

The water system in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz

Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonie is reflected in the crystal clear water.

Steps and sculpture platform in the mobile surface of the water

Architecture bathed in light, reflected and dissolved in the water

Turbulent rhythmic structures

The water surface is a mirror at night

Stippled waves, created by the tiniest possible change in levels, alternate with smooth and turbulent areas. The interplay of wind, nature and art produces visual colour games.

cation biotopes, where it is cleaned biologically and chemically. If necessary, technical filters can also be used, which will remove any floating algae in the summer months.

In Marlene-Dietrich-Platz water flows in intricate patterns to the lowest point in the piazza. The water glides of flow-steps from the main expanse of water, and here rhythmic wave structures are formed. A detail that is accurate to a millimetre, worked out in 1:1 models. Then, immediately adjacent to the piazza, the water drifts from two sides over linear wave cascades, creating a clear link with the architecture. Finally water also emerges from a source in the northern area of water, then flows down a narrow channel. Given the extremely complex criteria that had to be met, DaimlerChrysler representative Karlheinz Bohn rightly pointed out after the opening that 'as well as the fascination that this idea exercised over all of us, it soon became clear that an artificial expanse of water creates a number of problems if energy-intensive technology and chemical additives are not used.' The results are convincing, as the quality of the water is good, the buffer capacity is adequate and the use of fresh water in the buildings has been reduced. In design terms, the 'Urban Water Feature' has given Potsdamer Platz a unique open space.

