



## Berliner Platz, Essen, Germany

A new Quarter:  
Reconnecting the City



The future of Berliner Platz will not be assured without the involvement and integration of many different participants



Ilse Brusis, Minister for Urban Development, Nordrhein-Westfalen

In the industrial Ruhrgebiet region in the north of Germany, the City of Essen's extensive post-war reconstruction programme had failed to agree an acceptable plan for the contentious, brownfield site of Berliner Platz.

The 20 ha site was dominated by largely redundant railway tracks, creating a barrier that separated the university in the north of the city from the pedestrianised centre to the south.

The controversy related to an intended competition brief for the construction of a new stretch of inner city ring road through the site, which would reinforce the isolation of the university, and a separate proposal to relocate the much loved Philharmonic Hall from the city centre to Berliner Platz. This led to a high level decision to abandon the competition and use the funds to finance a community planning approach.



### Project Delivery

- A consensus-led masterplan developed in collaboration with the municipal authorities and through a participatory planning process, engaging over 1,000 local stakeholders to create a Vision for the site.
- A proposal for a new city quarter with shops, leisure activities and apartments laid out around a large new park.
- Integration of the university into the town with new pedestrian and cycle links through the new park to connect the university to the city centre.
- Longstanding plans for the new ring road were abandoned in favour of a reduction in the area of land occupied by roads and parking and the creation of a new city park to restitch the city.



### Client

City of Essen

