

## **TEN PRINCIPLES FOR THE TREATMENT OF POST MINING LANDSCAPES**

Brigitte SCHOLZ

Internationale Bauausstellung (IBA) Fürst-Pückler-Land, Manager Projects, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, Chair Regional Planning

Summary: From 2000 to 2010, the Internationale Bauausstellung (IBA) Fürst-Pückler-Land has been active in shaping the post-mining landscape in Lusatia (Brandenburg, East Germany). Based on IBA's experiences, we have formulated ten principles concerning the treatment of post-mining landscapes. The goal is to establish a common understanding for handling post-mining landscapes.

Key words: Reclamation of degraded areas, Sustainable development, Regional Planning, Collaborative Planning, Industrial Heritage, New Cultural Landscapes

### **1. INTRODUCTION: INTERNATIONALE BAUAUSSTELLUNG (IBA) FÜRST-PÜCKLER-LAND**

For ten years the organization, Internationale Bauausstellung (IBA) Fürst-Pückler-Land, has been active in shaping the post-mining landscape in Brandenburg (in eastern Germany). This region was known as the energy district of the former German Democratic Republic because of its huge deposits of lignite. The excavation of lignite began around 150 years ago. Initially, mining was below ground but was later carried out by means of huge open-cast mines. Mining brought other industries such as briquette factories, power stations, coke plants and related branches of industry. A total of about 40 open-cast mines were in operation in 1989. Subsequent to the radical political change in 1989/1990, the majority of the open-cast mines and industries were abruptly shut down. Today the energy firm, Vattenfall, operates five open-cast mines and three power stations in the region.

As a result of this deindustrialization, the region has experienced a high rate of unemployment. The recultivation of the former mines, industrial sites and brownfields has been a challenging task. Against this background, the govern-

ment allocated special funds for regeneration and established a state company, LMBV. In a parallel step, the region initiated an international building exhibition, International Bauausstellung (IBA) Fürst-Pückler-Land 2000-2010, to accompany the process of reclamation and develop new perspectives for regional development<sup>1</sup>. In Germany, such building exhibitions are a well known, project oriented planning method that provides new impulses within a limited time, guarantees a high-quality standard of (landscape) architecture and leads to innovative designs.

## **2. PRESENTATION: MAIN TOPICS OF IBA FÜRST-PÜCKLER-LAND**

The IBA association, supported by four rural districts in Brandenburg as well as the city of Cottbus and promoted by the Land Brandenburg, is the heart of a network connecting the people involved on site with each other and with national and international experts by means of a planning-related target. IBA combines creative and technical innovation, confronts science and arts with this objective, draws international attention to the region - and thus creates regional circular flows in terms of economy as well as new jobs. IBA Fürst-Pückler-Land has been engaged in a total of 30 projects that comprise a “Workshop for New Landscapes.” We at IBA have the following main topics:

- *Cultural Identity*: The aim of IBA is not only to preserve outstanding examples of Lusatian (industrial) heritage, but also to invent new concepts for use at those sites. The different locations of industrial heritage are connected by the ENERGY-Route of Lusatian Industrial Heritage, thus creating a unique tourism experience.
- *Waterscapes*: One main aspect of the post-mining landscape will be the new surface water. The coal pits that have fallen into disuse – around 30 in the whole region – will be flooded to become lakes. The “heart” of the new “Lusatian Lakeland” is a chain of ten lakes that are connected by navigable canals. Apart from the recreation and sports opportunities, floating houses are to become a new hallmark of the Lusatian Lakeland.
- *New Cultural Landscapes*: Open-cast mining allows one to shape newly filled-in landscapes with a new contour and new uses. We have developed several different approaches for post-mining landscapes to give them a characteristic design. Also, nature protection is an important issue for Post-Mining Landscape and they provide ideal preconditions for electricity production from regenerative energy sources like wind, sun and biomass.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.iba-see.de](http://www.iba-see.de)

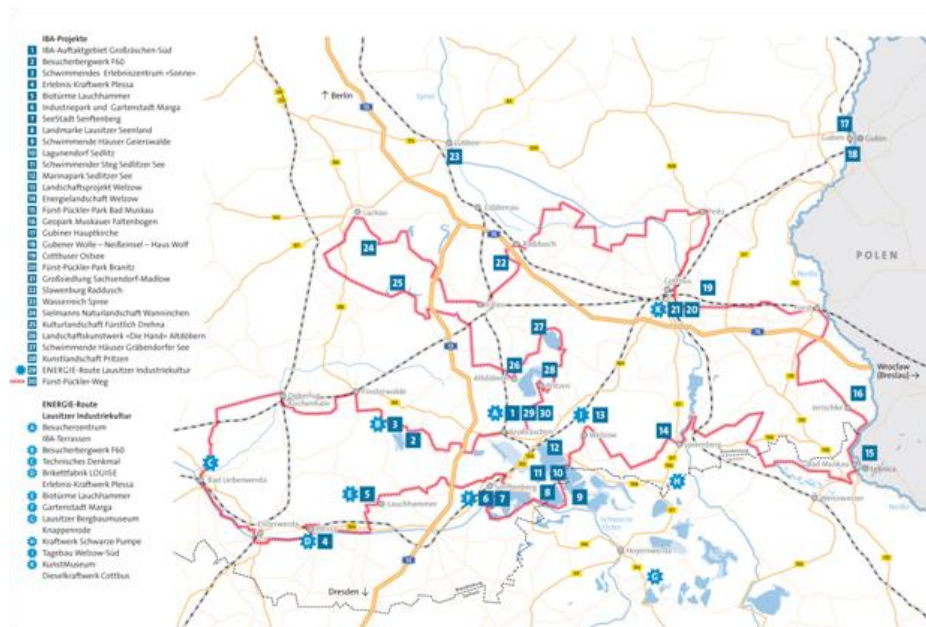


Fig. 1. The projects of the IBA Fürst-Pückler-Land [IBA 2010]



Phot. 1-3: New Lusatian Lakeland (Radke, LMBV), Visitor mine F60 (Rainer Weisflog), Floating diving school (Detlef Hecht)

- *Border Landscapes*: Development along the border of two nations always represents a particular challenge, especially along the German-Polish border. The drawing of the border following the Second World War has separated cultural landscapes and towns that formerly belonged together. With Poland's entry into the European Union, new opportunities for cross-border cooperation have opened up.
- *Cityscapes*: A huge decrease in population has resulted from the deindustrialization of the region. In particular, this affects the towns that had previously grown because of the industrialization and, which now, in turn, are shrinking. IBA has been accompanying the conversion of towns and demonstrating new approaches to demolition and the re-valuing of spaces.

### 3. TEN PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF POST-MINING LANDSCAPES

Based on IBA's experiences in the region, we have formulated ten principles concerning the treatment of post-mining landscapes<sup>2</sup>. The premise of the principles is a worldwide obligation for sustainable development. This implies that in the development of post-mining landscapes, social, economic and ecological matters must be balanced. The overall concept is the creation of a diverse, multi-functional post-mining landscape as a condition for new economic activities and future perspectives for people and enterprises in the region. Sustainable rehabilitation and development thus represent an added-value investment in the future.

**1. Setting an Example:** The development of a post-mining landscape must be exemplary. As a consciously planned treatment of a cultural landscape, the development has a model character and must contribute to the implementation of international goals and standards of sustainable development.

**2. Using Resources:** The legacy of mining, land, buildings, and infrastructures are industrial-heritage resources for a sustainable development. The preservation and re-use of typical components creates special places that shape the look of a region and bridge the past and the future.

**3. Fostering Identity:** A post-mining landscape must have its own, new characteristics. The original landscape and the lost home cannot be reproduced. New developments must begin at meaningful locations, with the goal of promoting identification and shaping a new identity.

**4. Broadening the Planning Horizon:** The planning for a post-mining landscape must begin before mining lays claim to the land. From the beginning, planning must represent goals for the future design and development and must make possible new options for temporary use. Planning must accompany mining processes and react flexibly to changing framework conditions.

**5. Shaping the Process:** The process of redesign must be tangible. Information, staging of changes, and intermediate uses are important elements of the process that convey change and provide departure points for a change of identity.

**6. Allowing for Creativity and Innovation:** The development of new cultural landscapes requires a vanguard and creativity, exchange of insider and outsider perspectives, as well as open decision-making structures. The process must be organized in such a way as to facilitate innovative solutions and new pathways.

**7. Generating Pictures:** Pictures and outlines of a future development are important as eye-openers and vehicles for imagining the future. Even at the beginning of the conversion process events and constructed images are indispensable as landmarks to manifest the goals and perspectives of development.

---

<sup>2</sup> This activity is part of the Project „ReSource – turning problems into potentials“, implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF ([www.resource-ce.eu](http://www.resource-ce.eu))

**8. Ensuring Transparency:** The development of post-mining landscapes must be open and transparent. The triad — comprehensive participation by those who are affected, common decision-making, and implementation of planning with the participating actors — must be guaranteed in all phases of planning.

**9. Building the Organizational Structure:** The implementation of the planning goals must be secured by an organizational structure that is capable of acting and sufficiently equipped with funding and personnel. The organizational structure takes over the process management, establishes networks, and organizes funding and promotions. The requirement for these functions is a binding legal framework that identifies planning levels, tasks and responsibilities.

**10. Taking Responsibility:** The polluter-pays principle applies to rehabilitation. The task of qualitative development that produces added value cannot be solved on the local level alone. It must be supported by entrepreneurial and higher-level public responsibility as well as by cooperation among local authorities and additional partners.

The goal of the principles is to establish a common understanding for the treatment of post-mining landscapes. Therefore, we organized an international conference in September 2009 to discuss and comment the principles.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS: A NEW QUALITY STANDARD FOR REVITALISATION**

The discussion on the principles showed that it is productive and makes sense to work on the idea of creating a common basis for handling post-mining landscapes that goes beyond particularly regional or mining-specific elements. But the principles are formulated from the special position of an International Building Exhibition (IBA). It becomes clear that a building exhibition intending to influence the architectural and territorial shaping of social processes and change them positively is specific to Germany in its approach and transferable only to a limited extent. International starting points are heterogeneous and countries have differing opportunities for good redevelopment practice. Despite these differences, it is generally agreed that including local people is extremely important, and not just in relation to a wide range of ways of cooperating, but to shifting civil society commitment into the foreground.

Overall the principles do not represent a universal strategy, but an important basis for being able to identify and communicate the key qualitative demands made on redeveloping mining landscapes in all their dimensions in future. Their value lies in their claim to set standards that can be examined all over the world in the appropriate context and under different condition, and serve as quality standards. And of course stand as a measure of quality for Lusatia as well: the process of post-mining redesign in the region is by no means concluded by the end of the IBA. For the IBA finale in 2010, the principles are to be developed

further as a »Lusatia Charter« to be signed by those who are politically responsible and those running the mining operation – as a self-imposed obligation for the future.

## 5. LITERATURE

1. INTERNATIONALE BAUAUSSTELLUNG (IBA) FÜRST-PÜCKLER-LAND (ed.): *Transforming Landscapes. Recommendations based on three industrially disturbed landscapes in Europe. An Italian – Polish – German project “Restructuring cultural landscapes”* REKULA (INTERREG III B Cadses). Großräschen 2005
2. INTERNATIONALE BAUAUSSTELLUNG (IBA) FÜRST-PÜCKLER-LAND (ed.): *Post-Mining Landscapes. Conference Documentation*. Berlin (Jovis-Verlag) 2010
3. INTERNATIONALE BAUAUSSTELLUNG (IBA) FÜRST-PÜCKLER-LAND (ed.): *New Landscape Lusatia. Catalog 2010*. Berlin (Jovis-Verlag) 2010
4. SCHOLZ, B.: *Moving Land: International Building Exhibition Fürst-Pückler-Land 2000-2010 in Lower Lusatia*. Conference „Landscape –Great Idea”, Vienna, 2009

### DZIESIĘĆ ZASAD KSZTAŁTOWANIA KRAJOBRAZÓW TERENÓW POEKSPLOATACYJNYCH

#### Streszczenie

Od 2000 do 2010 roku, Międzynarodowa Wystawa Budowlana [niem. Internationale Bauausstellung] (IBA) Fürst-Pückler-Land czynnie uczestniczyła w zagospodarowywaniu terenów pokopalnianych na Łużycach (Brandenburgia, Niemcy Wschodnie). Opierając się na doświadczeniach IBA, sformułowano dziesięć zasad postępowania z terenami pokopalnianymi, których celem ich jest stworzenie ogólnych założeń dla zagospodarowania terenów pokopalnianych.