BERLIN SUMMER 2009

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still awaiting a new definition, its proper integration into the new self-image of a reunited city. Unlike other sites in the historic center of Berlin, this area, which even lost its proper address after the reunification, is in fact not haphazardly left empty.

Its current shape is not the result of unfinished surroundings or willfully interrupted ensembles, as there were so many to be found in Berlin due to the border strip of the wall.

The vast open space in front of the town hall of Berlin, office of the Governing Mayor, comprises an 8 ha tract of land stretching from Alexanderplatz in the East to the Spree River in the West. It was implemented as the monumental central representative space of the State of the German Democratic Republic. The foundations of the earliest and oldest parts of Berlin are buried under this rollled out tableau. A sequence of three open spaces with the Palace of the Republic on one side and the TV-tower at the other end was meant to symbolize the balance of powers and identity of this now gone state. The TV-tower overlooked the city like a never sleeping and ever monitoring one-eyed Cyclops.

With the foreign ministry demolished in 1991 and the concluded deconstruction of the Palace of the Republic in 2008, the space has lost its major "figures on the chessboard" and iinstead s currently functioning as a sensible vacuum waiting to be filled with ideas. The main buildings that represent the new Federal State of Germany -the Reichstag, the Chancellery and the facilities for the deputies- have been successfully implemented further to the west, near the Brandenburg Gate. This highly formal ensemble symbollizes now the hopes and aspirations of a finally reunited city and state by bridging the River twice, thus buckling the two halfs of the once separated city together in one vigorous gesture.

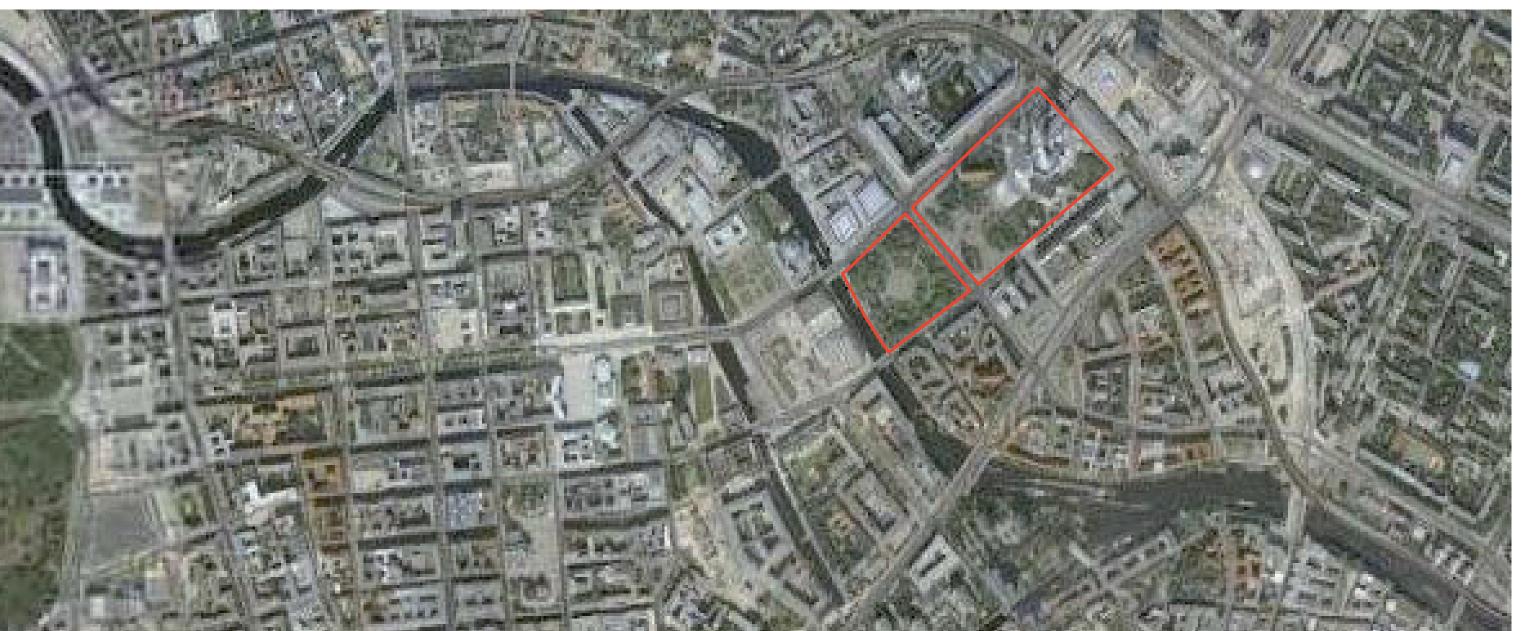
When the decision of the Federal Government fell in 1996, to reconstruct the castle, the former palace and residence of the Prussian kings and emperors, which used to exist on the site of the former Palace of the Republic from the beginning of the city until its demolition in 1951 by order of Wallter Ulbricht, it became obvious even to those with the least interest in urban design questions, that the site once again had moved into a political sphere. The result of the competition, finally launched in 2008 after years of public debate, held no surprises. The winning scheme of Italian architect Franco Stella, represents a sophisticated mélange of elements of a reconstructed palace, new interiors and new building additions.

With the certainty that the new/old palace is going to be erected some time soon, the situation for the former Marx-Engels-Forum will change fundamentally and inevitably.

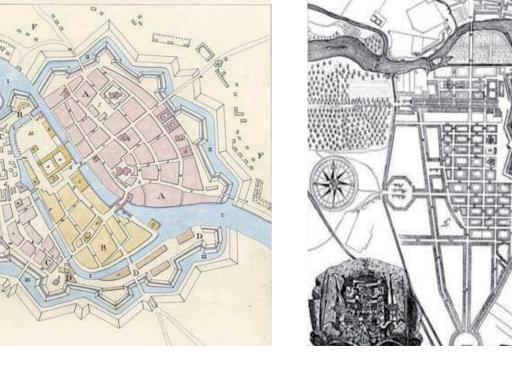
Like wrestlers facing each other before the fight begins, the palace in the west and the TV-tower in the east eye contact each other from a respectful distance but certainly not without a

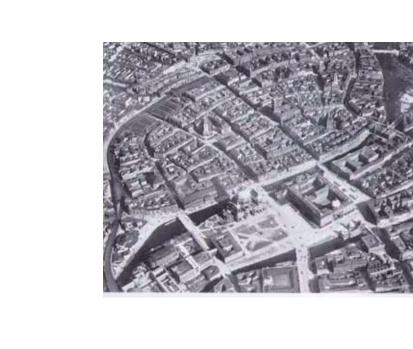
While the Senate of Berlin had decided that there is no pressing reason to debate the future of the Marx-Engels-Forum which is currently designated as a public open space, the media interest in the future of this space and its role as the true center of the city of Berlin, not the German state, starts growing and revealing the taboos related to the site.

We took on the challenge during the summer course, to fill this mental and physical gap with our thoughts and proposals in order to help steering the debate about the site into productive and, above all, objective directions. It was not a little task, we have been undertaking.







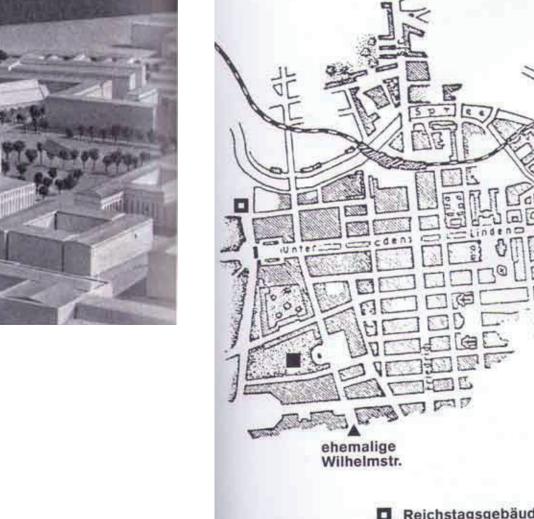


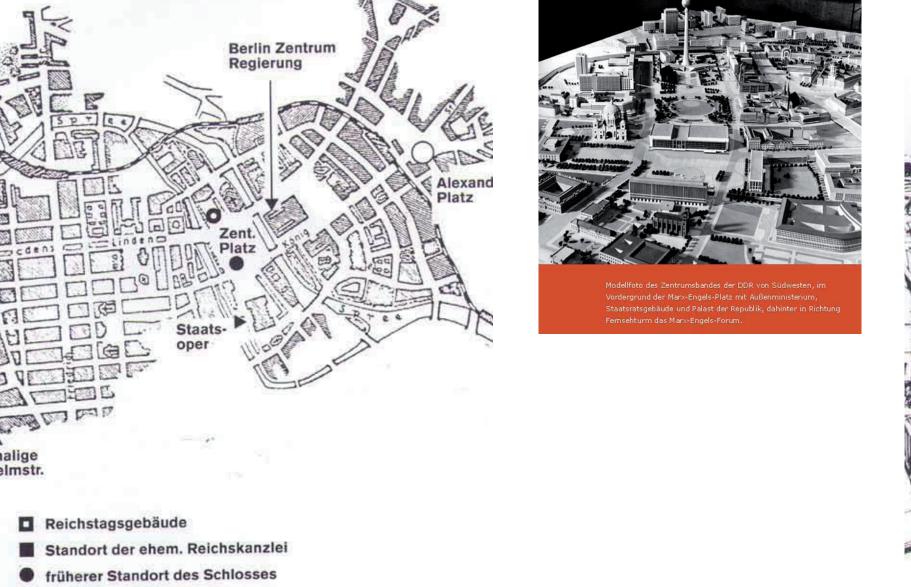


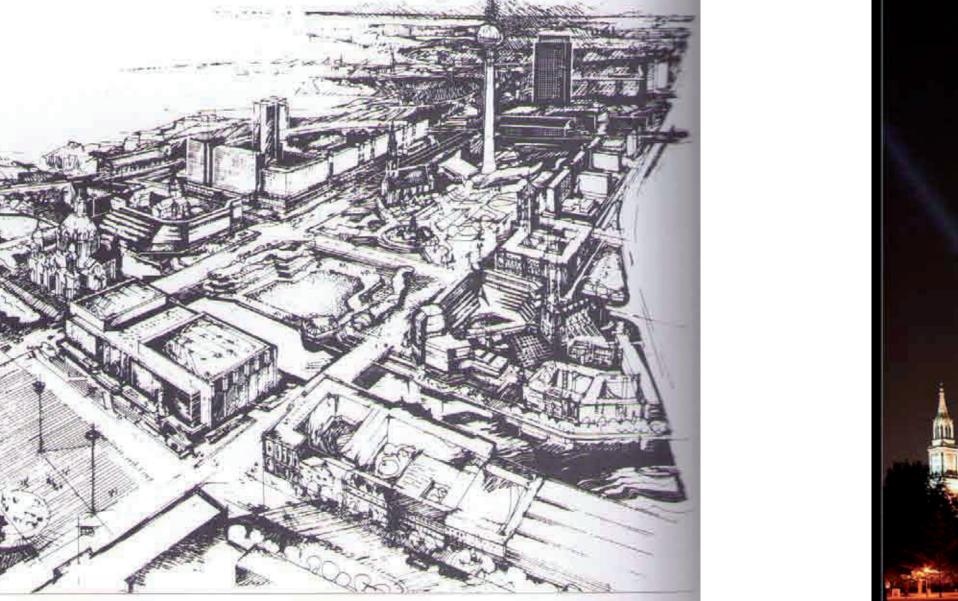














MARX-ENGELS-FORUM













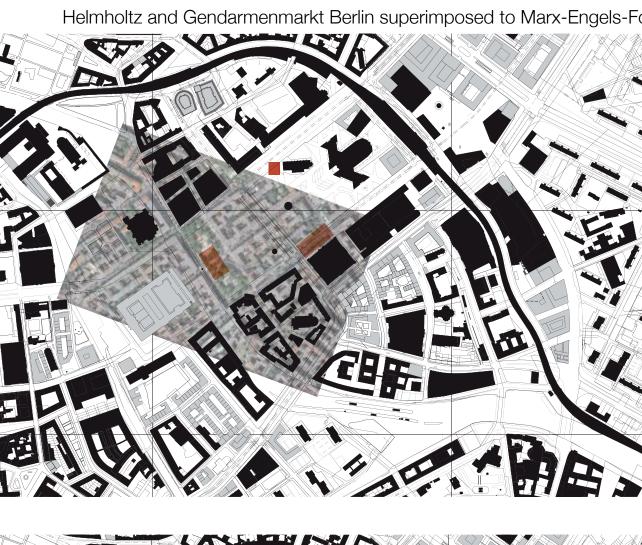






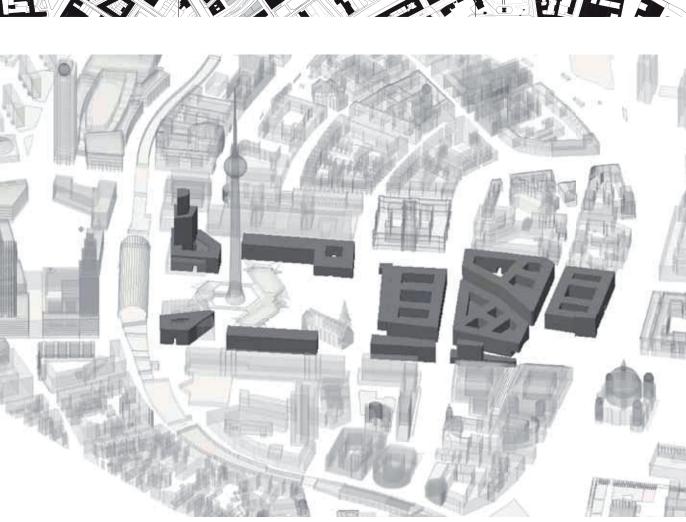


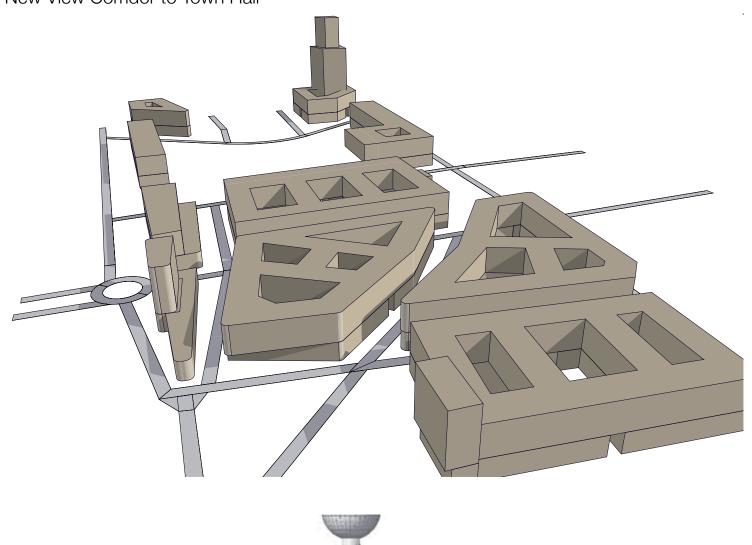


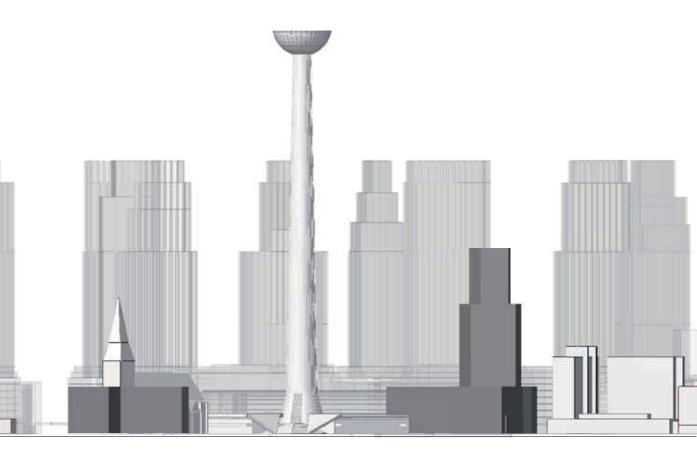


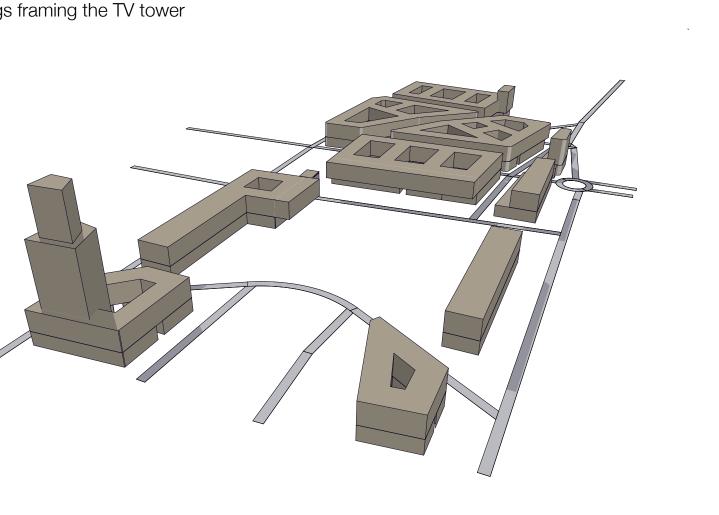














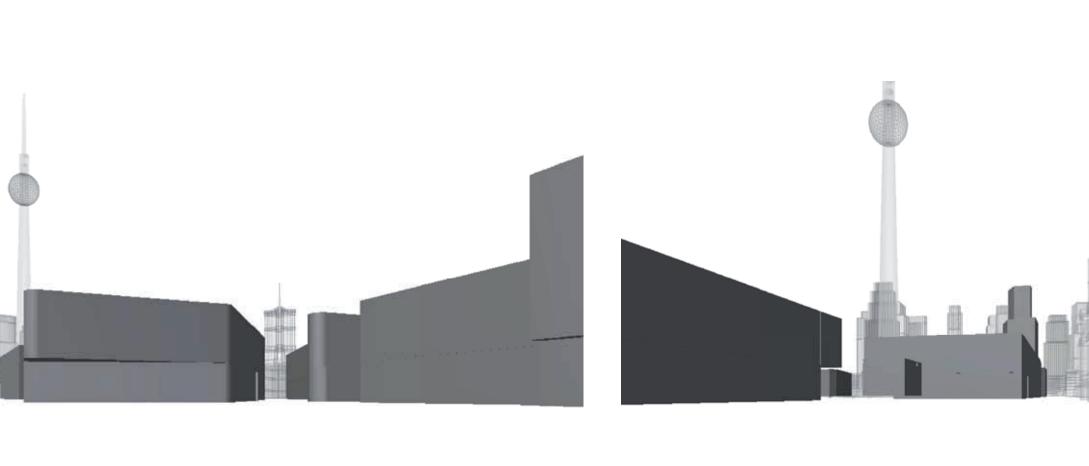


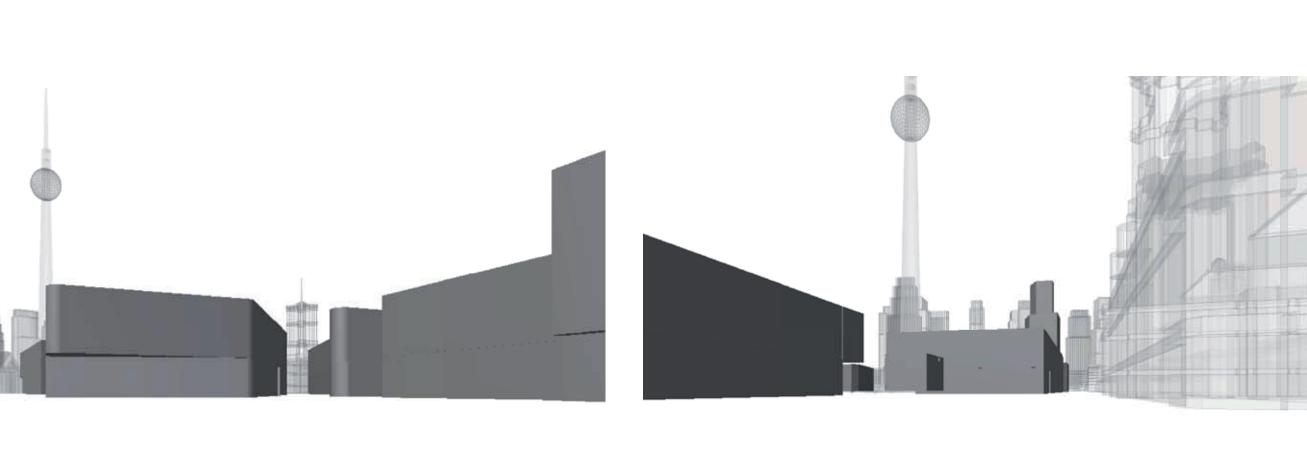








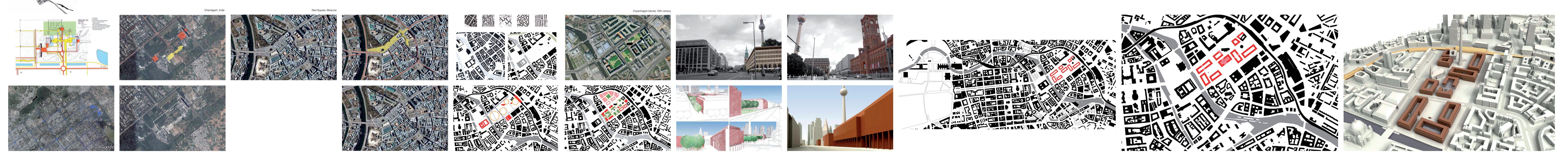




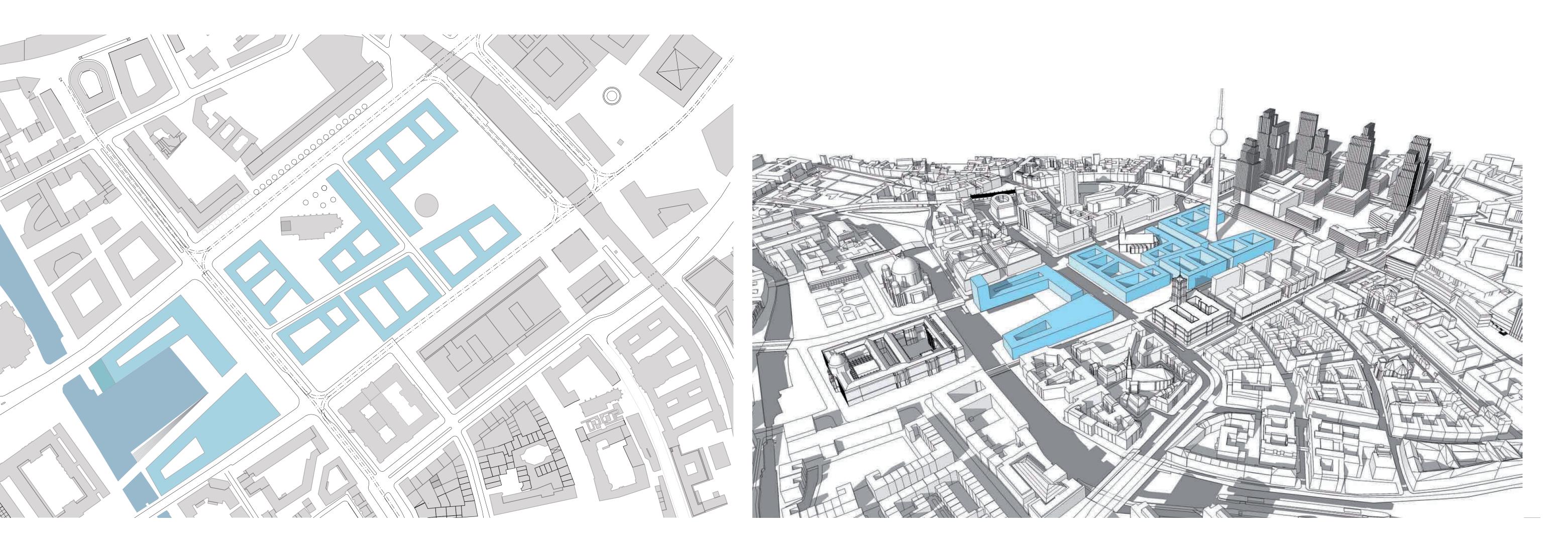


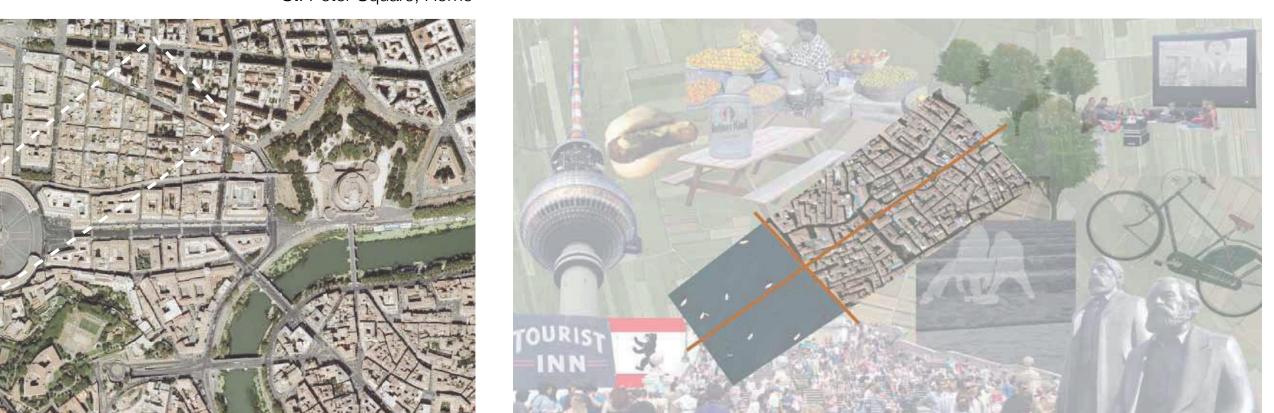


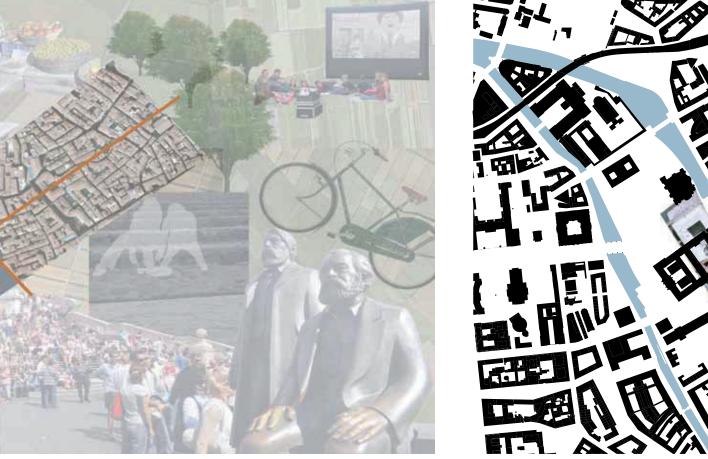
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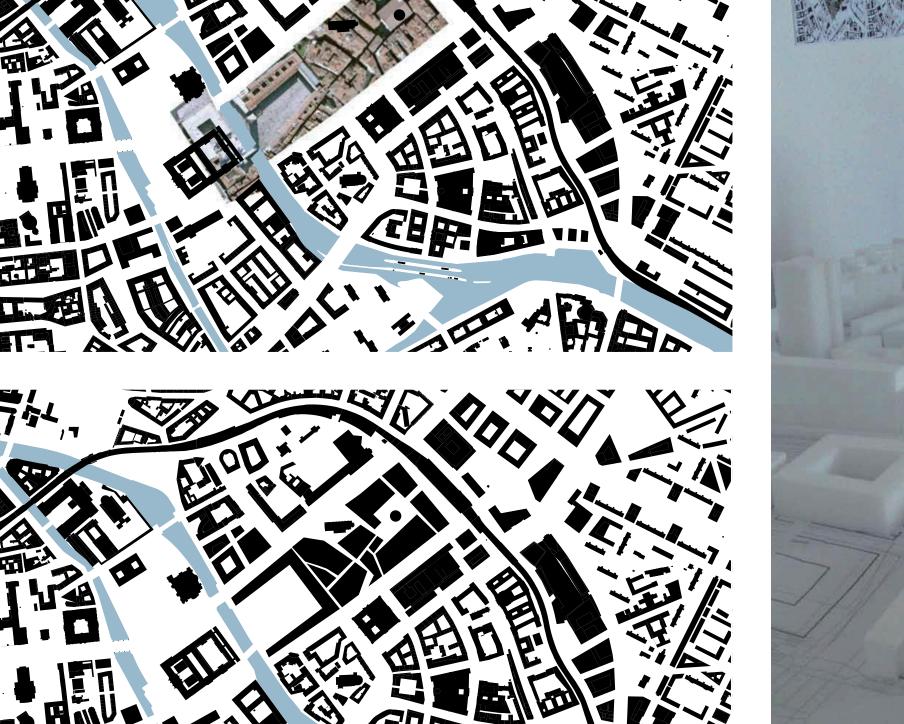


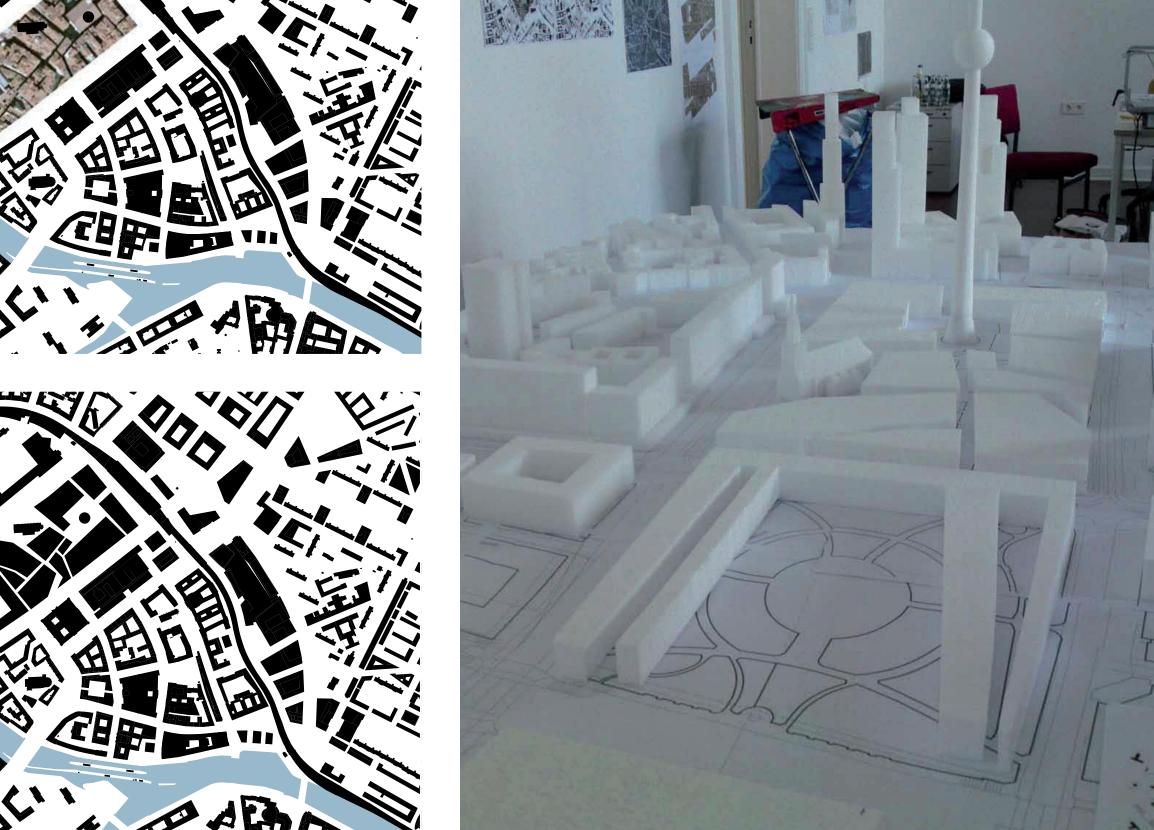


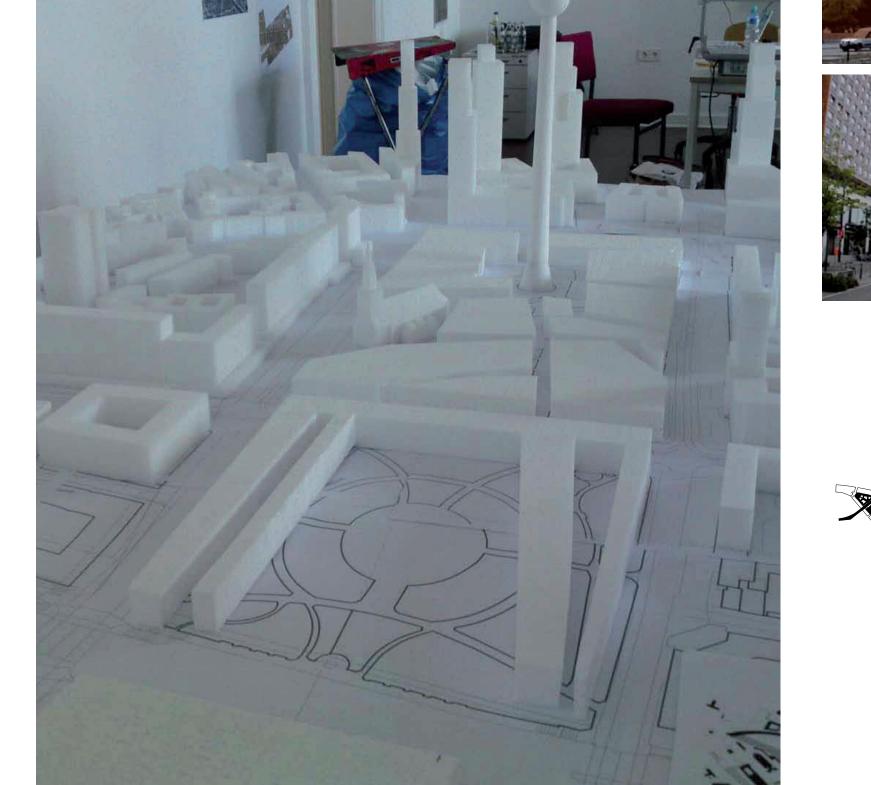




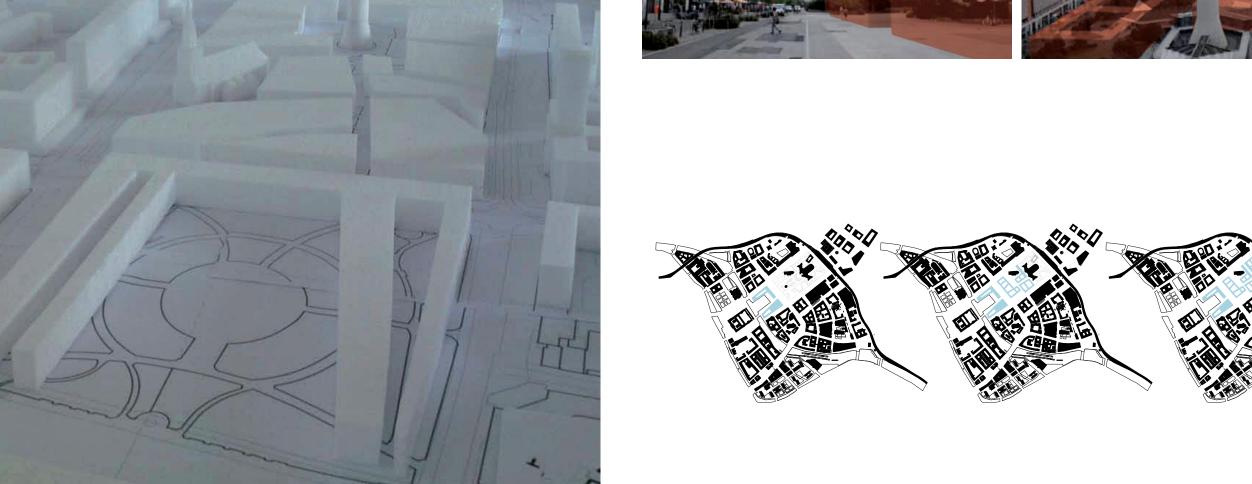


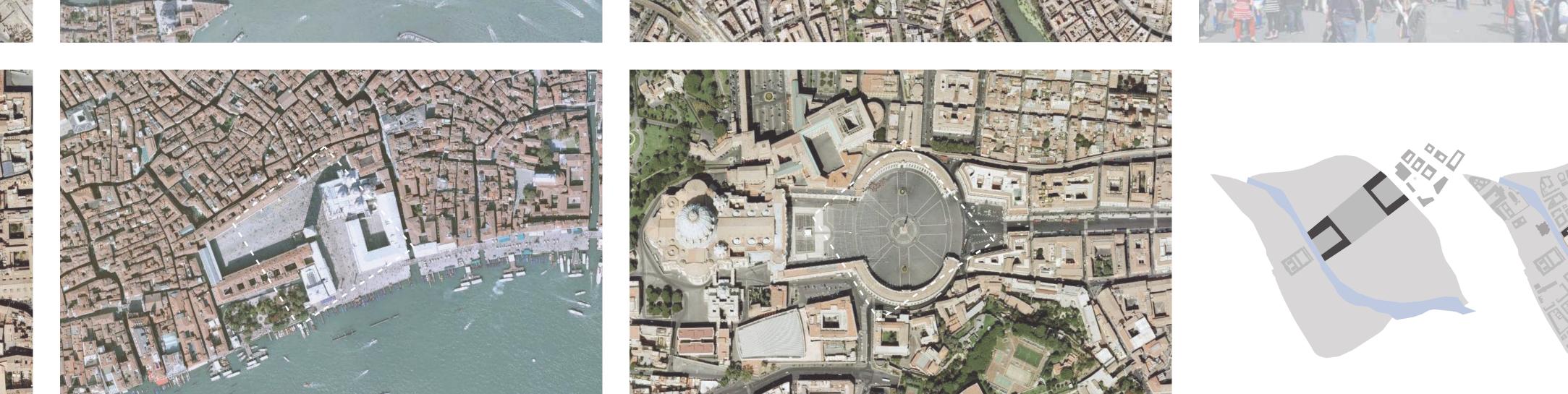
















# BERLIN SUMMER 2009 In order to get a sense of the proportion of the Marx-Engels-Forum and its surroundings, its scale in relationship to the rest of the city we started, after 2 intense weeks of bicycling the city And presentations on the history of the city, with a straightforward exercise.

Paris Champ de Mars

We looked for analogous situations and compared them 1:1 to our site which helped us to focus our conversation.

Due to the loaded history of the site, the selection of analogous cities /situations was in itself a crucial component of the conceptual phase.

The site of the current Marx-Engels-Forum emerged as and was continuously considered the center of civic Berlin, not as the center of the feudal court.
The now frozen still underlying footprint is the footprint of the medieval city that was about to be transformed in the 1930's (Townhall, Alexanderplatz, Leipziger Strasse). Only one building, the oldest church of Berlin, survived the demolition process of the 1930, 1945 and 1950s
The typical elements of a European city center are enclosed decorative squares and streets aligned by mix-used buildings, sometimes of intimate scale, sometimes architecturally unified.
The typical elements of cities transformed under Socialist stipulations are wide monumental spaces, useable for parades and mass events
The typical elements of cities which are national capitals are iconic spaces and buildings, unique and memorable, used both by tourists and locals, enhancing the civic pride of all the

Modern Democratic Spaces

Munich Frankfurt/Main

Piazza Navona, Rome St.Peter's square, Rome

Tienanman Square, Beijing

Absolutistic Spaces, transformed

Successful spaces in Berlin Gendarmenmarkt Helmholzplatz Hacke´scher Markt Parks in Berlin

The Champ de Mars, Paris The Red Square, Moscow

Karl-Marx-Forum with superimpsoed scaled St.Peter's square and Tuileries/Louvre and Copenhagen blocks

By actually superimposing our found analogies to our respective site something miraculous happened. The site transformed into an abstract and elevated frame within the city, and could be discussed with diagrammatic simplicity while not eliminating its complex nature. When eventually adapting the respective morphologies, we nevertheless tried to keep the integrity of the original as much as possible. We learnt not only a lot about the inherent properties

Convergence (latin convergere to tend towards, to approximate) is the approach to merge two objects, numbers or processes. It is the opposite of divergence. In natural sciences it describes the approach toward a definite value, a definite point, a common view or opinion, or toward a fixed or equilibrium state.

CONVERGENCY

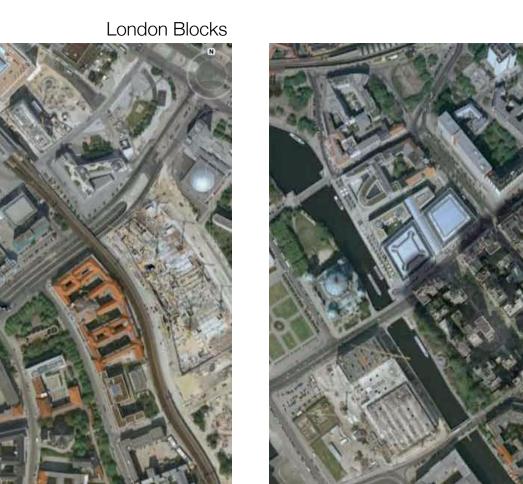
The analogy served like a short cut / fast track to the problem.

The transformation of the existing became reasonable and manageable without neglecting the existing conditions. In fact, the existing buildings and the street grid seem to call for a more responsive context in order to reveal their full architectural and urban qualities.

of the precedents but also how one could reference urban form almost in a similar way one would reference architectural archetypes in a design

overriding dominance of authorship as the driving force behind the individual design projects. The site which had been developed over the past 60 years under different political premises, needs to be rediscovered by the Berliners, since it is the civic center of the reunited Berlin.



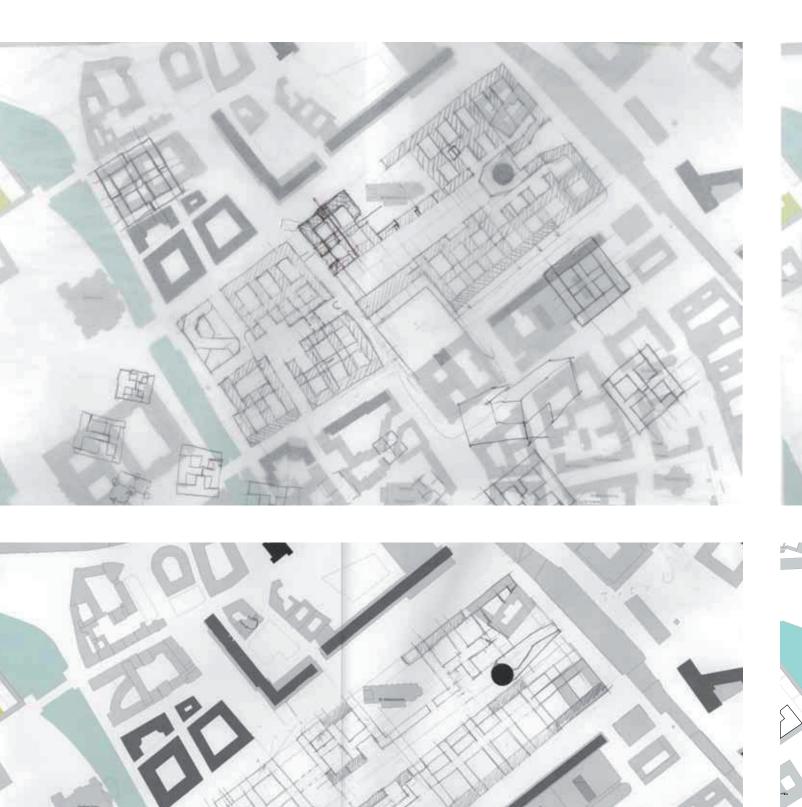


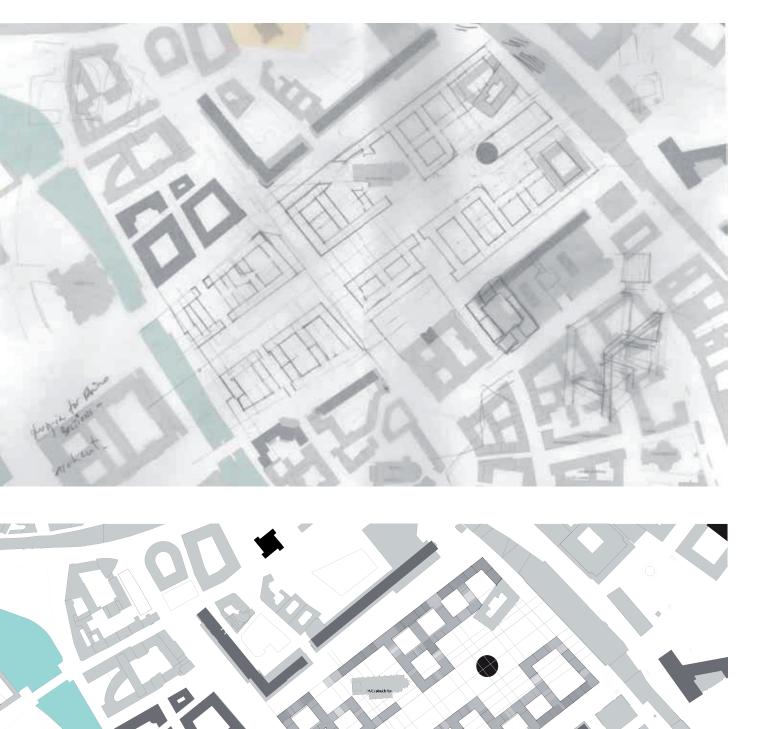


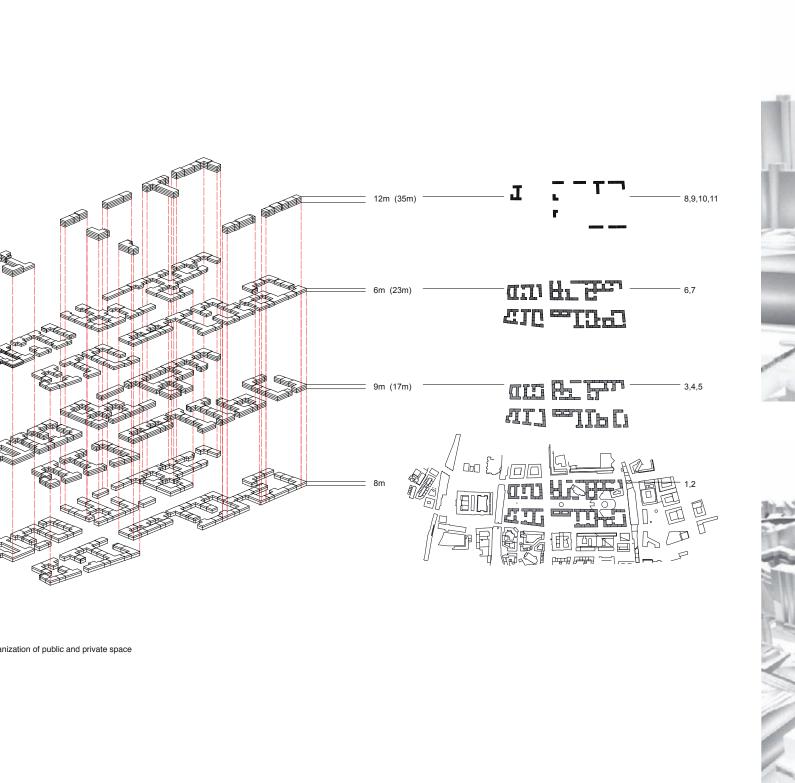








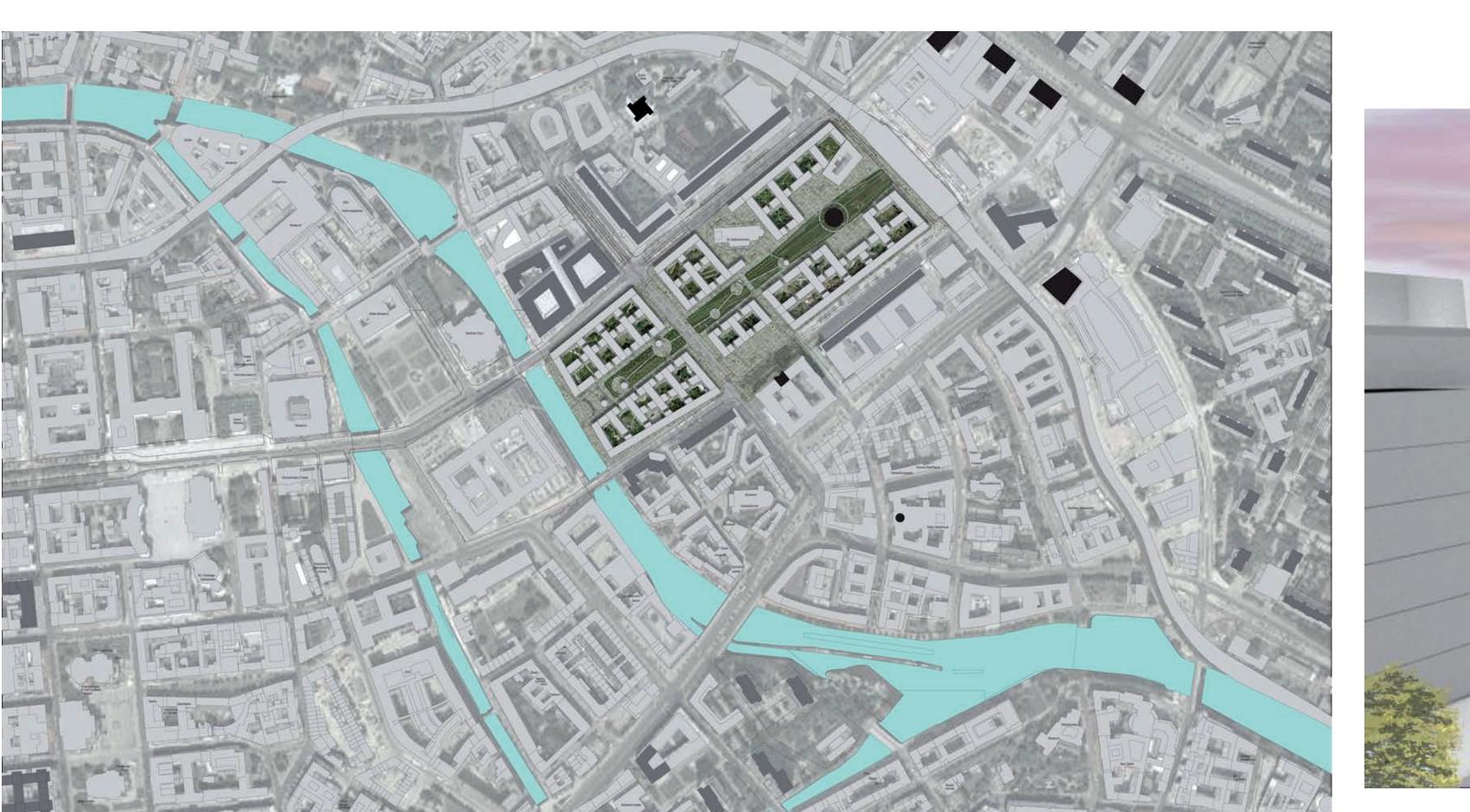




COMPARABILITY

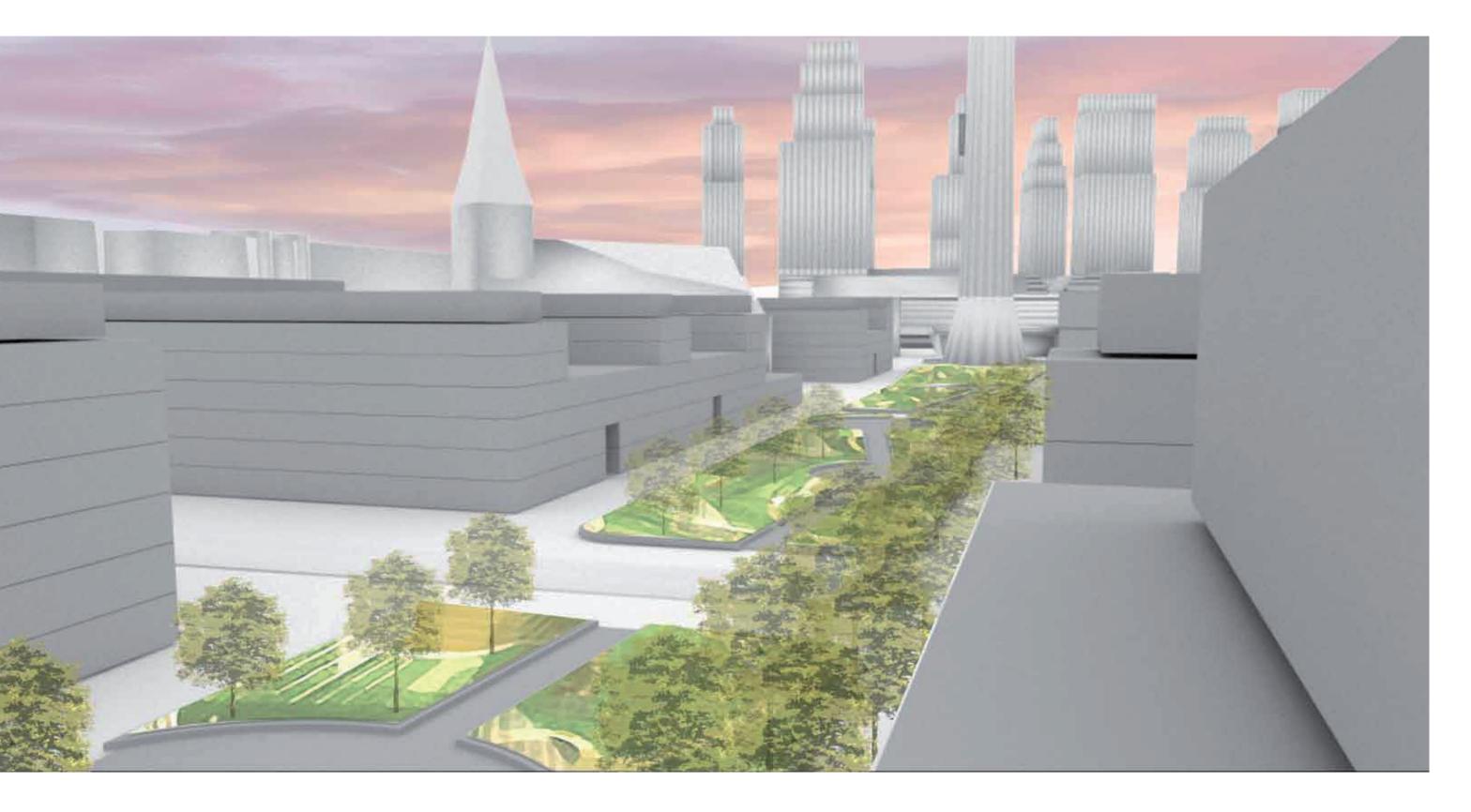




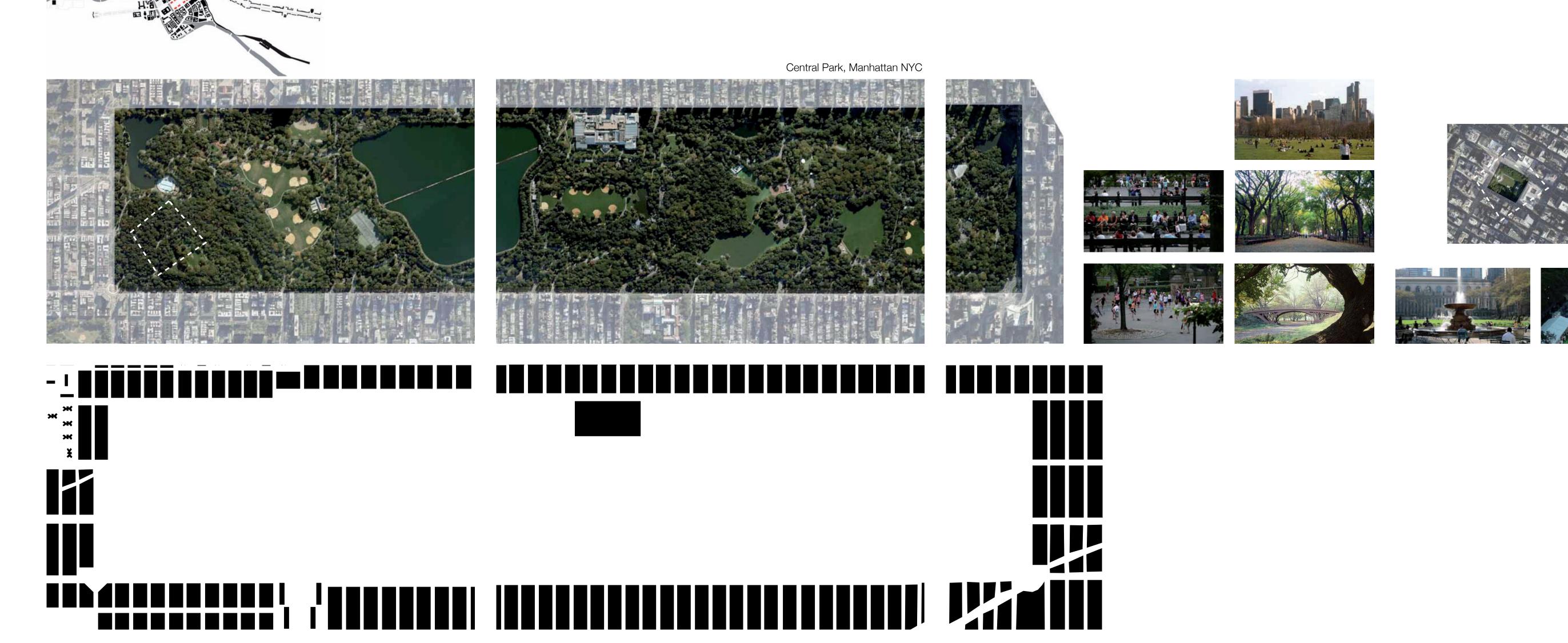


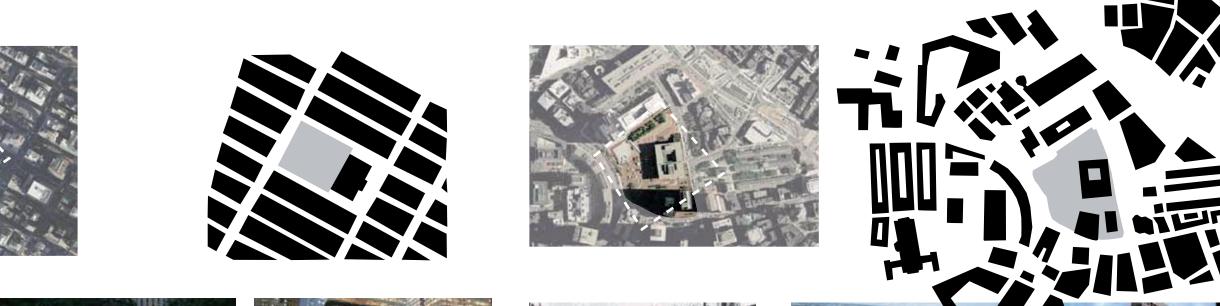


### MIKE START



### PHILIP SIMA







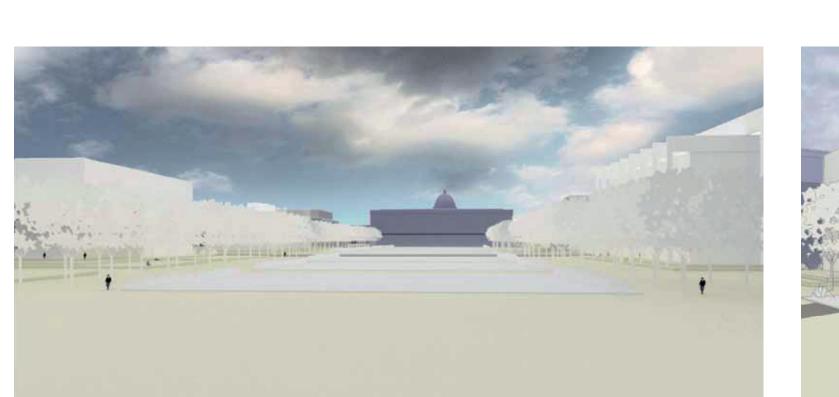








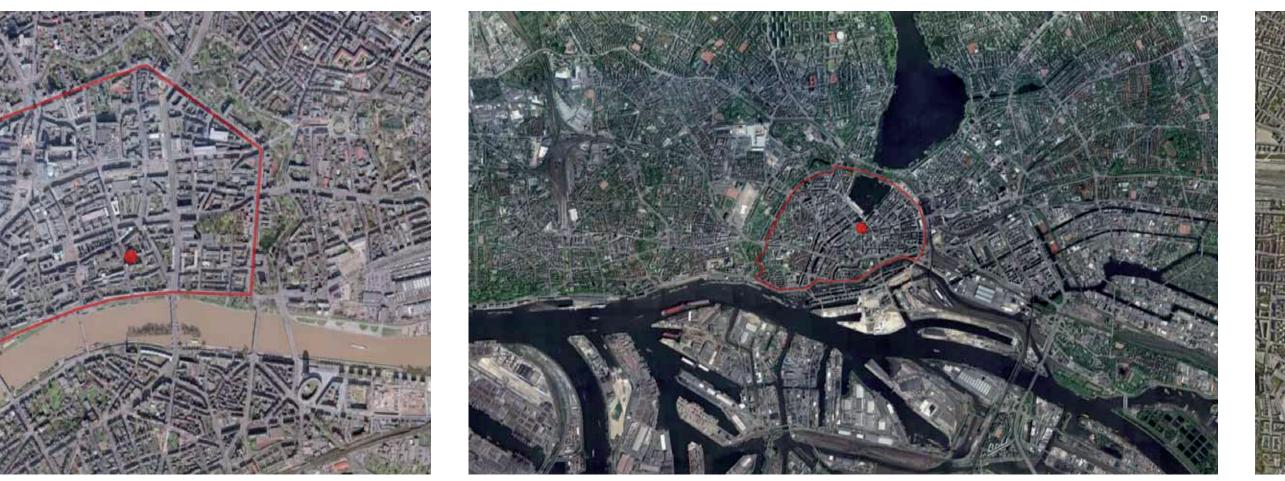


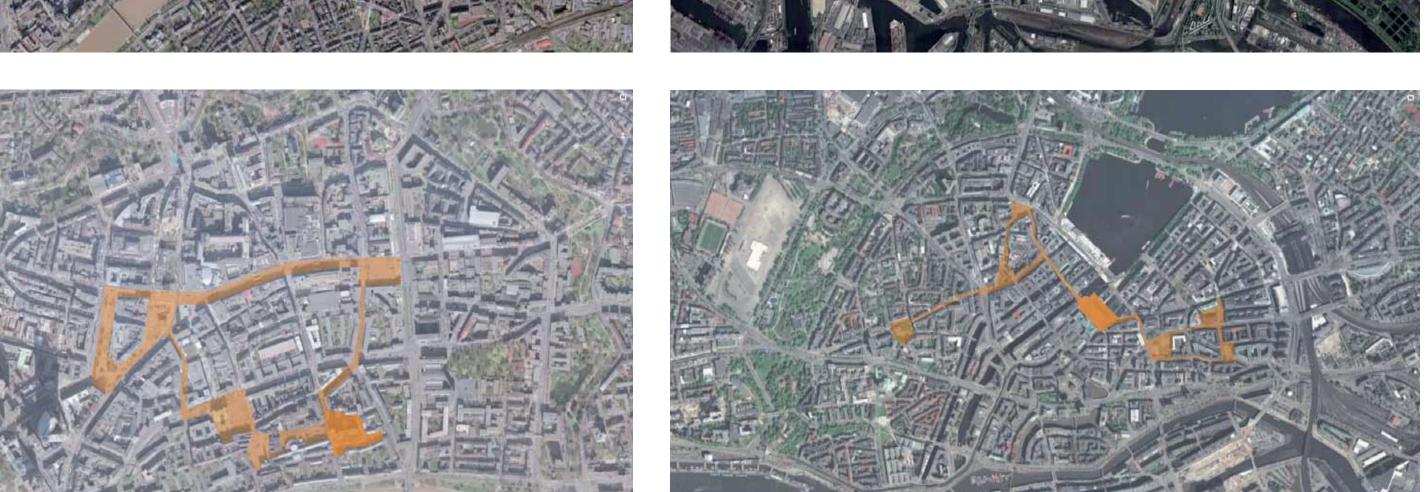




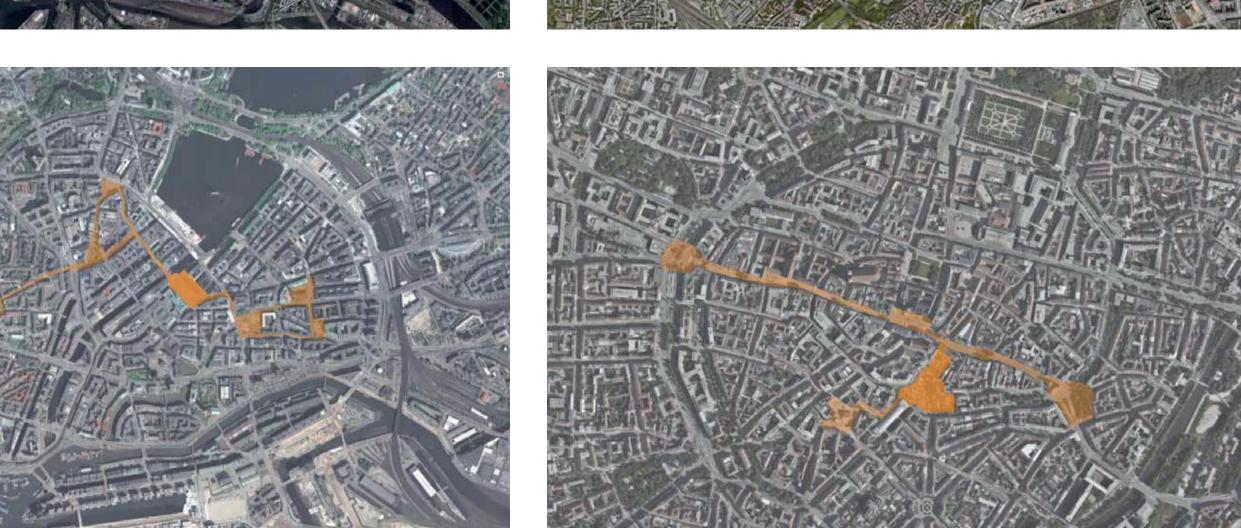


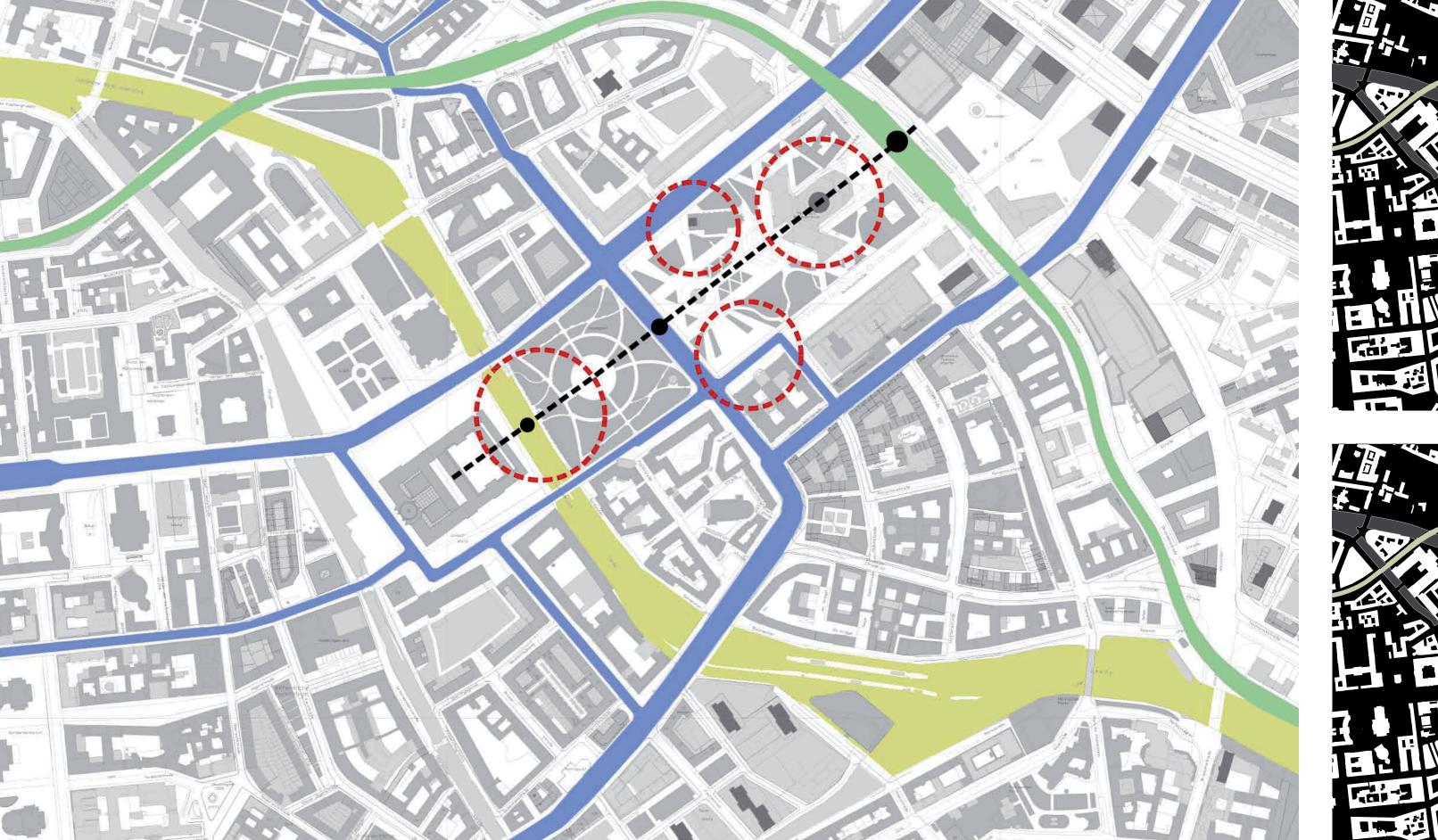


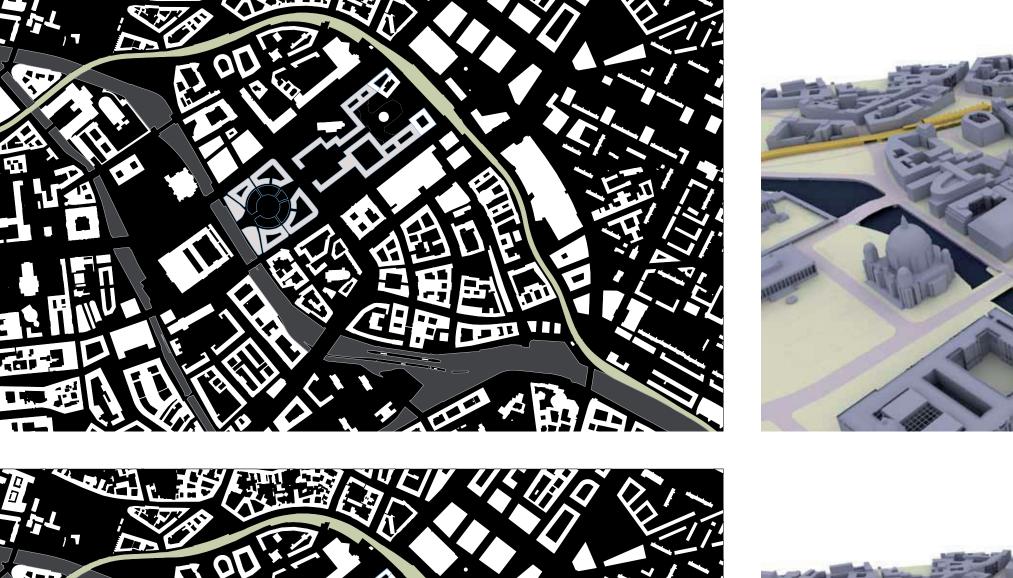




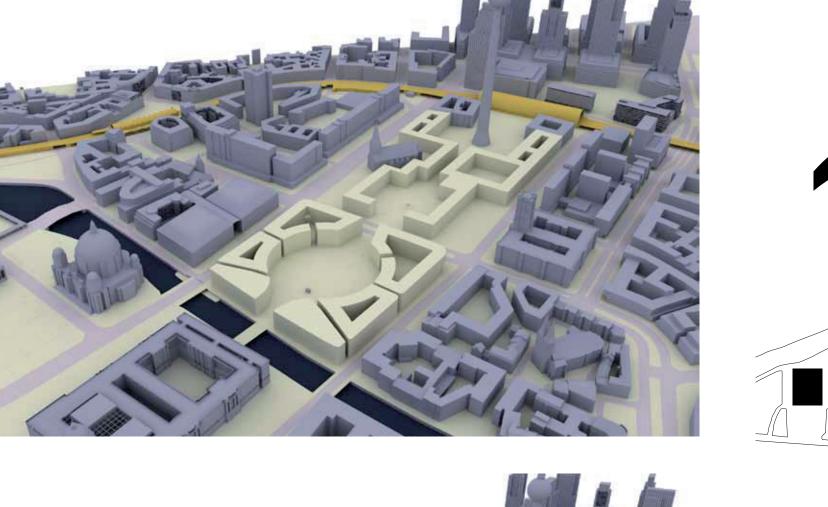






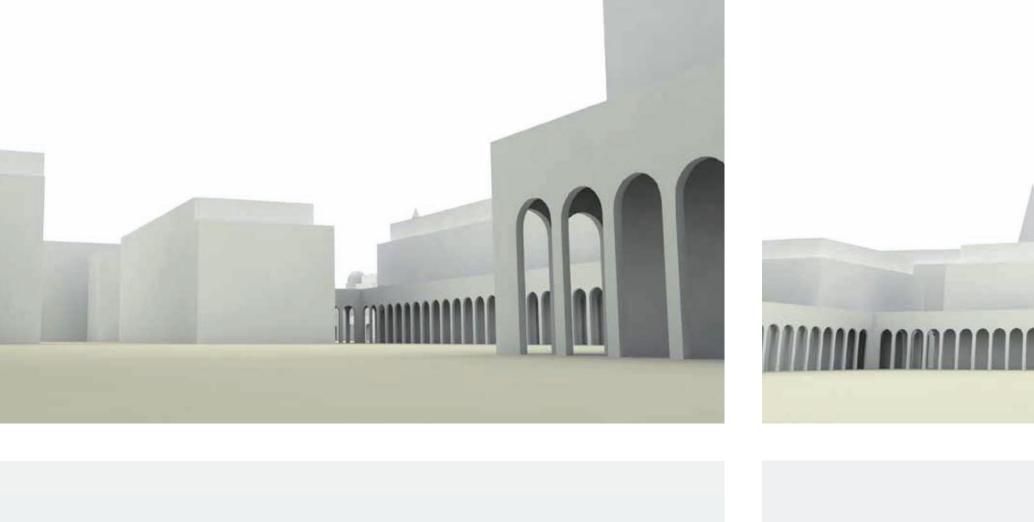


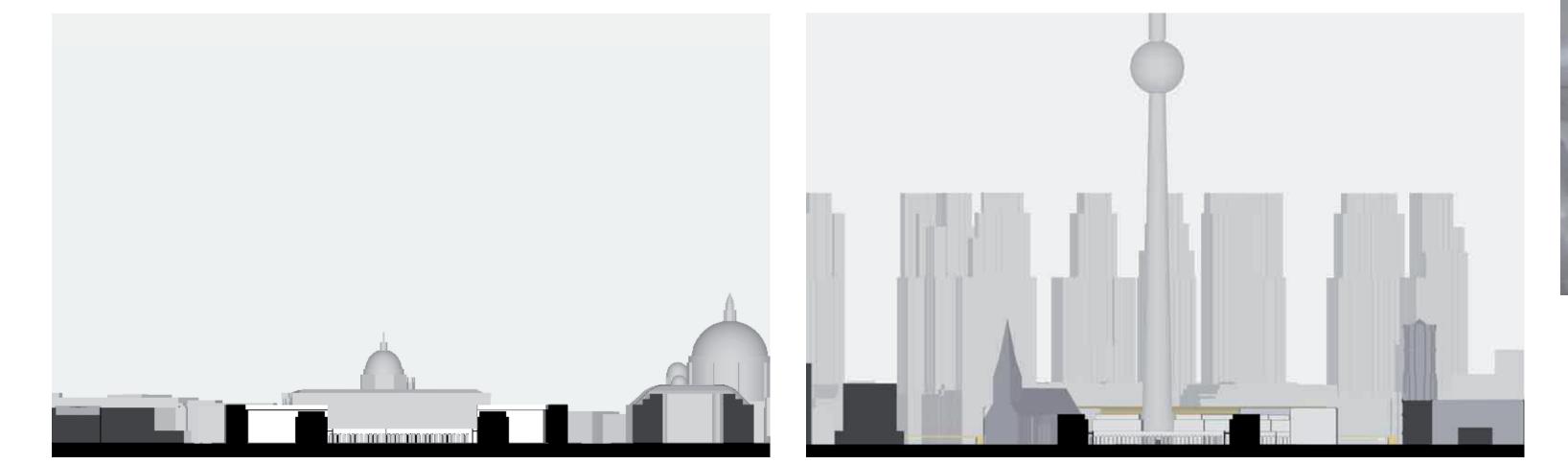










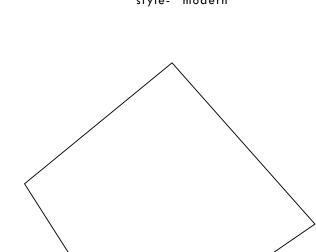






### BERLIN SUMMER 2009







AUGMENTED REALITY

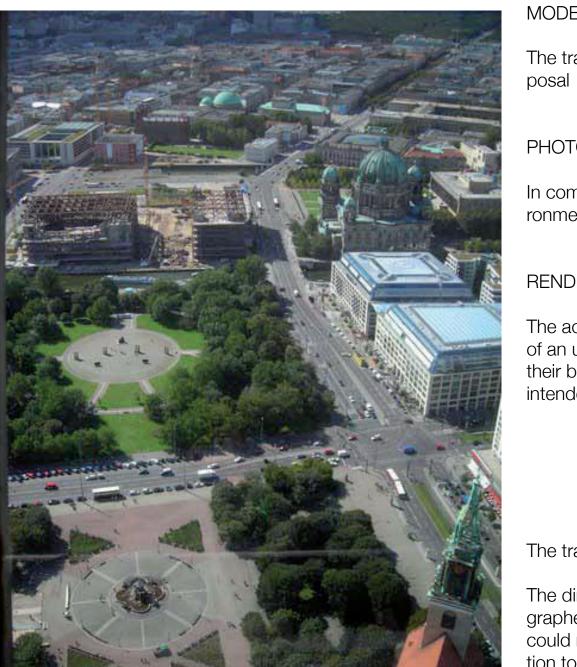
Although we have both a lot of standard and sophisticated tools in the meanwhile to communicate complex issues such as an urban plan or strategy, it is rather difficult to synchronize those tools with the pace of the actual planning process.

Berlin, being one of the first film production cities ever, certainly incorporated the possibilities and potentials of this medium into its early modern architecture: from Erich Mendelsohn's Einstein Tower, Mies van der Rohe's unbuilt glass tower to the light architecture for the cinemas and the traffic concepts for Alexanderplatz and Potsdamer Platz by Martin Wagner.

Through technical progress in digital media, Internet and endless possibilities of the computers, the making of architectural designs and actual architecture has changed profoundly in the past 20 years as has the making of films. Architects use 3D rendering programs and film makers use digital models and photoshop. The availability of Google Earth maps meant another acceleration in representing. Video clips, U Tube and other applications have extended the public space into the private realm and vice versa. The real and the staged began to blur, the private and the public in the city have no ancestral physical place any longer.

In the summer course we were keen in techniques that would allow us to blend reality with the intended - what we called 4 D representations- beyond photography. We tested collages, physical models, photoshop simulations and film clips and had finally to surrender our ambitions to the technical limitations and to- above everything else - time.

We kept our energies focused on the most pressing question related to the site. Is it conceivable to implement new structures to the place? If yes, is it conceivable and potentially outlook to leave the historic footprint behind?

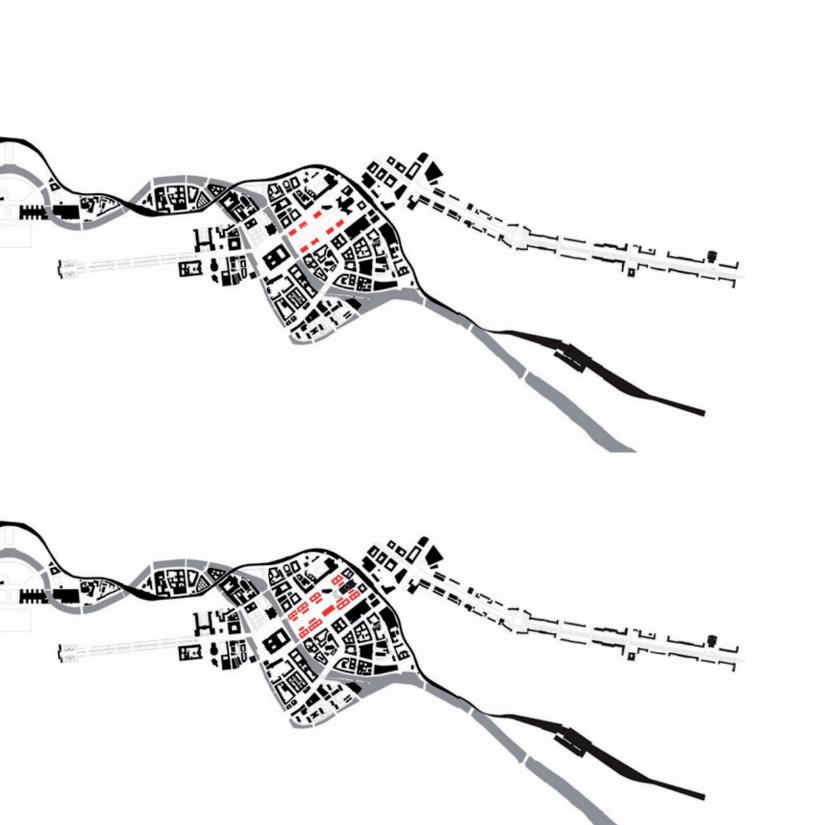


### ne traditional physical model provided fast manipulability, a essential tool for testing the physical impact of any design pro-

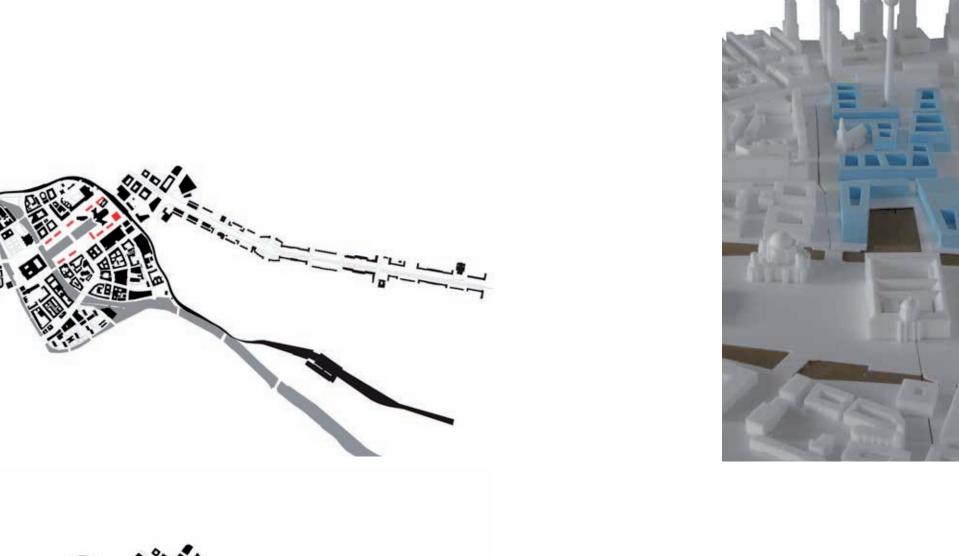
ronment and public space. Thus we were able to test a good match with the existing before actually designing the buildings.

The actual rendering process is still the most time consuming and most difficult part to be integrated in the conceptual phas of an urban design scheme. Some groups ended up with some beautiful, detailed yet "traditional" architectural renderings of their buildings but we just begun to touch the possibilities of intentionally abstracted and manipulated imagery through which intended themes might come to the foreground.

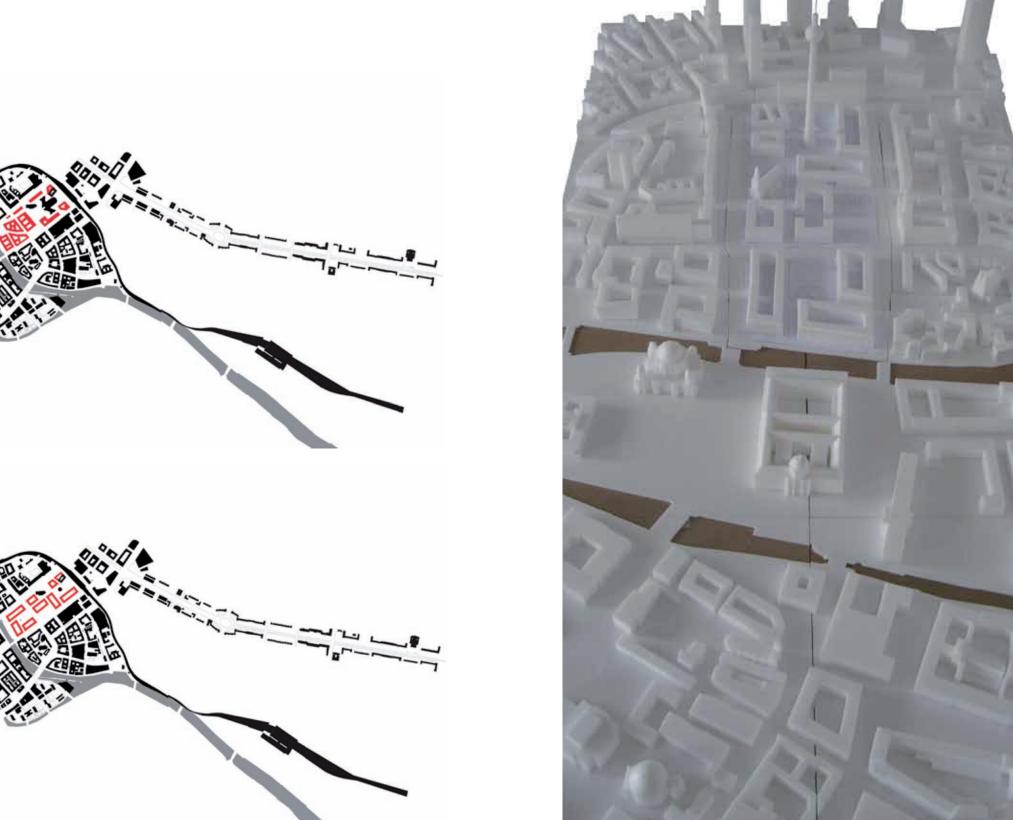
ne traditional figure- ground plan held a fresh dimension for us.

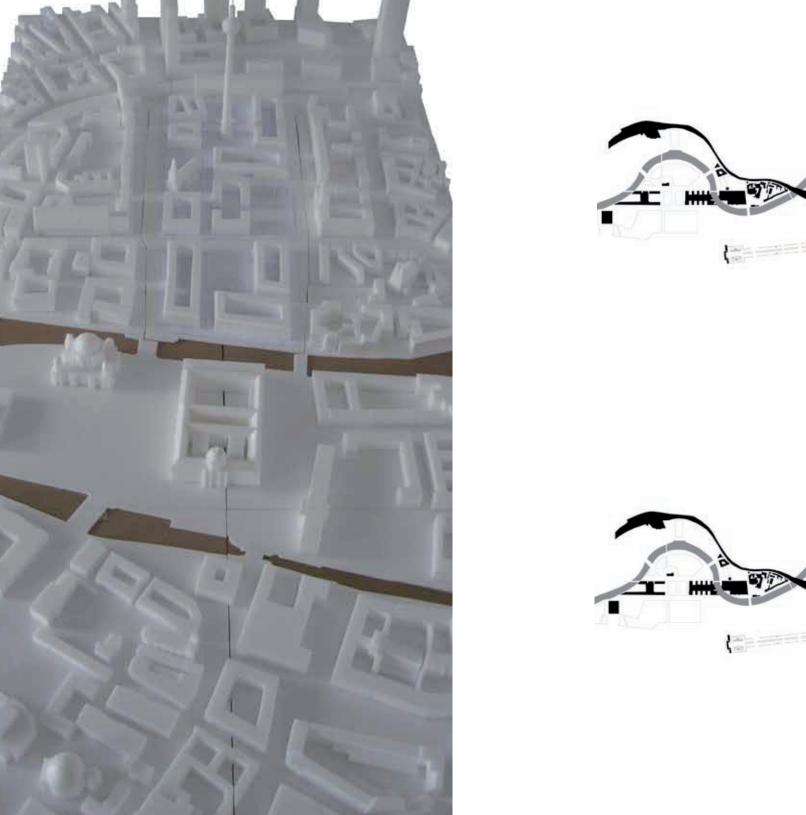


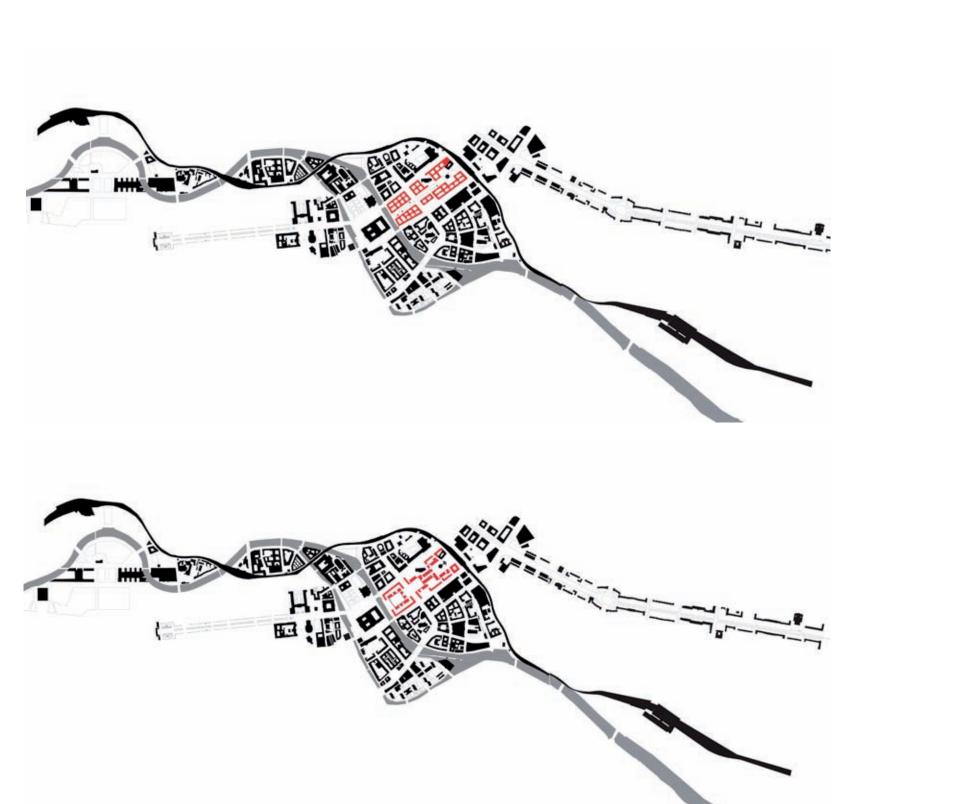










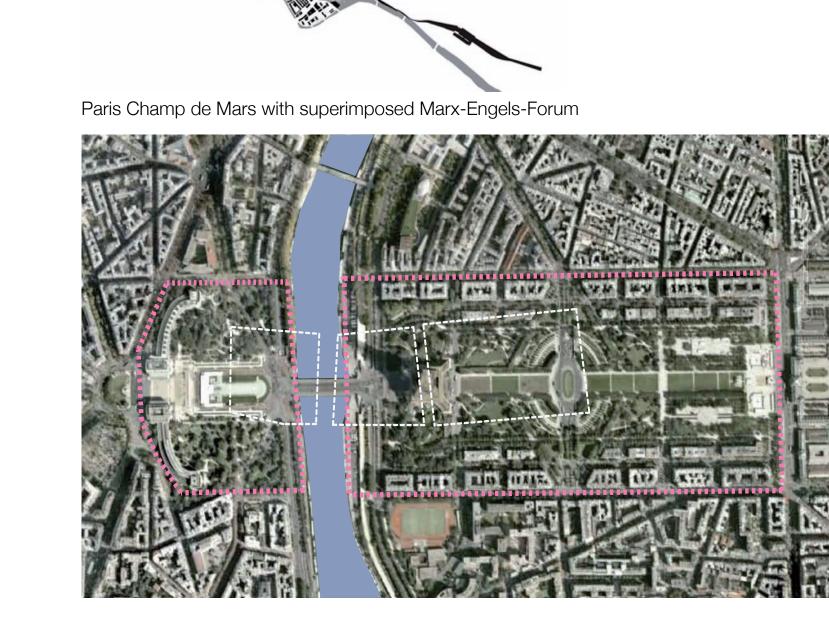




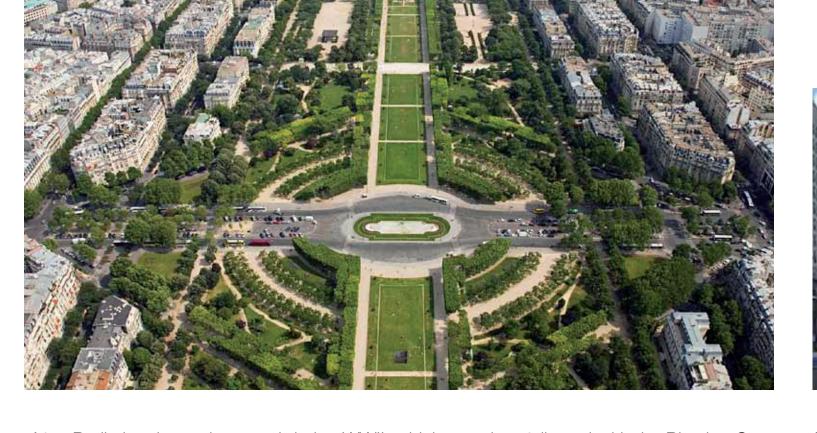




## ELLEN UNDERWOOD HAG



ders it southwest. The former city castle previously stood opposite, which was destroyed during WW2. It was then replaced by the GDR's Palast de Republik, which after the reunification of Berlin was also torn down. Currently a large void is what remains. It is to be filled with a contemporary replication / interpretation of the Stadtschloss. Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse makes the Northwestern edge of the space. The northeast of the site is bordered by the U-



After Berlin has been destroyed during WWII, which was then followed with the Blasting Operation by the GDR. basically nothing of the old city structure was left on the site, except the St. Marien Church. The density, which kept the city center alive, was no longer there. Today, When comparing the density before WWII and today, the clear indication is that the propor-

bahn-station Alexanderplatz, and at the southeast by the Rathausstrasse.

It includes the Marx-Engels-Forum, the Rathaus-Forum and the area around the base of the TV tower. The TV tower at 368 meters. Built in 1969, it is visible throughout most of the central districts of Berlin.

It is disc space strictly will dath of the site is bordered by the Hathausstrasse.

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could revive the area, which is underutilized and dead at the moment. It could also link its



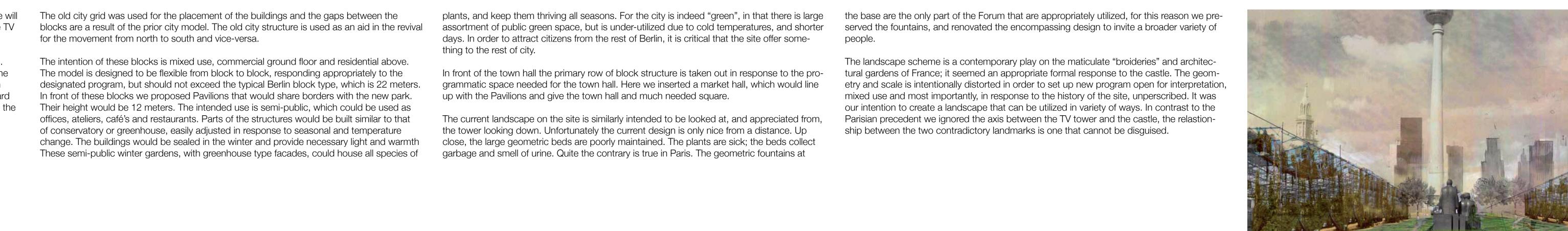




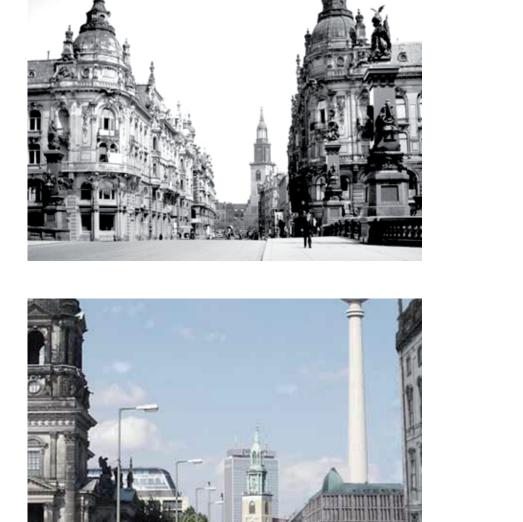
blocks are a result of the prior city model. The old city structure is used as an aid in the revival assortment of public green space, but is under-utilized due to cold temperatures, and shorter served the fountains, and renovated the encompassing design to invite a broader variety of days. In order to attract citizens from the rest of Berlin, it is critical that the site offer some-

















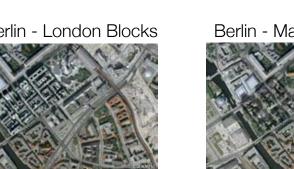


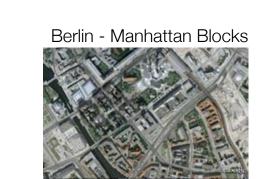




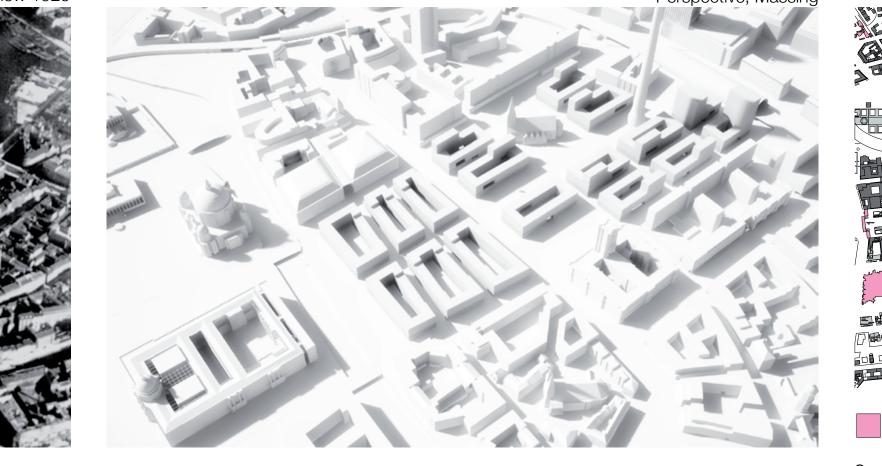






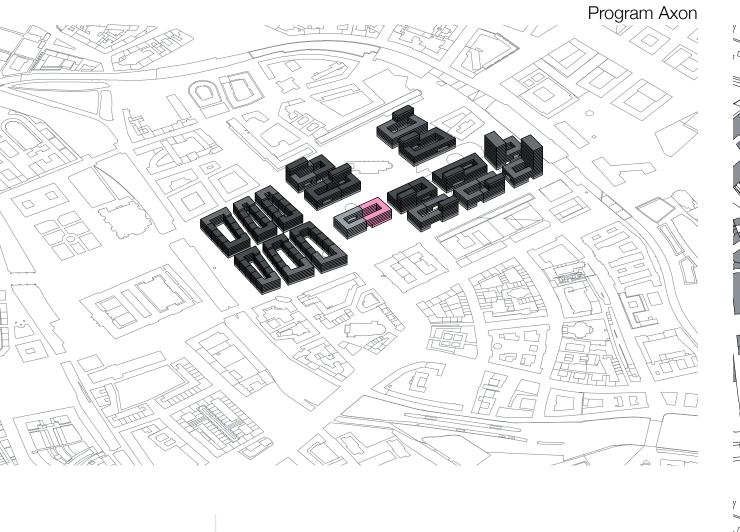




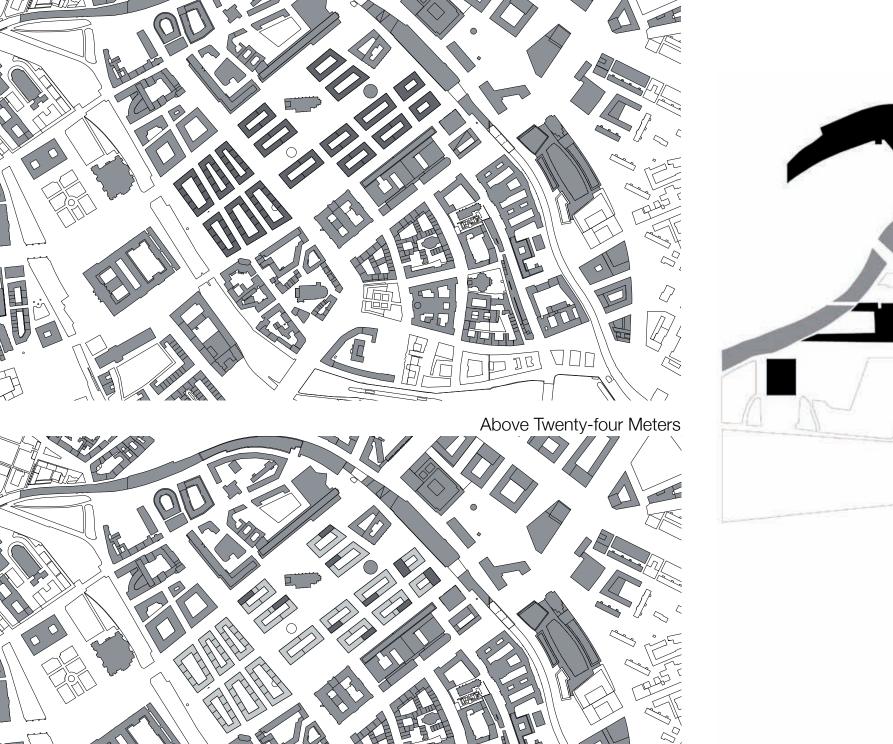




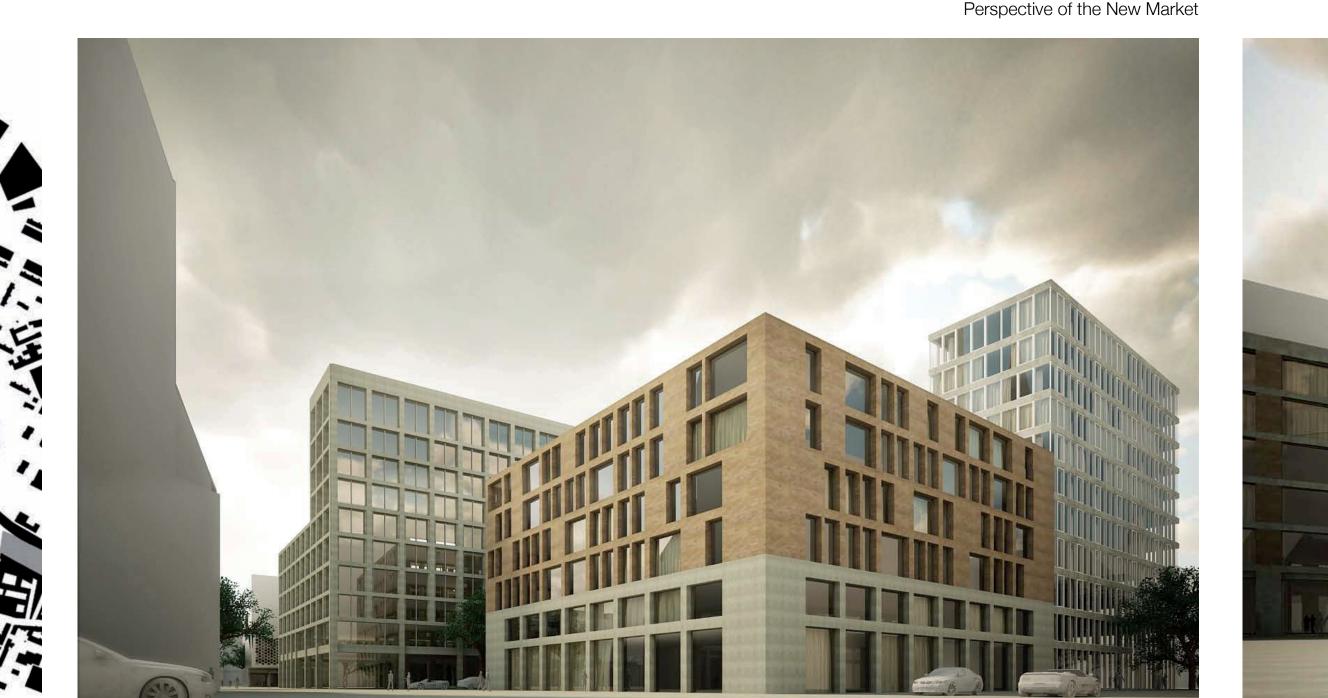




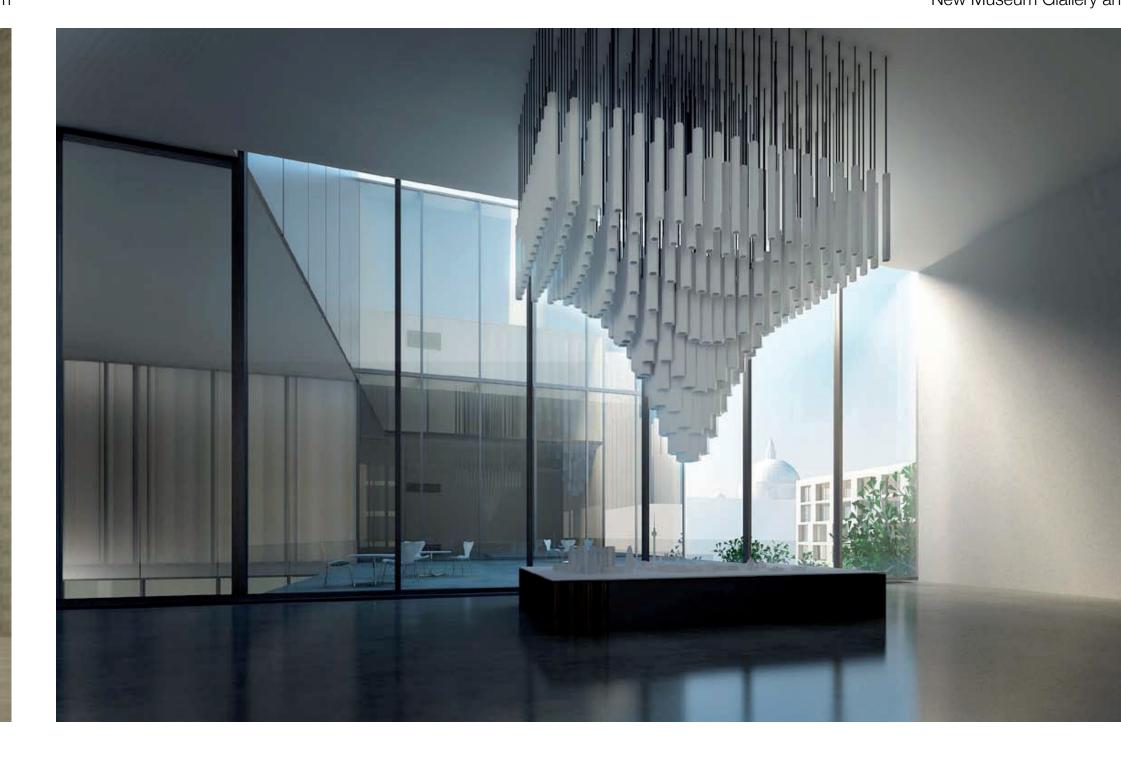












### BERMAN RIVERA CHRISTIAN WUNDERLICH















