# ARCHETHICS

Europe's dissonant architectural heritage as a real-world laboratory for democracies

Integrated Action Plan Leipzig – Matthäikirchhof
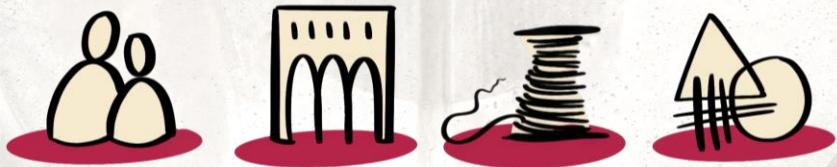
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1. Context & Starting Point

1.1 Project Introduction

What ist URBACT?

URBACT IV (2021–2027) is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that helps cities work together to develop sustainable, integrated solutions to urban challenges. It supports knowledge exchange, capacity building, and networking among cities across Europe. Through transnational networks, cities share good practices, test new approaches, and co-create local action plans. URBACT IV focuses on making EU policies more accessible at the local level and strengthening the skills of stakeholders to design and implement better policies for greener, more inclusive, and more resilient cities.

What is ArchEthics?

Following its successful application to the EU-funded URBACT IV project, Leipzig has been working on the topic of dissonant heritage as part of a network of cities since June 2023. The network of cities has given itself the name 'ArchEthics' for the duration of the project and consists of the following European municipalities:

The partners of ARCHETHICS

• The Italian lead partner, the municipality of Cesena

• The city of Gdańsk in Poland

• The city of Kraków in Poland

• The city of Vila Nova de Cevereiá in Portugal

• The city of Betera in Spain

• The city of Kazanlak in Bulgaria

• The city of Permet in Albania

• And the city of Leipzig in Germany

Leipzig in a nutshell

Location: in the north-west of Saxony
Area: 297.8 square kilometres
Population: around 620,000 (accounting to Data from 2024) - Leipzig is the fastest growing city in Germany

The Core topic of ArchEthics is: dealing with dissonant heritage.

Each of the above-mentioned cities has some form of dissonant architectural heritage that requires attention. Be it the former socialist planned district for workers Nova Huta in Krakow, the historic and now privatised castle complex in Vila Nova de Cerveira or the buildings from the fascist era in Cesena.

The dissonant legacy that concerns us in Leipzig is the area now known as Mattäikirchhof, which has a complex past and recently attracted attention in Leipzig through an exemplary citizen participation process and urban planning competition.

1.2 Historical Significance and Dissonance of Matthäikirchhof

Birthplace of the City, monastery & church:

- The castle and settlement of the 'urbs libzi' were located on an early fortified hill on the site of the Matthäikirchhof. The Franciscan (Barefoot) monastery founded in the 13th century and the New Church (called Matthäikirche since 1876), which was reconsecrated in 1699, were centres of pastoral care, scholarship and the cultivation of music.

WWII destruction

- While the front side facing the Ring was fitted out with splendid commercial buildings around 1900 and epitomises Leipzig's emergence as a modern metropolis, the churchyard at the rear retained its picturesque charm for a long time. As a result of the world war unleashed by Nazi Germany, the church and neighbourhood were extensively destroyed in December 1943.
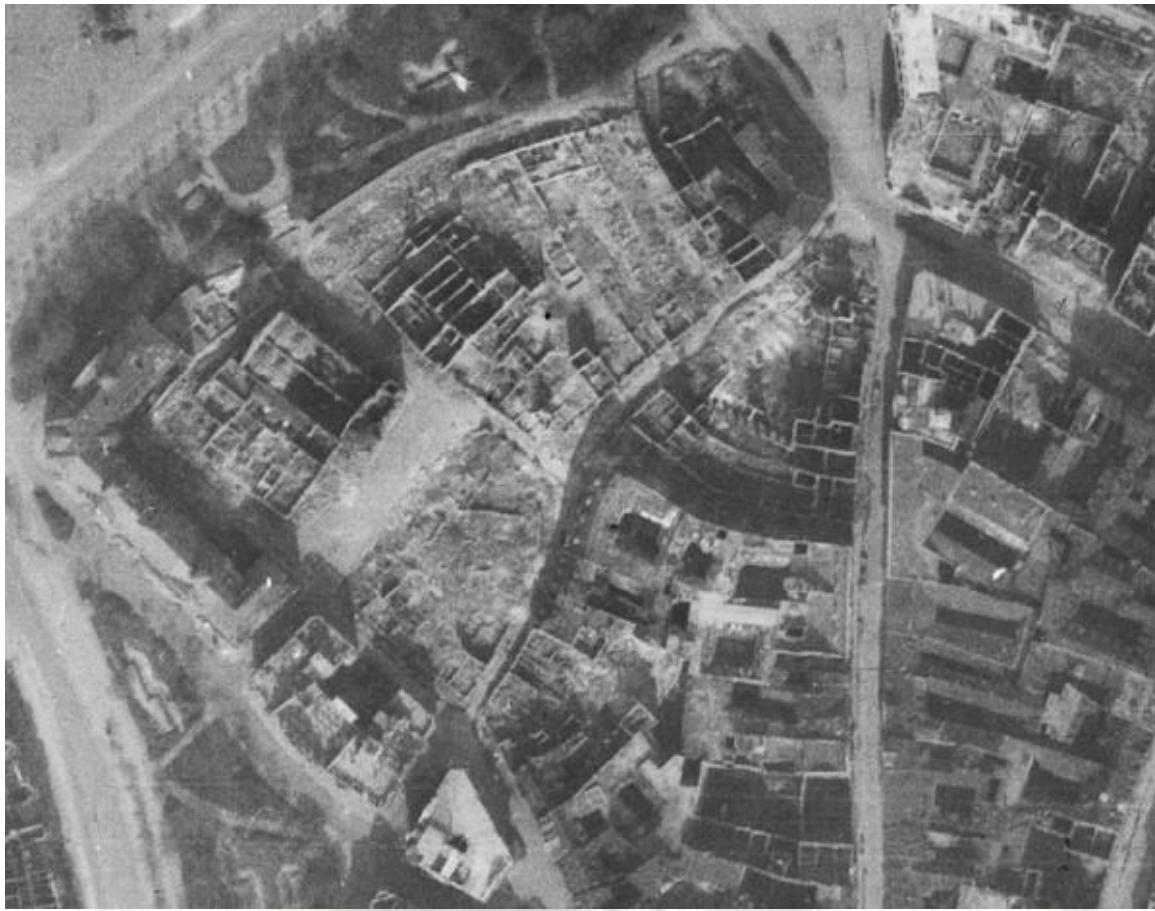
Stasi HQ and Peaceful Revolution 1989.

- Initially the seat of the American command and Soviet military administration from 1945 onwards, the 'Round Corner' and oppressive functional buildings of the 1980s were used by the State Security to put the stamp of its surveillance apparatus on the neighbourhood.
- As the central location of the Peaceful Revolution '89, Leipzig provided decisive momentum for the end of the GDR and the division of Germany with its prayers for peace and Monday demonstrations. From 9 October 1989, the weekly demonstrations around the Leipzig Ring regularly passed the site of the district administration of the Ministry of State Security on the Matthäikirchhof site with the striking administrative building known as the 'Round Corner'.
- On 4 December 1989, the 'Runde Ecke' was occupied by members of the citizens' movement. The first occupations of the Stasi headquarters in Erfurt, Leipzig, Rostock and Suhl were the starting signal for nationwide occupations of Stasi headquarters in the GDR
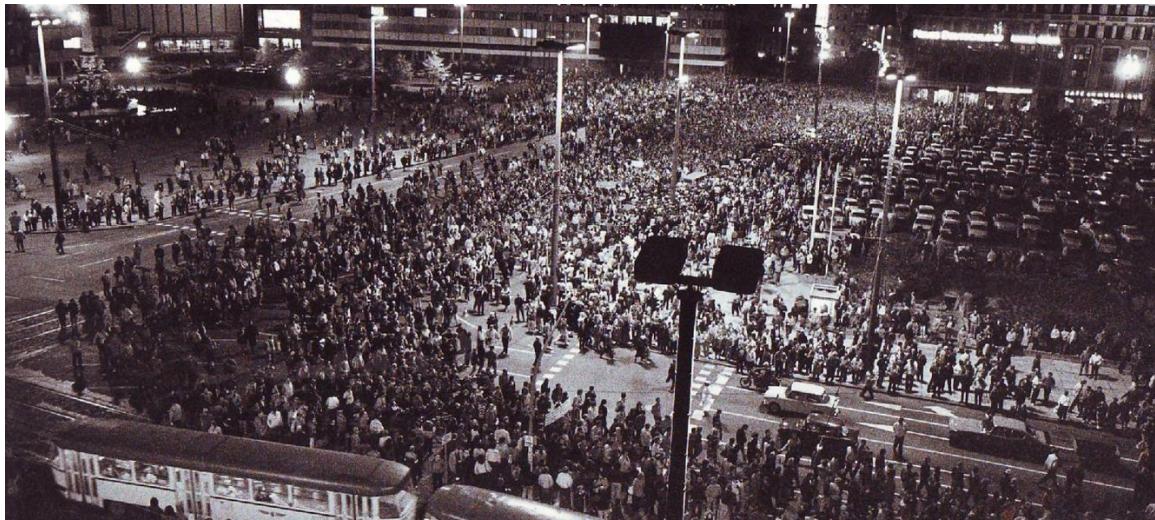
Today: central location, mostly city-owned, underused.

The Matthäikirchhof today

Former Headquarter of the Police in the GDR Empty!

Foto: Stadt Leipzig

Network of Workshop (social institution)

Dittrichring 22 Office Building

Stasi- Document archive/ Memorial "Runde Ecke"

Offices of the Municipality

Citizens´ Committee Leipzig e.V. Museum of Schools

Leipzig presents itself as a dynamic economic and cultural metropolis in central Germany with more than 620.000 Inhabitants. The heart of the city beats in the compact centre, which is only about one square kilometre in size. In the historic trade fair palaces and arcades, which were carefully restored after 1990, a large number of shops, restaurants and cafés invite you to stroll and linger.

The Matthäikirchhof is located on the north-western edge of Leipzig's city centre between the compactly rebuilt structures of the city centre and the green spaces of the western section of the Promenadenring. It has a total area of around two hectares and is bordered by the

developed properties on Richard-Wagner-Platz to the north, Große Fleischergasse to the east, Kleine Fleischergasse, Matthäikirchhof and Dittrichring streets to the south and Promenadenring to the west. The area includes the buildings at Große Fleischergasse 12 (formerly the headquarters of the District Administration for "State Security"), Matthäikirchhof 1 (formerly the "People's Police") with ancillary facilities and the so-called Saalbau (originally also the State Security, today the School Museum - Workshop for School History Leipzig) as well as the adjoining undeveloped areas to the north.

The area on which the buildings of the former People's Police and State Security of the GDR stand is almost entirely owned by the city of Leipzig and is located within the historic inner city ring, yet it remains largely unused except for isolated administrative and storage purposes.
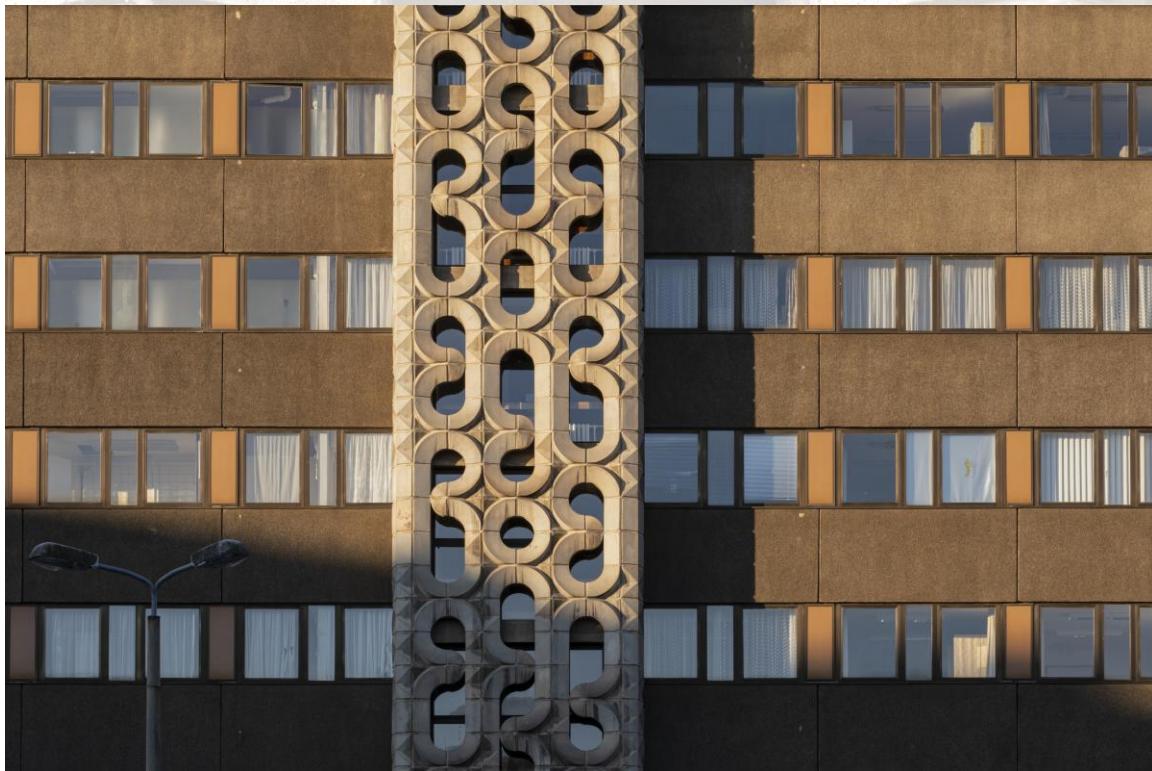
1.3 Relevant Strategies & Programmes

The Matthäikirchhof area has been the focus of urban development since 2019 at the latest, building on existing and new strategies:

Leipzig's integrated development concept (INSEK 2030):

The City of Leipzig has an Integrated Urban Development Concept. The following strategies are relevant for the Matthaikirchhof:

- *Strengthening the central service areas*
  Prioritize the main city centre and district centres to ensure they remain attractive and
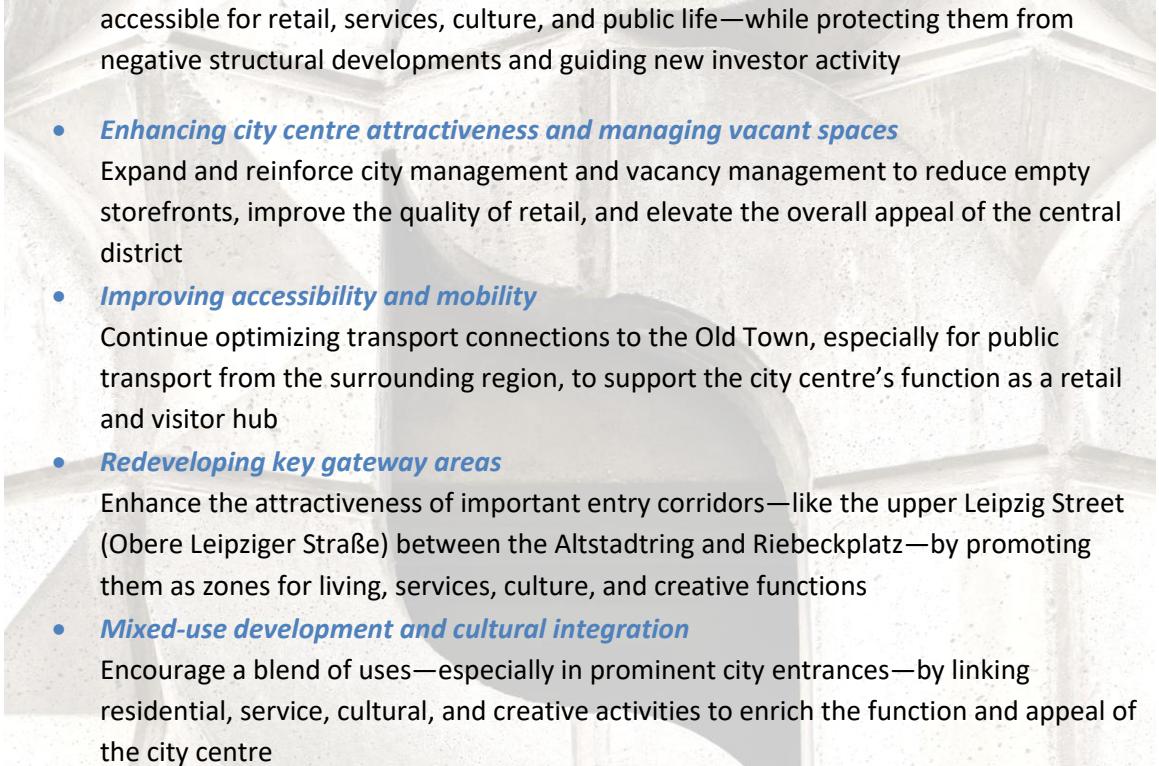
accessible for retail, services, culture, and public life—while protecting them from negative structural developments and guiding new investor activity

- *Enhancing city centre attractiveness and managing vacant spaces*
  Expand and reinforce city management and vacancy management to reduce empty storefronts, improve the quality of retail, and elevate the overall appeal of the central district
- *Improving accessibility and mobility*
  Continue optimizing transport connections to the Old Town, especially for public transport from the surrounding region, to support the city centre's function as a retail and visitor hub
- *Redeveloping key gateway areas*
  Enhance the attractiveness of important entry corridors—like the upper Leipzig Street (Obere Leipziger Straße) between the Altstadtring and Riebeckplatz—by promoting them as zones for living, services, culture, and creative functions
- *Mixed-use development and cultural integration*
  Encourage a blend of uses—especially in prominent city entrances—by linking residential, service, cultural, and creative activities to enrich the function and appeal of the city centre

Federal programme 'National Urban Development Projects'

Nationale Projekte des Städtebaus

In 2019, Leipzig applied for funding for the development of Matthäikirchhof as part of the National Urban Development Projects funding programme. Due to its outstanding significance for the city of Leipzig and beyond, the development of the Matthäikirchhof received funding from the federal programme National Urban Development Projects in the period 2020 - 2024.

The project included planning preparations for the development of the site with an international urban planning competition, an international architecture competition for the 'Forum' and master planning in preparation for the binding urban development plan. The planning process is accompanied by intensive participation from the Leipzig community through innovative and well-coordinated digital and analogue formats.

Position Paper Matthäikirchhof

One of the Results of the above mentioned Project was a *Position Paper*. The *Position Paper* from 12.11.2020 outlines Leipzig's development goals and planning framework for the **Matthäikirchhof** site, a historically significant yet underused area in the city centre. It establishes guiding principles for future planning and public participation.

Key Points:

- *History & Identity*: The site is both a birthplace of Leipzig and a place of 20th-century political history. Its redevelopment should make this history visible while opening the area to the public. A reconstruction of past building layouts is not intended, but respectful commemoration (e.g. of the former Matthäikirche) is planned.
- *Buildings:* Existing GDR-era buildings (former State Security and police offices) are considered spatially and symbolically problematic. Options range from full or partial demolition to integration of elements with memory value. Final decisions require public debate.
- *Usage Profile:*
  - ~30% for a "Forum for Freedom and Civil Rights" (working title)
  - 20–30% housing
  - 40–50% public/cultural/educational uses
  - 10–20% other uses (innovation, start-ups, gastronomy, coworking)
  - 20–40% of the site should remain unbuilt to create high-quality public spaces.
- *Ownership:* The site should remain in public/municipal ownership.
- *Urban Integration:* The Matthäikirchhof is to become a permeable, mixed-use, low-car quarter, integrated with Leipzig's inner-city public space system, with strong pedestrian and cycling connections.
- *Public Space:* Open spaces should be flexible, climate-sensitive (green/water strategies), and serve as venues for cultural and civic activities.
- *Planning Framework:* Redevelopment follows existing zoning principles but will be detailed in a new qualified land-use plan.

Overall Objective:

Transform the Matthäikirchhof into a central, democratic, inclusive, and innovative urban quarter, strengthening Leipzig's inner city by combining historical reflection, civic participation, housing, education, culture, and forward-looking urban functions.

This overall Objective was the Baseline for the following Praticipation Process and Competition.

Participation Process as preperation for the Urban Design Competition

In preparation for the urban design competition, a broad participatory process was carried out over a period of two years to develop the basis for the competition brief. Various formats were used to involve local stakeholders and citizens in shaping the project's objectives and framework.

A brief overview of the most important formats:

- **Small Action Week** where the project was presented on a highly frequented public square. Visitors were invited to contribute to a digital project map and to take part in guided walks across the site.

- **4 Workshops** were held with a partly selected and partly randomly chosen group of participants. These sessions focused on specific development topics and led to the formulation of the "10 Theses for the Matthäikirchhof Code", which summarize key principles for the site's future development.

The Matthäikirchhof Code as the Core Product of the Participation Process

The results of the participation process, summarised in a 'Matthäikirchhof Code', were incorporated into the brief for this competition. Further opportunities for participation were opened up in the second phase of the competition.

The key Points of the Code:

1. Active history education is important
2. It should become a Common good place
3. It should have Public space as meeting area
4. Participation and co-ownership have an important role
5. The place is about Diversity and openness
6. Most of the Site will be for Public uses
7. The Matthäikirchhof will be Barrier-free and car-free
8. It will be an Sustainable district
9. Urban living has to be there
10. Only Small and local buisnesses

Participation during the Desing Competition

As a result of intensive political and civic discourse, the urban space is now being further developed under the guiding principle of a 'place of living democracy'. The area is to be transformed into a lively, mixed neighbourhood with added value for the city centre and the city of Leipzig as well as a place with a supra-regional appeal. This offers a unique opportunity to develop a quarter with public uses, commercial uses oriented towards the common good and urban forms of living in a highly attractive city centre location. An ambitious and mixed programme is therefore planned for implementation.
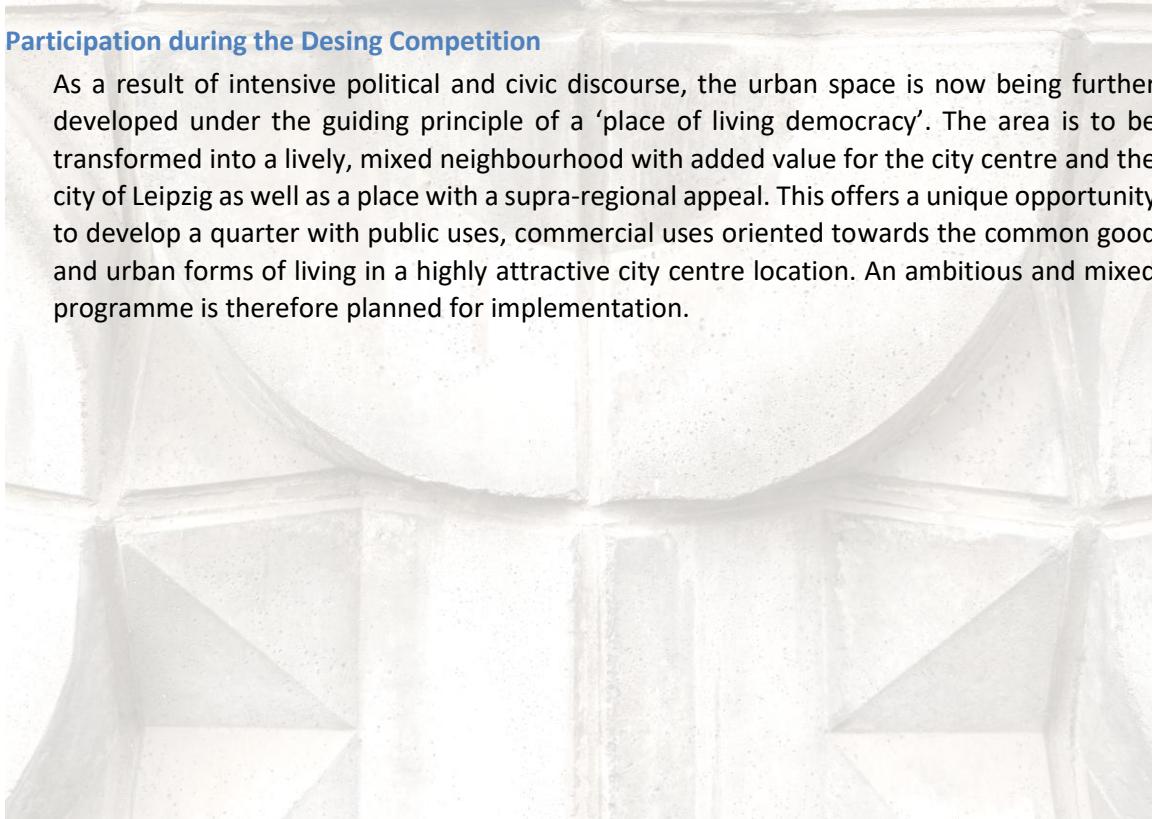
Result of the Urban Desing Competition

The planning for the Matthäikirchhof site therefore takes place in a field of tension between its special history and future-oriented development. As the owner, the City of Leipzig would like to fulfil the formulated requirements by means of a project development that is oriented towards the common good. The new neighbourhood is also to remain in municipal or public ownership. Coordinated allocation procedures are to ensure that the land is used in a way that is orientated towards the common good in the further process.

The following uses are planned as a result of the Competition:

- 125 Apartments with at least 30 % social housing
- A new Expansion for federal Archive for Files of the "State Security"
- A Center for Culture and Meeting Center
- Mixed use public Places

Städtebaulicher Wettbewerb Matthäikirchhof / Platz 1: RIEHLE KOETH GmbH+Co. KG und Levin Monsigny Landschaftsarchitekten
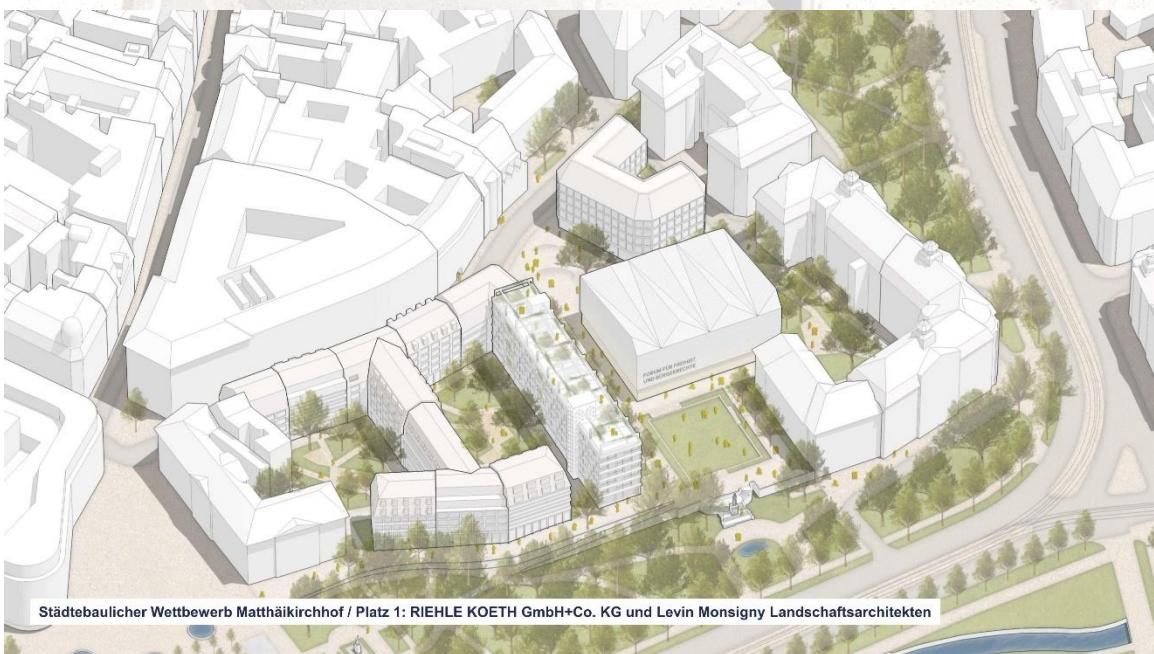
1.4 Problem Statement

From this point on, we relied on the work of the ULG to take the first steps towards realisation.

Full redevelopment is a long-term process (until 2030+)

The structural implementation of the urban planning competition is a process that will last at least until 2030. To leverage the awareness generated by the process within the urban community, initial interim pioneer uses on open spaces should already facilitate the site's revitalization. To this end, we would like to utilise the URBACT IV - ArchEthics programme.

Buildings currently unsafe for interim use.

Furthermore, further investigations of the existing buildings and consultations with the relevant authorities have made it clear that, for safety reasons, interim use of the buildings is unfortunately out of the question until complete renovation. As a result, we have decided to focus exclusively on the open spaces around the buildings for the time being.
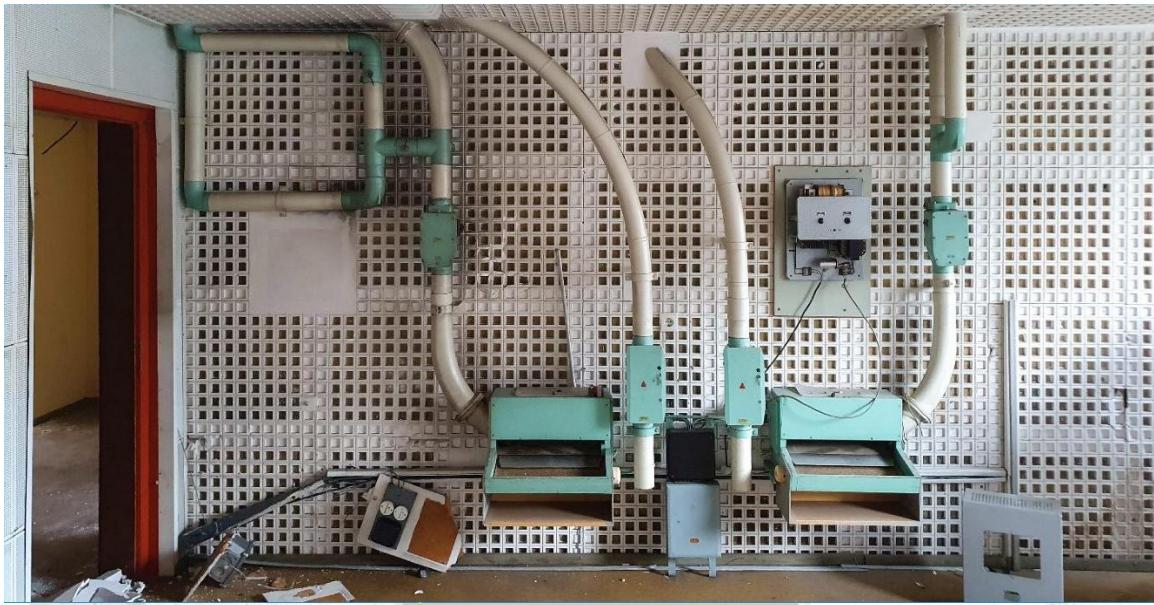
Therefore, the short-term focus is on open spaces and temporary uses.
With Focus on the blue marked Spaces
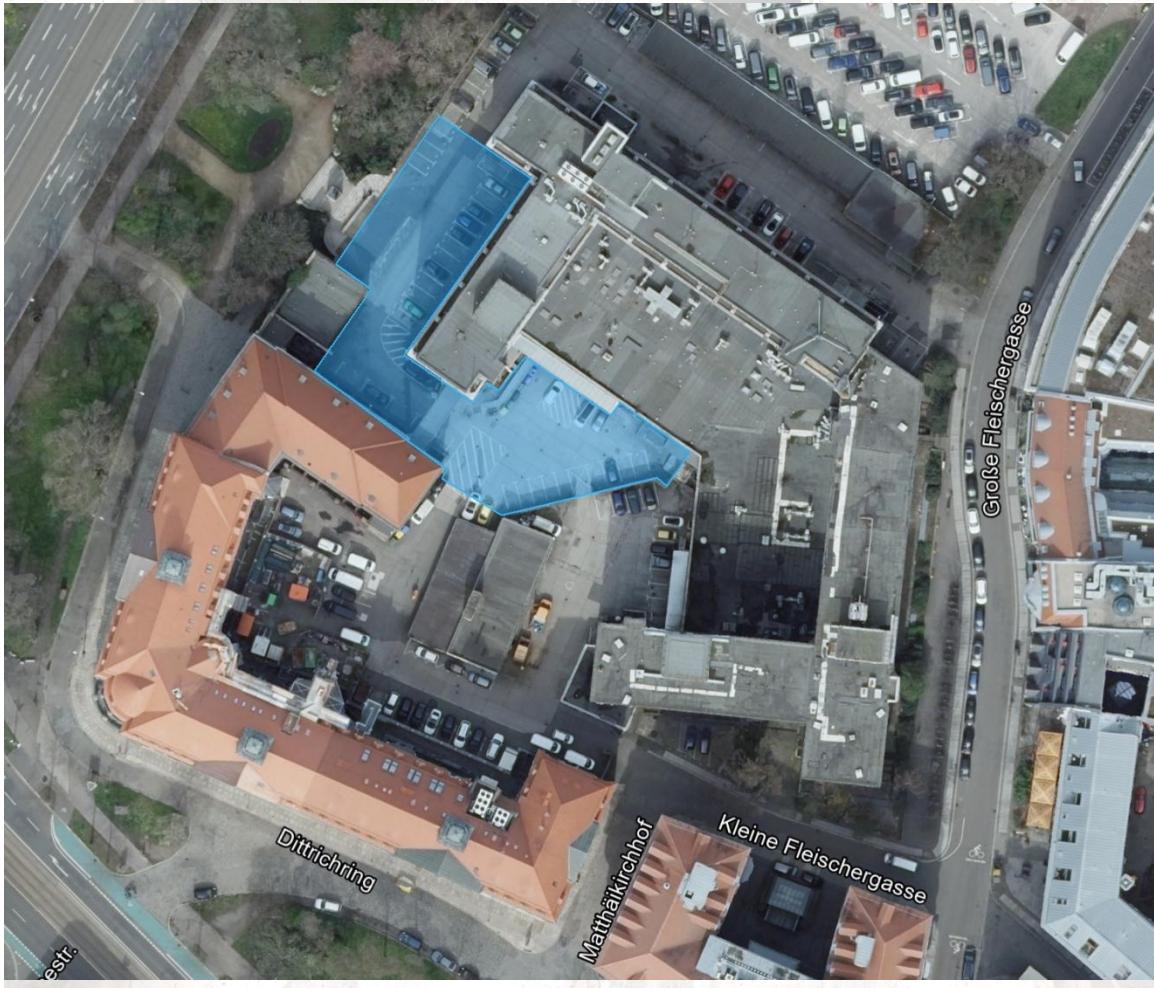
Why this Area?
- Relatively easy to activate
- In ownership of the Municipality
- At the Moment only used for car parking
- Between the Green Areas and the historical Buildings

2. Vision & Goals

What is the feeling of the place at the Moment?

S.W.O.T. analysis

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
• place full of history • existing buildings • middle of the city • quite place • flexible structure • everybody knows that something has to e done • urban planning competition • the City is in ownership	• no green • "every day is like November, it´s depressing" • smell of bureaucracy • technical conditions of the buildings • it feels like a prison • bad image • public opinion
Opportunities:	Threats:
• it has value for artists • vacant space • easily adopted rooms • open canvas • inspirational rooms with the chance of serious discussions	• a toxic place • no money or funds • temporary use could become permanent • the building is polarising • is the building/space still a priority in 5 years?

Result of an S.W.O.T. analysis with the ULG in late 2023. With the IAP we want to address some of the most important points.

2.1 Overarching Vision

"Matthäikirchhof as a place of lived democracy and a third place for encounter, remembrance and future-making."
This overarching Vision for the Integrated Action Plan is in line with the INSEK, the Position Paper, the Matthäikirchhof Code as well as the Result of the development Contest.

A place of lived democracy is a concept that fits the most with the concept of "Third Places". So together with the ULG we got deeper in this topic.

2.2 Third Places
At first we managed to get a better understanding of Third Places and how we can implement this idea in the Interim Uses on Site.

Together with the ULG we discussed different types of Third Places and how they work. We had Input about the concept of third places from an external Expert Dr. Thomas Franke from the german institute of urbanism.

What are Third Places?

- American sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the concept of 'third places' as informal meeting places beyond home ('first place') and work ('second place') – such as cafés, pubs or hairdressing salons. They promote social interaction and strengthen a sense of community, which Oldenburg sees as a key prerequisite for a functioning democracy.
- In Germany, the idea of 'third places' is experiencing a renaissance, particularly in urban development and cultural policy. Institutions such as libraries and museums are deliberately developing into open meeting places that respond to social changes such as demographic change and digitalisation.
- In the face of individualisation and accelerated change, 'third places' offer an alternative with spaces for (informal) community, exchange and participation. They are largely consumption-free and accessible to all. Remote work and online shopping in particular are increasing the need for such analogue spaces that can strengthen a sense of community.

In short: Third Places are the Places between your Home and your Work, where you can meet with Friends and Strangers, where you can just hang around and read a book or cook a meal. They can also be described as social places where democracy is visible. Most of these places are non-commercial and open for everybody. These locations are not programmed but are used by those who utilise them.

And we were in luck, cause some of our ULG Members were in charge of existing third places in Leipizg:

- **The Leipzig Zimmer** – an Space inside of the central Public Library in Leipzig, usable by everybody as a meeting Place as long as the Meeting is Public!
- **The Dresdner59** – an Third Place run by church institutions with the help of volunteers, as a place for people who need retreat or want to help others and develop themselves

And we want to use this expertise to develop a third place on the Site of the Matthäikirchhof. And the interim Test activities on the open Spaces are part of this.

2.3 Strategic Goals (4 pillars)

The strategic goals originate from the preceding multi-year participation process in which, together with the city society, ten theses for the future of Matthäikirchhof were formulated, known as the "Matthäikirchhof Code." For the Archethics project, the following strategic goals are particularly relevant:

1. Active Historical Education – making the site's layered history visible and tangible

The Matthäikirchhof encompasses diverse historical layers—from the city's founding to the former Matthäikirche site, the GDR and Stasi past, the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, and today. The site's multifaceted history, and thus that of the entire city, should be conveyed in a contemporary way. To make engagement with the past visible and tangible, spaces should be created at Matthäikirchhof to bring people together and facilitate exchange—in existing and new buildings, in squares and attractive pathways, or through digital offerings.

An idea to achieve this could be an Active Memory of the Matthäikirchhof. Where we collect the stories and personal Memories of the Site.

2. Strengthening Participation – enabling citizens, politics, civil society to co-shape

The development of Matthäikirchhof already offers many opportunities for civic participation. This cooperative urban development should continue in the future: A variety of actors, social groups, and institutions should remain involved and shape the area. Beyond the planning process, spaces will emerge that invite reappropriation and use. Together with the planned cultural and community center, they will turn Matthäikirchhof into a lively and adaptable place in the long term. As an open space with local Stakeholders and for everybody else.

3. Creating a Third Place – open, non-commercial, inclusive meeting place

The establishment of a so-called 'third place' at Matthäikirchhof in Leipzig can play a decisive role in productively addressing current social challenges. Against the backdrop of its history – including as the site of the former Stasi headquarters – Matthäikirchhof exemplifies the dissonance between memory, transformation and shaping the future. It is precisely in such places, which are associated with ambivalence and rupture, that so-called 'third places' can enable new forms of social gathering, social debate and joint learning and action.

Matthäikirchhof will be a place where both residents and visitors of Leipzig can easily meet. It will feature meeting points and open spaces with formats for international, intercultural, and interreligious exchange and discourse—in line with the district's rich history. Here, pluralistic society with its diverse worldviews is reflected and democratic coexistence is practiced. Thus, Matthäikirchhof contributes to strengthening civic engagement and democracy. This openness is also reflected in the spatial structure of the entire area and the individual buildings.

4. Securing Common-Good Development – municipal ownership, long-term cooperative structures

At least 30% of the land will include different types of open spaces inviting people to stay and interact. Public space will offer high quality, be primarily freely accessible, and be designed for everyone. Its features and quality design must ensure accessibility. As a "place of lived democracy," the concept of an "agora" is adopted functionally and in terms of community spirit, without necessarily following the design of large open squares. Additionally, the concept of "usable open spaces" is fully considered, including publicly accessible rooftop spaces. The public space will serve to spatially connect different public uses and interlink with the buildings while also integrating the surrounding areas via the Klingertreppe, Große Fleischergasse, Kleine Fleischergasse, Richard-Wagner-Platz, and Jägerhof-Passage. Important pathways and sightlines will be maintained or newly created.

Apart from the "Runde Ecke" building with a small courtyard share, all plots in the "Matthäikirchhof Competition Area" are owned by the city of Leipzig. The area will remain in municipal/public ownership and be developed in the public interest to create community-oriented spaces driven and activated by local people.

3. Stakeholders & Governance

3.1 Urbact Local Group (ULG)
Composition: politics, administration, civil society, academia.

The ULG consists of a total of around 30 people, whose diversity allows them to contribute different perspectives to the work process.

LEIPZIG — STAKEHOLDERS ECOSYSTEM MAP
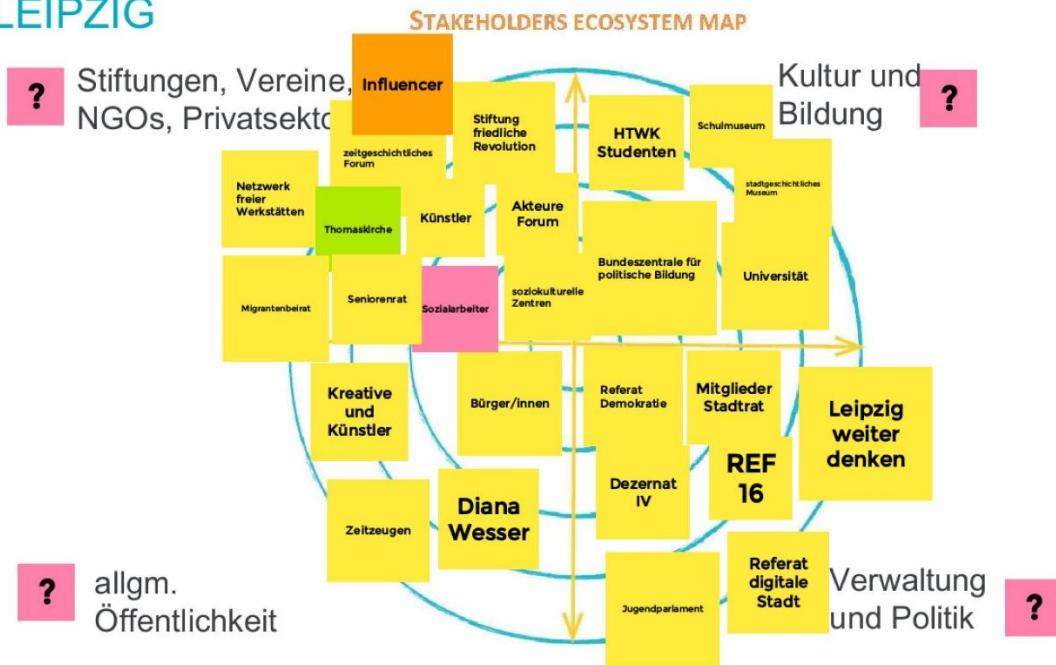
The selection was roughly based on the utilisation categories that were already discussed in the 2021-2024 participation process and that are desired for the area in the future: (socio)culture, encounters and civic engagement, 'city centre plus' (e.g. crafts, show businesses, creative industries, start-ups), science and research (thematically related to the neighbourhood or democracy and the common good), further education and cultural education.

Secondly, attention was paid to a trialogue composition, i.e. a balanced ratio of representatives from local politics, city administration and the area of civil society or research.

Role: ideas for temporary uses, criteria for allocation, advice for long-term development.
The ULG is to be an important building block in the realisation of this vision. It will bring together participants from politics, administration, culture and citizens to discuss a possible future utilisation structure, possible allocation criteria and possible allocation procedures for the areas of the Große Fleischergasse 12 building and open spaces on the site.

Based on the outcome of the participation process and the results of the urban planning competition, ULG is to investigate possibilities for temporary uses of the site.

- The approach for the ULG is to develop proposals for possible pioneer uses as a field of experimentation for the development of Matthäikirchhof. It is expressly emphasised that these pioneer uses are temporary uses.
- With the further structural development of the site, many uses and their location will have to be discussed anew. This applies in particular to the building at Große Fleischergasse 12, as various uses will move into the new building once the Stasi Records Archive has been built.
- The possible open space uses are also temporary, as the car park to the north, for example, is to be used for residential construction in the medium term. Other open spaces will also be remodelled in the course of the development process.

The aim is to establish a 'third place' on Matthäikirchhof in line with the results of the public participation before and during the urban planning competition.

The ULG will make a decisive contribution to addressing the complex requirements of the 'Third Place' and turning it into a vibrant place of democracy. Its work will help to realise the goals of the urban development process and strengthen the significance of Matthäikirchhof as a historical and social heritage site.

In addition, areas are to be made available for use as a 'third location'. These areas are the main component of the discussions in the ULG. To this end, the ULG will develop proposals for a possible utilisation structure, possible allocation criteria and possible allocation procedures

3.2 Current and further Key Actors

- different departments of the Administration: Department of facility management, department of administrative accommodation, department of city planning
- local Stakeholders on the Site: Network of Workspaces, Museum of School, "Bürgerkomitee Leipzig e.V.", federal Archive for "State Security" Files
- the Members of the ULG

4. Action Plan
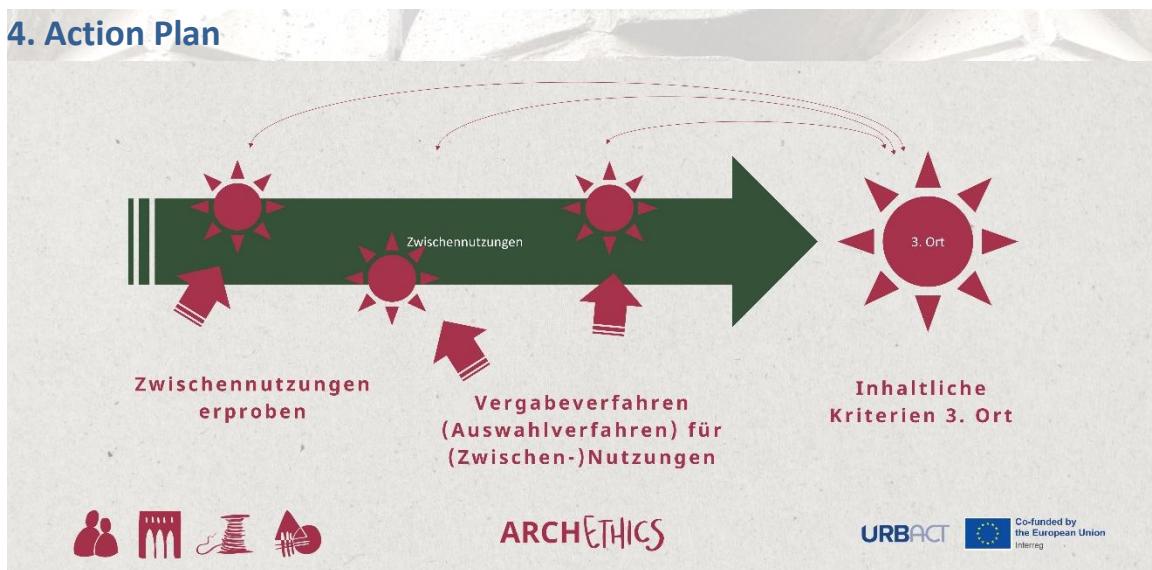
The Matthäikirchhof is to be revitalized! Together with the citizens of Leipzig, we aim to democratically reoccupy this site, which was last shaped by the totalitarian structures of the 1980s, with new buildings for the State Security and the People's Police. The Matthäikirchhof should become a lively, diverse, and open place where the city's society can participate.

Based on the integrated urban development concept of Leipzig, the results of the participation process "MKH Code," and the outcome of the urban planning competition, a package of measures will be developed together with ULG for initial pioneer uses. This will serve as the first building block for the revitalization of the area.

Possible Activities mentioned by the ULG:
- see each other
- make music
- learn together
- play on the site
- discuss and make decisions
- sit and have a drink

4.1 Short-Term Priority (2025–2026): Temporary Uses – start Simple!

- We focus on the Opening courtyards & open spaces.
- Low-threshold cultural & community events.
- we will provice Basic infrastructure: furniture, tech, sanitation.
- with the following Selection criteria: common-good oriented, non-commercial, inclusive.

4.2 Medium-Term (2027–2030): Building the Third Place

- we build Co-financing & support structures
- for the development we want to give the buildings to an foundation or urban development company 100% owned by the city of Leipzig
- we think of the Pilot uses as testing ground → successful formats become permanent.
- Gradual implementation of urban design competition results.

4.3 Long-Term (from 2030): Full Redevelopment

- Completion of new buildings & integration into city centre.
- Permanent anchor as forum for democracy, remembrance & civic life.

5. Implementation Framework

- As for now we have a specific Site for the Implementation
- We have a List with Infrastructure and Items needed for the Interim uses
- We got possible marketing phrases
- We got an Stakeholder from the ULG which want to take responsibility for the Kick-off Event in May 2026
- Most likely we will have an City Council Decision in November of 2025

5.1 Responsibilities (Three-Level Model)

- Overall responsibility: City of Leipzig + ULG.
- Operations & offers: mixed model (city + associations + initiatives).
- Quality assurance: selection & evaluation committee.

5.2 Financing

- Programme & project funding (municipal, national, EU).
- Infrastructure investment (city, federal, regional).
- Co-financing by partners & foundations.

5.3 Monitoring & Evaluation

- Continuous evaluation of temporary uses.
- Scaling successful models into long-term operation.

Small Action: Kick-off Temporary Uses at Matthäikirchhof (2026)
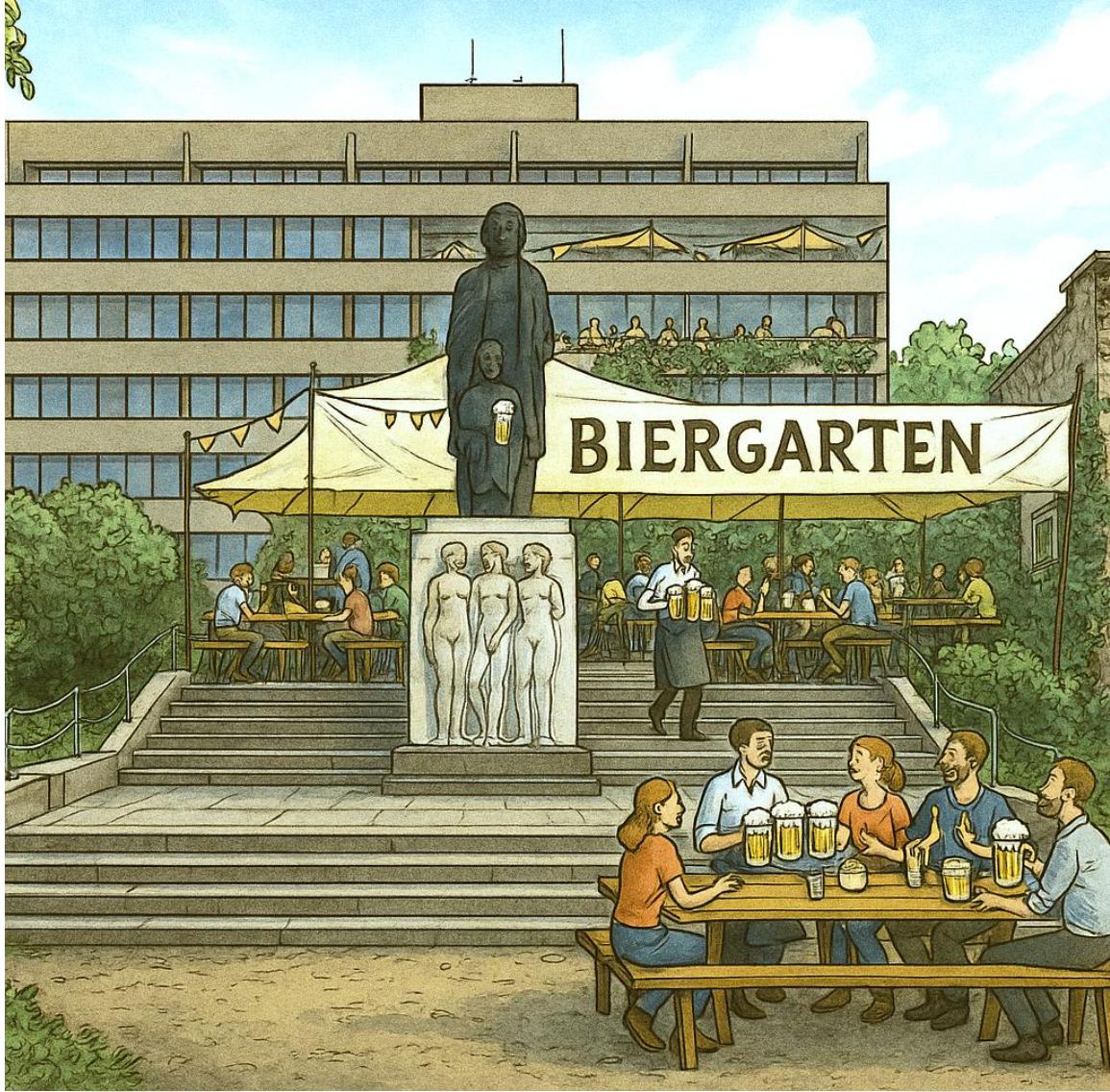
Objective

To initiate and structure temporary uses of the Matthäikirchhof from summer 2026 onwards, ensuring visibility, public engagement, and sustainable governance models.

Description

A public kick-off event in May 2026 will launch the temporary use phase of the Matthäikirchhof. This event will combine cultural, social, and gastronomic activities, providing visibility for the site, attracting new stakeholders, and testing operational frameworks. The action also develops three interconnected approaches to ensure continuity:

- Tendering a small-scale gastronomic "anchor use" (outdoor kiosk/bar with caretaker function).
- Establishing or supporting a civil society organisation to coordinate activities and reinvest revenues.
- Setting up a diverse steering body (alternative to "curatorium") to curate and evaluate uses, aligned with the site's democratic values.

Expected Outputs

- Concept and implementation of a kick-off event (May 2026).
- Framework conditions for temporary uses (permits, utilities, equipment).
- Draft tender for a two-season gastronomic anchor use.
- Identification/establishment of a civil society organisation for coordination.
- Formation of a steering structure for curation and evaluation.
- Communication toolkit with slogans and narratives for public outreach.

Stakeholders Involved

- Leipzig City Planning Department (coordination, framework conditions).
- Leipzig+Kultur (potential lead applicant and organiser).
- Civil society partners and associations.
- Cultural Office, Department of Democracy and Social Cohesion, Tourism Office (potential co-funders).
- Local residents, creative initiatives, and grassroots organisations.

Timeline

September 2025: Draft event concept & funding application (Leipzig+Kultur with partners).

September 2025: Clarification of infrastructure needs (sanitary, electricity, furniture).

October 2025: Draft tender for gastronomic anchor use.

December 2025: Noise study commissioned (City Planning Department).

May 2026: Kick-off event and launch of temporary uses (summer season 2026).

Funding Sources (under discussion)

- Leipzig Common Good Parliament.
- Municipal Participation Budget (Kommunalpauschale).
- Specific thematic programmes (culture, democracy, tourism).
- Private donations, foundations, crowdfunding (e.g. "Kulturmut", "99 Funken").

Impact

- Strengthened civic ownership of the Matthäikirchhof.
- Practical testing of temporary use models and governance.
- Enhanced visibility and identity of the site as an open, democratic place.
- Attraction of new actors and resources for long-term site development.

Measurement of the Impact:

- We can measure the success of interim uses by visitor and event numbers.

6. Conclusion & Outlook

- The city of Leipzig cannot afford any further vacancies at this point. If the temporary uses are successful, this is proof that this type of use is needed and works in that location. This may highlight the need for further planned development of the site.
- We have no shortage of ideas for the location and temporary uses. What we lack is a framework that would enable us to easily utilise the area.
- In order to establish these structures, we require civic engagement and greater courage on the part of the administration.
- We would therefore like to divide the large project into small building blocks and begin with the reactivation of the open spaces.

In Conclusion

- The Matthäikirchhof is a key site of Leipzig's democratic history & future development.

- First temporary uses in 2026 will be a visible starting signal.

- Long-term it will be an vibrant quarter, co-created by citizens & public institutions.