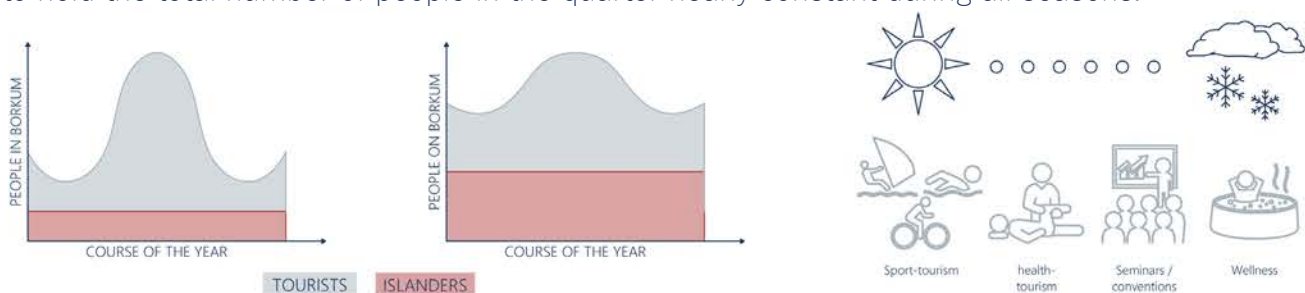


BORKUM (DE) | European 17 | NEW PERSPECTIVES

NEW PERSPECTIVES is the central theme of this design. Thus, there are not only new perspectives created ON the Kurviertel through viewpoints at the edges of the quarter, but also FOR the Kurviertel. Careful and thought-through additions and adjustments of the existing quarter turn Borkum's Kurviertel into a Living City.

We see the key to a vibrant, livable quarter on Borkum in the confrontation of three individual but partly codependent main problems: the unbalanced attendance of people throughout the year, limited future perspectives for people with children and professions not connected to the tourism branch and therefore ageing of Borkum's population. To face these problems, the central idea is to shift the focus from the tourists to the Islanders, the people who live in Borkum. Their well-being and good perspectives for their future should be the highest priority. Besides these main problems, there are further issues like a high dependence from the main land, an insufficient adaption to the consequences of climate change or a bad connection between the Kurviertel and the city center.

For long periods during winter and fall, Borkum's Kurviertel suffers from a high vacancy of holiday flats, resulting from the unbalanced number of tourists and with this the unbalanced total number of people on the island throughout the year, which creates the feeling of a ghost town. An expansion of the tourist season is necessary to decrease the differences between high- and off-season while keeping the total numbers on the same level to secure the income of those who depend on tourism. Year-round tourism is supported by a broader range of offerings that, while continuing to focus on spa-compatible uses in the Kurviertel, also provide opportunities for sports, wellness, and professionally focused tourism in addition to health tourism. By shifting parts of the summer tourism to fall and winter, not only the utilization of holiday flats throughout the year can be increased, but also some can be converted into homes for Islanders. This way, the nowadays high vacancy can be minimalized, and housing for current and new Islanders can be granted. Combined with the spread of housing through the quarter, densification by adding more storeys and closing gaps between the existing buildings and the addition of new buildings for housing, this should provide a home for every current and future Islander and at the same time help to hold the total number of people in the quarter nearly constant during all seasons.



In order to achieve this kind of vibrant city full of new Islanders, appeals to move there must be created, especially for younger people. New uses, such as a weekly market, sports offers, and cinema create a wider range of activities and make it easier to get to know new people. Currently, an important argument against moving to or staying in Borkum are the missing educational opportunities. Giving young people the possibility to graduate on the Island might help to keep them from going to the mainland and then staying there. The "Inselabitur" as a form of online schooling could be a way of providing young Islanders with the opportunity of getting their Abitur in Borkum without having to employ new teachers for every subject of the "Oberstufe". In cooperation with other North Sea Islands, a full class and a teacher for each subject could be studying together via online classes. Rooms and a supervisor can be provided by each island, in Borkum's case in the "House of Education". As a conversion of the current tennis hall, this building is planned to be the location of the "Inselabitur", a kindergarten and educational opportunities for further education of the adults and the elderly.

BORKUM (DE) | European 17 | NEW PERSPECTIVES

In direct proximity, the “Borkum Innovation Center” offers rooms for research, a convention center and seminar rooms for work-based tourism, work- and presentation spaces for start-ups and Co-Working spaces, allowing Islanders to work online from Borkum while being employed on the mainland. Requirement would be a high-speed internet connection, that enables both students and employees to follow their career path living on Borkum and secures Borkum’s ability to keep up in a globalized world.

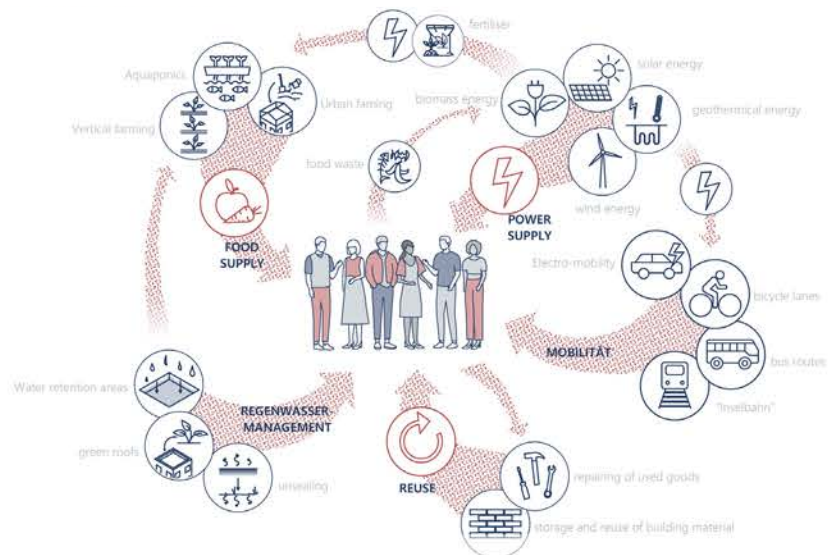
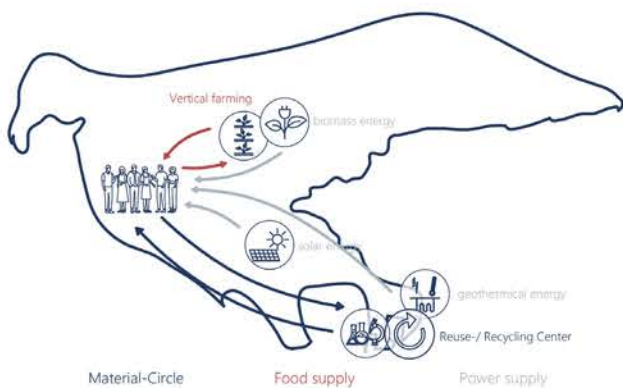


Speaking of the southern planning area, the Innovation center forms an ensemble together with the existing Kulturinsel and Gezeitenbad which frame a newly designed park-like square that should serve as a new meeting point for both Islanders and tourists. While the Innovation Center is a completely new building, the Kulturinsel will be visually adapted to the new square design by means of a new, built-on structure, while at the same time retaining the existing structure on the ground floor and in the interior and presenting it to the outside through the partly transparent facade. The Gezeitenbad remains in its form and will only be energetically renovated and equipped with new windows in the style of the innovation center and the Kulturinsel, so that a consistent ensemble is created, which still shows the existing cubatures. The new facades of Kulturinsel and Innovation Center contain of a timber construction with a mix of glass and industrial glass to create transparent and only translucent areas. In front of the facade a green structure is planned. This way, the existing and new parts of the buildings can clearly be differentiated between, highlighting Borkum’s new, future oriented face while handling the existing carefully and respectfully in a way that allows both tourists and Islanders to recognize the old Kurviertel. As it is currently the case in the existing square, the statue “Die drei Badenden” continues to be the center of the square with radially developing structures around it. Depending on the use of the adjacent building, each green structure holds a special function. Therefore, the space in front of the Gezeitenbad contains a skate-park and a basketball court while a music-pavillon is connected to the Kulturinsel and the part of the square in front of the Innovation Center entry is characterized by an open space containing water fountains. The lowering of these parts of the square allows water retention in case of heavy rain events, following the same concept as the lowered marketplace around the lighthouse. This form of adaption to the results of climate change is supported by the removal of water-impermeable surfaces wherever possible and adding of greenery not only to the roofs but also to the city itself by expanding the landscape around the Kurviertel. While the northern planning area is to become a part of the adjacent nature protection area itself, with the possibility of generating new spaces for housing if needed in the future, the southern area gains the green spaces on the adjusted square which act as an enlargement of the Kurpark. As Borkum is already a very windy Island, which can be expected to intensify due to climate change, wind protected areas are important in order to create open spaces people enjoy to spend their time in. These wind protected spaces are created at multiple positions in the quarter.

BORKUM (DE) | European 17 | NEW PERSPECTIVES

The issue of the malfunctioning connection between Kurviertel and city center as well as within the borders of the quarter itself is countered through the implementation of a looproad, which connects the quarter from the northern to the southern end, while both of these ends get marked with highpoints in form of viewpoint towers. While sharing the same design and function as Kurviertel's ending points that enable visitors a new perspective on Borkum, the use in the ground floor differs: the northern tower contains an information center for the nature reserve, the southern tower offers space for a local market, selling products produced on the island. The circular route is supplemented by the themed streets „Market“, „Gastronomy“ and „Rest“, which carry their theme through the quarter into the city center of Borkum and thus create a connection to it. The ending point of each of the connecting streets is the old lighthouse or the island schools, which are connected to the new center, with a focus on the House of Education. On the coast side, the themed streets will be extended to form footbridges, which will not only provide again a different view on Borkum through buildings built into the sea, but also create attractive meeting places.

Borkum's problem of great dependence on the mainland will be faced with an autarkic energy- and partly independent food supply. Solar-, wind-, biomass- and geothermal energy will be used to generate electricity, while vertical farming and aquaponics will be used for food production. The plan is to integrate this production into the Kurviertel as well as to use the rural areas of the island for this purpose. Being multiple kilometers away from housing structures, but also not part of the nature reserve, the area around the airport would be most suitable for food production, whereas energy production can be located in form of geothermics in Reede and as an expansion of the existing solar park. Being able to provide a lot of space, Reede would also be an appropriate location for the Reuse- and Recycling Center. Containing a workshop for reparations and recycling of old, used goods, as well as storage space for reusable construction material, Borkum may be able to take the first steps in the direction of a circular economy.



Concerning the implementation of the described ideas, it would be most reasonable to start with the adaption of the tourist seasons so that the vacancy of holiday flats in fall/winter can be reduced while quickly creating housing for current Islanders at the same time. The next steps would include the expansion of educational offers by transforming the old tennis hall to the new „House of Education“ and the creation of new job opportunities through the Innovation Center. Adjustments of Kulturinsel, Gezeitenbad and the adjacent square can be a first step towards new free time offers and a meeting place that revitalises the Kurviertel. Adaptions to climate change are of high priority as well and should be implemented steadily. As a result of these first steps, Borkum gets more attractive for new Islanders which leads to the necessity of new housing spaces, such as the House of Generations an

BORKUM (DE) | European 17 | NEW PERSPECTIVES

closing of building gaps. Step by step, new attractions like the circular route, high points or a new marketplace can complement Kurviertel's new image of a liveable, vibrant city that attracts new, young Islanders and gives them a reason to stay.

To sum up the measures listed above, the combination of expanded career options alongside the current focus on tourism-related work fields, the new educational opportunities, new meeting points and activities for every age and every season as well as the creation of an atmosphere of inclusiveness improve Borkum's attractiveness and the future perspectives, especially for young families, who are willing to stay on or move to the island. Consequences would be a younger average age and a growing population. Adding this to the wider spread tourism, the Kurviertel becomes a vibrant, living quarter for the whole year. Looproad, themed streets and viewpoints in the form of towers and footbridges improve the internal connection as well as the connection between itself and the city center. Paying attention to an appropriate adaption to the effects of climate change plus the reduction of dependence on the mainland and approaches into the direction of a circular economy increase Borkum's sustainability which means an improvement of the Islanders' future perspectives. Through specific, careful additions and modifications to the existing structures, NEW PERSPECTIVES on and for Borkum with a Kurviertel that continues to be recognizable while being more focused on the population, will be created.