



Photo of the Futurium in the urban context

# FUTURIUM

## DESIGN OF THE OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACES

**Size:** 3500 m<sup>2</sup> outdoor area

**Team:** Richter Musikowski Architects  
JUCA Landscape

**Address:** Alexanderufer 2, 10117 Berlin  
Germany

**Client:** Institute for Federal Real Estate

### PREVIUOS STATE\_The empty plot

The site, which is bounded by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (ministry for education and research), the Spreebogen (the bend in the river Spree), the Humboldthafen (Humboldt port), the main station and the Charité Hospital, has been deeply affected by the history of Berlin.

During World War II, the area was massively destroyed. All buildings were bombed in the last days of the war. At the end of the conflict the site was attached to the Soviet sector. Until 1989 the site was an open field characterized by the wall separating West Berlin from Soviet East Berlin. It came to be known at the "death strip". Many people were shot and killed at this location while trying to swim across the river Spree to escape from the socialist German Democratic Republic.

In 1990, after the demolition of the Berlin wall, the area became part of the urban development project for the new government district, but the connection to Berlin's city life was missing. The plot itself was an empty field, cut off between the river Spree, the elevated railway tracks and the adjacent office buildings still under construction. There was no sign of any public or inviting space for people to get together and meet.



Site plan 1:10000



Site photo 1930



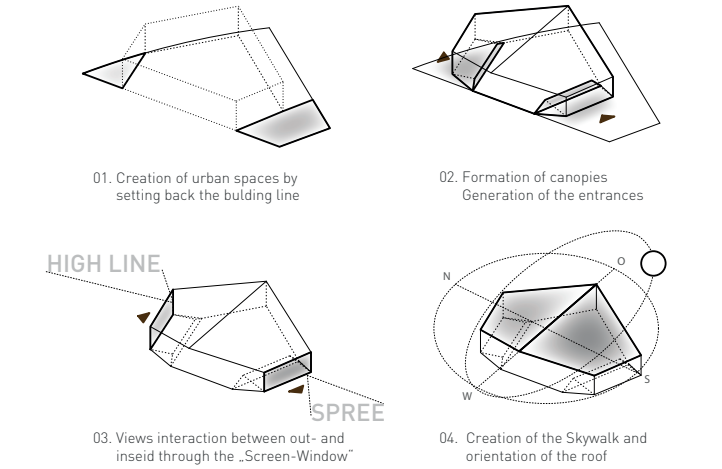
Site photo during the GDR- Berlin Wall



Site photo 2012



Site photo 2017



### AIM OF INTERVENTION\_New urban center

In 2009 the authorities agreed to create a place of presentation and dialogue to unite and engage all the principal fields of this urban context: politics, science, commerce, arts and citizenship.

The main idea was to generate a new center for "shaping the Future" in Berlin's government district: an exhibition area with vivid scenarios, an interactive hands-on laboratory and a place of interaction. It would offer space for exciting discussions, creative workshops and visionary ideas. The aim was to give a chance to all those interested in the "Future" to take an active role in developing it.

Based on these goals, the Institute for Federal Real Estate („Ifm") launched in 2012 a competition for the realization of a building of approximately 7000 m<sup>2</sup> of usable area and public spaces with high-quality design and functionality.