



## IBA Hamburg International Building Exhibition

### Building the City Anew

Shaping the future of the city in the 21st century... This is a challenge that has been taken up by the IBA Hamburg International Building Exhibition, with projects that make an innovative and sustainable contribution to current issues of urban development.

Between now and 2013 and in the heart of the Hanseatic city, IBA Hamburg will be staging around 50 social, cultural and building-related projects and programmes as a blueprint for the 21st century, showing how the metropolis can continue to grow in a socially and ecologically balanced way.

The IBA project occupies an area of 35 square kilometres on Hamburg's Elbe islands of Wilhelmsburg and Veddel and in the Harburg Upriver Port. It aims to be a model of sustainable and future-oriented inner city development. This is an area inhabited by 55,000 people of more than 100 different nationalities.

### **Sustainable impulses for the development of the city**

Following a review of Hamburg's municipal development at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Hamburg's Elbe islands acquired new importance in planning terms. They now represent a crucial springboard for the 'leap over the Elbe' between the Hafencity district in the north and Harburg in the south. With a view to encouraging the realisation of the 'leap' project, IBA Hamburg GmbH [IBA Hamburg & Co. Ltd.] was founded as a 100 percent subsidiary of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Based on the development of an innovative municipal agreement, the IBA Convention, more than 100 IBA partners are now supporting the work of the company. Nearly 40 private investors have also been found to back the scheme,



investing more than 600 million euros in projects for the future of the metropolis. It is hoped that by 2013 more than 1200 new dwellings will be put up on IBA Hamburg's territory.

Processes triggered by the International Building Exhibition should result in even greater potential for residential building in the project area in the years up to 2020, amounting to another 5000 new dwellings or more.

### **International building exhibitions and IBA Hamburg**

International building exhibitions have been a major tradition in Germany since 1901, in terms of both municipal planning and building culture. They have always been more than just exhibitions, engaging at all times with current contemporary challenges.

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg launched the IBA in 2006, with the aim of initiating 'Building the City Anew' and providing this with a conceptual underpinning, based on new strategies connected with three topical and internationally discussed urban development themes. The first of these relates to the question of the future shape of shared living in an urban society that is becoming more international and multicultural all the time. This guiding ideal goes by the name of the 'Cosmopolis'. The second guiding ideal, 'Metrozones', aims to highlight the often concealed potential of the 'inner city periphery'. And finally with its third headline project, 'City in Climate Change', IBA Hamburg tackles the question how to balance the requirements of urban growth and climate conservation.

### **Headline topics and projects of IBA Hamburg**

*Cosmopolis – New Opportunities for the City*

Projects under this heading fall in three areas of activity.



The central focus is on education. Not only is an educational offensive looking into new pedagogical and conceptual approaches to improving the educational situation in districts dominated by immigration; new trail-blazing educational facilities like the Tor zur Welt [Gate to the World] training centre have also been set up under the auspices of IBA Hamburg.

Other projects, like those of the 'Elbe Island Creative Quarter', focus on living and living space, and demonstrate how conditions of life can be improved for the local population and how new models of urban neighbourhoods can function. Projects like the Weltquartier urban renovation project, which was enthusiastically supported by neighbourhood residents, and the Veringhöfe Nord artists' studios have also shown how local residents and businesses can be actively involved in the planning process and contribute to the shaping of their environment.

#### *Metrozones – New Spaces for the City*

IBA Hamburg's presentation area amounts to a patchwork measuring 35 square kilometres – between the city and port, between quiet and hubbub, between green spaces and grey transport axes. The motorways and railway lines cut right across the Elbe islands in a north-south direction. So the aim is to create spaces based on existing hiatuses and breaks in the urban network, such as multi-lane highways, marshland and empty industrial areas, with a view to toning down sharp contrasts. Such places would represent a new form of urban culture, depending on the unique qualities of Europe's largest river island – the inner city landscape and the scenic variety of the watery setting.

The centrepiece of IBA's plans under this heading is the Wilhelmsburg Mitte [Central Wilhelmsburg] project, the showcase specimen scheduled for IBA Hamburg in 2013. An important component in this is the 'building exhibition within the building



exhibition', presenting innovative solutions for aesthetically ambitious and at the same time cost-effective, adaptable and sustainable buildings. The new Wilhelmsburg Mitte centre not only touches on the future 'New Style Public Park' of Hamburg's International Garden Show 2013 (igs 2013), it also combines with the latter to form a central point of departure for the forward-looking development of this district of the city.

One of the crucial measures for the upgrading of the Wilhelmsburg metrozone is the relocation of the Wilhelmsburger Reichsstrasse (the B4/B75 highway). This is a four-lane city thoroughfare, one of three big severing transport axes. Only on this basis will it be possible to create attractive green areas and fluvial spaces on a wide scale in the centre of the island, so giving the 'leap over the Elbe' somewhere to spring to.

### *City in Climate Change - New Energies for the City*

In view of its position in the heart of the area where the Elbe's current divides, this location is more suitable than any other to represent issues of preventive and adaptive climate protection. Ever since the island was first inhabited, flooding has been a constant risk – a risk highlighted by the overwhelming flood disaster of February 1962. So there is an imperative need in Wilhelmsburg of new strategies for dealing with floods, rising ground water levels and heavy rain conditions. But model urban development strategies for CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral building are no less in demand. So IBA has devised a climate protection scheme under the heading 'Renewable Wilhelmsburg', hoping this will serve as a basis for the gradual switchover to supplying energy to the Elbe islands on a completely regenerative basis. For this reason IBA Hamburg follows a practice of climatically friendly building, and relies on domestic and sustainable sources of energy. For example, the wind power plant on the former landfill site in Georgswerder is being 'revitalised' – its output is being boosted and supplemented by a big photovoltaic system. A one-time flak bunker, an



internally decayed relic of the Second World War, is being converted to an 'energy bunker' with the help of solar collectors and a gigantic water reservoir. In future it should be able to supply clean energy to around 3000 homes in the adjacent city district.

Finally there is the IBA DOCK – IBA Hamburg's central exhibition and office building, presented last year as its first innovative construction project. This not only adapts to the changing water levels in the tidal Muggenburger Zollhafen port, it even generates its own supply of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral heating.

### **Status of IBA projects and IBA's Presentation Year 2013**

As it stands today (October 2011), seven out of a total of 50 IBA projects have been completed, 18 projects are a work in progress and another 21 projects will be started before the end of 2011.

Last year's Intermediate Presentation by IBA involved numerous events and exhibitions which concentrated on the building sites of the various projects involved. Following this, attention is already focused on the concluding presentations scheduled for the year 2013. The completed projects will then be on view, and a richly varied programme will reproduce the work of the past seven years.

At the same time, however, forward-looking thoughts for the IBA project district after 2013 will also be aired. IBA's 50 projects can not only serve as a model for subsequent imitation – what is more, they can here and now mark the starting point for new, and above all sustainable future development efforts.

Status as at November 2011