

EDEN-BERG

EDEN-BERG is a newly created forested mountain that reinforces and enhances the character of Bad Lobenstein: a new iconic destination that echoes the existing iconic hills that characterize the city's topography.

The new central mountain emerges from Stadtteich Pond, hovers above the railway, and settles on the former quarry. Slate hiking trails traverse through the mountain, connecting Kurpark, the town center, ARDESIA thermal baths, and Stadtteich pond. From the top of the new mountain, Bad Lobenstein and its iconic mountains can be rediscovered from a new vantage point. At the foothills of EDEN-BERG new wetlands overflowing from Lemnitz River floodplain permeate and carve into the mountain's base, creating pockets and conforming to the needs of the proposed programs.

EDEN-BERG redefines the concept of "Kurort" (spa city) into an immersive landscape where different programs materialize in a continuous and fluid sequence. Visitors may traverse by hiking through the forest on top of EDEN-BERG, or underneath, through the programmed wetlands. This new way of making "Kurort" prioritizes the scenery and landscape by placing the program under the new mountain, rather than creating a series of isolated buildings. Light trickles down into the programmed wetlands from above through strategically placed openings in the forest of EDEN-BERG, vertically connecting the two worlds.

This re-defined "Kurort" embraces the three prevailing natural forces of the region **WASSER:MOOR:WALD** (WATER:MUD:FOREST). Each proposed program entails a fundamental linkage that seeks a circular approach around these elements and their optimization and innovative applications:

WASSER: Spa and Pools

MOOR: Research Center

WALD: Outdoor Recreation

WASSER+MOOR: Clinic

WASSER+MOOR: Accommodation

WALD+WASSER: City Connection

WASSER+MOOR+WALD: Artistic-scientific residences and public outreach to the city.

EDEN-BERG revisits the traditional spa culture providing bathing environments that accentuate the importance of tactility and body awareness, that foster a closer connection with materials and bodies, and that provide experiences of bathing that engage all our senses, intertwining the physical world with the social realm.

URBAN STRATEGY: A NEW ECOSYSTEM

The Forest

The forested mountain grows as a new addition to the iconic undulating topography of Bad Lobenstein. Visitors are welcome to experience nature and astonishing views as they hike the trails of EDEN-BERG.

The Wetlands

The gentle flow of water originating at Lemnitz River floodplain carves into the mountain creating a series of pockets that conform to the needs of the proposed programs of the reimagined "Kurort."

The Trails

Slate hiking trails connect EDEN-BERG with Kurpark, the town center, Stadtteich pond, and ARDESIA thermal baths, and connect to Moorspatscher weg, generating a comprehensive network of trails throughout the region.

Parking and Extended Perimeter

New parking is hosted at the edge of EDEN-BERG's foothills, concentrating the current scattered parking areas and new proposed parking in order to reduce vehicular traffic through the site.

In future phases additional multi storey parkings can be built at the sites of opportunity of the proposed extended perimeter.

MATERIALITY

The topography of the hill is materialized by structures made of timber, concrete, and clay accommodating the various interconnected research, health, and outreach programs.

PROGRAM

(WASSER+WALD) City Connection

Forest and water elements are seamlessly integrated into Bad Lobenstein's existing landscapes, creating a harmonious and inviting environment that celebrates the region's natural assets. The presence of trails, tourist information points, parking and bike rental facilities, and energy generation technologies will enhance the visitor experience, promote sustainable practices, and showcase the beauty and significance of EDEN-BERG.

(WALD) Outdoor Recreation

Borrowing from the Romans' bathing tradition, our proposal conceives exercise as the beginning of the bathing ritual. The generated topography of EDEN-BERG and the presence of the Stadtteich pond offer numerous opportunities for various outdoor activities:

Hiking: The varied terrain of the generated topography provides an excellent setting for hiking and nature walks, plus offering a perfect spot for picnics and leisure activities.

Nature Conservation and Environmental Studies: The area can serve as a living laboratory for environmental studies and conservation efforts.

Community Events and Water Activities: The playful landscape creates an inviting venue for community events, such as outdoor concerts, art shows, or cultural gatherings, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared experiences.

(WASSER) Spa: Aquatic program

Underneath the new topography the wetlands offer a range of programs centered around water-related experiences:

Swimming Pools + Steam Baths: the spa features a fluid landscape of swimming pools of various sizes, providing guests with a unique and refreshing swimming experience that seamlessly blends with the natural surroundings.

Mud + Water Treatment: at the heart of the spa's offerings are specialized treatment rooms that combine the healing benefits of mud and water.

Gastronomy Areas, where visitors can enjoy healthy and nourishing food and beverages, complementing the entire wellness experience.

Covered and un-covered Pool: a new covered pool and an outdoor pool are located at Eden-berg's foothill.

(MOOR) Research Center

The Research Center envisions a democratic public bath, serving as a forum for open dialogue. It will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, welcoming researchers from diverse fields, to foster novel approaches to the challenges faced in the realm of bathing, spa, and wellness.

Study of Mud: The center will undertake in-depth research on the properties and potential applications of mud, exploring its therapeutic, cosmetic, and construction-related uses.

Water Recycling: Research will focus on water recycling techniques, with an emphasis on optimizing water usage in bathing environments and spa facilities.

Gastronomy/Nutrition Research: The research center will explore the relationship between gastronomy, nutrition, and overall well-being.

(WASSER+MOOR) Clinic

The Clinic is an in-patient facility specializing in lung, heart, and rheumatism care. In addition to the specific treatment areas required for each specialty, additional programs are proposed to promote a holistic and humane approach to care, strengthening the connection among all involved in the healing process.

Group Workrooms: In addition to individual treatments, the clinic provides group workrooms where patients can participate in communal healing practices.

Water Gardens: serene and visually appealing garden spaces that have therapeutic benefits.

Clinic Beds: around 60 rooms are nested around the water gardens.

(MOOR+WALD) Accommodation

The new accommodation merges seamlessly with the existing and new landscapes on site, to create a unique and immersive experience for guests. With 100 beds available, the accommodation is clustered in three different areas, at the “Footings” of the mountain, and conforming “Tree-like clusters” by the lake and former quarry.

(W+M+W) Art-Scientific Residences and Outreach to the City

The Art-Scientific Residences and Outreach program fosters collaborative and multidisciplinary residencies for artists, scientists, and professionals from the business world. Through these close collaborations, the primary objective is to disseminate the research conducted at the Research Center to the city of Bad Lobenstein’s residents and its visitors.

Atelier and Exhibition Rooms set within the existing and refurbished buildings within the site (Kulturhaus, New Castle and Park Pavilion).

Citizen Workshop Rooms: Versatile spaces that cater to citizen engagement activities, encouraging active participation from the local community.

Park Exhibition Area: Set within the Kurpark, these pavilions will provide a unique setting for showcasing art installations and creative works to the public.

