

## 9 CONSISTENT DECARBONISATION!

Sustainable materials with resource-efficient, preferably carbon-neutral construction material usage form the basis for landscape projects.

## 10 THINK POLITICALLY AND GET INVOLVED!

Use our professional expertise to actively and responsibly initiate and follow through transformation processes.

## 11 HOW WE WANT TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE!

Convince with green visions of creative landscapes and living environments.

## 12 KICK OFF THE PARADIGM SHIFT!

Lead the way with integrated solutions and a new, innovative design culture, and contribute to sustainable spatial development.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

Landscape architects work creatively and seek aesthetic solutions for the design of open spaces and the landscape. These valuable plans for the transformation of our living environments are the manifestation of the profession's heightened sense of responsibility for climate protection and the adaptation of our urban spaces to climate change. We can encourage people's belief in the future of sustainable and climate-compatible development by demonstrating that new open spaces are attained by creative omission and reduction. The task of transforming our environment with a view to adapting to climate change and enhancing biodiversity offers the potential of making our cities and landscapes more livable.

A conceptual and consistent further development of the existing green and blue infrastructure in our cities and rural regions will then become an important part of the social narrative, which does not moralise but focusses on the benefits of the environmental turnaround and adapts to the changing climate. This is what is needed and is why we must take a firm stance this decade.

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Bund Deutscher Landschaftsarchitekten bdla  
Wilhelmine-Gemberg-Weg 6  
10179 Berlin  
Tel. +49 30 278715-0  
Fax +49 30 278715-55  
info@bdla.de  
www.bdla.de

# THE GARDEN OF THE EARTH

TAKING A FIRM STANCE  
ON CLIMATE-FRIENDLY  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**bdla** Bund Deutscher  
Landschaftsarchitekt:innen

# THE GARDEN OF THE EARTH

## TAKING A FIRM STANCE ON CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

► The desire for growth held by humankind for centuries is now obsolete. A world population of eight billion consumes more resources than nature can provide. Just carrying on isn't an option: we will have to realign our current ways of living and our economic systems.

In the future, our focus must be on minimalism and reduction. This is not zeitgeist or a current trend, but a prerequisite for the lives of future generations. The inevitable reduction and transformation of our environment needs our creativity, imagination and designs. We must be forward-thinking: How, and in what kind of cities and landscapes do we want to live in the future? What do we want to leave behind?

As landscape architects, we claim to be planning and acting in an ecologically, sustainably and environmentally conscious way per se. Is that really the case? Are we, as landscape architects, doing everything possible and is it enough to protect and conserve our environment, our planet?

The strength and unique quality of our profession lies in our exceptional ability to integrate ecology and technology with creativity and aesthetics. The experience of our profession in combination with our imagination and skills to implement these designs is of crucial importance when addressing the issue of how we can live in the future and what we must do. Because we are shaping the future now!

Designing with plants, considering their use and the cycle of thriving and decay, has taught generations of landscape architects to think, plan and act with the future in mind. Based on this core competence, which distinguishes our profession from architects and other engineering disciplines, we now design visions and concepts for cities, urban and rural spaces, green and blue infrastructure, mobility infrastructure, parks and gardens, squares and open spaces in living and working environments. Our designs make a major contribution to the way in which people can successfully live in harmony with their environment. Landscape architects, in collaboration with architects, engineers and town planners, give vital impetus, and together our work can be a catalyst for new thinking.

Other professions have already formulated their commitment to environmental change. Some change has been achieved both by them and by us in the past, but it has only scratched the surface. A paradigm shift in design and construction, made necessary by the climate crisis, has still not been addressed in a focussed way to this day. Just waiting for new policy guidelines and implementing them to a minimum standard is not enough. We have to do more in order to meet the responsibility of our profession and to exploit the full potential of landscape architecture.

And one more thing: As landscape architects, we are part of the construction sector that consumes resources and causes high carbon emissions. All planning professions, including landscape architecture, are called upon to take on a pioneering role when creating and preserving resilient living environments in a climate-friendly and climate-adapted way.

Besides the environmental consequences, the social impact of climate change is becoming more and more apparent. Key words: environmental and climate justice. Creating varied urban nature areas and integrative open spaces for a diverse society, while strengthening both the environmental and the social performance of open spaces, is the task of our era.

The quality of open spaces in urban and rural areas in terms of sustainability, longevity, resource conservation and biodiversity gains special meaning in the context of construction. This too requires joint commitment from us as landscape architects together with the contracting authorities, the investors and the landscape industries.

## POSTULATE

### 1 RESPECT THE EXISTING SITE!

What is already there is important, not just what we design.

### 2 OPEN SPACE CAN ACCOMPLISH ALMOST ANYTHING!

Multiple use of open spaces is unavoidable. With intelligent multi-coding, we can make a significant contribution to compact cities.

### 3 WATER-SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT!

Water is precious. We manage water in the landscape and open spaces, be it too much or too little, and we reduce impermeable surfaces to a minimum.

### 4 DESIGNING THE CITY – PRESERVING OPEN SOILS!

Protect soils as habitats for flora and fauna.

### 5 TREES OF THE WORLD!

Vegetation is at the heart of landscape architecture and stands for a new culture of green (re)development and natural climate protection.

### 6 PAY HEED TO THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS!

Protect open spaces and the landscape effectively and develop them as habitats for humans, flora and fauna.

### 7 CITIES OF NEW ROUTES!

Our open spaces facilitate and promote climate-neutral mobility that is socially compatible, suitable for cities and environmentally sustainable.

### 8 LOCAL AND REGIONAL, NOT GLOBAL!

Fair value creation and short, energy-efficient transport routes are prioritised.