

Lindenhofplatz

MANNHEIM

POBA

*He waited beneath the plane
trees,
by the fountains, shirt freshly
pressed,
bouquet in hand and trousers
soaking wet.
In his excitement, he simply
hadn't noticed.
It was, after all, the first time.
She arrived. Late. Saw him. Saw
the trousers.
Stayed anyway.*

*They have met every Tuesday
since,
at Lindenhof Square.
He stands now
a little further to the left.*

There are places that carry a promise they were never given the chance to keep. For years, Lindenhof Square was one of them – a gap in the city's fabric between the central station and the Glückstein Quarter, severed by traffic, with no heart and no history to speak of. Today, it holds its own as a neighbourhood square of genuine character, one that reaches well beyond its role as a forecourt to the adjacent development. The credit belongs to the award-winning design by POLA Landscape Architects: a green ribbon drawn between the Rhine promenade and the station, threading the memory of the former palace gardens into the present and stitching the city back together.

The space works because it refuses to choose between order and life. Sweeping ornamental beds give the open expanse its rhythm without breaking it apart. Beneath a canopy of plane trees, benches sit among grasses and stone inlays – a considered hand at work, felt rather than announced. Where the trees cast shade, fountains break the surface. Not sentiment – strategy. Sitting here means cool air, the sound of water, shifting light. Come evening, when the lighting catches the fountains in motion, the square gives itself over to those with no reason to leave.

The paving – concrete with natural stone facing – runs unbroken from the hotel facade across the bicycle parkhouse to the Viktoria Tower, a surface that holds the quarter together by refusing to distinguish between its parts. The former street „Am Viktoria-Turm“ is gone, drawn into the square without a trace. Traffic passes through on the square's terms, not its own. Lindenhofplatz is a place to arrive at, not to pass through – and Mannheim has been a long time waiting.







Project data

Project Lindenhofplatz Mannheim

Location Mannheim, Baden-Württemberg, GER

Client City of Mannheim Building Administration Department

Planning period 2017-2019

Construction period 2020-2021

Completion 2021

Services Planning and construction management (Phase 1-3, 5-9)

Size 6,500 m²

Costs 4,150,000 € net

Competition 1. Prize, 2017

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