multi-functional and multi-cultural use of the main square as well as the revitalisation of commercial space in ground floors to prevent new settlement in the periphery and empty stores and obliteration in the city centre. Last not least these measurements should facilitate the attraction and recapture of public space for residents as well as the tourists. The combination of all these single measurements should result at the same time in improvement of quality of life for the citizens and protection of cultural and historical value of the city. The entire planning should be developed and implemented by the necessary specialists, residents, politicians and neighbours.

Parallel to the start of the flood protection planning for the city of Melk, an urban development concept was worked out in 2006 with the working group „Spatial Planning and Transport“. From 2008, the cooperation with the nationwide organization for „urban renewal“ began to find solutions and concepts in a public participation process. The new working group „Mobility Concept“ took the form of a workshop involving experts, the residents, the economists and politicians. 200 involved people set the new goals for Melk in 50 meetings. The results of these workshops formed the basis for the invited competition for the main square design in 2010. Our project „Freiraum“ (Free Space) won the competition based on the concept of creating homogeneous, multi-functional and multi-cultural usable space in form of a „shared space“. The existing difference in level within the usable space could be adjusted with a large-scale stair construction to sit on, offering the visitor, while remaining seated, a