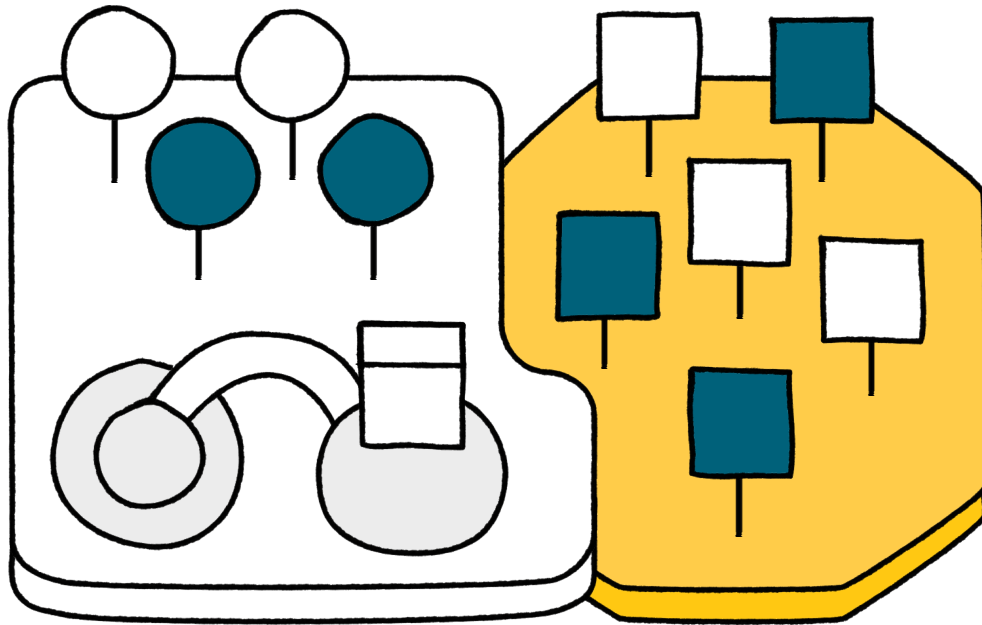


## Luchswiese settlement, open space design

**Time frame**

Not specified

**Stakeholders**

Civil society  
Private investor builders  
Landscape architects  
Management

**Typologies (space types)**

Outside space  
Living environment

**Institutional framework****Design quality criteria**

Designability  
Opportunities to interact

**Structure-related quality criteria**

Designing the provisions/  
living spaces  
Collaboration  
Participation and identification

**The starting point**

The Luchswiese settlement used to be a somewhat antiquated property facing major social problems. The wishes, concerns and preferences of users were jointly compiled in a planning workshop based on a pre-developed new design concept. This was done in collaboration with the dedicated builders, Stiftung Wohnungen for kinderreiche Familien [Homes for Families with Many Children charity], the settlement's residents and the caretaker. In these workshops, people held discussions and were able to point out their shared or individual favourite places.

The planning was fleshed out based on this – combined with the results from the workshops with the settlement's own kindergarten.

The residents were able to take matters into their own hands during an initial practical implementation event a short while later. At the same time, they were given information about the status and content of the project before implementation by the gardener. The residents could actively get involved themselves during the actual implementation, such as planting bushes with edible berries. The joint opening of the renovated site together with the builders was the beginning of a new life within the settlement and open space.

The project-specific changes for the target groups are, on the one hand, a new place inviting residents to come together and discover nature. On the other hand, the gardeners and caretaker now have the task of breathing life into the location with a differentiated property maintenance schedule.

**Aims**

- Promoting a return to more cohesion between people and people's appreciation of the living environment in the Luchswiese settlement.
- User participation as early as the planning stage means all stakeholders are actively included in designing the environment, so that mutual discussions form the basis for a long-term functional open space.
- Raising residents' awareness of their everyday living environment and of flora and fauna.

**Target group**

Builders (Stiftung Wohnungen for kinderreiche Familien charity), settlement residents, caretaker

**Costs**

195,000 Swiss francs (Neighbourhood planning costs including participation campaigns)

### **Project progression**

The entire organisation, both in planning and socio-cultural terms, was done by the landscape architect with a background in nature education. Direct communication with the builders supported streamlined and goal-oriented project organisation. The communication with the residents was done directly by the builders after prior organisation by the landscape architect. The implementation of the participation campaign itself was, however, carried out by the planners and nature educator themselves. Here, the residents and also the executive companies took part in the implementation together with the builders and planners. The gardener provided the working materials and provided specialist advice when residents carried out work, and the caretaker helped settlement residents get to know each other and to get involved on a daily basis.

### **Success factors**

- Direct contact with very dedicated builders.
- Team spirit among all stakeholders.
- Project design, construction management and user participation all under one roof from the planner.
- The spontaneity of the team/builders allowed for issue-centred interaction during work days. All motivated residents were able to contribute in their own ways along the lines of “the journey is the reward” and “being there is everything”.

### **Challenges**

- Different degrees of motivation during implementation depending on the composition of the participating residents (children/young people/adults).
- In general, one should properly respond to the actual needs of the on-site stakeholders.
- In general, having sufficient budget available is a common recurring challenge.

### **Conclusion**

According to the caretaker, people are taking more care of their “self-made” new open space. Vandalism is, however, still an issue but only among young people. Children are now also coming with their parents from surrounding settlements to use the new environment. As the socio-cultural backgrounds of the individual families are sometimes very difficult, the project did not change the overall cohesion, but probably did in individual cases. The open space has also achieved a positive public image and has been very well-received thanks to the upgrade to the settlement’s inner courtyard.

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