

Siemensstadt 2.0 Berlin: Urban development competition

“How do we want to live and work in the future?” This question sits at the center of tender documents received by all of the 18 architecture and urban planning firms invited to take part in the urban development competition. The current status, the project, its setting, the planning requirements and the specific task are described here point by point on more than 200 pages in the form of texts, photos and plans.

Looking at the history

Right in the introduction, it's set out in emphatic black and white: “In the initial concept for Siemensstadt back in 1897, the Siemens founders had already combined modern company apartments with the local working world. Cultural and social facilities such as churches, schools, leisure facilities and parks were also always reflected in it. Now, it's time to carry on and expand on this more than 100-year tradition!”

Aiming for CO₂ neutrality

Five chapters with several hundred sub-items then follow, describing in detail what the designs must take into account. These range from general issues to concrete specifications with regard to dealing with existing buildings, the green and open spaces, mobility, property development and ecology. That's because Siemensstadt 2.0 is meant to be a CO₂-neutral location in which resource efficiency and renewable resources are already considered during the planning stage.

Trailblazing urban district

The idea is that opening up the industrial area, which was previously closed to the public, will result in a trailblazing urban district. The participants are explicitly called upon to question traditional forms of working, producing and living, because – to quote the text – “new forms of mobility and the advancing digitalization of our

everyday lives lead to new requirements, and they also create new freedoms that will have major impacts on the city as a living space.”

Smart city of tomorrow

As an exemplary smart district and already known today as Berlin’s eleventh site of the future, the district is to offer short routes and be well connected with the environment. The boundaries between spheres of life that traditionally take place next to each other are meant to be bridged here in a 24/7 approach. Research, technology, innovation, working, manufacturing and living are to be combined. The plan is to incorporate innovative mobility concepts and climate protection solutions as well as digitalization opportunities that have been generated by the Internet of Things (IoT) or artificial intelligence.

Appeal beyond Berlin

The goal is to achieve an ideal blend and collaboration among centers of research and expertise, start-up incubators, scientific institutes and business. Due to these qualities, the appeal of Siemensstadt 2.0 is set to extend far beyond Berlin. Part of that appeal will likely come from the integrated portions of existing buildings, which lend the location some unique features and will also give it a recognizable profile in the future. In addition, living space will be created in line with the Berlin model of cooperative land development with social diversification, including apartments for students and researchers.

The assessment criteria

Designs will be assessed by a top-class jury on the basis of predefined criteria. The following points have already been specifically emphasized in the tender:

- Overall idea
- Urban planning quality
- Commercial viability and feasibility
- Open space
- Building design
- Monument protection
- Program compliance

- Functionality of the existing industrial production to also be preserved in the future in the context of the urban district
- Mobility
- Security
- Environment

In total, the competition area in Berlin-Spandau is spread over 70 hectares, roughly the size of 100 soccer fields. Intersected by Nonnendammallee, it is currently defined primarily by administration and industrial production. The aim of the competition is to find an urban design that forms the basis for drafting and approving a general master plan and the subsequent urban development plan.

This background information and other press materials can be found at www.siemens.com/press/siemensstadt

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