

Solar City Linz

Where the delta of the Traun feeds into the Danube, a new city has been built, lying close to a belt of sensitive wetland wood. This new city has optimal local public transport connections to Linz.

Overview plan of Solar City with the new bathing lake and the existing wetland wood



Resolving the conflict between city and nature is a major design theme of the master plan. Excellent and convenient play and relaxing spaces for the inhabitants help reduce pressure on the surrounding sensitive nature landscapes.

A lot of people would like to live and work in the same place, and this is also an accepted credo in urban development policy. It should be possible to realize life-plans for the population according to taste, in a graded system of upper, middle and lower centres in which both are possible without a great distance between them. But the queues of cars every morning show the mess that trying to meet these wishes on a regional basis has got us into.

This time-consuming and air-polluting scene is played out in the Upper Austrian town of Linz every day as well. For this reason the city of 200,000 inhabitants and a proud 180,000 jobs looked for somewhere to build new housing estates. But it was difficult to find suitable building land, as Linz is confined between the Danube and the Traun, with numerous protected areas. Finally a site in a typical landscape of water meadows was found, and architects of the calibre of Richard Rogers, Norman Foster and Thomas Herzog were persuaded to work for this project, which was Austria's largest urban development scheme at the time. The Dreiseitl studio won the competition for designing the landscape architecture.

The project was given the fine-sounding title Solar City Linz, and has raised enormous expectations. In the long term it is intended to provide a total of 25,000 people with homes in five centres. So far the concrete plans include one centre with about 32.5 hectares of building space for about 4,500 people, including about 20 hectares of open space. Doubts in terms of nature conservation are understandable. For this reason Linz's director of building, Franz Xaver Goldner, has assurances

