



**“Lost Landscapes”  
Pecha Kucha Presentation and Abstract  
2023 IFLA Europe General Assembly  
13-15 October 2023**

BAK - Federal Chamber of German Architects



### **Lake Lappwald in Helmstedt – large scale and long term project**

<https://www.lappwaldsee.info/lappwaldsee.html>

50 to 60 Mio years ago, a scrub forest landscape in the vicinity of the northern German town of Helmstedt was lost due to rising water levels. This created the largest lignite seam reservoir in Germany. As in many other places in Germany, opencast lignite mining was responsible for the energy production of entire regions for decades. This was also the case in Helmstedt, where lignite mining took place from 1873 till 2002. Today, the towns of Helmstedt and Harbke are taking care of the reclamation of an energy extraction landscape into a nature, tourism and holiday landscape. The main task at present is to fill up the pit with water so the ideas of the 2008 master plan by landscape architects Herbstreit can become reality along the shorelines of the lake. Lake Lappwald differs from other post-mining landscapes because of its location in the border area of East and West Germany and the resulting special history of joint open-cast mining during the Cold War. With its location in the border region, the lake also lies exactly on the European green belt. In Germany, this green belt is the largest biotope network in the country and at the same time a wonderful cycle path. The vision of the municipalities of Helmstedt and Harbke to continue this cycle path under the surface of lake would not only give Lake Lappwald a unique selling point, but also the green belt in Germany as a whole.

### **Aegidienforest in Hanover – small scale and short term project**

Kitsch or art? Wasted money or an enrichment for the cityscape? Since 2006, the Aegidientorplatz, one of Hanover's busiest squares, has been home to the Aegidienforest: the tree trunks made of white spotted steel poles, the crowns green windsocks. The idea came about in a student project at the Landscape Architecture University of Hanover. The designers are Stefanie Schmoll and Dominik Geilker.

The Aegidientorplatz has always been characterised by high traffic loads. The constantly increasing traffic volume led to the decision to move the tram underground and give more space to motor vehicle traffic. In order to ensure a smooth flow of traffic even during the construction of the underground, the Aegi was bridged with a steel construction at the end of the 1960s. This elevated road, originally intended as a temporary solution, was demolished in the run-up to EXPO 2000. During this measure, the last greenery disappeared from the centre.

With their design of an artificial forest, Stefanie Schmoll and Dominik Geilker have managed to bring joy and colour to an otherwise completely lost landscape traffic area. And 17 years after the completion of the project one can truly say that to enhance the urban space with a little different piece of nature is definitely an enrichment for the cityscape.



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**„Lost Landscapes“ in Germany**

**„Lake Lappwald“ in Helmstedt : large scale long term project**

**„Aegidienforest“ in Hanover: small scale short term project**



## Helmstedt 50 to 60 Mio years ago



Foto: BKB AG

- Scrub forest landscape was covered with water that's how lignite seams were formed



# Helmsted Lake Lappwald

lignite mining from 1873 till 2002



Foto: BKB AG



Foto: Helmstedter Revier GmbH



# Helmsted Lappwaldlake

reclamation of an energy extraction landscape into a nature, tourism and holiday landscape





# Helmsted Lake Lappwald

on the border between east and west Germany



Foto: planning association Lappwaldsee





# Helmsted Lake Lappwald

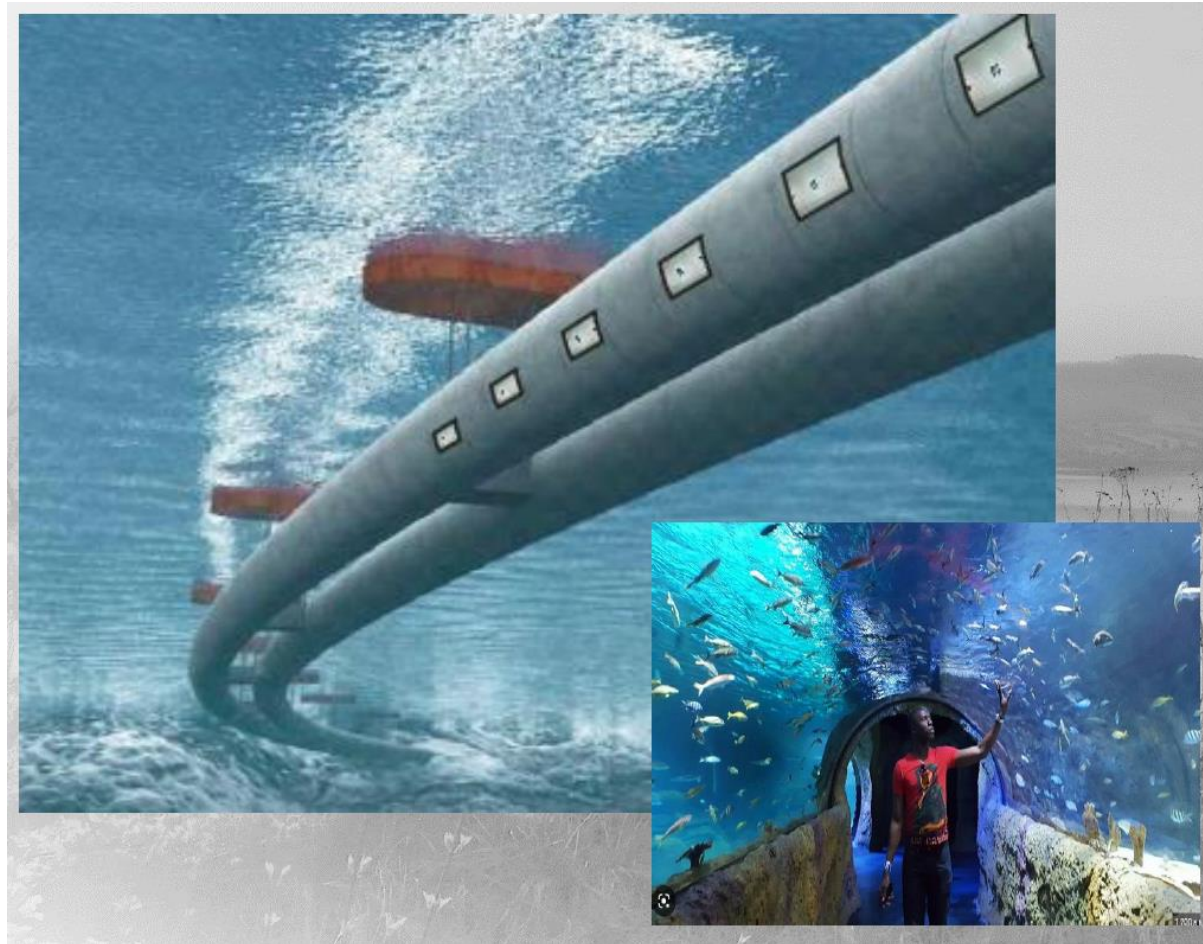
## Right on the european green belt





# Helmsted Lake Lappwald

Vision for the future – walking and riding the green belt under water





# Aegidienforest - traffic junction in Hanover

reclamation of a traffic landscape into a landscape with a bit of „nature“

- 1960 construction of high street to keep on traffic flow while constructing the subway
- From 1965 construction of the subway
- 2000 demolition of the high street for the world exhibition (EXPO) in Hanover



(C) W. Hauschild-Archiv, Historisches Museum Hannover



# Aegidienforest - traffic junction in Hanover

reclamation of a traffic landscape into a landscape with a bit of „nature“



Foto: Dominik Geilker, Stefanie Schmoll

- 2003 Student competition at the university of landscape architecture in Hanover
- 2006 Implementation by city council of Hanover
- Designed by landscape architects Stefanie Schmoll und Dominik Geilker
- Implementation planning in cooperation with architect Klaus Determann