

Sculpture Gardens

The planned new wave of artistic, social and educational projects aims both to remind the public of Katowice's own tradition of gardens and parks and to transform public spaces by creating new gardenlike phenomena. These new spaces will not only come to serve as spaces for social interaction and daily use: they will also be conducive to reflection and good-natured conversation.

The project involves the introduction of large-format artistic enterprises such as garden-type building facades, but also of 'filigree' garden ventures initiated by residents, who will be encouraged to design and plant mini-gardens in their own backyards, balconies, loggias and roofs.

Sculpture gardens will help to redefine the city's character, creating an attractive, frequently surprising, and open-ended space. These projects are a direct response to the challenges faced by Katowice today, caused by the deterioration of a large part of the city centre and with the lack of properly cultivated public space in the city.

The project's educational elements are also important. The idea of sculpture gardens seeks to distance itself from the traditional model of presenting art, which involves separating off everyday life from the sacred sphere of museums and gallery walls. The new entities to be created in the city space will be open to ongoing interaction and interpretation.

The City of Gardens concept shows the way forward with regard to the direction that the development of a European metropolis should take. Bearing in mind such contemporary phenomena as deurbanization and the tendency for lifestyles to shift towards a specific combination of urban and rural values, it proposes a method of organising space that reflects both newly emerging needs and a new approach to reality. The random exploitation of the environment – so powerfully symbolized in the locality by far-reaching mining damage and pollution – will be replaced by a harmonious mixture of multiple elements that promise to furnish a new face for the city, while at the same time assuming full responsibility for the environment.

Well known and distinguished artists, such as Richard Serra, Antony Gormley, Patrick Blanc, Anish Kapoor and Mirosław Bałka will be invited to contribute to the project.



Cazador-del-Sol | Installation by Agata Norek and Rene Hildebrand 11-13 June 2010 | Sejmu Śląskiego Square, Katowice | photo by Agata Norek

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Gardens of Europe

The city will be studded with a network of gardens referring to the most widely known examples from the history of European arts, such as Dutch, Italian and English gardens. The Katowice gardens will retain their historical identities, but will not be mere reflections of their famous precursors. They will be open to a dialogue with the existing space and the interpretations of the artists who create them. The goal is to revitalize the neglected parts of the city and create public spaces that will encourage local residents and tourists alike to spend time in the city centre. The project will also respond to educational needs. Each project will be accompanied by an information point, website and an audio-guide, including both historical information and interesting details about the gardens.

Land Art

The list of neglected and often abandoned factory buildings and post-industrial areas in Upper Silesia that are awaiting revitalisation is almost endless. Its vast spaces are full of extremely interesting landscapes and architecture, which can provide perfect venues for large-scale artistic projects.

The programme anticipates the creation of works belonging to the so-called 'Land Art' movement. It will also give employment to residents of the districts in which projects are implemented.

One of the inspirations for this is a project by the French Land artist Jean Paul Ganeman, who will create a garden-artwork on the site of the dis-used Rozbark coal mine in Bytom, a town just a few kilometres from Katowice.

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