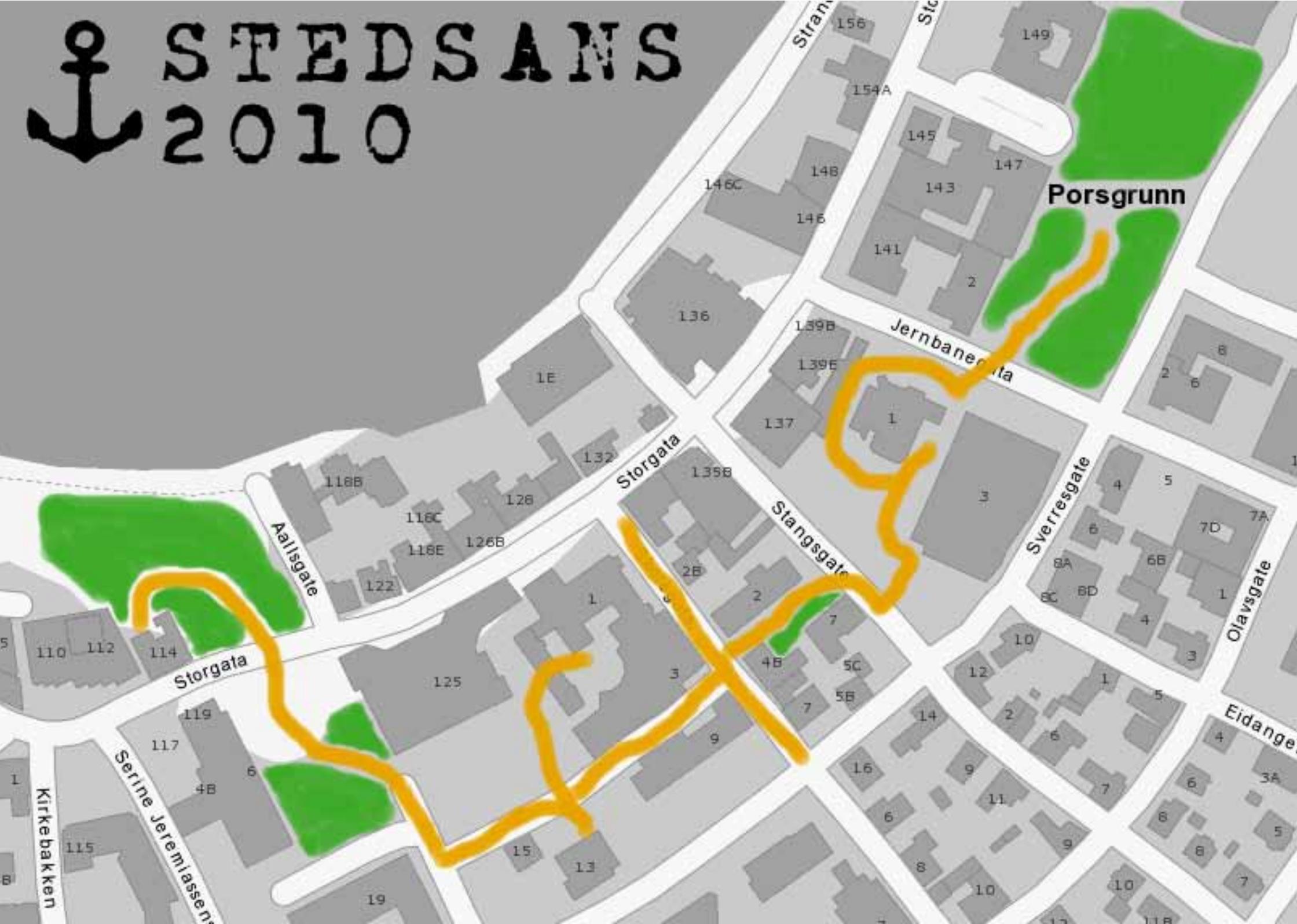




Porsgrunn, 2010, Stedsans.



STEDSANS 2010





STEDSANS DRAMMEN 2011 spør seg; hvordan kom man seg hit? Hvem gikk før oss, og hvem skal komme? Byutvikling handler ikke bare om å pynte seg, men også å fylle byen med sjel og mening. Hvem var de som står på sokkel, og hva med alle de som aldri kom seg opp på en? Hvem kjempet for fremtiden og hvem tar plass i dag? Forestillingen tar befolkningen med på en vandring i sentrum med forstørrelsesglass og vidvinkel, for å få øye på rom og mellomrom vi passerer daglig, men ikke ser.



Ørestaden, 2009, Plug n Play.



Ørestaden, 2009, Plug n Play.



Ørestaden, 2009, Plug n Play.



Ørestaden, 2009, Plug n Play.

previous state

Like many other suburbs of East Germany, the Salbke district in the south-east of Magdeburg is deeply immersed in a state of physical and social decadence. Unemployment figures are high and public facilities are scarce. In the old centre closed-down businesses abound along with unoccupied housing, vacant lots and abandoned factories that populate the post-industrial landscape. One of the vacant lots was the triangular space defined by the intersection of the main street with Blumenberger Strasse, which remained vacant after the old district library was demolished.

aim of the intervention

In 2005, this setting constituted the departure point for an urban planning experiment called “City in trial”, which aimed to reinforce the social networks of Salbke. The deserted premises of a shop adjoining the site of the former library was used as a space for organising a book collection and to gather the residents in an open, neighbourly participative process. With advice from a group of professionals, a programme of needs was agreed upon, and several designs for an open-air library on the site were produced. Some twenty thousand books were collected and, with over a thousand beer crates a 1:1 scale model of the design that the residents liked best was constructed on the definitive location. This temporary construction was the venue for a small two-day reading and poetry festival.

description

The success of the initiative helped to achieve the necessary funding from the Federal Government to construct the facility, which was opened in 2009. Prefabricated pieces from a recently-demolished building from the 1960s were recycled to cover the facades of the new building. A thick wall containing shelving for the books shelters a green space where people can read in the open air and it culminates in a higher section that houses a cafeteria and a provides a stage where primary school plays are performed, public readings are given and young people’s bands hold concerts.

Open to the public twenty-four hours a day, the library is managed by the residents themselves who, without any checks or monitoring, freely borrow and return books. Although, as if testifying to the harsh surroundings, the new library has been vandalised on occasion, it is a fully functioning concern.

assessment

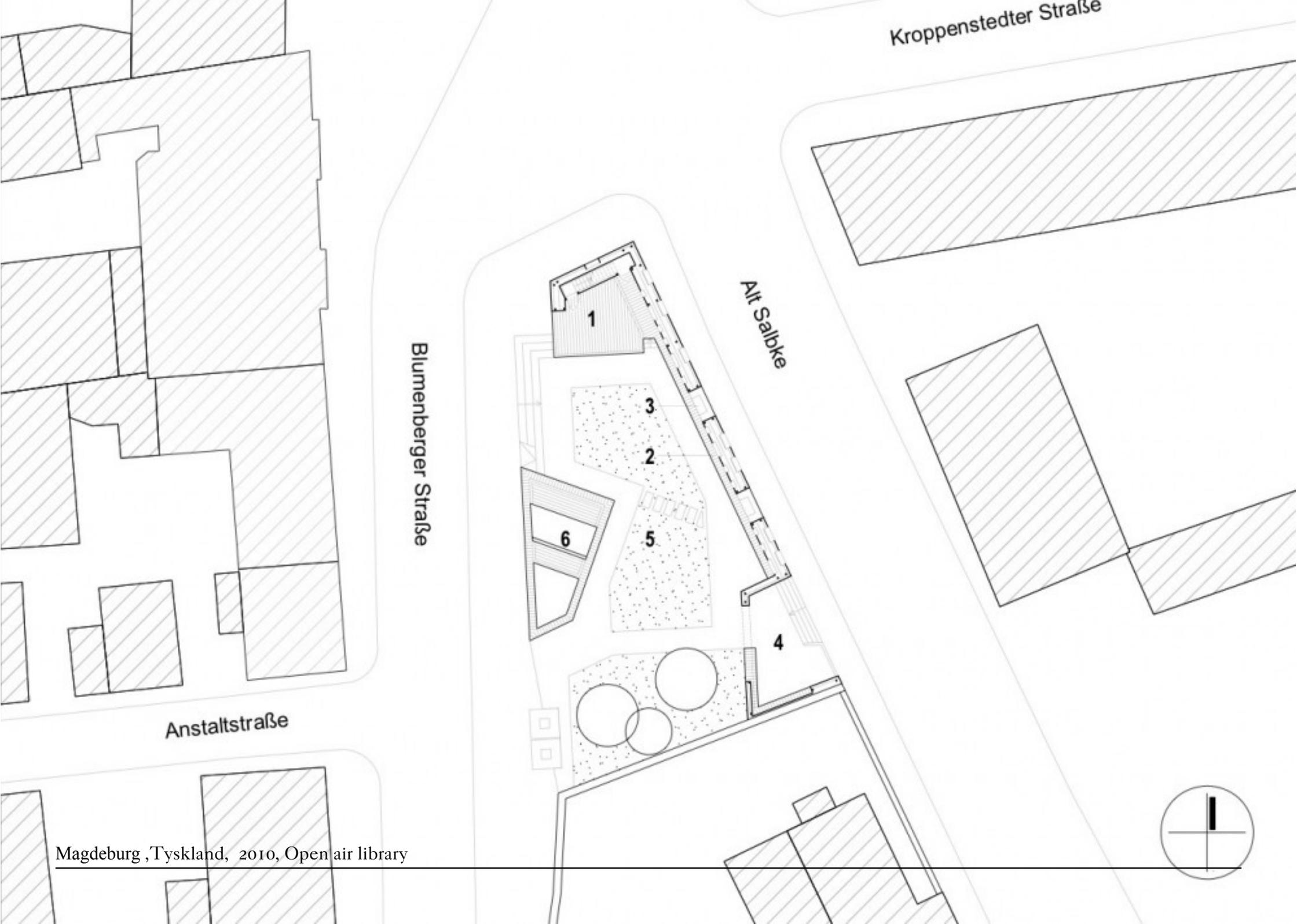
The success of this experience counters the scepticism that often hovers over the trade-off between participative processes and the practice of good architecture. Far from being gentrified, the urban setting of Salbke takes on added value with the presence of this building, which sagely takes over an interstitial run-down space to give it order and also signal its presence. Without renouncing the use of contemporary language, its facades sympathise with the collective imaginary since they have recovered the prefabricated pieces from a now-gone emblematic building. With limited resources, the residents have brought into being a building that is innovative in both form and function and which, thanks to their involvement in the project, precisely responds to their demands.

Besides keeping construction costs low and avoiding the energy consumption of air-conditioning, the absence of a roof and facades suggests the appearance of a neighbourly and responsible way of using a public facility. The citizen participation that is revitalising the social fabric does not end with conceiving a building since, now the professionals who acted as advisers have gone, the residents have taken over its management. The result points to the possibilities of a civil society that is able to emancipate itself from the upside-down State protection when the public administration does not satisfactorily meet its needs.

David Bravo Bordas, architect



Magdeburg ,Tyskland, 2010, Open air library



Kroppenstedter Straße

Blumenberger Straße

Alt Salbke

Anstaltstraße

1

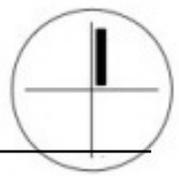
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6

4





Magdeburg ,Tyskland, 2010, Open air library



Magdeburg, Tyskland, 2010, "Open air library"



previous state

Rue Saint Blaise runs through the 20th arrondissement of Paris, a district notable for its urban density and cultural diversity. The process of neglect undergone by this pedestrian thoroughfare in recent years has led to a decline in public uses, the closing down of businesses, an increase in social segregation and insecurity for children and the elderly. At number 56 in this street there is a passageway, which was closed off in the 1980s owing to the construction of a residential block. This space, which is not apt for construction, remained shut and disused thereafter.

aim of the intervention

In an unusual association between the public administration, local organisations, professionals and residents, an open consultation process was organised in order to air the suggestions, possibilities and misgivings the passageway induced. Thus arose the idea of creating a collectively-managed space that could accommodate meetings, screenings, workshops, games, plus commercial interchanges and activities revolving around gastronomy and horticulture.

description

From the very beginning and throughout a sustained and open participative process temporary installations, technological devices and public happenings were used to publicise the different architectural proposals and submit them to the judgement of residents. This way of working, backed by consultation with, and mediation by specialist experts thereby making it possible to elaborate a project that was at once rigorous and agreed upon, continued through the minimal-cost construction phase, which was carried out with recycled materials collected by the residents themselves.

The result is a wooden construction that is suspended between the two buildings flanking the passageway to constitute a threshold between the public space and a public garden of two hundred square metres. The construction, with a roof garden, houses a green office from which the activities pertaining to the garden – a vegetable garden of several collectively-cultivated plots – are managed. The space as a totality has solar panels, compost pits and a system of rainwater collection and storage so that it produces almost all the water, fertiliser, food and energy that it consumes.

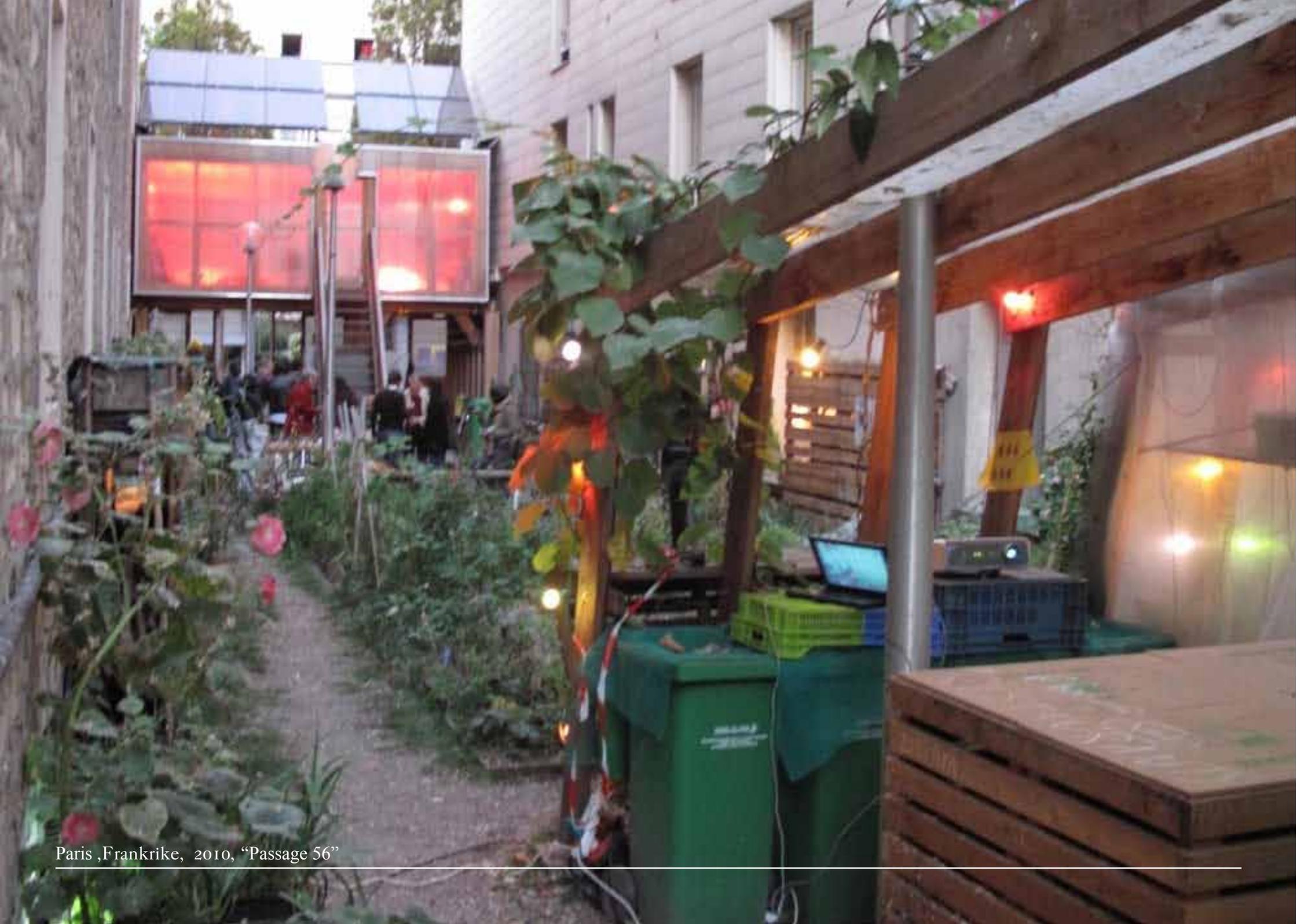
assessment

Passage 56 reinforces the idea that public space does not culminate in the physical construction of a designed object but rather that it is continuously developed as a social, cultural and political production. The social fabric of the neighbourhood has been revitalised before, during and after the collective construction of this meeting place. In this case, the client does not precede the intervention but gradually emerges with the group of users who manage it, offering irrefutable proof that everyday ecological practice can transform present spatial and social relations in a dense and culturally diverse metropolis.

David Bravo Bordas, architect



Paris ,Frankrike, 2010, "Passage 56"



Paris ,Frankrike, 2010, "Passage 56"



Paris ,Frankrike, 2010, "Passage 56"



Paris ,Frankrike, 2010, "Passage 56"



Paris, France, 2010, "Passage 56"



Paris ,Frankrike, 2010, "Passage 56"



New York, 2010, "rooftop farm"



New York, 2010, "rooftopfarm"





New York, 2010, "rooftopfarm"



Drømmen
om
Farsund

Post skatten din her



