

DEMOCRATIC UMBRELLA

International Design
Ideas Competition for
the Multihalle Mannheim

RESTAURANT

FOREWORD

The Multihalle was built from 1974 to 1975 for the National Garden Show in Mannheim. It was predominantly planned and conceptualised by architect and posthumous Pritzker Prize winner Frei Otto, after a competition design draft by Carl-fried Mutschler and his business partner Joachim Langner. The purpose of this competition is to continue the story of the Multihalle after its many years of obscurity.

The Multihalle Mannheim e.V. Association, the Association of German Architects in Baden-Württemberg (BDA) and the International Building Exhibition Heidelberg are inviting submissions of ideas for the sustainable development of the Multihalle and, in close cooperation with the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects and the City of Mannheim, hosting the “Multihalle – Democratic Umbrella” competition dedicated to this task.

Initially, the Multihalle was designed only as a temporary construction for the duration of the 1975 National Garden Show, yet it is still standing. Although the function hall has been closed for several years due to structural and building law reasons, the restaurant, in a separate part of the complex, is still in operation. In 1998, the Multihalle was declared a cultural monument

and granted listed building status.

Its future now depends on the ability to raise funds for its structural maintenance and find long-term prospects for use.

One of the major activities in the process so far was a utilisation workshop initiated by the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects and held at the Multihalle in April 2017. The workshop aimed at generating ideas and proposals for possible uses, and attracted participants from many different backgrounds and disciplines.

The Multihalle was also the focus of the Urban Thinkers Campus 2017, which was held in Mannheim for the second time last October. The Urban Thinkers Campus is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign by UN Habitat, a United Nations programme for human settlements that promotes sustainable urban development. UTC conferences offer a platform for urban players to exchange ideas and provide input for social progress. At an “urban thinkers camp” in the run-up to the last UTC, representatives from various regional universities examined the Multihalle from a social perspective and how it is embedded in the city’s social topography. The aim was to redirect the debate that formerly focused on techni-

cal and structural issues, and to newly interpret the Multihalle as an architectural cultural platform for an “open society”, in honour of Frei Otto’s original intentions.

Innovative cultural events are being staged throughout the project in a kind of “test run” for future uses.

This design ideas competition and the entry criteria are based on insights gained at dedicated workshops and expert talks as well as draft designs submitted by several universities and colleges.

A key aim of the awarding authority is to inspire a demographic shift of social responsibility by explicitly opening the competition to Master’s students, graduates and young architects.

The Multihalle Mannheim e.V. Association would like to thank BDA Baden-Württemberg for its support, and the company Wilkhahn, which has contributed the majority of the prize money.

Tatjana Dürr
Administrative Department for Building Culture,
City of Mannheim

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PART A

COMPETITION BRIEF



PART A – COMPETITION BRIEF

1. REASONS AND AIMS OF THE COMPETITION

Frei Otto is considered one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. Whilst his work is primarily characterised by constructive boldness and structural lightness, it equally stands for new dawnings, pluralism and freedom. The interplay of construction, poetry and visionary thinking is what makes his buildings so fascinating right up to the present day. Frei Otto was posthumously awarded the Pritzker Prize for Architecture for his life's work, in 2015.

One of Otto's most significant buildings is based on a design by architect Carlfried Mutschler and his business partner Joachim Langner: the Multihalle in Mannheim's Herzogenriedpark. Initially constructed as a temporary hall to accommodate plants at the 1975 National Garden Show in Mannheim, the world's largest timber grid shell roof, with its spatial and architectural allure, is still regarded as a sign for a democratic move towards change – as a “huge festival that put our city on the map”, as a local resident and contemporary witness put it. Long after the National Garden Show had ended, the hall served as a prestigious venue for major political, media and commercial events. During the 1980s and '90s it experienced a steady decline in appeal as its architectural structure could no longer satisfy the growing requirements of acoustics, fire protection and climatic comfort. Finally, structural problems and static deformations necessitated a partial closing of the hall, upon which the preservation of the

entire construction was called into question.

A broad and prominent circle of supporters formed in protest against this and, in 2017, a political decision was taken to renovate and reuse the Multihalle, thus opening a new chapter in its history.

This competition is a further significant step. The outcomes should not only make it possible to preserve the Multihalle's architectural structure, but also – and above all – to reinterpret and continue into the future Frei Otto's ideals, which are manifested in the building and had a major influence on its creation. The designs should take into account not only the urban landscape around the hall and its leisure uses, but also the social integration of the neighbouring districts and Mannheim's vibrant cultural scene.

Frei Otto's visionary concept for utilisation of the Multihalle is to be updated as an experimental urban laboratory and open space for an open society where Mannheim's citizens can come together for sports, leisure and cultural activities, and to thereby establish the basis for a social laboratory in which pioneering methods and forms of urban coexistence can be developed and explored.

The Multihalle's roof construction should not only provide the necessary setting for this visionary use, but also symbolise the idea of a “Democratic Umbrella” in public perception through its iconographic architecture.

The objective of this competition is therefore to design new utilisation options for the Multihalle and to express these through its architecture. Fu-

ture utilisations should comprise permanent and temporary elements and also offer usage options that build on the individual design idea – in the spirit of Frei Otto, Carlfried Mutschler and Joachim Langner, who already envisaged the social and architectural future from their contemporary viewpoint. For this reason, the explicit opening of the competition to Master's students, graduates and young architects aims to inspire a demographic shift of social responsibility towards the younger generations of architects.

2. AWARDING AUTHORITY & SUPPORTING BODIES

Awarding authority:

Multihalle Mannheim e.V. Association
Collinistrasse 1
D-68161 Mannheim
info@mannheim-multihalle.de

Supporting bodies:

Stadt Mannheim
Rathaus E 5
D-68159 Mannheim
stadtverwaltung@mannheim.de

Architektenkammer
Baden-Württemberg
Danneckerstraße 54
70182 Stuttgart
info@akbw.de

Bund Deutscher Architekten
Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Zeppelin Carré, Friedrichstraße 5
70174 Stuttgart
info@bda-bawue.de

Internationale Bauausstellung

Heidelberg GmbH
Emil-Maier-Str. 16
69115 Heidelberg

3. PROCEDURE

The subject of the competition is a fundamental architectural solution, taking into account the Multihalle's functional, social and urban context. The proposal should do justice to the location, its special form, and Frei Otto's principles.

This is an open competition of ideas for students with a Bachelor degree, and graduates in the disciplines of architecture, interior design, urban development and landscape architecture.

The competition is international and anonymous. It is based on the German Guideline for Planning Competitions (Richtlinie für Planungswettbewerbe, RPW), in the version released 31 Jan 2013, unless the competition brief explicitly deviates from it.

The awarding authority intends to involve the prize winners in a further procedure yet to be determined. However, there is no legal claim to this. The aim is to implement the project in time for the 2023 National Garden Show.

Languages:

The competition languages are English and German. The competition is bilingual: plan legends, captions, labellings and explanations can be in English and/or German.

4. JUDGING PANEL (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Due to the diversity, complexity and special characteristics of the task, and to take into account all the relevant parameters for the development of the Multihalle, importance has been attached to the judging panel consisting of national and international persons from a variety of disciplines.

Subject expert judges:

Tobias Armbrorst – Interboro, New York

Prof. Fritz Auer – Auer & Weber Architekten , Stuttgart

Prof. Volkmar Bleicher – Transsolar Stuttgart

Peter Cachola Schmal – Deutsches Architektur-museum Frankfurt a.M.

Anne-Cathrine Fleith –Studio feld72, Wien

Prof. Undine Giseke – Landscape Architect, TU Berlin

Nanni Grau – Architect, Hütten und Paläste, Berlin

Prof. Dirk Hebel – Karlsruher Institute for Technology

Prof. Dr. Jan Knippers – ITKE, University of Stuttgart

Irene Meissner – Architekturmuseum of the Technical University of Munich

Johannes Tovatt – tovatt architects and planners ab

Alexander Vohl – Regional Chairman BDA Baden-Württemberg

Prof. Dr. Georg Vrachliotis – Karlsruher Institute for Technology

Policy/diverse judges

Frauke Burgdorff – burgdorffstadt – Agentur für Kooperative Stadtentwicklung, Bochum

Tatjana Dürr – Administrative Department for Building Culture, City of Mannheim

Dr. Ute Fahrbach-Dreher – State Office for the Preservation of monuments, Karlsruhe

Helen Heberer – Member of the City Council Mannheim

Christine Kanstinger – Atelier Frei Otto und Partner

Dr. Klaus Kufeld – Philosopher, Author, Ludwigshafen

Dr. Peter Kurz – Lord Mayor of the city of Mannheim

Lothar Quast – Mayor of the city of Mannheim

Steffen Ratzel – Member of the City Council Mannheim

Acting Judges:

Stephan Weber – Vizepräsident Architektenkammer Baden-Württemberg

Bernhard Wondra – Vorsitzender BDA-Kreisgruppe

pe Mannheim

Carl Zillich – Curatorial Director International
Building Exhibition Heidelberg

5. PARTICIPATION

5.1. Competition entrants & eligibility

The competition is open to individuals and teams. All team members must belong to one of the following disciplines: architecture, interior design, urban planning, or landscape architecture.

Working in interdisciplinary teams is possible, and considered appropriate and desirable by the awarding authority.

Regardless of their discipline, all entrants must, at the time of submission to the competition, have a Bachelor's degree or diploma in one of the following disciplines: architecture, interior design, urban planning, or landscape architecture.

6. REGISTRATION & DOCUMENTS

6.1. Registration

Registration will be online, and open on 8 October 2018. The competition documents will be made available for download at www.mannheim-multihalle.de.

6.2. The following documents will be provided in digital format

- _ Competition brief
- _ 1_Plans, Sections, Elevations
- _ 2_3D_Modell Multihalle Shell
- _ 3_3D_Modell Multihalle + Buildings
- _ 4_Management of the Fixtures
- _ 5_Orthobild / Aerial View 1-2000
- _ 6_Orthobild / Aerial View 1-5000
- _ 7_Perimeter
- _ 11_Bilder / Pictures
- _ 21_Documentation Nutzungsworkshop 2017 (available in German only)
- _ 22_Documentation utc und UTC (available in German only)
- _ 23_Multihalle Mannheim_Präsentation UTC (available in German only)
- _ 31_Declaration of Authorship

7. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

7.1. The following documents are to be submitted via upload:

- _ Max. two presentation plans in A0 format, PDF

version

_ Set of presentation plans, scaled down to A3 (jpg)

_ Visualisation as a jpg file (300 dpi, A3)

_ Explanatory report (written design statement), max. 2 DIN A4 pages – as a PDF file and MS Word file

_ Declaration of authorship (pdf)

To guarantee anonymity, all submitted documents and the explanatory report are to be marked with a six-digit code comprised of different Arabic numerals. This code is to be noted in the top right-hand corner of all plans (size: 6cm x 1cm). No other references to the identity of the author(s) are permitted.

Submission takes place via upload on the webpage www.mannhiem-multihall.de.

A specific code is automatically attributed to each project upon upload. The teams do not know this code, through which the jury members take note of the project. The teams' identities are revealed via an automatic link between the code and the team on the online projects database.

The submitted documents of any winning works shall become the property of the awarding authority.

7.2. List of requirements

_ Succinct design title

_ Site plan (scale 1:1000) including the relevant access routes and a description of landscape planning

_ Presentation of the basic idea in diagrams, con-

cept drafts, and analyses

_ Floor plans with relevant outdoor facilities and context interrelationships, scale 1:200

_ Two section drawings including the context and landscape

_ A maximum of two perspectives of your choice

_ Zoom-in view of a sample excerpt

_ Explanatory text on the plans

_ List of submitted documents

_ Declaration of authorship stating the name(s) of the architect(s). Proof of a Bachelor's or Master's degree (copy of the degree certificate), or proof of entitlement to use the professional title.

The declaration of authorship must be signed by the entrant(s).

7.3. Assessment criteria

The designs will be evaluated according to the following criteria. The chronological order below does not represent the order of weighting.

1. Architectural handling of the Multihalle's free form

2. Adaptability of the developed structure

3. Visionary transformation of Frei Otto's underlying idea for use of the space

4. Integration into the park structure / landscape and the existing leisure & sports infrastructures

5. Handling of the existing premises, and aspects of preservation of the listed building status

6. Social and functional added value for the neighbouring districts

Answers to queries: 23 November 2018
(per e-mail)

7. Cultural added value for the city

Submission deadline (online upload):
24:00 hrs CET 15 February 2019

The list of criteria may be extended or reduced as a result of the competition entries and a judging panel discussion. The basic focus of evaluation shall nevertheless remain unaffected by any such changes.

Preliminary review:

Meeting of the judging panel: estimated:
week 11/12 (2019)

Press conference: estimated: April 2019

Exhibition: estimated: April 2019

8. PRIZES

A total of €24,000 of prize money will be made available, to be allocated as proposed below:

1st Prize: €10,000

2nd Prize: €7,000

3rd Prize: €4,000

Two honoraria: €1,500 each

The judging panel reserves the right to decide unanimously on a different distribution of the prize money before anonymity is lifted.

9. DATES & DEADLINES

Date of announcement: 1 October 2018

Competition begin: 8 October 2018

Deadline for queries: 2 November 2018
(per Mail to competition@mannheim-multihalle.de)

Colloquium and site visit: 9 November 2018
(location tba)

10. DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The following disqualification criteria apply and will lead to exclusion from the competition:

- A structural connection of the space utilisation concept to the construction is not permitted
- Failure to submit the competition work within the given deadline
- Violations of the requirement of anonymity

11. COPYRIGHT & RETURNS

The plans, small-scale versions, and digital data of the award-winning works shall become the property of the awarding authority, in compliance with copyrights. Copyrights according to §2 and

§5 of the German copyright law of 9 Sep 1965 apply. Nevertheless, once the competition has been closed, the awarding authority is entitled to put on record, exhibit and publish the work, stating the name(s) of the author(s), also through third parties.

The documents made available by the awarding authority are to be used only in the context of this competition; any additional use or transfer to unauthorised third parties is forbidden.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Chicago, showing a large stadium (Marina City) in the upper left, a baseball field in the lower left, and a dense urban area with many buildings and streets. The text "PART B" is overlaid in large white letters.

PART B

TASK DEFINITION

1. Frei Otto: life, philosophy, and sociopolitical visions

In 2015, Frei Otto was posthumously awarded the Pritzker Prize for Architecture. He is only the second German architect to ever win this prize. His ability to think architecture not only in spatial terms, but also as a medium for generating social knowledge, and thus to shift the limits of technical and social possibilities beyond the status quo, has influenced generations of architects around the world and made Otto one of the most influential and internationally renowned representatives of German architecture in the 20th century.

In his collaborations with other architects and engineers, Frei Otto created, among others, the roof of the Olympic stadium in Munich – a unique roof landscape to the present day – the German pavilion for the Expo 1967 in Montreal (Canada), and the aviary in Munich's Hellabrunn Zoo. Each is a lightweight structure, the dominant theme of his creative work. With his thesis "Das hängende Dach", published in 1954, the foundation of the "Design/Development Studio for Lightweight Engineering" in Berlin in 1957, and the "Institute for Lightweight Structures" in Stuttgart in 1964, Otto was not only engaged in fundamental research, but also transcended the distinction between technical structure and architectural expression in favour of a new aesthetic that managed to combine the two in an ingenious way.

The intellectual focus of his projects was always an understanding of architecture oriented around the needs of humans – as biological organisms and social beings – and aimed at harmonising the contrast between architectural artefact and the surrounding environment. Although he produced

only a moderate number of own architectural works, Frei Otto was, above all, a creative provider of ideas, teacher, and consultant in collaborations with numerous architects and designers.

Otto did not limit the concept of lightweight structures to technical dimensions. Rather, he combined the imperative of sustainable design in aesthetic, technical and social terms. To his mind, architecture is not characterised by an individual signature, but by the search for an optimal solution for the construction task, its complexity and multidimensional nature.

Although the lightweight construction method he promoted – lightweight grid shell structures, constructions under tensile stress, pneumatic structures – represented the creative expression of this philosophy, Otto simultaneously tried to redesign the process of architectural form-finding (in particular) and planning (in general) from a hierarchical system with a defined course to an open and iterative process, whose aesthetics and structure manifested themselves in the course of the planning process.

This "Thinking by Modeling" gave rise to an approach to architectural design that did not exclude supposedly dysfunctional elements, but integrated them instead, thus making them a part of the design process and allowing a productive use of contradictions, opposites and overlaps that mirror the complexity of human life and nature.

Otto's mindset shaped his activities above and beyond design work. In his constructions, the very process of "form finding" was intended to be realised on a social scale, at the end of which Otto imagined an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable society that would be capable of replacing national limitations and egotisms in favour of a cooperative attitude for the benefit of future generations. His approach can be seen

as a forerunner of today's sustainability mindset. Projects such as the Multihalle must be understood as indicators of this mindset and their own spatial symbolism, resulting in their value for current and future generations.

2. The significance of the Multihalle for Mannheim

The Multihalle's significance for the city of Mannheim is to be seen from the perspective of urban history in the context of its creation. The hosting of the 1975 National Garden Show was a significant event in the city's recent history and initiated a major spurt of development in Mannheim. The Multihalle, as the hub of the National Garden Show and a novel work of building engineering, symbolised the ensuing positive developments. It attracted national and international attention, with Mannheim being perceived as a place where innovative architecture could be realised beyond previously known boundaries. The historical uniqueness of the construction is demonstrated by the fact that it was already granted listed building status in 1998, while still a comparatively young building. In addition, the city benefitted for many years from the hall as a multi-purpose venue, thus providing the following answers to the question of its significance for Mannheim:

1. The Multihalle as a sign of Mannheim's spirit of transformation and image change in the 1970s

The decision, in 1970, to hold the 1975 National Garden Show in Mannheim offered the city the opportunity to change its former image of being a purely industrial place, and it consequently repositioned itself as an innovative and modern city. The Multihalle symbolises this clearly in the sense of a progressive city that is also open to

creative new architectural developments.

2. The Multihalle as an attraction of the 1975 National Garden Show and the Herzogenriedpark

The Multihalle represented one of the attractions of the National Garden Show, not only because of its unusual architecture, but also as a venue for exhibitions, concerts and other events. It became a hotspot for visitors to Herzogenriedpark as well as a flagship of the National Garden Show.

3. The Multihalle as a venue

For many years after the National Garden Show, different associations and institutions regularly held events at the Multihalle, including exhibitions, functions, concerts, children's festivals, circus performances, and various markets. The hall is also important because of its location: embedded in Herzogenriedpark, it is close to Neuer Messplatz (fairground and exhibition site), Herzogenried outdoor swimming pool, the GBG sports hall, and the ice rink, making it one of several public leisure facilities in that part of the city.

4. The Multihalle as a place of identification for the neighbouring districts

The redesign of Herzogenriedpark and the Herzogenried housing development represented urban development measures that improved the district above and beyond the purpose of the National Garden Show. As a multi-purpose venue, the Multihalle played a key role in this process.

5. The Multihalle as a nationally and internationally renowned building

The Multihalle is an engineering innovation that has attracted attention from experts around the world. In 1975, Manfred Sack, a celebrated architecture critic of the *ZEIT* newspaper, coined the phrase "the wonder of Mannheim", which is

still widely quoted today. Sack also portrayed the Multihalle in a report for STERN magazine in 1979. Additional publications about the Multihalle appeared, among others, in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (1983) and trade journals such as *Deutsche Bauzeitung* (1975), *Bauwelt* (1974, 1978), *Der Architekt* (1976), and *New Civil Engineer* (1975). Peter Reina wrote in *New Civil Engineer*: “Mannheim, the birthplace of the sturdy and sensible Mercedes Benz car, is now home for one of the world’s lightest and craziest structures.”

Interest in the Multihalle remains high up to the present day. *Deutsche Bauzeitung* published a further report in 2015, and it is mentioned in several reference books, such as Wolfgang Pehnt’s “*Deutsche Architektur nach 1900*” (2015, p.386), the *Architectural Guide for Mannheim* (1999, p.83), and the series “*Mannheim und seine Bauten*” (Mannheim and its buildings), 1907-2007 (2002, Vol. 3, p.164f). The exhibition at the ZKM Karlsruhe “Frei Otto. Thinking by Modelling” (5 Nov 2016 - 12 Mar 2017) honoured the Multihalle as an essential contribution to the history of federal German architecture.

6. The Multihalle as a heritage site and award-winning building

In 1978, the Multihalle was awarded the Hugo Häring Prize, the most important architecture prize in the state of Baden-Württemberg. In 1998, it was granted listed building status, thus becoming one of Germany’s youngest listed buildings.

7. The Multihalle as an urban image factor

Mannheim has many remarkable high-quality buildings, but only a few have managed to gain national and international recognition. As the public perception of its architecture at the 1975 National Garden Show shows, the Multihalle achieved that in an outstanding way.

3. Multihalle – the process

3.1. Insights to date

For the purpose of this competition, the Multihalle is to be “detached” from the Herzogenriedpark, i.e. treated as a separate entity. This specification is based on the outcomes of last year’s workshop on future use of the complex and numerous related expert discussions. The Multihalle is to be seen as a pavilion rather than as an enclosed space. Multifunctionality and changeability are and remain the essence of the hall. The present entrance to Herzogenriedpark will be moved further east, bringing the entrance to the park and access to the Multihalle to one level.

The primary objective of this part of Mannheim’s “open space concept” is the establishment of a green corridor extending from the city’s north-eastern districts into the centre. Within this green corridor, Herzogenriedpark and the Multihalle in particular represent a pivotal place to set out towards or arrive from the peripheries. A further important objective is to strengthen the urban connection of Max-Joseph-Straße, so that the area around the Multihalle, including Messplatz, gains improved accessibility to and from the city centre.

One of the main reasons for the limited usability of the Multihalle, apart from the improvements needed for the support structures, is its inadequate climate control options.

3.2. Use of the hall

The future utilisation concept is to be oriented around three criteria that are to fuse the agenda of the Multihalle: democratic society, academ-

ic science, and experimental art. The outcomes of the April 2017 workshop should be taken into account for this purpose – the workshop participants called for a change of perspective, i.e. not to impose a concept on the location, but to develop uses based on the Multihalle's architectural characteristics. This view was reflected in the final contributions of the workshop groups, who advocated the Multihalle being re-incorporated into the consciousness of Mannheim's citizens and united with its surroundings, whether as a multifunctional sports area, an urban research laboratory in a space that oscillates between local and global issues, or as an inner-city project space.

This relocation of the Multihalle in Mannheim's urban space, the local community, and in local and international perception is to take place through events in which public relations, information, co-creation, political theatre and cultural events can overlap. Cultural offerings with a wide audience appeal, provided by diverse groups, can facilitate a feeling of ownership. At the same time, the Multihalle is to be established as a platform and academy of international discourse on ecological and social sustainability, statehood and governmentality, thereby building a bridge between Frei Otto's ideas and the future design of our living environment.

Uses can range from events and institutions committed to the philosophy of the Multihalle as an outstanding symbol of European cultural building heritage and to continuing this idea into the future, to using the flexible interior space for sporting events (e.g. in connection with similar events and activities in the vicinity) and cultural offerings for a wide audience.

Each design proposal should focus on a utilisation concept for the Multihalle that will create a basis for reinterpreting social, political and inter-human participation in the urban environ-

ments of the 21st century and for developing the hall as an urban laboratory to complement established uses of the city's political and social infrastructure. This should take into account the implicit and explicit demands for political decision-making and inclusive social participation in our digital and post-industrial society.

3.3. Indoor climate and construction

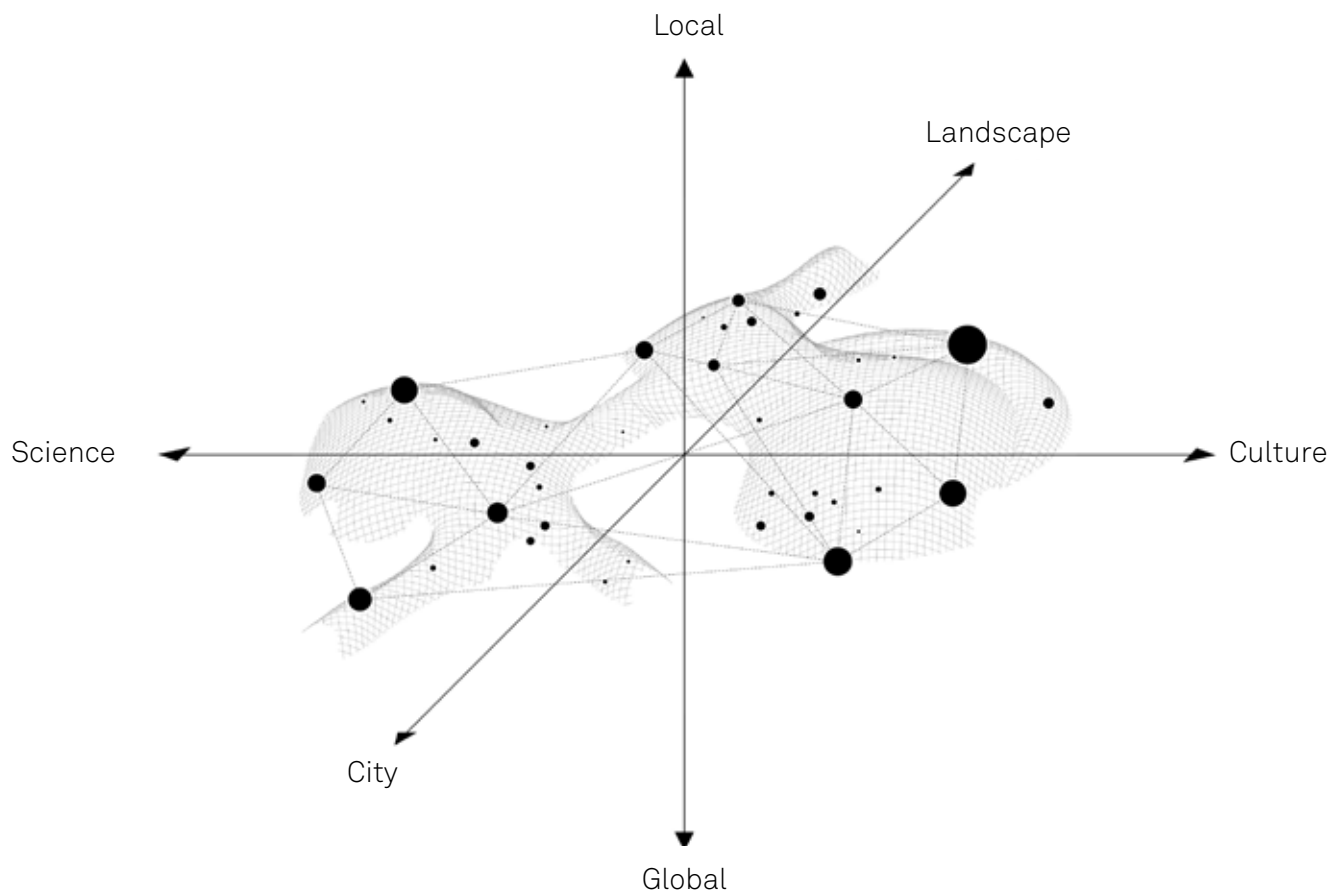
Various types of energy-related renovation measures were examined in a preliminary study (see attachment "23_Multihalle Mannheim_Päsentation UTC", available only in German). Whatever the intended use, indoor climate plays a key role alongside the aspects of architecture, acoustics, building physics, fire protection, and costs.

The study showed that thermal renovation options, such as installing a multi-layer membrane, foil cushions, transparent thermal insulation, etc., can guarantee an acceptable degree of year-round comfort only to a limited extent while simultaneously incurring very high energy consumption and related costs. These options would also have a significant impact on the supporting structure and, consequently, on the protection of the listed building status.

The proposed solution is to install a single-skin roof (for weather and wind protection) that will not result in any static or physical changes, but also only have a limited effect on the interior climate.

Therefore, proposals for innovative and feasible solutions for year-round use (see Space Utilisation Concept) are to be provided through the competition.

The awarding authority expects architectural,



economic, sustainable and innovative solutions.

4. Urban location and integration

The Multihalle is located in the western part of Herzogenriedpark, which is part of Neckarstadt-Ost, and borders on Neckarstadt-West to the west and Herzogenried to the north. For the competition, the location plays a key role as regards the social and infrastructural connections of these areas.

4.1. Herzogenried and Herzogenriedpark

The Herzogenried residential area, to the north of

Herzogenriedpark, was built as a model housing estate (“living in the green belt”) on the occasion of the 1975 National Garden Show. Around 1,800 apartments are accommodated there, some in buildings up to 13 storeys high. Most of the property is owned by the municipal housing association (GBG).

Today, the neighbourhood has the typical problems of large residential areas, such as anonymity, a low degree of neighbourly relations and, consequently, only a weak sense of neighbourhood identity. In June 2004, the community management set up a network to improve the quality of life in the residential area and enhance the image of the district.

Herzogenriedpark was created for the 1975 National Garden Show and is located south of the Herzogenried residential area, in Neckarstadt-Ost. The park is popular with local resi-

dents and has a very high recreational value for the neighbouring districts. A public swimming pool, Herzogenriedbad, borders on the (south-) west; to the north-west is Neuer Messplatz and an allotment of garden plots. To the west, and in the direct vicinity of the Multihalle, are several sports and educational facilities, such as IGMH Comprehensive School, the Herzogenried ice rink, the Friedrich Dürr Youth Centre, and Wilhelm-Busch School.

4.2. Neckarstadt-West and Neuer Messplatz

Neckarstadt-West, to the west of the Multihalle, was established in the *Gründerzeit* era and is one of Mannheim's most densely-built areas, with only a few public squares and spaces. The district has its origins in the former "Neckar Gardens", which were established on "Pflügersgrund", north of the Neckar river. They were laid out as public gardens from 1679 on, and assigned to 560 citizens for use in 1682. In 1860, 260 residents – mainly gardeners, tradesmen and craftsmen – lived there.

After two strip fields on the other side of the Neckar were opened for development in 1871, the city decided to install a new district, "Neckarvorstadt", in 1872. In 1876, Mannheim's folk festival "Mannheimer Messe" moved from the city centre to what is today called Alter Messplatz. In 1879, a train line from Neckarvorstadt via Lampertheim to Worms came into service, with a stop at the Neckar bridge. By 1887, the plots between Messplatz, Mittelstraße and Dammstraße had been divided into seven squares and sold. At the end of 1890, Neckarvorstadt had 9,660 inhabitants. This boosted other infrastructural developments, such as the construction of the Volksbad (1890), the gas supply (1883), Hilda School (1894), the market (1898), and Mannheim-Neckarvorstadt train station (1901). The residential area

was largely completed by 1914. Relatively undamaged by the bombardments of the Second World War, the district has the largest number of *Gründerzeit* buildings in Mannheim.

Neuer Messplatz, one of Mannheim's largest inner-city squares, is used throughout the year for a variety of events, such as the popular Mannheim folk festival held in spring and autumn, and the "Krempelmarkt" flea market. For the rest of the year, part of the square serves as a parking lot for HGVs and cars.

Numerous schools and cultural institutions are located in the Neckarstadt districts, including the "Capitol", a former cinema built in 1927 and now used as a concert venue, and the nearby MARCHIVUM city archive, which was opened in a former high-rise bunker in the spring of 2018.

5. Content and Focus

The Multihalle is to serve as a venue for diverse events in the coming years – as a result of Mannheim's already initiated re-identification process with it, and simultaneously with project development and renovation planning. In order to think the concept of utilisation further forward and to develop it as a socially relevant and future-oriented location within the urban fabric of Mannheim, it needs to offer a space that can be used all year round. This – public – space should depict and represent social realities, and also be able to initiate processes of social change. The desired outcome is to extend the sphere of influence of the existing architecture beyond the actual construction process, so that planning, construction, use and discourse are parts of a democratic and participatory process. For the awarding authority, this synthesis gives rise to the idea of the Multihalle as a "Democratic Umbrella" for a future urban society.



This competition aims to unite three themes in an innovative way:

1. City & landscape

Current situation: The central walkway of the Multihalle, urban in character, is functionally a part of the Herzogenriedpark landscape. In contrast, the open form of the grid shell functionally provides an organic space-forming element with a scenic effect.

Poles of interest: The ensemble draws its tension from the conceptual play with urban and landscape themes, as is reflected in the architectural structure and functional concept, as well as in the very location. These interconnections are to be perceived as spatially defining elements of the Multihalle.

Objective: Competition entries should address these different poles of interest in terms of content and the underlying philosophy. Concepts should address and further develop the hybrid form and function of the Multihalle.

2. Science & culture

Current situation: From the beginning, the Multihalle has mainly been used for cultural purposes. The number of prominent cultural uses of the early days declined over time, though, and their content was subject to constant change. From 2017, the hall was successfully revitalised with temporary cultural uses.

Poles of interest: The Multihalle offers a unique atmosphere and has the power to generate a sense of identification. Scientific uses – e.g. by institutions such as universities, or private or educational collaborations – are to be established to complement the cultural offerings.

Objective: The future vision of the Multihalle as a “Democratic Umbrella” is to provide diverse and inclusive cultural and educational offerings for everyone. The integrative power of both the Herzogenried district and Mannheim itself is to be reflected in the future architecture of the Multihalle as a continuance of the initial concept and philosophy of Frei Otto, Carlfried Mutschler and Joachim Langner.

3. Local body & global eye

Current situation: Both the Multihalle and Herzogenriedpark have always generated strong feelings of affinity in the local population. The global attention that the hall received in its early years filled the residents of the working-class districts with pride and confidence.

Poles of interest: Although this sense of identity has waned, local commitment to and global support for the preservation of the Multihalle have shaped the discussion particularly in recent years. The correlation of local and international interests is the third essential feature of the Multihalle.

Objective: In future, the Multihalle is to be conceptualised as an integrative urban laboratory that aligns its function to the concrete and practical needs of the district on the one hand, and has the appeal to attract international experts dedicated to social, political, cultural and design issues of global importance, on the other.

Uses and requirements move at a faster pace than architecture. As such, the design task of this competition focuses on the adaptability of

the structure with regard to future uses. The intended concept for utilisation and the future design are to be approached as a functional and formal process: a process that must react to the different usage scenarios, taking into account the permanent uses and fixtures, yet still being adaptable for future requirements. Furthermore, (open) space and architectural potentials for future uses are to be consciously integrated into the planning, beyond the current intentions and realisations.

Competition entrants must consider the functional and structural resilience in a multi-dimensional way – in terms of the utilisation concept and the room structure to be designed, the possibilities of adaptation and expansion, and the ability to generate a sense of ownership among users. In continuation of Frei Otto's fundamental approach, the concepts should focus on resource saving and sustainability.

5.1. Management of the timber grid shell construction

According to the findings described in section 3.1, the Multihalle is to be regarded as a pavilion and the timber construction preserved in its current form. For the purpose of the competition, it can be assumed that the grid shell construction has been structurally strengthened. The designs for the space utilisation concept must be structurally independent of the grid shell construction. A structural connection of the space utilisation concept to the construction is not permitted and will lead to disqualification from the competition.

5.2. Management of the fixtures

Mutschler, Langner and Frei Otto's fundamental approach to the design of the Multihalle was based on the concept of the freely formed suspended roof, under which the topography and us-

ers flow in and through. This is currently marred by parts of the stage installations, which downgrade the appearance of the rear north-west side of the Multihalle. One element of the competition is to redesign this area and open up the hall more in this direction.

This measure is of central importance with regard to Mannheim's overriding development goals. The planned "green corridor" connecting the city centre with the north-eastern green spaces and leisure facilities meets Herzogenriedpark at this point from the north and the Multihalle lies in its path.

The interior of the main hall may be divided into individual smaller, possibly temporary, spatial units. To this purpose, the stands that are neither structurally effective nor an elementary component of Mutschler's competition concept may be changed (see Attachment "4_Management of the Fixtures"). The outside walkway and specific parts of the stands are to remain; retaining the stands in the north-western part is optional.

Although the hall is classified as a listed building, parts of the stand complex may be called into question and new spatial relationships considered in relation to the city's future "north-eastern green corridor".

Preserving the concrete fixtures versus partial demolition should be considered, and a (partial) demolition justified from an architectural viewpoint. Should the proposal include a partial demolition of the concrete structure, then uses and funding are to be considered and explained.

The walkway between the two grid shells must be retained and incorporated into the overall concept. This provision is based on the original competition concept that provided an orthogonal connecting axis within the grounds of the National Garden Show. It should therefore be continued.

5.3. Multihalle and Herzogenriedpark

For the purpose of this competition, the Multihalle is to be seen as independent of Herzogenriedpark. The main entrance to Herzogenriedpark will be moved, leaving the Multihalle outside its boundaries, yet the two will still form an ensemble. Furthermore, the Multihalle lies at a pivotal halfway point of the Mannheim Palace - Kurpfalz Bridge - Alter Messplatz - Max-Joseph-Straße - north-eastern green corridor axis. All these aspects must be considered in the design concept and with regard to proposed future uses.

5.4. Integration into the landscape

The impact of the Multihalle on the landscape plays a decisive role both in Carlfried Mutschler's conceptual competition design and in Frei Otto's roof composition. Its location at the interface between Herzogenriedpark and (urban) landscape requires a careful and conceptually well-thought-out integration of the Multihalle in terms of landscape architecture.

5.5. The Multihalle as a Process

Another essential feature of the Multihalle is its processual nature, which shaped its design and the associated social vision. Initially designed as a temporary plant hall to be dismantled after the exhibition, its iconographic effect made it a popular place to visit even after the National Garden Show. The roof construction has remained a constant through the years and across uses, making this rethinking process possible in the first place.

This structure should continue to serve as a space for future uses as an architectural symbol of the "Democratic Umbrella". Any planned fixtures

should be divided into permanent elements (e.g. infrastructure), medium-term fixed installations that can be modified flexibly, and spaces that can be adapted for temporary uses. The awarding authority expects innovative solutions relating to the different static, climatic and acoustic requirements of the ensuing areas of use.

5.6. Planning Perimeters

The Multihalle is to be considered independent of Herzogenriedpark. The planning area (Multihalle + surrounding area) is shown in attachment "7_Perimeter". Building measures can be permitted in the area marked in orange, to fit in with the respective concept.

5.7. Space utilisation concept

The following space utilisation concept is to be understood as a minimum requirement and can be extended according to requirements and the concept.

An adaptable and process-oriented implementation can be proposed for optionally planned spaces. All design proposals should consider a high degree of flexibility and variability within the structure. It is possible to plan areas for seasonal and year-round uses, though year-round operation is generally preferred.

Space utilisation concept – minimum requirements (year-round)

- Large function room for 300 - 500 people, which can be extended or separated off with temporary subdivisions into smaller units with different characteristics
- Open spaces or rooms with different configurations/features for temporary or future use.

- Foyer for approx. 100 persons
- Office space in various forms and scenarios for approx. 20 - 30 workplaces and corresponding meeting rooms
- Three workshop rooms for different uses and between 5 - 25 persons per room (with variable expansion options)
- Studios for performing arts, media, music and temporary university use
- Storage areas for event equipment and furnishings
- Catering area, also to be used for events for approx. 200 persons, with corresponding kitchen and storage areas Kitchen suitable for community and neighbourhood cooking
- Appropriate number and placement of sanitary facilities (WC) and infrastructure areas

Outdoor facilities

- Additions according to requirements / Continuation of the interior
- Sport and leisure options (to tie in with the north-eastern green corridor)
- Statements on how to handle the borders

6. Photo documentation



