

Scheme for the banks of the Volme, Hagen



General plan for the town hall area with complete redesign of the river bed and the water features by the town hall. A crucial feature of the design is to restore accessibility for flora and fauna by rebuilding two weirs.

The Town Hall steps connect the city to the river. The river can be experienced directly thanks to a new path along the river shoreline.

But the people of Hagen seemed most impressed by suggestions for designing the area between the town hall and the Volme. A terrace was to curve along the bank of the river, with enough room for bistro chairs, jutting out over the water in places. From this terrace, a generously dimensioned flight of steps leads down to the gravel shore, and from there it is possible to walk to the next steps. Unless the path is flooded when the river is high. Then a narrow pedestrian bridge will lead from the terrace to the other side of the river. But in Hagen, Herbert Dreiseitl also met the challenge of creating a visible link between the town hall and the river. This was achieved with inlays set in the floor covering and leading to a water wall made of coloured glass, down which water glides. This is the starting-point for a watercourse that takes water from the roof and in a cascade down the steps into the Volme.

To make the terrace and steps part of the town, to remove its backyard image and to give people easier access to the Volme, the floor covering is taken



on into the adjacent street. Even if all this will not really make a great deal of difference to how well people know this industrial town – it has certainly enhanced the quality of life of the people who live there.