

The Scharnhauser Park in Ostfildern



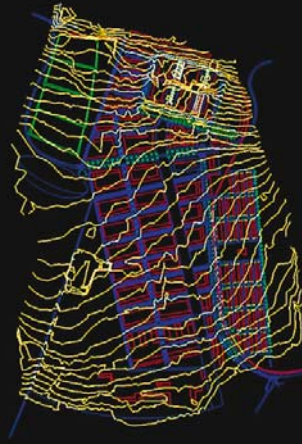
The original barracks and the topographical structure.

Topography and urban structure of the area as a whole

Barracks architecture traditionally has little in common with the quality of life. The buildings are arranged and developed from a purely functional point of view, and people are not intended to feel particularly at home. And at the time the people who commissioned them were scarcely concerned to address the ecological consequences of building. The Allied Forces have been leaving Germany and going home for years now. Quite frequently they leave run-down military accommodation behind, often extensive sites that had little money spent on them and that are usually more of an inherited problem than a welcome gift.

But these sites also have their own potential. They certainly take pressure off the town to provide new building land. But a new estate is only likely to succeed if the planners are creative and the barracks site meets modern requirements both inside and out. As in the case in the Scharnhauser Park near Ostfildern. This project involves 150 hectares, and is the largest urban development scheme in the Stuttgart area in the early 21st century. The 2002 regional horticultural show is at the heart of the site, and thus high on the list of regional priorities. Horticultural shows are increasingly inclined towards innovative approaches to town planning, and so it was clear from the beginning of the planning process that rain-water would have to be treated in a new way as well.

Two systems of streams flow below the site, which is on a south-facing slope, and the Scharnhauser Park surface water is useful to these. The Körsch, for example, often threatens to dry up in summer. Additional water would sustain the valuable biotope structure that is the only network worth speaking of in this region for sustaining flora and fauna. On the other hand, to avoid floods, the planners have settled for a different strategy of discharge reduc-



The landscape steps are the green backbone of the new housing development.

Even a one-in-100-year storm event was handled without problem.

