

■ PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union in Brussels:  
Landscape architecture exhibition (09.06. - 27.06.10)

## **NATURETECTURE: Landscape architecture from North Rhine-Westphalia presented in Brussels**

*The NATURETECTURE exhibition, which met with much interest in spring 2010 when shown in Dusseldorf, will be shown in Brussels this summer, too. The Chamber of Architects of North Rhine-Westphalia will present the exhibition from June 9 to June 27 at the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union in Brussels. "Given the ecological challenges we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the demographic change in Western Europe, concepts of landscape architecture have a special importance," says Hartmut Miksch, President of the Chamber of Architects of North Rhine-Westphalia. The NATURETECTURE exhibition shows the development our landscape has taken over the past few centuries and what challenges landscape architects are now facing. "At the same time, we attest to the high efficiency of our North Rhine–Westphalian landscape architects before an international audience," the President of the Chamber of Architects says. - The vernissage will be held at the NRW-Landesvertretung in Brussels on June 9 at 7pm and all interested parties are hereby invited!*

"These days, landscape is a rare and sensitive commodity which we have to treat respectfully so that the generations coming after us can still enjoy it," the President of the Chamber of Architects of North Rhine-Westphalia, Hartmut Miksch, expands on the backdrop to the NATURETECTURE exhibition. In a densely populated state like North Rhine–Westphalia, a targeted planning and design of areas of unspoiled nature, landscapes and usable areas isn't only of economic and ecological importance but also a social factor. That is why NATURETECTURE's 13 topics deal with the design of urban community parks and facilities, nature's recreational value, the design of leisure areas and playgrounds and the combination of nature and culture.

A central responsibility of landscape architects is to deal with natural areas spoiled by human intervention. "On a global scale, industrial landscapes are losing their function and are to be converted," says Lutz Lienenkämper, Minister for Building and Transport of North Rhine–Westphalia, who will give an opening speech at the vernissage. Concepts of landscape architecture might actually upgrade these areas. "North Rhine–Westphalia took up the challenges posed by this restructuring at a very early stage with projects like landscape park Duisburg-Nord, *Garten der Erinnerung* in the Duisburg inner harbour or a number of waste tip projects along the River Emscher," Lienenkämper continues. These and other examples will be presented in the NATURETECTURE exhibition in terms of their underlying concepts and by means of large and attractive photographs.

The NATURETECTURE exhibition was curated by Prof. Elizabeth Sikiaridi and Prof. Frans Vogelaar. “The global challenges of the post-industrial age and the huge tasks we are facing given the ecological problems and climate change lead to a globally growing interest in landscape architecture,” Prof. Sikiaridi thinks. “Since North Rhine–Westphalia took up the challenges posed by the restructuring at a comparatively early stage and in a very innovative manner, the state has a lot of experience to offer when it comes to dealing with post-industrial landscapes. The exhibition is conveying this know-how.” It does not focus upon a presentation of individual projects and personalities but upon the tasks and tools to upgrade landscapes in our post-industrial age.

How landscape is perceived is reconsidered and makes North Rhine–Westphalia a hotspot of landscape architecture. The challenges landscape architects are facing are indeed manifold: the use of historical parks and landscapes, the renaturation of industrial and mining areas, plans for agricultural areas and the design of open urban spaces, community gardens and urban recreational areas. Issues that will become relevant in the future, like a responsible use of water and the creation of new “energy landscapes” to cultivate renewable resources, are also analysed and documented in the exhibition by showing innovative examples. The issues are introduced by high-quality photographs by Julian Roeder and Johannes Schwartz.

The Ministry for Building and Transport of North Rhine–Westphalia has supported the development of the exhibition within the *StadtBauKultur NRW* state initiative. It is bilingual (German/English) throughout and following the Brussels presentation is to be presented at various other international locations. A venue in the European Capital of Culture, Istanbul, is being prepared for late summer.

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**„NATURTEKTUR / naturetecture“**

**09.06.10 - 27.06.10**

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