



Oberbillwerder – four central themes for Hamburg’s 105th district

1. Oberbillwerder – sustainably shaping Hamburg’s future

With the plans for Hamburg’s 105th district, Oberbillwerder, all participants were aware from the beginning of the great ecological responsibility stemming from the unusual location on previously agricultural areas within the city of Hamburg. The goal was always to make the plan as sustainable as possible. This has proved so successful for the City of Hamburg that the plans have become exemplary on a European level. The development and realisation of a sustainable district also needs the courage to tread new ground on the part of all actors in the spheres of politics and administration, as well as from citizens. We will have to abandon certain cherished habits such as parking our cars outside our front door. If we do this, everyone gains space on their residential street. In the case of the multiple use of leafy and open spaces, in the event of heavy rain for example, persuasive efforts must be made, because Oberbillwerder will break new ground in many ways. Hamburg is a forerunner here, showing what European urban development may look like in the 21st century. The German Society for Sustainable Construction (DGNB) has confirmed this by awarding Oberbillwerder a preliminary platinum certificate. 27 criteria specific to urban districts were evaluated. Oberbillwerder gained particularly high ratings in process quality, social and functional quality and technical quality (each at around 90%). **The message: Hamburg will be able to demonstrate a model in Oberbillwerder of what sustainable urban development may look like in the 21st century in Europe.**

2. The Connected City

How does a city succeed in developing an integrated new urban district that is convincingly integrated into the existing spatial and social fabric? Hamburg’s answer to this is “The Connected City”. This focus of the Oberbillwerder master plan relies on links and networks and goes far beyond spatial links to the neighbouring districts of Neuallermöhe and Bergedorf-West. The networking will strengthen neighbourhoods, connect people with each other and create space for encounters. With offers such as new district swimming baths, a school and educational campus, housing for seniors with and without care needs and restaurants, bars and cafés, new meeting places will be created that are as yet lacking or insufficient in the current neighbourhoods.

Not only this: with the networking of functions (multiple use) Hamburg is also proposing new methods in Oberbillwerder. Various spatial and temporal strategies ensure that these are exploited in the best possible way. Green roofs contribute to improving the urban

climate and will become a place for the production of alternative energies or for sport and leisure. Schools and educational centres remain lively meeting places by being used outside of school hours by residents of the district. And the classical district car park will become a mobility hub in Oberbillwerder, with useful facilities on the ground floor, local supplies or services, and parking above. Last but not least, The Connected City also means that Oberbillwerder emerges from and is developed based on the location itself. For this reason, a sense of interlocking with the historical cultural landscape, with pathways overcoming barriers and at the same time creating a respectful distance from the Billwerder Billdeich, characterises the plans.

The message: Oberbillwerder is creating connections: spatially – personally – functionally.

3. People instead of parking – taking back public space

Many streets in Hamburg are dominated by parked cars, some of which do not move for days. In this way, valuable areas are lost, places that could be locations of encounter, places to build neighbourliness or provide alternative mobility offers. Hamburg wants to show in Oberbillwerder how things can be different and what the potential of reorganising stationary transport could be, without limiting inhabitants' mobility. Hamburg's 105th district is not to be totally car-free, but should be as free as possible from parked cars in public space. An important building block of this goal is provided in the multi-storey mobility hubs: here, you can park in one of the approx. 5,000 parking spaces (0.6 per housing unit). From there, you can transfer to mobility services such as carsharing or cargo bike, get a lift or simply walk. The newly freed streets will create new quality in the urban space and give residents more space. The mobility hubs at the same time become central locations for active neighbourhoods. On the ground floors there are service locations and social, cultural and retail facilities, bakeries and supermarkets, package and recycling stations, youth centres, daycare centres or clubhouses for the neighbouring sports and allotment associations. The flat roofs of the buildings can also be used as leisure areas, just as they can be used to generate alternative energy. Through the central location of the mobility hubs by the quarter squares, on which kindergartens, playgrounds or cafés and restaurants are located, small, diverse local centres will be created that may be able to have a themed focus depending on their location in the district. The mobility hubs will thus contribute decisively to public and communal life in the district.

The message: In Oberbillwerder, public space belongs to people. By reorganising stationary traffic, new opportunities and potential arise.



4. The Grüne Loop (Green Loop) – a place where you can feel at ease and that protects against heavy rain at the same time

The heavy rain event in Bergedorf in May 2018 made it clear how important it is for Hamburg to prepare its districts for extreme weather. In Oberbillwerder, Hamburg is showing how an entire district can be effectively protected through clever open space planning. The approximately 15-hectare Grüne Loop is the lowest area in the district. As part of the drainage system, it plays an important role in rainwater retention, as waterside areas and sports grounds can be simply inundated in heavy rain. These areas store water like a sponge so it can flow away in a measured fashion without overloading the existing system. Together with additional measures and provisions, the drainage concept is designed so it can deal with once-a-century heavy rain events. In “normal” climate conditions, the Grüne Loop is the heart of the district. It links the five quarters with each other. It can also be used to get to all schools and kindergartens. Safe, well-made paths with integrated playgrounds and exercise opportunities for people of any age, as well as places for rest and relaxation, are what make this green ring stand out. In various places, ecological areas are integrated to improve the diversity of urban nature in terms of plants and animals. In Oberbillwerder, open space plays a prominent role. Engagement with the existing cultural landscape was an important component of the plans and a central focus of the design “The Connected City”. The open space is the element that links public and private areas, as well as the district and its surroundings.

The message: The Grüne Loop is Oberbillwerder’s main artery. In this special open space, you can feel the pulse of life; this is where people move around. And if necessary it also offers protection.