pedestrian connections between the area and Alexanderplatz. In doing so, the urban context, including the Märkisches Museum and the park on the Märkisches Ufer, must be taken into account.

Among other things, the competition encourages an exploration of the themes of decarbonisation, the circular economy and urban mining, as well as the resulting reduction in material and energy use for the bridge's design. The design should serve as an example of a forward-looking interplay between structural engineering and design.

In the vicinity of Waisenstraße, the Spree is a Category IV federal waterway (Spree-Oder waterway). In accordance with the development targets for clear bridge clearance heights, a clear bridge clearance height of at least 4.50 m above the upper operating water level, plus a dynamic allowance, must be maintained. No piers, or only a minimum number of piers, may be erected in the area of the River Spree. The abutments must not restrict the width of the River Spree. A passage width of 40 m must be strictly maintained as the navigation profile.

The committee wishes to explicitly encourage interdisciplinary work. Key areas of focus may include the design of the bridge incorporating an additional use (Architecture section), the integration of the bridge structure into the urban (Urban Planning section) and landscape (Landscape Architecture section) contexts, and the bridge as an element of an overall transport concept (Mobility and Transport Planning section).

Submission requirements for structural engineering »

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.5.

Submission requirements for structural engineering

Submissions must comply with the guidelines set out in section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements'. Particular emphasis should be placed on a presentation that also appeals to a wider audience.

- ▶ Development and justification of the concept: Explanation of the fundamental structural concept of the load-bearing structure design in spatial representations with regard to structure, materials and joints, as well as textual statements on serviceability (deformations and susceptibility to vibration) and durability
 - ▶ Site plan showing access routes, green spaces and open areas, elevations and integration into the surrounding environment on an appropriate scale (1:1,000 or 1:500)
 - ▶ Detailed design of the bridge, including an illustrative section of the approach roads, on an appropriate scale (e.g. 1:200) in all relevant drawings: plan, section(s) and elevations
 - ▶ Illustration of representative bridge cross-sections on an appropriate scale (1:50 or 1:20) with details of materials, dimensions and fastenings
 - ▶ At least two perspectives / axonometric views to illustrate the intended spatial qualities and atmospheres of the public outdoor spaces
 - ▶ At least two structural and construction details (scale 1:20) and larger as required
 - ▶ Explanatory text providing a brief justification of the chosen design approach, choice of materials and installation concept. The text shall include:
 - A summary of relevant extracts from a structural analysis of the key load-bearing members, specifying the structural system, verifiable load assumptions, internal forces and design criteria; detailed structural analyses of at least two key joints, which are also shown in detail on the plans.
 - A bill of quantities for the structural framework, including foundations, presented in tabular form. Based on the quantities determined, the 'grey' energy values (kWh/m²) and the CO₂ emission values (kg CO₂ / m²) must be calculated in relation to the usable floor area, taking into account all materials and building components used in the load-bearing structure (construction phases A1–A3). Both total parameters must be clearly indicated on the drawings.
- ! The volume of the submitted calculations and texts must not exceed 50 DIN A4 pages! Documents exceeding this limit will not be taken into account during the assessment

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.6.

Mobility and Transport Planning (MoVe) Alexanderplatz is one of Berlin's most significant urban spaces – a place brimming with activity, history and urban potential. Today, it is heavily characterised by wide traffic arteries for motorised private transport, which fragment the space and act as barriers. As a result, there is little scope for architectural, urban planning and open-space planning developments. We are seeking concepts that reimagine Alexanderplatz: as a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive mobility space of the future, where pedestrians can also feel safe and at ease.

Based on a reduction of motorised private transport areas by around 50 per cent, concepts are to be developed that boldly and creatively reinterpret and redistribute the space gained. We are looking for ideas that not only organise mobility but also utilise it as a catalyst for quality of stay, climate adaptation and social participation. Unconventional, experimental approaches are expressly encouraged.

In future, the study area should primarily accommodate origin-destination traffic; through traffic should be excluded as far as possible. Traffic management outside the marked area can be disregarded. We are also seeking attractive and safe solutions for parking bicycles, mopeds and scooters, in order to visibly promote sustainable mobility.

The concepts should also demonstrate how the transition can take place in stages – from short-term measures through medium-term adjustments to long-term transformations. The requirements of the Berlin Climate Adaptation Act (KAnG Bln) form an integral part of the brief, particularly with regard to new tree planting, microclimate and climate-resilient open spaces.

This competition invites participants to view the Alexanderplatz focus area as a testing ground for the mobility of tomorrow – as a space that connects people, strengthens climate resilience and opens up new urban perspectives. Collaboration with the fields of urban planning and landscape architecture is particularly encouraged here. We are seeking a vision that demonstrates how Alexanderplatz can become a liveable, sustainable and inspiring urban space.

Submission requirements: Mobility and transport planning

Submissions must comply with the guidelines set out in section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements'.

- ▶ Master site plan: new spatial structure, redistribution of traffic areas, proposed uses (with clear allocation of transport modes, e.g. using pictograms)
- ▶ Detailed sketches or cross-sections: key elements such as road cross-sections, mobility options, green spaces
- ▶ Phased development strategy: short-, medium- and long-term implementation steps
- ▶ Justification of the guiding principle: conceptual approach and expected effects

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.6.

Fine Art (FK) Numerous myths surround Alexanderplatz. The task is to capture the essence of this square, which is shaped by its history, and to outline perspectives for a possible future. A portrait of the square may also be created, reflecting both its history and its future.

The plan developed by Hans Kollhoff and Helga Timmermann in 1993 envisaged an exclusively commercial redevelopment of the site. A 'crown of high-rises' was to dominate the square and largely overshadow its more recent urban history. The subsequent listing of buildings for conservation and the clearly misguided notion of the square's economisation have rendered Kollhoff's intentions absurd. The task of art is therefore to respond sensitively to existing and newly emerging structures, whilst not ignoring the square's historically decisive role in recent German history.

Immediately prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, on 4 November 1989, one of the largest demonstrations in Berlin's history took place on Alexanderplatz, which played a decisive role in its subsequent development. By this time, the square had undergone a complete redesign during the GDR era, resulting in a structure entirely different from that which existed before the destruction of Berlin in the Second World War. As part of the transformation of Alexanderplatz into a site intended to represent the socialist state, buildings such as the 'Haus der Statistik', the 'Haus des Reisens', the 'Haus des Berliner Verlages' and the 'Haus der Elektroindustrie' were erected; today, large parts of these are listed as historic monuments.

The 'Haus der Statistik', which is now used for public-benefit purposes, sends a clear signal against the exclusively economically driven privatisation of public space – as envisaged by Kollhoff – with its now permanently installed inscription 'Allesandersplatz'.

With the Fountain of Friendship between Nations and the World Clock, the square continues to feature two works of art which, within the complex now dominated by the commercial use of the ALEXA and the Saturn store, highlight the function of public space as a socially unifying element.

It is also worth noting the tradition, cultivated over decades, of the artistic design of the U2 underground line, as well as the literary tributes to the square, such as Alfred Döblin's **Berlin Alexanderplatz** and the numerous film adaptations of the novel.

Intended by the GDR as a central rallying point, traffic was largely banished from Alexanderplatz and it was only after reunification that the square took on a new role thanks to the tram, which now crosses it. The buildings surrounding the square still shield it from traffic, creating a space for passers-by and those lingering there, where a vibrant mix of life thrives in the form of musicians, street stalls and occasional film shoots. With the TV Tower in the immediate vicinity, Alexanderplatz is a focal point for the urban history of the eastern half of the city.

So what are the visions for the square's future? How can the public good be further integrated into the square's activities and development? How can a space be created that is aesthetically and visually coherent, whilst taking into account the requirements of heritage protection? What is the role of art in the square's development?

Submission Requirements: Fine Art »

2.4. Tasks for the specialist disciplines and deliverables

2.4.6.

Submission Requirements: Fine Art

Submissions must comply with the guidelines set out in section 3.11 'General Submission Requirements'.

- ▶ There are no restrictions on the form of the work to be submitted. As there are no limitations on materials or form within the artistic spectrum, any material and any form are permissible. The submission may therefore take the form of a classical sculpture in public space, or it may be a concept, a film or a performance. However, the submission should be suitable for display on a display panel in the size specified for the competition.
- ▶ The competition entry must demonstrate a high level of artistic creativity. Merely documenting a state of affairs or reproducing an existing form or idea is therefore insufficient. What is required is an independent artistic engagement with the competition brief.



03. PROCEDURE

03. PROCEDURE

3.1.

Organiser and Competition Management

Architects' and Engineers' Association of Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.
Executive Board with the AIV Schinkel Committee
Office: Fabian Burns
Bleibtreustraße 33
D-10707 Berlin
www.aiv-berlin-brandenburg.de
mail@aiv-bb.de
Tel.: +49 30 883 45 98

The competition is being organised in cooperation with
wettbewerbe aktuell Verlagsgesellschaft mbH
Maximilianstraße 5
79100 Freiburg im Breisgau
www.wettbewerbe-aktuell.de

If you encounter any problems or have any queries regarding the
online process, please contact:
wa wettbewerbe aktuell
Online application process – Technical support:
support@wettbewerbe-aktuell.de
Telephone +49 761 77 4 55-33 Mon–Fri 8 am–4 pm

3.2.

Type of competition The AIV-Schinkel Competition is organised and run as an open ideas competition for students and recent graduates. The process does not follow the Rules for Planning Competitions (RPW 2013), but is based on them. The entire process remains anonymous until its conclusion.

3.3.

Communication

The competition language is German. All communications from the organiser – including the competition announcement, the entry documents and responses to enquiries – will be published in German. Participants may submit their enquiries in English. Entries may also be submitted in English.

All communication with participants takes place via the secure participants' area on [wettbewerbe-aktuell](#). All relevant information regarding the process is published there and updated regularly. Participants can log in to the participants' area using their login details (email address and password). Throughout the process, all information will be sent to the email address provided here.

All participants are responsible for keeping themselves informed of the current status throughout the competition.

3.4.

Eligibility

The following conditions apply to participation; participants are responsible for ensuring they meet these requirements:

- ▶ Eligible to enter are students and final-year students on degree programmes in urban planning, landscape architecture, architecture, civil engineering, transport planning and related disciplines, as well as artists and students of fine art.
- ▶ Participants – including those working in consortia – must not be older than 35 years of age by the competition entry deadline.
- ▶ Participants must not have previously won a Schinkel Prize.
- ▶ Each person may submit only one entry.
- ▶ Participants must not be related by blood or marriage to any members of the jury.

Competition entries may be developed by a maximum of four participants.

Working in interdisciplinary teams is recommended. At least two participants must be involved in a collaborative entry (tasks from two or more specialist fields must be addressed).

03. PROCEDURE

3.5.

Registration

Registration for the competition is open from 1 September 2026 until 25 January 2027 at 23:59 via the website wettbewerbe-aktuell.de.

Each team must create an account on the website. These login details can then be used to register for the participants' area of the AIV Schinkel Competition.

The confirmation email from [wettbewerbe-aktuell](https://wettbewerbe-aktuell.de) contains a unique reference number (e.g. ID-RWH4Y), which must be quoted when transferring the entry fee. Access to the participants' area will only be granted once the entry fee of EUR 40.00 has been received in the following account:

AIV zu Berlin-Brandenburg

Berliner Volksbank

DE22 1009 0000 7403 9380 54

BEVODEBBXXX

Verwendungszweck: [individuelle Kennziffer]

Entries for which the entry fee has not been paid will be excluded from judging.

The entry fee is non-refundable. A donation receipt cannot be issued.

3.6.

Competition documents

All competition documents are available for download in the participants' area of [wettbewerbe-aktuell](https://wettbewerbe-aktuell.de). The documents include the competition brief as well as further data and plans.

The data provided is protected by copyright. Accordingly, it must not be disclosed to third parties. All participants in the competition undertake to use the data and plans provided by the organiser exclusively for the purposes of the competition.

3.7.

Site visit

A guided site visit will be offered on Saturday, **24 October 2026**. It will begin at 11:00 am at the World Time Clock at Alexanderplatz 1, 10178 Berlin. Attendance is voluntary. As the site is freely accessible, no further site visits will take place.

3.8.

Enquiries and Q&A session The Q&A session will take place online on Friday, **13 November 2026**, at 5.00 pm. Attendance is optional. The login details for the event will be published in the participants' area on wettbewerbe-aktuell. Questions regarding the competition may be submitted in writing via the enquiries forum in the participants' area by **2 November 2026**. Please check whether your questions are displayed there.

Questions and answers will be presented during the Q&A session and answered by the jury. During the session, there will be an opportunity to ask further questions. The answers will subsequently be published online for all participants and form part of the competition brief.

3.9.

Submission Competition entries must be submitted by **4.00 pm on Monday 8 February 2027** at the latest. Submissions must be made in both **hard copy and digital format** by uploading to wettbewerbe-aktuell. Both formats are mandatory.

The printed presentation plans must be submitted on or before the submission deadline between 10.00 and 16.00 at the AIV Berlin-Brandenburg office, either in person, by post or by courier. This is a strict submission deadline. Entries received after the deadline will be excluded from judging. The date of the postmark on the day of submission is not sufficient.

To ensure anonymity, the competition entry must be submitted in a sealed envelope without the sender's details or any other references to the authors.

- ▶ If sent by post or courier service (postage paid by the recipient), the recipient, AIV Berlin-Brandenburg, must be stated as the sender.
- ▶ All entries must be submitted in a single consignment; the following note must be clearly visible on the outside of the packaging:

'AIV Schinkel Competition 2027',

a 6-digit code of your own choosing,

the abbreviation for the discipline or, in the case of collaborative projects, the abbreviations for all disciplines involved

(A: Architecture, S: Urban Planning, LA: Landscape Architecture,

KI: Structural Engineering, MoVe: Mobility and Transport Planning,

FK: Fine Art).

3.10.

Anonymisation of entries (codenumber) All parts of the entries (plans and appendices) must be clearly legible and marked with the discipline and the self-chosen 6-digit code. The code must be affixed to all paper printouts and documents in the top right-hand corner, measuring 1 cm in height and 4 cm in width. Digital data must be submitted without a code number. When uploading, the system automatically assigns new file names.

The subject area covered and, where applicable, any collaborating subject areas must be clearly indicated on all plans and in the explanatory report.

Anonymity must be strictly maintained: entries that contain identifiable references to the authors will be excluded from the competition.

3.11.

General submission requirements

The following competition entries must be submitted:

Analogue submission (printouts)

► **Presentation plans**

A display area of 194 cm × 136 cm (width × height) is available per entry.

The sheet formats are not restricted to DIN formats; the required plan components may be arranged on the display panel in any layout and page layout of your choice.

The plans must be submitted as full-size prints.

For insurance reasons, no one-off originals (e.g. hand-drawn sketches) may be submitted.

The paper weight of the prints must not exceed 260 g/m² and must be easy to attach to the display panels. Entries whose plans cannot be mounted on the display panels mentioned above will be excluded from judging.

► **Explanatory report**

The explanatory report consists of a guiding concept (max. 1,000 characters including spaces) and an explanatory text on the design (max. 5,000 characters including spaces). »

03. PROCEDURE

3.11.

► **Author's declaration**

The author's declaration must be completed on the form provided for this purpose, which is available in the participants' area under 'Current Competitions'. **A signed printout of this declaration must be enclosed with the submission documents in a separate, sealed, opaque envelope marked 'Author's Declaration' and bearing the code number.**

By signing the author's declaration, participants confirm that they are the intellectual authors of the competition entries and are eligible to participate in accordance with the competition rules. By signing, participants also accept the data protection terms set out in section 3.12.

Digital submission (upload)

- Presentation plans (PDF files, resolution 300 dpi)
- All graphics as individual images in a zipped layout folder (JPG files, resolution 300 dpi)
- Explanatory report (PDF and DOC files)
- Author's declaration (PDF file). The declaration must also bear the code number assigned to the competition entry

The size of individual files must not exceed 10 MB. **For drawings, ensure that line thickness is at least 0.8 pt to allow for reduction.**

3.12.

Copyright and liability

Ownership and copyright

The winning entries become the sole property of the AIV and will be archived. The authors retain the copyright and the right to publish the designs. The AIV has the general and unrestricted right to document, exhibit and publish (including through third parties) the entries admitted for judging once the competition has concluded, without further remuneration. The authors' names will be credited in such instances.

Liability and Return

The AIV will handle the competition entries with care. The organiser accepts no liability for damage to or loss of the submitted entries. Prints of entries that have not won a prize may be collected from the AIV on a date to be announced in good time. Entries not collected will be disposed of.

Non-award-winning printouts will only be returned on request, at the participant's expense and only in suitable, reusable packaging.

3.13.

Data Protection By participating in and contributing to the competition process, participants, experts, preliminary assessors, judges and guest judges agree to the competition terms and conditions and the data protection guidelines of the Architekten- und Ingenieurverein zu Berlin-Brandenburg e. V. (AIV).

Any statements of any kind regarding the content and proceedings before and during the duration of the competition process, including the publication of the competition results, may only be made via the AIV.

By signing the author's declaration, participants consent to their personal data being stored in connection with the AIV Schinkel Competition on the 'wettbewerb-aktuell' website and at the AIV's office in the form of an automated file.

»

03. PROCEDURE

3.13.

The signature also constitutes consent to the publication and disclosure of personal data in the following cases:

- ▶ The AIV is entitled to publish participants' entries and photographs, as well as the names of the individuals, in the association's own print and online media.
- ▶ Similarly, the AIV may pass on this material to the trade press, daily newspapers, funding bodies of the AIV Schinkel Competition and universities for reporting in their online and offline media.
- ▶ The AIV may pass on the names and email addresses of prize-winners to funding bodies of the AIV Schinkel Competition so that they may contact them to offer their congratulations.

Personal data of participants who are not prize winners will be deleted after one year.

Personal data of prize winners that goes beyond the information published in print and online media will be deleted in accordance with statutory retention periods.

3.14.

Use of artificial intelligence In addition to the content and design, the committee also assesses the presentational qualities of the entries. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) for image and text generation is permitted, **but must be clearly indicated, stating the tools used.**

3.15.

Preliminary screening and assessment procedure

The assessment procedure follows the principles set out in the Guidelines for Planning Competitions (RPW 2013). Submitted entries are examined by preliminary assessors on the basis of a set of criteria agreed with the Schinkel Committee, which is listed in the competition brief. The assessment takes place in two jury sessions:

Disciplinary Jury

Each brief is assessed by an interdisciplinary jury within its respective specialist field. The preliminary assessors present all entries impartially. Following discussion and selection across several rounds, the jury makes recommendations for the awards.

Jury session of the AIV Schinkel Committee

In the final session, the Schinkel Committee and guest judges decide on the award of prizes. In justified cases, they may deviate from the recommendations of the specialist jury. The decision is taken by majority vote and is legally binding.

3.16.

Assessment criteria The assessment criteria provide a framework for the preliminary review and the judging of competition entries by the jury. The order in which they are listed does not imply any ranking. The jury reserves the right to weight the criteria as it sees fit.

The following general assessment criteria apply to all entries:

- ▶ Clarity, conciseness and originality of the concept
- ▶ Quality and degree of innovation of the design concept
- ▶ Quality of the engagement with the urban context
- ▶ Spatial, functional and atmospheric qualities of the design
- ▶ Quality of the implementation of sustainability and climate neutrality requirements
- ▶ Quality of the process concept and social compatibility
- ▶ Recycling of materials and components, grey energy
- ▶ Quality of presentation and clarity of the concept, as well as the drawings and visual representations
- ▶ Quality of the detailed solutions
- ▶ Correspondence between the different levels of scale
- ▶ Completeness of the services to be provided
- ▶ Collaboration with other disciplines

3.17.

Jury The jury comprises members appointed in accordance with the statutes and elected members. In addition, experts assigned to the project and guest judges are invited.

Members as per the Statutes

Matthias Bednasch

Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Planning of the State of Brandenburg

Angeli Büttner

Lenné Academy for Horticulture and Garden Culture e. V.

Philip Engelbrecht

Filigran Support Systems GmbH & Co. KG

Senator Christian Gaebler

Senate Department for Urban Development, Construction and Housing, State of Berlin

Marina Kuck

Berlin Chamber of Architects

Prof. Taco Holthuisen

erQ GmbH

Stefan Krapp

Urban Planning Examination Board, Higher Examination Office
for the Technical Trainee Programme at the BMDV

Christiane Krause

Examination Board for Urban Development, Higher Examination Office
for the Technical Trainee Programme at the BMDV

Otto-Ewald Marek

Association of Consulting Engineers (VBI), Berlin-Brandenburg Regional Association

Prof. Dr. Kathy Meiss

Association of German Architects' and Engineers' Associations (DAI)

Prof. Johannes Modersohn

Executive Board of AIV Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.

Dr. Christian Müller

Executive Board of AIV Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.

Dr. Karl-Peter Nielsen

Berlin Chamber of Construction

Michael Fritsche

Association of Private Builders e. V.

Justus Pysall

Hans-Joachim-Pysall Foundation

Sebastian Rost

Association of Craft Restorers

Prof. Dr. hc Wolfgang Schuster

Karl-Friedrich-Schinkel Foundation

Julia Teetzmann

Architecture Examination Board, Higher Examination Office
for the Technical Trainee Programme at the BMDV

Theodor Winters

S.T.E.R.N. Foundation for Social Urban Development



3.17.

Members of the AIV Schinkel Committee

Architecture

Benjamin Hostermann
Emely Idelberger
Theresa Keilhacker
Pola Koch
Adrian Krieg
Martin Mezger
Dominik Schendel*
Karl-Heinz Schneider
Tine Teiml
Sebastian Wagner

Urban Planning

Jorik Flohr
Bernhard Heitele
Prof. Ina-Marie Kapitola
Christoph Kollert*
Ludwig Krause
Emil Kuenzer
Manfred Kühne
Lydia Oehlwein
Jesse Puhan-Schulz
Till Pulst

Landscape Architecture

Fine Aufmkolk*
Prof. Ute Aufmkolk
Prof. Dr. Kendra Busche
Wen Chen
Heyden Freitag
Dr. Lars Hopstock
Martin Schmitz

Structural Engineering

Prof. Karen Eisenloffel
Arne Huhn
Eva Krapf
Prof. Dr. Jörg Röder
Prof. Dr. Michael Staffa
Nicole Zahner*

Mobility and Transport Planning

Olaf Bruhn
Rainer Döge*
Dr. Eckhard Schüler-Hainsch
Dr. Fabian Walf

Fine Art

Britta Adler
Lea Heine
Heinrich Liman
Richard Rabensaat*

* Spokespersons for the
specialist categories



3.17.

Guest judges (to be confirmed)

Marius Gantert (S)

TELEINTERNETCAFE Architecture and Urbanism, Berlin

Ephraim Gothe (S)

District Councillor for Urban Development and Facility Management, Mitte District Office, Berlin

Peter Grundmann (A)

Peter Grundmann Architects, Berlin

Prof. Heike Hanada (FK)

Heike Hanada Laboratory of Art and Architecture, Berlin / Dortmund Technical University

Dr. Stefanie Hennecke (LA)

Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment, Berlin

Prof. Andrea Hofmann (A, S)

raumlaborberlin / ZUSAMMENKUNFT Berlin – Cooperative for Urban Development, Berlin

Jutta Kalepky (S)

S.T.E.R.N. Foundation for Social Urban Development, Berlin

Moritz Maria Karl (S)

Office MMK, Berlin / Design Academy Eindhoven

Leon Legeland (S, LA)

Gehl Architects, Copenhagen

Via Lewandowski (FK)

freelance artist, Berlin

Prof. Dr. Silvia Malcovati (S)

BERND ALBERS Architects, Berlin / Potsdam University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Cornelia Müller (LA)

Lützow 7 Müller Wehberg Landscape Architects, Berlin

Dr. Cornelia Oschmann (LA)

Lenné Academy for Horticulture and Garden Culture e. V., Großbeeren

Moojin Park (S)

Office ParkScheerbarth, Berlin

Prof. Christian Ranck (LA)

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

Ingrid Sabatier (A)

ISSS research | architecture | urbanism, Berlin

Wenke Schladitz (A)

christoph wagner architects, Berlin

Christopher Schriner (LA, MoVe)

District Councillor for Public Order, Environment, Nature, Roads and Green Spaces,
Mitte District Office, Berlin

Stephan Schwarz (A)

ISSS research | architecture | urbanism, Berlin

Marcel Tröger (LA)

Studio Erde, Berlin and Zurich

Christoph Wagner (A)

christoph wagner architects, Berlin

Schinkel Prize winners 2026 (Architecture and Urban Planning)

3.18.

Prizes

Up to 30,000 EUR is expected to be available in prize money.

One Schinkel Prize of 3,000 EUR may be awarded per discipline. Further special prizes are possible. Some special prizes are theme-based and are subject to the specifications of the funding bodies.

- ▶ Special Prize from the Berlin Chamber of Architects (1,000 EUR) for an outstanding engineering achievement.
- ▶ Special Prize for 'Interdisciplinary Sustainable Building' from erQ GmbH (2,000 EUR) for an interdisciplinary project that adopts a neighbourhood-based approach and creatively incorporates the three pillars of sustainability into its design, with a particular focus on energy- and resource-efficient construction and zero emissions.
- ▶ Special prizes from the Karl-Friedrich-Schinkel Foundation: four 'Diesing Prizes' (2,000 EUR each) for an outstanding architectural exploration.
- ▶ Special Prize from the Lenné Academy for Horticulture and Garden Culture e. V. (1,000 EUR) for outstanding use of plants in the landscape architecture category.
- ▶ Special Prize from the Berliner Leben Foundation (1,000 EUR) in the Fine Art category.
- ▶ Special Prize from the Association of Consulting Engineers (2,000 EUR) for the best interdisciplinary collaborative work by engineers with another discipline.
- ▶ Special Prize from the Association of Private Builders (1,500 EUR) for a work of outstanding quality that demonstrates an innovative approach to housing or the living environment.
- ▶ Special Prize from the Association of Craft Restorers (1,500 EUR) for a project that demonstrates an exceptional engagement with the theme of heritage and craftsmanship.
- ▶ Special 'Social Urban Development' Prize from the S.T.E.R.N. Foundation (€2,000) for a project that exemplifies sensitive urban regeneration and process-oriented development in a distinctive way.
- ▶ The **Schinkel Italy Travel Scholarship**, worth 2,500 EUR, awarded by the Hans-Joachim-Pysall Foundation, is linked to the awarding of a Schinkel Prize and honours the best entry to have been awarded a Schinkel Prize. Its purpose ties in with the historical use of the prize money.

If prize winners are engaged in business activities within the meaning of the Value Added Tax Act, they must pay the VAT themselves (Section 19(1) of the Value Added Tax Act). The prize money is paid out without a separate VAT statement. No reimbursement of costs will be made.

Funding commitments are subject to budgetary constraints and may be revoked at short notice. In such cases, the Schinkel Committee reserves the right to adjust the distribution or amount of the prize money.

03. PROCEDURE

3.19.

Announcement of results and exhibition of works

The prize winners will be notified on the working day following the final jury meeting. The detailed minutes of the jury's deliberations will be sent to all participants at a later date.

Selected competition entries will be exhibited publicly, with details of the authors, the prizes and the jury's reviews. Details of the exhibition opening, as well as the venue and duration of the exhibition, will be announced by February 2027 at the latest. Once the process has been completed, a report on the competition will be produced.

3.20.

Dates

Publication of the competition brief	1 September 2026
Site visit	24 October 2026 (11.00 am)
Deadline for queries	2 November 2026
Q&A session	13 November 2026 (5.00 pm)
Closing date for applications	25 January 2027 (until 23:59)
Submission of competition entries	by 8 February 2027 (by 16:00)
Juries for each category	17 to 19 February 2027
Schinkel Jury	20 February 2027
Exhibition opening with press	13 March 2027
Schinkel Festival with awards ceremony	13 March 2027

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Organiser

**Architects' and Engineers' Association (AIV) for Berlin-Brandenburg e. V.,
Executive Board and Schinkel Committee**

Contact persons

Fabian Burns

Geschäftsstelle des AIV zu Berlin-Brandenburg

+49 (0) 30 8834598

mail@aiv-bb.de

Press contact

Martina Rozok / AIV zu Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.

Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

+49 (0) 170 23 55 988

kommunikation@aiv-bb.de

Publication of the competition notice

The competition notice will be made available for download on the AIV Berlin-Brandenburg website and in the participants' area of the 'wettbewerbe aktuell' competition portal:

www.aiv-berlin-brandenburg.de/schinkel-wettbewerb

www.wettbewerbe-aktuell.de

Layout & Design

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