

The planning and design of Herbert-Wehner Square, undertaken by POLA Landscape Architects, is part of the integrated district development of Harburg's city center / Eißendorf East. The design and implementation of the square's plan occurred alongside the Veloroute planning, as Herbert-Wehner Square constitutes a part of the adjacent areas of the route. However, the shift of cycling traffic onto the roadway, depending on the specific location, resulted in varying degrees of increased road widths. The Veloroute planning was seen as an opportunity to create a more sophisticated and high-quality square area along the new cycling route.

Herbert-Wehner Square is one of the central places in Harburg. It extends over a length of approximately 140 meters between Schlossmühlendamm, Harburger Ring, Großer Schippsee, Am Wall, and Lauterbachstraße. The width of the square area varies from about 12 to 25 meters. The total area of the planning scope is approximately 6000 square meters. The square serves as both an introduction to Lüneburger Straße, an important shopping street, and as a urban continuum between the neighboring Sand Market Square, the Town Hall Square, and the Seeve Passages.

The preexisting appearance of the square was characterized by a patchwork of materials and insufficient seating areas, failing to meet its function as a central place with arrival, stay, and connection qualities. The square area exhibited significant design and functional deficiencies.

The redesign forms a cohesive ensemble. Concerning surface design, the square is integrated into a spatial-functional continuum with its surroundings. Representative open spaces with high-quality stay features were created, intended to blend the adjacent buildings and square-defining trees into a contemporary urban landscape. The use of uniform materials connects Herbert-Wehner Square with its adjoining areas, thereby strengthening pedestrian and cycling connections to neighboring districts. A homogeneous clay brick pavement in a herringbone pattern extends across the entire Herbert-Wehner Square and the opposite sidewalk areas leading to Lüneburger Tor. The surfaces are uniformly designed according to a specific color mix defined through consultations and sample selections by the Harburg District.

*All smoke and sound, I say.
You say the opposite.
Does it matter where
and what we are,
if nothing remains as it is,
and everything's the same?*

*Who should know
about the harbingers of our past?
Where smoke turns stone,
as the accompanying sound
remains misunderstood.*