



Premio Internazionale Carlo Scarpa per il Giardino

32nd edition, 2022

***Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände
and Berlin's Urban Nature***

Press release

The **Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände**, and 'Berlin's urban nature' which has flourished as a result, is the recipient of the 32nd **International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens**, instituted and organised by the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche since 1990.

The second weekend of May, as tradition, Treviso will host the main public moments of the Carlo Scarpa Prize.

On **Friday 13 May** at 6.00 pm the **exhibition** dedicated to the Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände will open in Treviso in Palazzo Bomben.

On **Saturday 14 May, from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm**, an **international public conference** on the site and the themes of this year's Prize will be held in the Fondazione Benetton auditorium in Treviso.

At 5.00 pm on Saturday 14 May, the **public award ceremony** will be held in the Municipal Theatre of Treviso and this year the **symbolic seal** will be presented to landscape architect **Rita Suhrhoff** (Grün Berlin, park manager), sculptor **Klaus Duschat** (ODIOUS art collective) and ecologist and landscape planner **Ingo Kowarik**, the three people who, collectively, convey the values and teachings which the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Benetton recognised in the Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände.

The **Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände** is a large public park, situated in the south-east of the Schöneberg district, which was officially opened to the public for the first time in 1999 but has a much longer history: the park, formerly a vast railyard, is the result of many years of abandonment and its later acknowledgement as a **shining example of 'Berlin's urban nature, a crossroads where the aspirations of the local residents, the contemporary landscape culture and the manifestation of a profound ecological awareness for the city all come together.**

This large public space has been instrumental in redefining the concept of an inner-city park. Its abandoned railway structures, vast expanses of vegetation, which have for the most part been left to grow wild, and art installations which make a visit to the park even more enjoyable, emphasize the dialogue between signs of human presence and ever-evolving nature.

The Natur Park Südgelände, which is 1.7 kilometres long, is just one in a series of public parks which stretch from north to south of the city, created from a constellation of 'empty' spaces which were brought together to form a whole landscape. The park is a 'piece of urban nature' and an open laboratory where ecological experiments meet different social needs and new methods for tending and maintaining urban space are put into practice.

The history of the Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände is inextricably linked with that of the city of Berlin in the years after the war, an isolated, divided city where the railways and industry had ground to a halt, the lines had gradually been decommissioned, the facilities abandoned, allowing nature to claim back the land for itself. Later, plans for future infrastructures led to the proposal to build a new freight station to the south of the city in Südgelände. However, in 1980, there was a change of heart, as an ecological conscience began to emerge and thus the realisation of the importance of this site, both for its naturalistic value and its social potential in the everyday lives of the city's residents. The area was entrusted entirely to the **Berlin Senate** and managed, since 1986, by **Grün Berlin**, signalling the beginning of a great experimental 'worksites' and the intervention of ecologists, environmental associations, residents, the landscape planning studios **Planland** and **ÖkoCon** and the group of artists **ODIOUS**, who were working on site. In an immersive condition, surrounded by the invasive presence of nature and the 'ruins' of an abandoned landscape, all those involved developed a *modus operandi*, resulting in the living experience of the Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände.



Programme

Friday 13 May, 6 pm

Treviso, spazi Bomben

Opening of the Exhibition of the Carlo Scarpa Prize 2022

The photographic and documentary exhibition *Natur Park Schöneberger Südgelände and Berlin's Urban Nature*, organised by Fondazione Benetton (open from 14th May to 31st July 2022, Friday 3–7 pm, Saturday-Sunday 10 am–7 pm, free admission), is designed to explain, starting with this volume, the site that is central to this year's Carlo Scarpa Prize, its key issues and its setting in Berlin, with reference to other public spaces that effectively highlight the peculiarities of what can be defined contemporary "Berlin urban nature".

The exhibition is spread over four rooms, one of which is dedicated to viewing the documentary film and a story by images of the backstage footage of the documentary and the study trip.

The remaining three rooms are dedicated, in order, to: the reasons which led to choosing Natur Park Südgelände and Berlin's urban nature; a visit to other sites of "Berlin's urban nature", especially *Grünes Band Berlin Schönholz*, *Park auf dem Nordbahnhof*, *Park am Gleisdreieck*, *Topographie des Terrors*, *Tempelhofer Feld*, *Landschaftspark Johannisthal/Adlershof*; the School of Urban Ecology at Technische Universität and the role of *Grün Berlin*. At the heart of the exhibition are the history as well as the ecological, design, artistic and management aspects that are peculiar to Südgelände.

The photographs are by Marco Zanin (Fabrica, for Fondazione Benetton), and some of the authors and the organisations that have worked with us. Graphics and layout by Marcello Piccinini.

Saturday 14 May, 9.30 am-1.30 pm

Treviso, spazi Bomben

International public conference on the awarded place

The conference, introduced by Luigi Latini and coordinated by Patrizia Boschiero, includes the following talks:

Thilo Folkerts, *Berlin: the emergence of an urban nature*;

Ingo Kowarik, *Natur Park Südgelände: the discovery of urban nature in Berlin and its use as the backbone of novel parks*;

Rita Suhrhoff, *Natur Park Südgelände: design, maintenance, development*;

Klaus Duschat, *The role of the art of ODIIOUS in Natur Park Südgelände*;

Anna Lambertini, *Hybrid, cosmopolitan, inventive. Nature of "urban wilderness"*;

Norbert Kühn, *The contribution of spontaneous vegetation in today's and future cities. The case of Berlin*;

Juan Manuel Palerm, *The wild nature of the wastelands. On Berlin: "urban nature", architecture, art and the void as project material*.

Free admission. For organisational reasons registration via [online form](#) is appreciated.

Simultaneous Italian-German-Italian translation and live streaming will be provided on the Foundation's Facebook page.

Saturday 14 May, 5 pm

Treviso, Teatro Comunale Mario Del Monaco

Carlo Scarpa Prize Ceremony

The ceremony, introduced and coordinated by Luigi Latini (chairman of the Scientific Committee and director of the Foundation), includes the screening of the documentary film *Natur Park Südgelände* directed by Davide Gambino, and, after the presentation and jury's statement, the awarding of the Prize, in the form of the seal designed by Carlo Scarpa, to the three persons who today, collectively, in respect of Natur Park Südgelände, are most representative of the sense of shared experience, the coming together of different knowledge and the great ability to listen: **Klaus Duschat**, sculptor (ODIOUS), **Ingo Kowarik**, ecologist and landscape planner,



Rita Suhrhoff (park manager, Grün Berlin). Testimonials of an institutional nature follow, ending with a musical performance by the violinist Claudio Rado.
Free admission.

Scientific Committee and Prize coordinators

Luigi Latini, architect, Iuav University of Venice (Chairman);
Giuseppe Barbera, agronomist, University of Palermo;
Hervé Brunon, garden historian, CNRS, André Chastel Centre, Paris;
Thilo Folkerts, landscape architect, 100Landschaftsarchitektur, Berlin;
Anna Lambertini, architect, landscape architect, University of Florence;
Monique Mosser, art historian, Advanced School of Architecture, Versailles;
Joan Nogué, geographer, University of Girona;
Juan Manuel Palerm, architect, University of Las Palmas;
José Tito Rojo, botanist, University of Granada.

The activities of the Carlo Scarpa Prize are coordinated by *Patrizia Boschiero* and *Luigi Latini*.

Cultural initiative under the patronage of:

UNISCAPE; Italian Ministry of Culture; Veneto Region; City of Treviso.

Images can be downloaded here: <https://www.fbsr.it/en/area-stampa/>, www.studioesseci.net