

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)  
***Honors theses***

**Redevelopment of an airport: Berlin Karlhorst from hangar to garden city**

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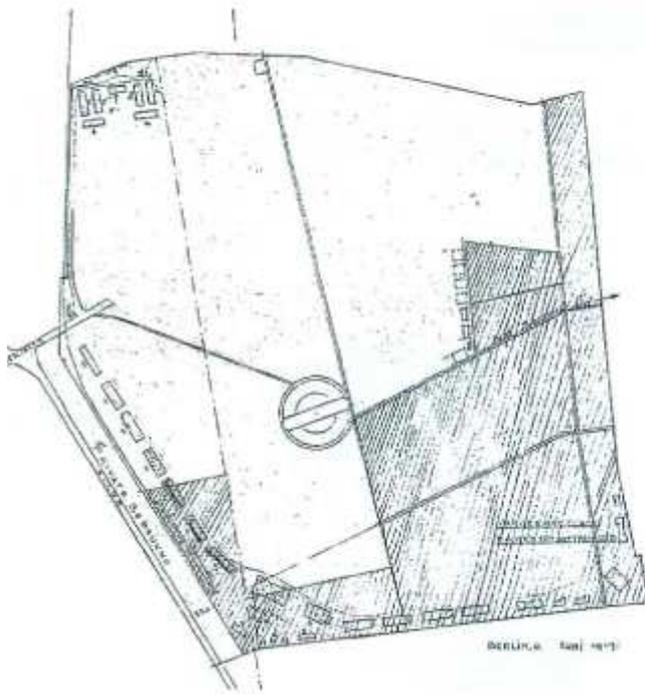
The project *Karlshorst Gartenstadt* is included in a study that involves the whole city of Berlin. Capital City of Germany, West, East, theater of war, fighting and air bridges, Berlin it is a city steeped in history, still with some pending account with it, not yet completely solved. The Airports, still on these days, are such intrusive structures on the city, cause of reflection and commitment for designers and architects.



It is unbelievable thinking about a city with such a large number of airports: a total of seven airports insist on the city, and only some of them has been redeveloped and transformed into some useful structure. The discussion nowadays are many, Tempelhof it is the best example. A fascinating story grows up from this places and Tegel Tempelhof and Gatow tell this story, the story of the Luftbrücke, after the 24<sup>th</sup> June of 1948, when the Soviet decided to block West-Berlin for more than one year.

The airports become essential for the survival of Berlin and nowadays they represent the victory of the West Germany over the Soviet, or in other words, the victory of the capitalistic world over the communist one. The airports located on the former East Germany are Adlershof, the first airport built on the city of Berlin Karlshorst, and the more recently built Staaken and Schönefeld.

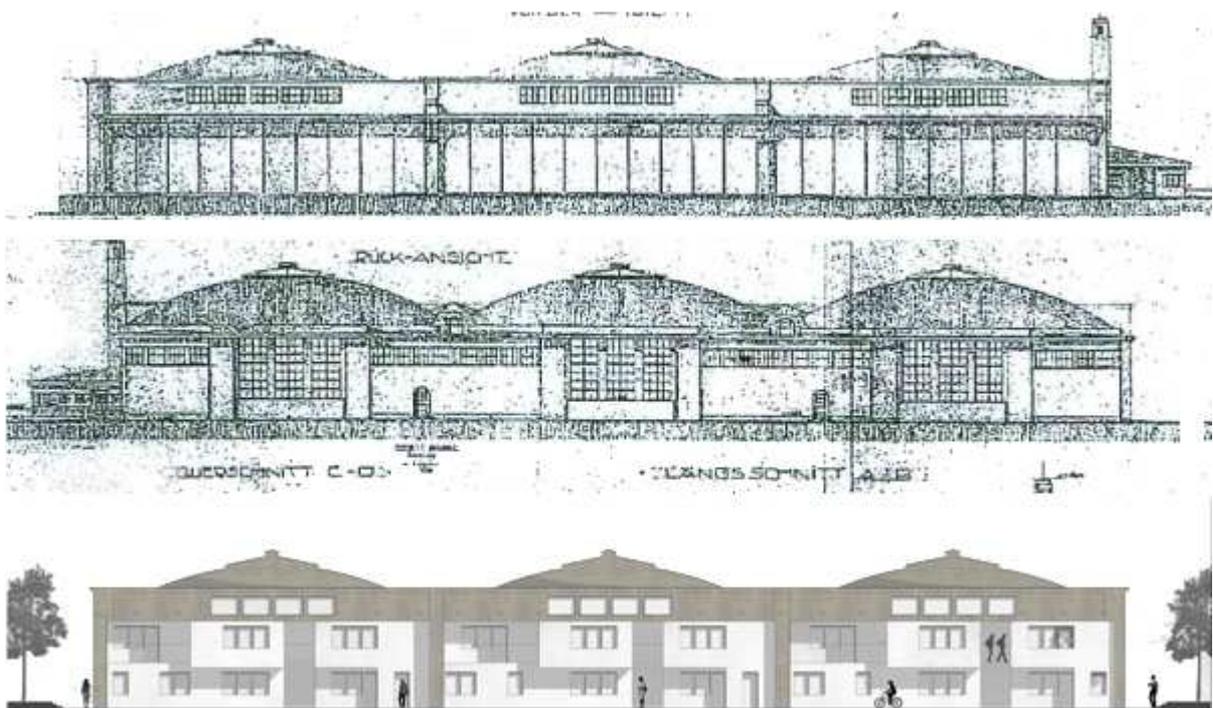
Today the most of the words are spent over the requalification, but not only: most of them are already converted into others infrastructures. Each one of those enormous areas, the runway counts hundreds of hectares in the middle of the city, and the many support's volumes, hangars, sheds, terminals, have been reclassified and converted into useful spaces, almost as they are now green lungs for the whole city. In that matter Karlshorst is a part of this vibrant and interesting scene, with the goal of giving back life to historic sites, important for the city and its citizens.



*Karlshorst Gartenstadt* is a project born in the last two years, is situated in Lichtenberg, an area located in what was the East Berlin. The area was mainly used as a military zone and that was an important fact that influenced the environment of the neighbor until these days. The field of research was mainly new aircraft technology that meant the construction of many hangars.

Those hangars are still there, and the suggestion is to create residential houses out of them. Originally commissioned to the Munich based building firm, the *Baugesellschaft Gebrüder Rank*. The hangars were built close to an old military airport which was previously dismissed. The hangars, six in total, were each of them covered with three domes.

Karlshorst neighbor is well connected with every important part of Berlin, a huge capital, thanks to efficient transportation such as the s-bahn, tram and several busses. With all that said, it represents the perfect combination for an urban life, but without giving up the suburb life that Lichtenberg can offer, a quite and intimate experience. This harmony attracts big invertors and private, that can put their resources in this area.



The *WPK Grundstücks-entwicklungsgesellschaft* firm requested the Masterplan of the project, that was proposed and it's currently approved and ready to go. It's basically based on the concept of "garden city" of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century resident houses located in Berlin, such as Gartenstadt Falckenberg or Staaken or Grunewald. Main characteristics are rich green private spaces, single family houses or duplexes, with peculiar architectural shapes: the façade, the materials, the roof and windows. The idea of Gartenstadt, takes the distance from the structure of the Siedlungen, developed around and after the 30's. This way of thinking the architectural design was a degenerate intend of residential living, like if the city was meant to be just an industry area.

Garden city lives thanks to the coexistence of multiple elements, especially in Karlshorst, the historical traces that gives a strong impression of the location and streets. The urban coordination wants to rebuilt the classic structure of a little town: street, squared, historical buildings and meeting-places. The hangars, the Russian Museum and the bunker play a great role in the urban culture of the garden city, they become priceless elements spread through the three lots of the Masterplan.

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