

Participation process and master plan for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial

Final report

Overall process incl. master plan

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Prologue

Foreword

Dear reader,

after more than a year of intensive discussions and constructive cooperation, we are pleased to present the results of our unique participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial, in the form of the final report and the master plan derived from it.

Above all, I would like to thank all those who have contributed their suggestions and ideas over the course of this time to this community project, a vision of a new memorial, created by many. Only this commitment made it possible to shed light on the topic and our common goal from so many perspectives: What are the needs of the local residents? How can a memorial be integrated into the life of the region? How do people who devote themselves to memorial work on a voluntary or professional basis imagine the memorial of the future? What concerns do relatives of victims have, what do survivors give us to take with us on our path? How do young people imagine a vibrant place? What scientific, museological and educational requirements do we formulate in today's world? What logistical issues arise, how can we proceed as sustainably as possible?

It was a wholly enriching process that also opened up new perspectives for my team and myself, who have been involved with the topic for decades. The result, shaped by so many individual voices, has now been written down and will serve as the basis for further planning. I would also like to thank the project team: the communications agency art:phalanx, the team of architects at heri&salli and my colleagues at the memorial site, who have dedicated themselves predominantly to this special task, the mayors of the municipalities of Langenstein and St. Georgen an der Gusen, Christian Aufreiter and Andreas Derntl, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, the Federal Monuments Office, the Comité International de Mauthausen and the local memorial initiatives involved, especially the Gusen Awareness Region and the Memorial Service Committee, as well as the citizens of the region, all members of our board of trustees, the scientific advisory board and the international advisory board.

The participation process adopted for the decision-making was important for us to ensure that the future memorial would be supported by all those involved, and would also be tailored to the interests of many groups of visitors in terms of the future transfer of knowledge. With our commitment, we take responsibility for remembering the victims of the Gusen concentration camp. The Gusen Memorial, which was founded by former prisoners through their commitment to preserving the crematorium furnace and by constructing the Memorial de Gusen at their own expense, is to become a symbol of openness, tolerance and plurality of opinion.

Let us internalise the forward-looking words of Gusen survivor Stanisław Zalewski, who said during our commemoration ceremony in Gusen this year:

I hope that this memorial will hold strong against the winds of history, namely to socio-political changes that are taking place all over the world. And that all present and future nations and generations may understand this place.

Dr Barbara Glück

“The memory of the prisoners should live on, but in a different form, (...) as a natural result of storytelling and visiting this place.”

Stanisław Zalewski, survivor of the Gusen concentration camp
(interview as part of the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial in December 2022)

Background

In the years to come, the current Gusen Memorial will be significantly expanded. After completing the participation process involving international, national and regional interest groups, the results are now available in the form of a master plan.

The Gusen concentration camp was a branch camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp. It was built from the end of 1939 onwards. In May 1940, the first prisoners were registered there by the SS. At the beginning of 1944, the Gusen concentration camp was expanded to include the Gusen II part of the camp. The prisoners imprisoned there had to build a tunnel system for the arms industry in St. Georgen under the code name "Bergkristall" (Rock Crystal). In December 1944, the Gusen III camp was opened in Lungitz, several kilometres away. It was used for supply purposes. From its construction until its liberation in May 1945, at least 71,000 prisoners originating from almost 30 nations were imprisoned in the three Gusen camps. More than half of them did not survive the imprisonment.

After the liberation of the camps, most of the buildings in the three Gusen camps were soon demolished. Large sections of the Gusen I and II camp areas were built over with a housing estate, whereas others were used for industrial purposes. In 1947, the Soviet occupation forces tried to destroy the "Bergkristall" tunnel system with explosives, which was only partially successful. The victims' cemetery laid out by the U.S. liberators was abandoned in the late 1950s. The remains of the deceased from the concentration camp were transferred to the Mauthausen Memorial.

The majority of the former camp areas and some of the few surviving buildings or archaeological remains are now privately owned. Post-1945, they have been used privately for various purposes and frequently rebuilt.

In the 1960s, international survivor organisations had the Memorial de Gusen built, which was inaugurated in 1965. The interior of the cremation furnace of the camp was preserved. Since 1997, the Republic of Austria has been responsible for maintaining the Memorial de Gusen. In 2004, a visitor centre and exhibition were opened adjacently.

At the beginning of the 2000s, the Republic of Austria also assumed responsibility for the remains of the "Bergkristall" tunnel system. This was partially filled in by the Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft (Federal Real Estate Company) for safety reasons. Around a quarter of the original facility has been preserved and secured. Part of it is now open to visitors several days a year. In 2020, the Mauthausen-Gusen-St. Georgen Awareness Region unveiled the "House of Remembrance" at the entrance to the tunnel system.

Since 2000, the Gusen III camp has been commemorated by a memorial stone in Lungitz. In 2020, a cemetery was inaugurated near Lungitz railway station after the ashes of deceased concentration camp prisoners had been found.

In recent years, the Republic of Austria has been negotiating with private owners of properties located at the former concentration camp sites in Langenstein and St. Georgen an der Gusen.

In 2021/22, it finally bought several properties located in the area of the former concentration camp Gusen I, where two former SS buildings, the stone crusher and parts of the former roll call square are located. It also acquired a piece of land at the entrance area to the "Bergkristall" tunnel system in St. Georgen an der Gusen.

All new sites are to be designed as places of commemoration in the coming years, connected to the concentration camp memorial sites around the Gusen Memorial and intertwined with existing memorial site interventions. The memorial site is thus going to undergo a major expansion. To ensure the widest possible engagement of all interest groups and stakeholders from the start, the first step in the project involved a participation process to develop a master plan with design and functional guidelines. After carrying out an award procedure in accordance with the Federal Public Procurement Act (direct award), the art:phalanx Kommunikationsagentur GmbH and heri&salli Architektur ZT GmbH consortium was commissioned to carry out this process. art:phalanx are responsible for the participation process, whereas heri&salli, as the team of architects, are responsible for drawing up the master plan based on the results obtained in the participation process.

Overall process

After a comprehensive baseline survey was completed, the contractors began their work with the participation formats in August 2022. Phase 1 (Analysis phase) was completed at the end of 2022 and was followed in the first half of 2023 by Phase 2 (Consolidation phase). Parallel to this, the findings were incorporated into the master plan.

This final report presents the opinions, expectations and concerns of the interest groups in their entirety, highlighting the main issues and reflecting the broad consensus on the main decisions among the participants. This report is a direct result of the great commitment of those involved, who contributed in a highly constructive, respectful and appreciative manner across all events and formats.

At the end of the overall process, a clear and thorough recommendation is now available in the form of the elaborated master plan, which draws on the results of the participation process developed cooperatively. This master plan provides the basis for political decision-makers to further develop the concentration camp memorial into a European place of commemoration that will allow for a dignified memorial of the victims of the Gusen concentration camp.



Approach and methods

The aim of Phase 1 (Analysis phase) was, initially, to gain the expertise of the various interest groups and to determine their expectations and needs for a newly designed and expanded Gusen Memorial. The participation formats developed for this purpose included interviews, workshops and information events (see detailed description below). The core findings of this analysis phase were published in the form of a comprehensive summary and presented and put up for discussion at information events. The aim of this report was to present the entire scope of all the opinions, positions and expectations expressed in the various participation formats, even in cases where they contradicted one another or went beyond the actual framework of the participation process. This marked out a discursive field that was worked on in the subsequent Phase 2 (Consolidation phase) and clarified with a view to reaching a consensus.

The findings of Phase 1 (Analysis phase) thus formed the basis for the content focus of Phase 2 (Consolidation phase) in which a moderated exchange between the interest groups took place with further workshops and an international youth project. The main topics were discussed in depth and scenarios for the development of the area were discussed. Groups and individuals who were unable to participate in the participation formats were able to contribute their points of view to the process via a survey. Finally, to verify the arguments elaborated in the process so far, a panel discussion was held with five international experts whose professional assessments and evaluations largely supported the results.

The findings gained throughout the entire process are now included in this final report and the master plan.

Basic principles of the participation process

- An open, transparent procedure
- Participation in partnership with stakeholders and interest groups
- A clear definition of objectives in general and for individual participation formats in particular
- The development of different participation formats (tailored to the respective stakeholders and interest groups)

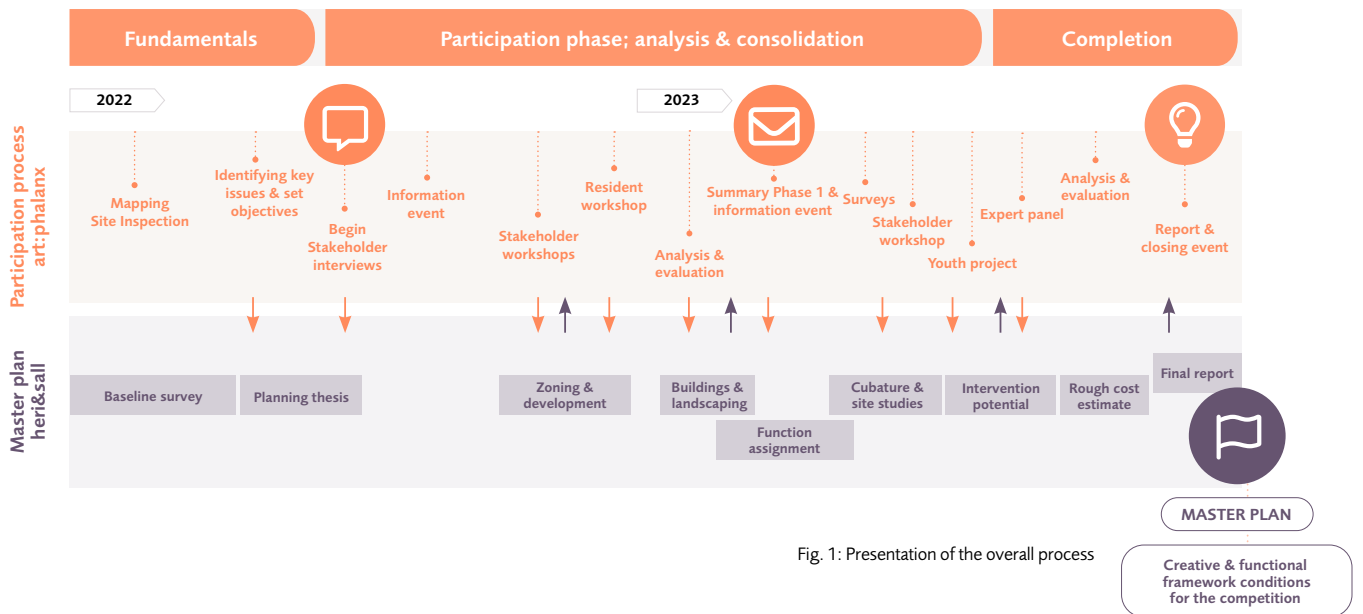


Fig. 1: Presentation of the overall process

Interest groups

Together with the client, the Mauthausen Memorial, the main stakeholders and interest groups were identified at the start of the project. This analysis has already clearly shown the diversity and heterogeneity of the groups and their actors which were taken into account in the design of the participation.

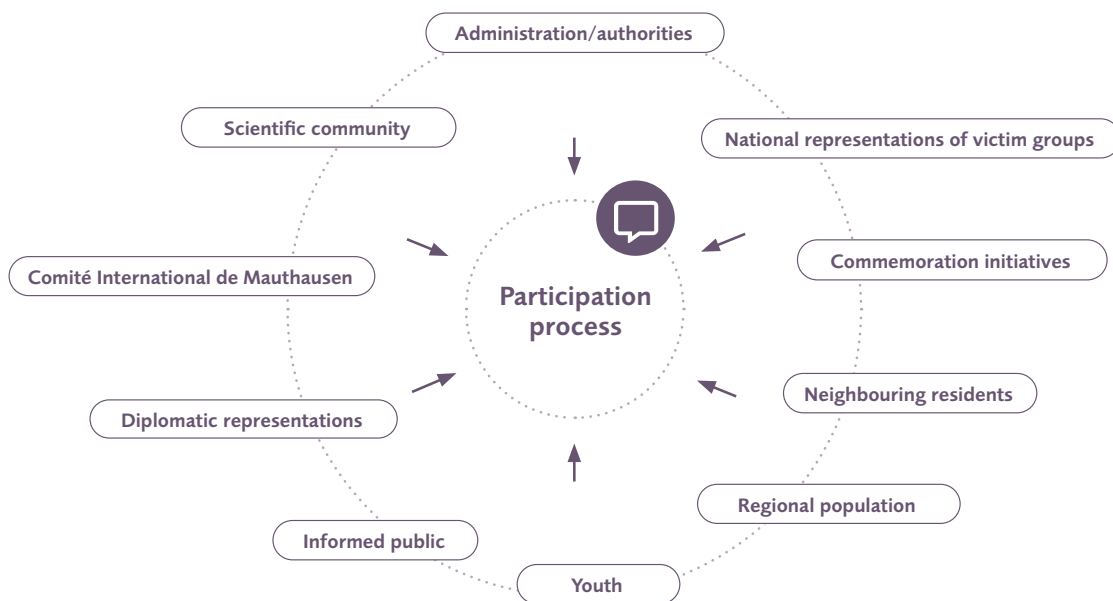


Fig. 2: Interest groups engaged in the participation process

Participation formats

To be able to guarantee the engagement of all stakeholders throughout the entire process in a manner that is as open, transparent and partnership-based as possible, the methods were individually tailored to the respective interest groups and the project phases (analysis and consolidation) were designed to build on one another. In this context, the following participation formats were developed and held from August 2022 to June 2023:



Fig. 3: Presentation of the participation formats



Impressions of the stakeholder workshops

Phase 1 (Analysis phase)

Stakeholder interviews

- 13 semi-structured interviews with survivors of the Gusen concentration camp as well as individuals serving as representatives of the interest groups identified in coordination with the Mauthausen Memorial.
- Objective:
 - Gain expertise
 - Inquire about expectations and needs
 - Deduce key issues

Stakeholder workshops

- 3 full-day stakeholder workshops with up to 15 representatives of the interest groups identified in coordination with the Mauthausen Memorial (the Comité International de Mauthausen and its respective country representatives, national commemoration initiatives and representatives of victim-group interest groups as well as diplomatic representatives)
- The representatives were nominated directly by the interest groups
- Objective:
 - Substantive participation and brainstorming
 - Identify key issues, expectations and needs

Participation workshop

- 1 full-day participation workshop with up to 30 participants from the population of St. Georgen and Langenstein
- Open registration option, communicated via the municipalities
- Objective:
 - Substantive participation and brainstorming
 - Identify key issues, expectations and needs

Information events

- 3 information events with residents and interested parties from the population of St. Georgen and Langenstein
- Open events or open registration options, communicated via the municipalities
- Objective:
 - To provide information about the process and the participation opportunities
 - To identify additional key issues, expectations and needs

Phase 2 (Consolidation phase)

Stakeholder workshops

- 4 half-day stakeholder workshops on key topics with up to 20 representatives of the interest groups identified in coordination with the Mauthausen Memorial (the Comité International de Mauthausen and its respective country representatives, national commemoration initiatives and representatives of victim-group interest groups, diplomatic representatives and representatives of regional population)
- The selection of the representatives and their assignment to the respective topic workshops is carried out by nomination within the organisations and based on the curating principle by the project team.
- Short lectures by experts from the relevant fields served as impulses and an information basis for debates among the participants.
- Objective:
 - Substantive participation and brainstorming
 - In-depth examination with key topics from Phase 1 (Analysis phase)
 - Collect guiding statements and recommendations on the central issues and diverging opinions from Phase 1 (Analysis phase)
 - Exchanges between interest groups
 - Build consensuses with regard to functions, locations and qualities

Youth workshop

- 1 full-day workshop as part of a two-day youth exchange project with 20 pupils from France, Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic
- Objective:
 - Substantive participation of young people
 - Identify key issues, expectations and needs
 - Promoting international exchange and encounters

Surveys

- Quantitative survey for all households in the municipalities of Langenstein and St. Georgen an der Gusen
- Quantitative survey for international and trans-regional interest groups and bodies
- Objective:
 - Broad, substantive participation and brainstorming
 - Review of central issues and arguments introduced in Phase 1 (Analysis phase)

Expert panel

- Three-hour panel discussion with five international experts on contemporary history, education, culture of remembrance and memorial sites
- Objective:
 - Gain expertise
 - Review of arguments on the development of the area

Integrative overall process

Participation process and master plan

To achieve close interaction between the participation process and the development of the master plan across the different phases, the procedure was carried out as an integrative overall process. The continuous involvement of experts from the planning team in the participation process was essential here. In addition to considering planning expertise in the development of issues and topics for discussion and the participation of architects in the participatory formats, this also included the regular comparison of interim results and planning findings within the project team. This approach produced results and solutions that are based on broad acceptance and reflect the principles, influencing factors and interests of the stakeholders involved in the best possible and most transparent way.

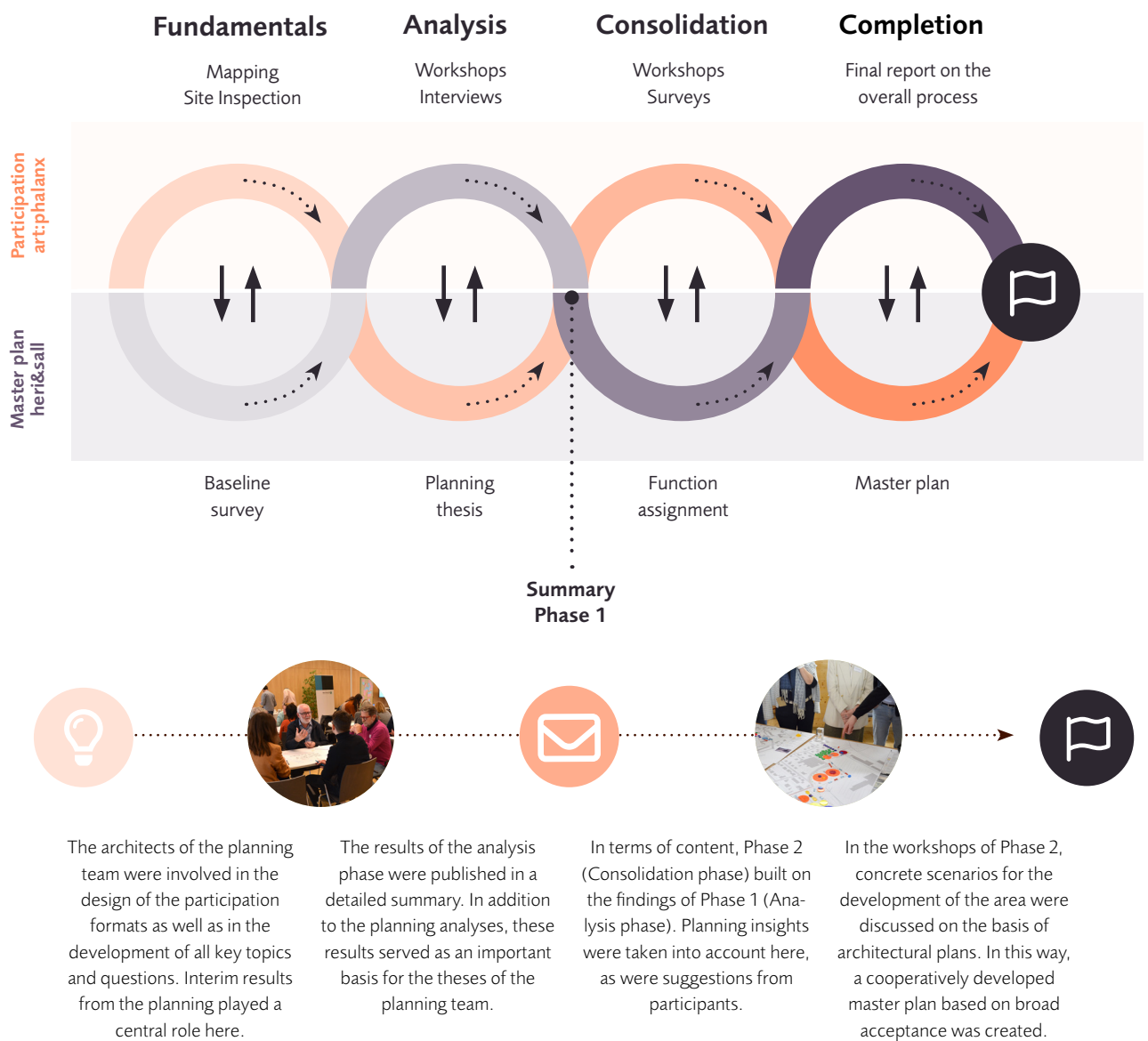



Fig. 4: Presentation of the integrative overall process



Guided tour as part of the youth workshop



Part A

Final results of participation

“The most important thing is that people talk about Gusen. Because if they talk about it, it means they are ready to see what happened here.”

Stanisław Zalewski, survivor of the Gusen concentration camp
(interview as part of the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial in December 2022)

Methodology and Evaluation

The core statements from the 13 interviews with stakeholders as well as from the eight workshops with a total of over 60 representatives of regional, national and international interest groups and the local population were included in this evaluation. The findings from the international youth workshop were taken into account in a similar fashion. Furthermore, the core statements of the panel discussion with five international experts are presented.

With the help of a qualitative content analysis according to Philipp Mayring, key topic categories were formed based on the transcribed interviews and the workshop reports. Various subcategories were assigned to these. The text passages conveying content were then assigned to the categories after paraphrasing. The evaluation is based on the key question: "What expectations do the interviewees, workshop participants and consulted experts have with regard to the expansion of the Gusen Memorial?" The evaluation also includes the results of the quantitative survey, which were addressed to both regional and trans-regional interest groups.

A detailed description of the evaluation methodology as well as the detailed results can be found in the Data Evaluation in Detail documents (Phases 1 + 2). They form the basis for compiling the master plan. A summary of the results is presented on the following pages.

Main and sub-categories formed from evaluated material

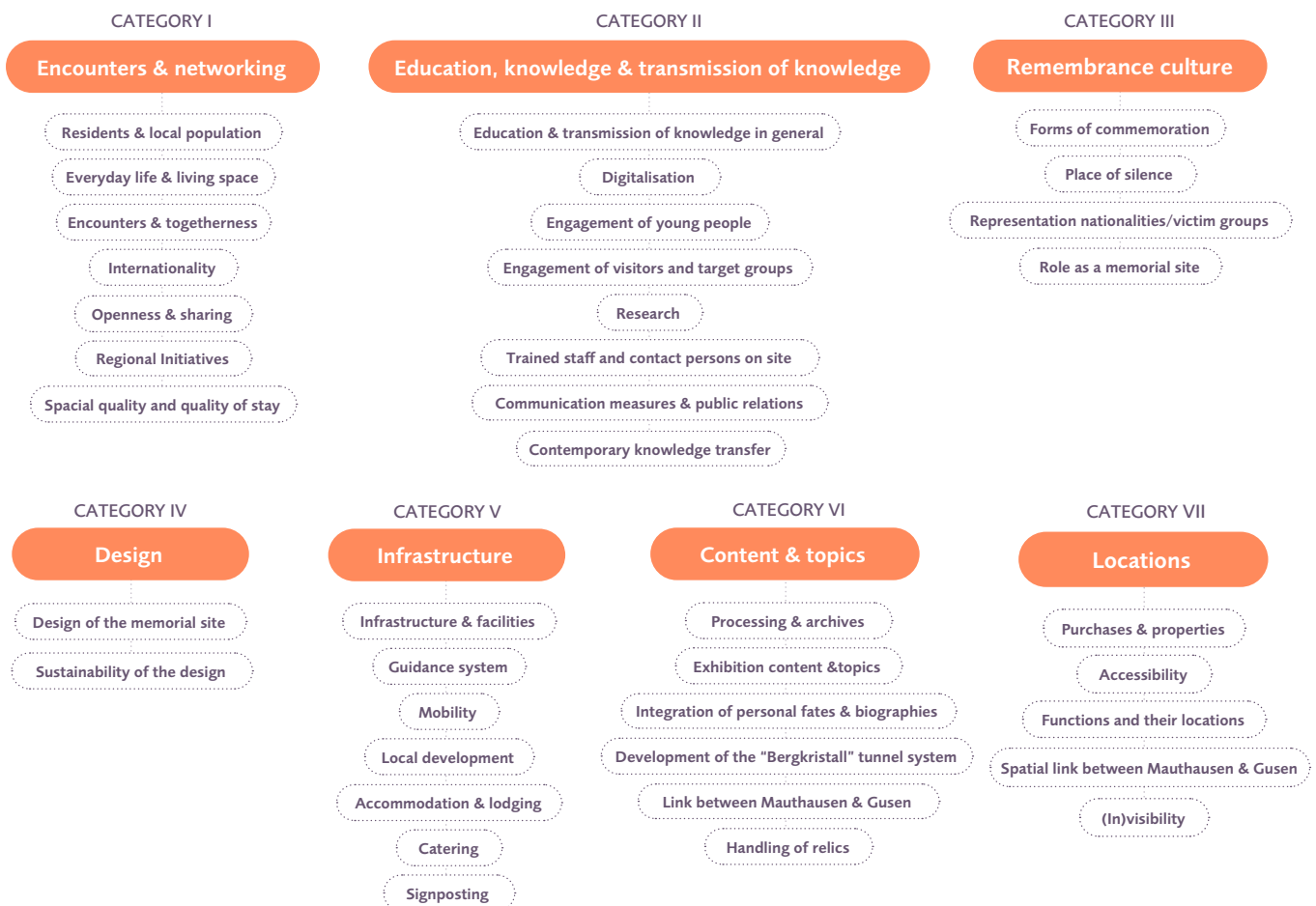


Fig. 5: Presentation of the main and subcategories

Brief summary of the final results from the participation process (Phases 1 and 2)

CATEGORY I

Encounters & networking

Residents & local population

Everyday life & living space

Encounters & togetherness

Internationality

Openness & sharing

Regional Initiatives

Spacial quality and quality of stay

ENCOUNTERS & NETWORKING

Involving the local population in the further development of the Gusen Memorial is deemed very positive, and in the opinion of the interviewees and workshop participants this should be continued throughout the entire implementation process. It is important to understand the **place as a living space** and to enable **good interaction** between the population and visitors to the memorial.

From the participants' point of view, setting up **public recreation areas and places to spend time** could bring added value for the population, facilitating a **stronger level of identification** with the location and strengthening the **level of awareness about Gusen's history**. Furthermore, potential is identified in the **positive development of the local landscape** and in the **enhancement of the municipalities' reputation**. Key issues for local residents were the consideration of their privacy and ensuring noise and privacy protection.

The desire for **encounters** was frequently expressed in addition to creating an **open meeting place**, allowing for high-quality encounters not only between people of all ages, but also with the **memories of the victims** and their stories. Such a place should also invite international visitors to **interact** with the local population.

Gusen should become an **international memorial site** that represents the diversity of the victim groups, offering comprehensive, multilingual information services and promoting international scientific cooperation. The aim is to raise the profile of the location in this way.

As stated by many of the participants, **regional initiatives** performed **important memorial and relationship work with victims and their relatives** in the past, which should be strengthened by the further development of the memorial site. **Complementary cooperative collaboration** between the Mauthausen Memorial and regional partners is also deemed essential. Possible coordination or networking tasks of the commemoration initiatives should be considered in the overall concept allowing for the long-term planning of adequate resources.

CATEGORY II

Education, knowledge & transmission of knowledge

Education & transmission of knowledge in general

Digitalisation

Engagement of young people

Engagement of visitors and target groups

Research

Trained staff and contact persons on site

Communication measures & public relations

Contemporary knowledge transfer

EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE & TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE

There was broad agreement among the participants that **young people** are regarded as an essential target group. Specific programs for students and especially for international youth groups are required to establish the Gusen Memorial in the long term as a place of education standing for **self-determined, open learning and a critical examination of history**. In addition to visits to the Mauthausen concentration camp memorial site, such programmes would allow for an **in-depth analysis of the history and post-war history** and thus open up **potential for multi-day stays** in the region. In this context, creating an **international youth meeting place** and the necessary infrastructure is seen by many of those involved as an important investment in the future of the memorial.

With regard to the other **target groups**, their **diversity** and **heterogeneity** were discussed, which is why the greatest possible **variety of methods** and a **modern, interdisciplinary approach** should be pursued when designing **knowledge transfer and content**. **In-depth information** should be offered that is based not only on facts but is also **emotionally easy** to understand. Participants in the youth workshop expressed a strong desire to make the history of the camp tangible and able to be experienced, for example through the **historically accurate reconstruction of camp buildings that no longer exist**. The consulted experts, on the other hand, took a critical view of this and advocated using the existing traces and empty spaces as well as the transformation of the former camp area as a starting point for communicating what happened in history.

In this context, the **integration of individual fates** and **biographies** was also frequently proposed. The consulted experts deemed that "shock pedagogy", considered outdated, should be avoided. They pointed out that under no circumstances should emotionality or the creation of authentic experiences and empathy be conceptualised and pursued as objectives of knowledge transfer.

Participants agreed that the use of **digital media was crucial** in dealing with the existing voids and the lack of relics. Audiovisual media, virtual reality and the use of apps were mentioned particularly frequently. In addition, the important target group of young people could be reached particularly well via presence in **social media**, which is why this form of communication should be expanded further. In this context, the consulted experts recommend a cautious use of digital technologies. Special care must be taken to ensure that the dignity and respect of the victims is maintained. Under no circumstances should digital technologies be an end in themselves, they should only be used to convey knowledge, for example to support narratives in exhibitions, or to promote exchange within groups. Participants in the youth workshop expressed the wish to make exhibitions more accessible. In particular, exhibitions should contain less text and more visual content.

The participants agreed that the **communication measures** and **offers** should be pursued on an **international level** and that they should promote the **social exchange** between different groups and the local population. Accordingly, the programmes should take **linguistic diversity** into account and create **space for interaction and discussion**.



REMEMBRANCE CULTURE

Many participants believe a memorial site should be created that **represents all victim groups equally** and offers **space for individual symbolic acts and rituals**. Accordingly, this place should be **international, intercultural and interreligious** so that all groups of victims feel invited to make their contribution to the commemoration. The memorial site should stand for the values of **solidarity, dignity and togetherness**.

Opposing views were voiced regarding the **representation of the victim groups**. For example, some participants advocated **not to have the nationalities of the victims** at the forefront, but rather to represent them as individual people and identities, **regardless of their nationality, culture or religious affiliation**. Other participants were in favour of representation by nationality. The respondents agreed that **internationality or transnationality** should be at the forefront and that the interpretation of the memorial site from a purely Austrian perspective should be avoided.

According to some of the consulted experts, the future exhibition should be a place where all groups of victims are represented and with which even the groups that have been underrepresented so far can identify. Less emphasis should be placed on assignment to nationalities and more on the **common features of persecution**, such as exploitation through forced labour in connection with the anti-Semitic and racist categorisation by the dominant society. In this context, some of the consulted experts advocated a **memorial of European and transnational remembrance** in this respect.

In the view of the experts, the Memorial de Gusen as an unstructured and spontaneous place appropriated by visitors has a special significance as place of commemoration. It should be preserved at any rate and its importance should not be weakened. In addition, the **roll call square** could be established as a place for larger commemorative events.

When asked about different forms of commemoration, some of the participants said there was a need to be **open to new commemoration rituals** and that **art as a language of representation and remembrance** should play a central role in Gusen in the future.

Many participants envisage a protected place of retreat, which as a **"place of silence"** invites them to contemplate and reflect on the impressions they have gathered. The respondents agree that such a site requires **high-quality architecture** and that **clear areas for commemoration functions must be defined**.

As a sign against forgetting and to commemorate the prisoners, some of those involved suggested **changing the name** to "Mauthausen-Gusen Memorial".



DESIGN

The participants agreed that **design interventions** are needed to make the different time layers on the sites understandable.

Some participants said **sustainability** should be pursued as a central criterion in all development steps, especially with regard to **preserving green spaces, using existing buildings** and the **economic feasibility** of the overall project. The redesign has the potential to become an ecological showcase project for dealing with nature and biodiversity.

Opposing views were voiced with regard to the **design of the memorial site**. Many participants spoke out in favour of creating an **architectural landmark** that would attract attention. According to others, however, a **simple, plain appearance** would be worth pursuing.

The **design of green areas** and potentially a **park** were frequently mentioned as well. Appropriate design measures could also make it possible to view building structures in the camp that no longer exist. The participants think vegetation can be a means of making visible what was originally there. A natural design offering easy access is preferred for the outdoors area.



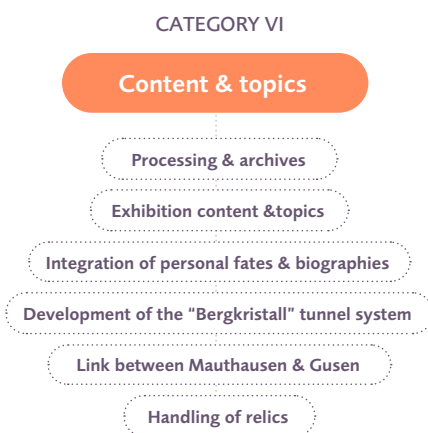
INFRASTRUCTURE

With regard to the issue of infrastructure, functional requirements such as the creation of **meeting places offering quality of stay** and the provision of **lodging for multi-day stays** were mentioned particularly often. Affordable accommodation would be necessary especially for youth groups and cyclists. In connection with this, creating **gastronomy options** was also proposed, which could develop into a meeting point with the **local population**. When constructing **spatial infrastructure** for transferring knowledge, thought should be given to facilitating **dynamic use by international groups**.

Regarding the issue of **mobility**, an **innovative, environmentally friendly overall concept** was called for, ensuring **good public accessibility** and **connections to the different places of the memorial sites**, taking **cycle paths** into account. The nearby railway stations of St. Georgen an der Gusen and Mauthausen should be treated as key arrival points in this context. Supplementary bus and shuttle services for the so-called "last mile" were discussed in depth.

The experts noted that the average visitor numbers for standard days should be assumed for such planning. Days with increased visitor footfall, during events for example, must be considered differently and dealt with outside of the master plan. Furthermore, a sensible solution for car parking and bus traffic is deemed important, as accessibility should not become a point of conflict under any circumstances.

A comprehensive indoor and outdoor **guidance system** is considered necessary for spatial orientation and to clarify the links between the locations of Mauthausen, Gusen and St. Georgen. The Danube Cycle Path should also be included if possible. This should make it clear that the former Gusen concentration camp was part of a larger system.



CONTENT & TOPICS

It is important to the participants that the Gusen Memorial is not only considered a place of remembrance, but also a **location for learning contemporary history** and a **"place of communication"**, building a bridge between the past and the future.

It was frequently mentioned that a **holistic approach** should be pursued regarding content, which includes the former Gusen concentration camp as a central functional element of the **Mauthausen-Gusen-St. Georgen concentration camp complex**. The special historical features of Gusen and key differences to other concentration camps should be lined out clearly. The **relevance of the "Bergkristall" tunnels** in the overall system should be made clear too.

Many of the people involved also see the future Gusen Memorial as a place of **education and information for Austrian post-war history**, focusing on the **subsequent use of the former Gusen camp area**. The causes and consequences of **suppressing the history of the Gusen concentration camp** from the collective memory and the disappearance of the camp should be illustrated just as much as the **change in the remembrance policy** in the Republic of Austria after the Second World War.

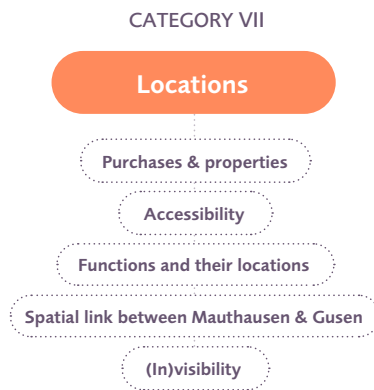
In connection with the Mauthausen Memorial, the participants think the **exhibition and educational functions need to be clearly defined** so the narratives of the two places complement each other and redundancies are avoided. The visits to the memorial sites should be designed in a structured manner as much as possible, opening up the potential for **stays of several days** and thus a **comprehensive engagement with history**. The aim should be to make Gusen a place that makes Mauthausen visible and understandable, and vice versa.

With the newly purchased properties and the relics located there, a wide range of aspects of the history of the concentration camp can be addressed, in particular Gusen as an industrial site exploiting forced labour, but also in relation to the history of the perpetrators and their connections to the civilian population. Accordingly, narratives should be prepared from multiple perspectives. Participants of the youth workshop also wanted a stronger exploration of the perpetrators, in the form of biographies for example and presenting the mechanisms that made such acts possible.

Furthermore, many participants see the creation of **references to the present** as a key task of the place, in order to increase its **relevance for young people** in particular. This can happen via topics such as **discrimination, human rights and moral courage** for example. Overall, Gusen should become a place of empowerment and inspiration. However, the consulted experts were critical of the inclusion of current socio-political topics in exhibitions. They advocate addressing such issues in parallel education and knowledge transfer programmes.

The participants declared themselves in favour of **securing and displaying the existing architectural structures and remains** of the former concentration camp. Reconstructing camp buildings that no longer exist is viewed critically, rather, the various **time layers and interventions at the site should remain visible and be preserved**. For youth workshop participants, on the other hand, such reconstructions are conceivable to be able to convey realistic impressions. The consulted experts were in favour of retaining existing empty places as a form of abstraction. The site should be made visible and understandable from today.

There was general agreement among the participants that efforts should continue to **purchase the former Jourhouse** as an essential symbolic location within the former concentration camp complex, and be taken into account as much as possible in the overall concept.



LOCATIONS

The participants regard it as a great opportunity to **make the dimensions of the former concentration camp more visible** through the newly purchased properties and to make the **area accessible**. At the same time, a **sensitive approach** to the historically blighted sites was urged. Different opinions were voiced regarding the **opening up of the area**. Frequently, an **open, freely accessible memorial site** was proposed. However, some participants regard it as very important not to make all areas freely accessible and to strike a **balance between opening and protecting** the area. To this end, the permanent opening of only a part of the area as a **"park-like" meeting zone** to be developed via a **sophisticated guidance system** and **safe, barrier-free routes** was proposed. The **arrival zone** was mentioned here as an example. The area from the **roll call square** onwards was identified as a zone to be protected, which should not be constantly accessible.

To highlight the **entirety of the former camp complex** and the link to the **"Bergkristall" tunnel system**, the **spatial axis from Mauthausen via Gusen to St. Georgen** should be emphasised, by means of historical references (e.g. former railway connections). The participants thought the **relevance of the "Bergkristall" tunnel system** could be increased by **more frequent access opportunities** or **permanently opening part of the tunnels**. The land purchased there should be developed in synergy with the **"House of Remembrance"** used by the Mauthausen-Gusen-St. Georgen Awareness Region and the **embankment property** released for development by the municipality of St. Georgen an der Gusen.

The respective potentials and characteristics of the newly purchased properties and the relics located there were discussed. It was proposed several times to leave the former roll call square vacant and undeveloped and to use it as a **memorial area**, for events for example. On the other hand, it was also proposed to use it for **erecting monuments**.

The participants agreed that an **orientation and vantage point** was needed to make the dimensions of the former camp visible. Great potential was initially identified in the **vertical development of the stone crusher** for establishing such a vantage point. However, the in-depth analysis during the second participation phase showed that making the stone crusher accessible would involve considerable effort and a **structural overhaul** that would change its external character. Some of those involved were critical of this. Instead, other potential vantage points on the site were identified that could be developed without major construction measures, for example using existing levels of the terrain.

As a preserved industrial facility, the **stone crusher** should in any case play a key role in conveying the **industrial history** and the associated **exploitation through forced labour**. Developing the ground floor and basement was considered by the participants as one way of making it accessible.

The purchased **piece of land in front of the Memorial de Gusen** should be integrated into the overall concept. Many participants spoke out in favour of designing a park, but the unobstructed **view of the Memorial** should be preserved. Furthermore, the area behind the visitor centre should be opened up towards the municipality, and a **meeting zone with seating** created there.

According to some participants, in addition to a possible future purchase of the former Jourhouse, the **purchase of further properties** (e.g. the former prisoner quarters) should be aimed for.

In connection with relics, the **archaeological investigation, sustainable protection** and **visualisation of existing building structures** of the former camp were introduced as essential topics. Visitors need visible references to the past, which can also be supported by **design measures** or the **use of digital media**. The aim, for example, is to make **time layers** visible through archaeological measures and building interventions.

Results of the surveys

As part of Phase 2 (Consolidation phase), the expectations and concerns of the residents of Langenstein and St. Georgen an der Gusen about the expansion of the Gusen Memorial were surveyed in a **regional survey**. The survey received **330** responses. The views of international interest groups, visitors to the Mauthausen and Gusen memorials and other interested parties were gauged by means of an **international survey**. This received **687** responses from **28 countries**. Further statistical data and a detailed evaluation can be found in the Data Evaluation in Detail document (Phases 1 + 2).

Summary of survey results

With regard to the expansion of the Gusen Memorial, it was particularly important to the participants in the regional as well as the international survey to create **programmes for young people** and **places for commemoration** as well as to make **information about the history of the concentration camp** available. **Opening up the site and the newly acquired areas to the regional population** and making the **dimensions and physical relics of the former concentration camp** visible were also important to the respondents. **Creating multi-day (knowledge-transfer) programmes** was less important to both groups.

With regard to the development of the "Bergkristall" tunnel system, the respondents wanted **more guided tours** and **more information about the history of the tunnel system**. There was also strong agreement on the importance of having the future expanded memorial site as a **place of commemoration**. Participants also saw great potential for the expanded concentration camp memorial as a place of **exhibition, learning and education**, although the potential role as a **meeting place** was rated as less important. Generally speaking, creating **meeting places** for the regional population and visitors to the memorial were largely considered less important or unimportant.

With regard to representing different groups of victims, the **representation of victims according to reasons for their persecution** and the **individual representation of victims** were both largely considered important or very important. However, opinions differed on the **presentation of victims by nationality**. Some 57% of the respondents felt this was important or very important, while about 43% felt it was unimportant or less important.

With regard to the design of the memorial, creating an architectural landmark was considered less important or unimportant for both groups, and **assigning functions to existing buildings** was deemed very important by both groups. A **positive development of the local landscape** was more important to the locals in the region than the other respondents. **Opening up the area and the newly acquired areas** as well as **providing an overview of the entire area** was generally rated as more important by the transregional respondents than by the local residents. Residents of the region also consider **preserving nature** and **designing green spaces** to be particularly important.

There was equally agreement between the two groups on the topic of transport links and accessibility, with **public accessibility** of the memorial sites considered important by both groups and **creating new parking spaces** rated rather as unimportant by the majority of respondents.

Finally, the participants of both surveys were asked about the three most important **criteria for the successful development of the Gusen Memorial**. The responses are presented below according to topic group and weighted by frequency of mention:

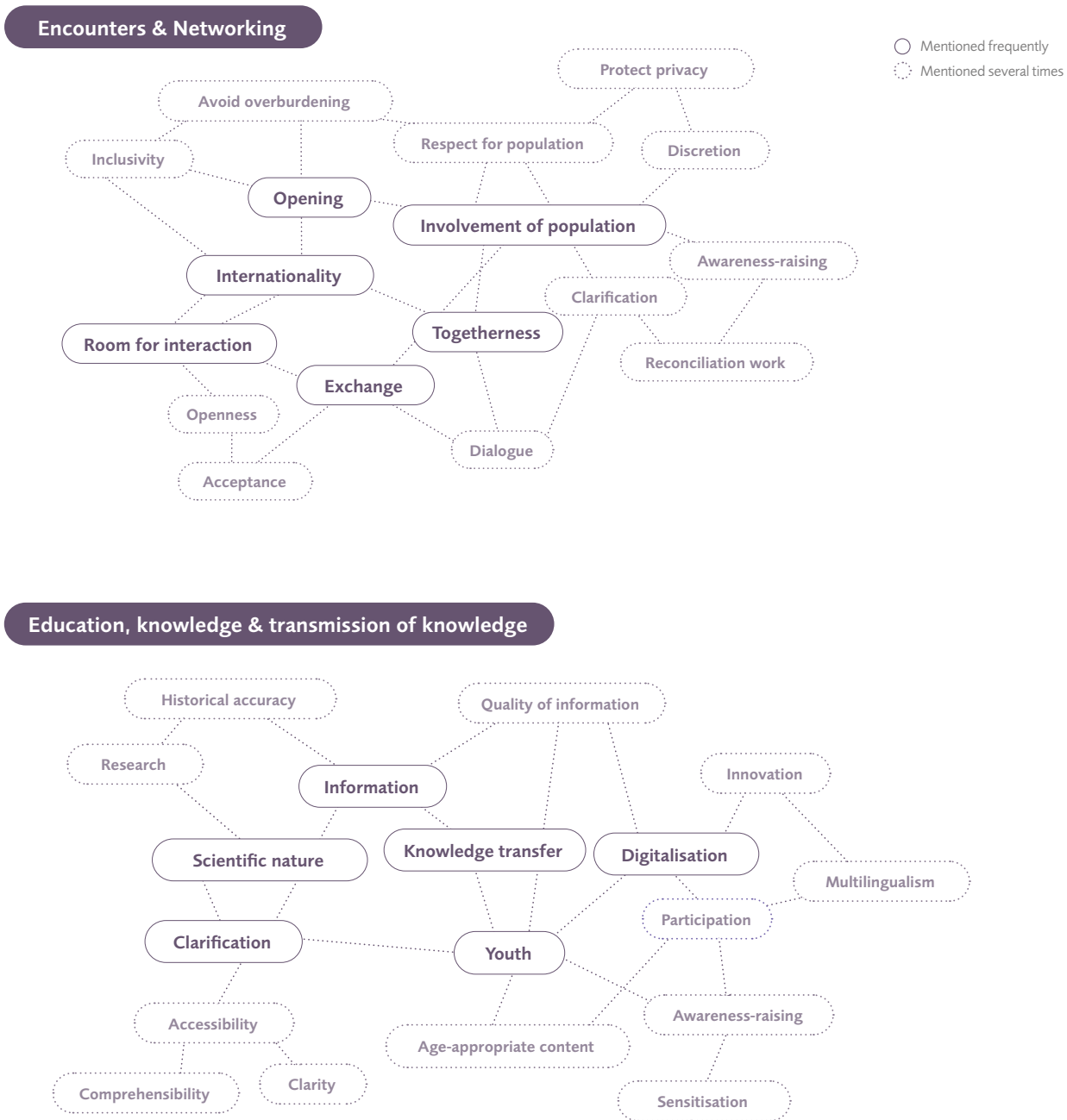


Fig. 6: Criteria for the successful development of the memorial site mentioned in the regional and international survey, weighted according to frequency of mentions

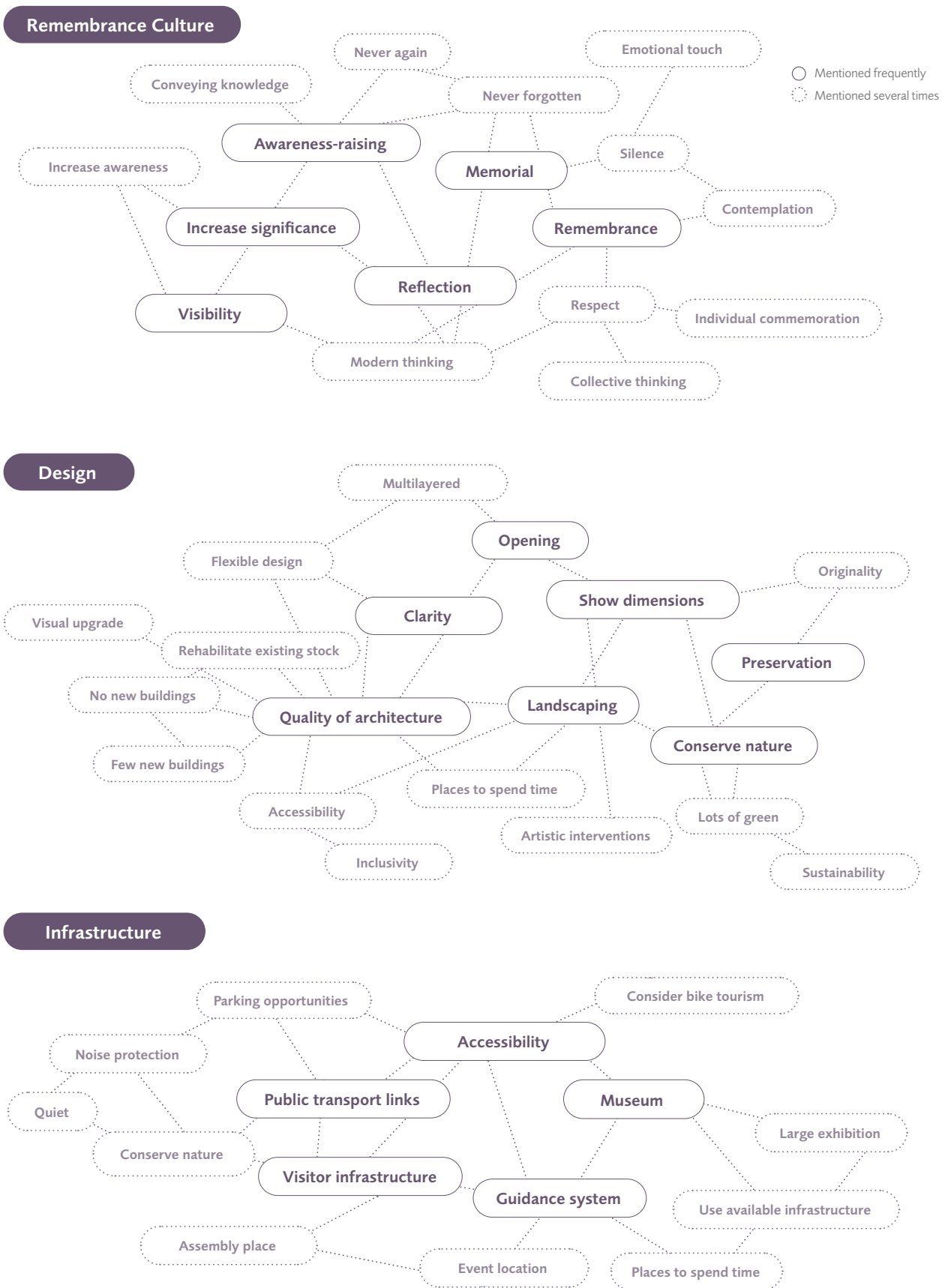
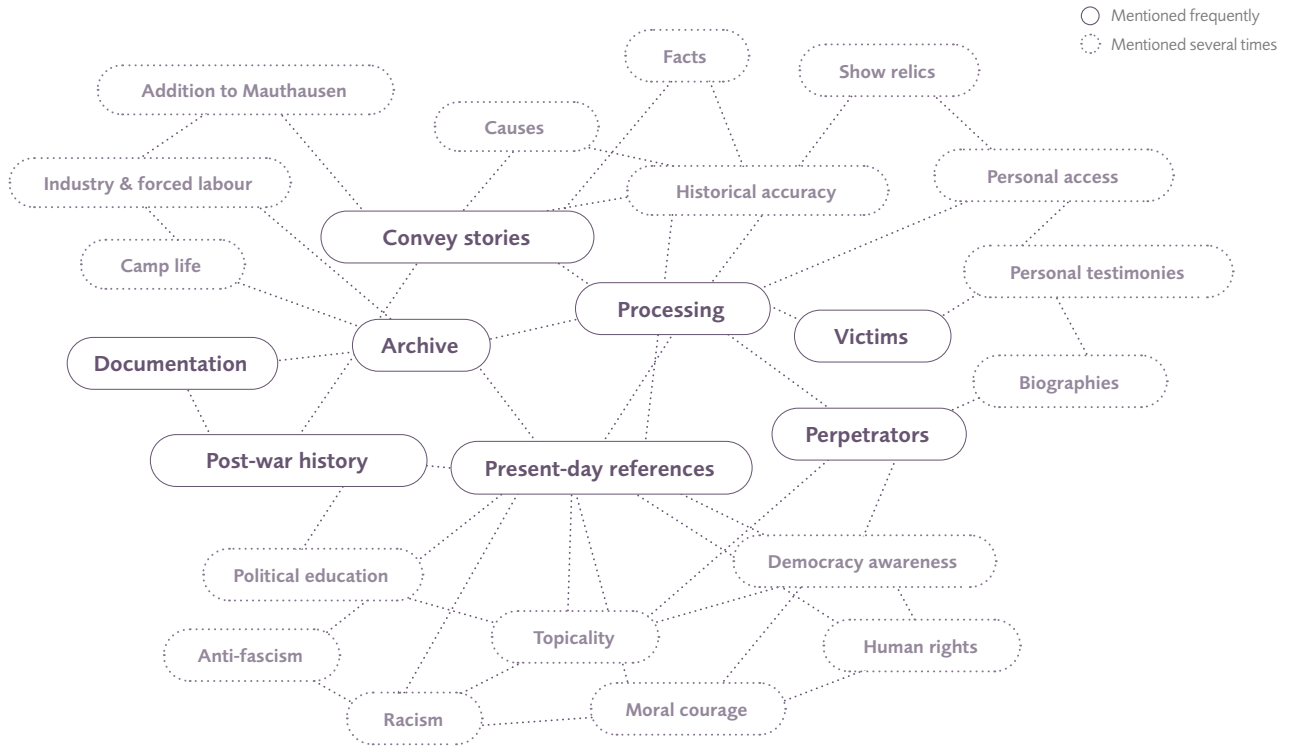


Fig. 7: Criteria for the successful development of the memorial site mentioned in the regional and international survey, weighted according to frequency of mentions

Content & topics



Locations

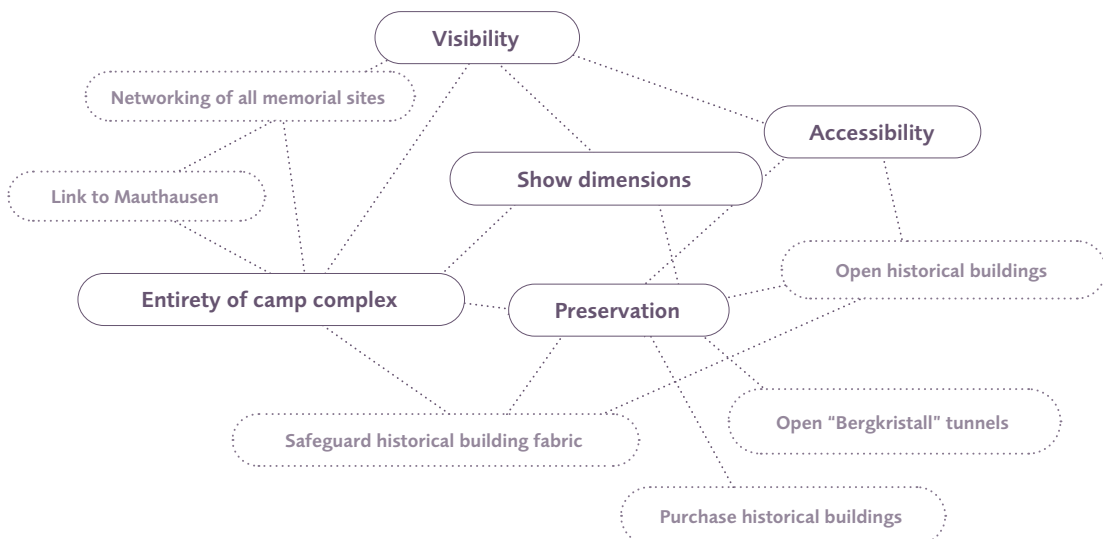


Fig. 8: Criteria for the successful development of the memorial site mentioned in the regional and international survey, weighted according to frequency of mentions

Common values & principles

In light of the key question, the following common values and principles with regard to the development of the memorial site were recorded during the stakeholder workshops in Phase 1 (Analysis phase):



Fig. 9: Values recorded in the stakeholder workshops weighted according to frequency of mentions

Transition to master plan

Due to the integrative approach, the results presented in the summary were continuously evaluated by the architects of the planning team and incorporated into the master plan. This cross-phase collaboration enabled the cooperative development of the present master plan, which contains a large number of the suggestions and proposals made by the participants. The master plan is explained in detail on the following pages.

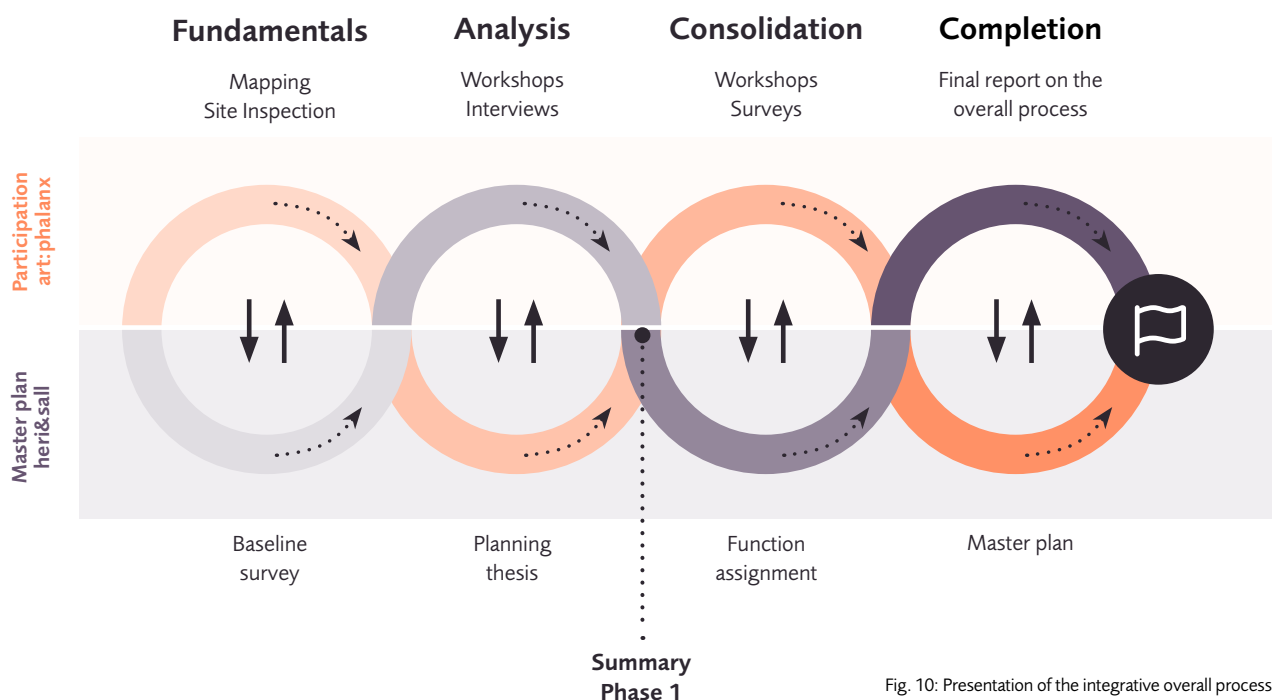


Fig. 10: Presentation of the integrative overall process



Impressions of the youth workshop



Part B

Master plan



Preparing the master plan

The master plan defines the design and functional framework conditions for a competition to design the new pieces of land owned by the Republic of Austria (represented by Burghauptmannschaft Österreich) in Langenstein and St. Georgen and the municipal property in St. Georgen added in the course of the process. The plots are to be developed as an extension of the existing Gusen Memorial. The relevant framework conditions underlying the development of the master plan are presented below. The master plan can be understood as a direct result of two important groups of factors:

1. Analytical factors related to the existing situation:

- a. Data and observations from the site visits
- b. Data from the zoning plan and other official regulations
- c. Legal and contractual agreements
- d. Data from historical plans and images
- e. Data from archaeological and technical investigations

2. The master plan was developed parallel to and in conjunction with the participation process. The different formats of the participation process resulted in different contributions. Some of the recorded contributions, for example from the expert panel, were more theoretical, while others reflected the practical experiences of the participants. This was the case, for example, in the "Participatory Master Plan" workshop format, in which different scenarios for the development of the area were discussed with the help of plans and the participants could mark concrete places for development. The following formats led to direct extensions and updates to the master plan as a result of the ongoing participation process:

- Data from stakeholder interviews
- Results of the workshops
- Specific ideas and proposals that emerged in the discussions about the participatory master plan during the workshops
- Feedback from the information sessions
- Results of the expert panel
- Results of the surveys
- Best practice examples

Various criteria are taken into consideration when evaluating the contributions from the participation process.

1. **A respectful approach** to the different needs of the groups concerned. The different interest groups within the commemorative landscape are interrelated: victims, survivors and their descendants, the local community today, international visitors. A contemporary memorial should add value to the lives of all these groups of people and offer various opportunities for commemoration, transferring knowledge, reflection, contemplation or simply lingering.
2. **Presentation of different time layers as well as historical contexts.** The history of the Gusen concentration camp cannot be limited to the period 1939-1945. The history before and after must be taken into account for the redesign.
3. **New perspectives and points of view** are part of the remembrance culture in the 21st century. Space should be created to include Nazi victim groups that were hitherto barely considered
4. **Visibility** – We often support our recollections with sight. But is the lack of visual aids necessarily a disadvantage? In the future, commemorative landscapes can be organised differently than by focusing on visible relics. Digitalisation measures as well as innovative knowledge transfer concepts came up again and again in the participation process.
5. **Materiality** – Based on their materiality, monuments are usually created to let something "live on", to manifest a lasting presence. Experiencing something architecturally, spatially, is not always material, however. Different places in Gusen and St. Georgen are characterised by different current and historical qualities. The light and temperature in the "Bergkristall" tunnels are different from those in the roll call square. The noise, sounds and smells at the roll call square are different from those at the memorial. Feelings of loneliness, belonging, comfort or effort can be conveyed in many ways with or without architectural forms. It became apparent during the participation process that materiality is an important factor.



Master plan

As a tool for developing urban planning strategies and methods, the master plan sets out various parameters for the area. These parameters determine the flow of visitors through the area, the places where the various groups concerned can spend time, focal points for conveying knowledge, and the possibilities for development, landscape interventions or infrastructure measures. The information in the master plan can be roughly divided into the following categories:

1. Zoning

The master plan defines key topics. Different zones are associated with different qualities of stay. A distinction is drawn between:

- Contemplative zones of a quiet nature
- Semi-public zones where discussion places and group meeting points are created for visitors.
- Public zones that are heavily frequented by both locals and visitors
- Arrival zone: a general, central area for the start of the memorial visit
- Educational and knowledge transfer areas where individuals and groups can use seminar rooms, or seating for research work
- Exhibition zones: Areas for indoor and outdoor exhibitions

2. Accessibility

The master plan defines the arrival areas for visitors as well as the rough parameters for the internal developments. This is to ensure a logical and efficient flow for visitor management. Main things highlighted:

- Mobility points on every piece of land
- Access areas for cars, cycles and pedestrians
- Internal developments
- Service roads
- Any non-access outside opening hours
- Transition and buffer zones to busy roads and direct neighbours

3. Building Development

Above and below-ground development options are proposed. The potential need for new buildings is identified:

- Arrival building with depot
- "Room of silence"

4. Adaptations

- Entrance area for "Bergkristall" tunnel system
- Accompanying measures and interventions
- House of Remembrance

5. Landscaping

Three planting concepts are proposed:

- Preservation and development of existing wooded areas to offer privacy protection, a buffer and shading.
- Additional green structures as buffers and privacy protection as well as green strips
- Improvement of areas to spend time in through shading, cooling, greening

6. Assignment of functions

Additional specific functions can be assigned to the zones defined generally above. For example, education can also take place outside the defined education and knowledge-transfer area, such as in a semi-public zone.

7. Cubature & site studies

These define the possible positioning of the new buildings, the continued use and adaptation of the existing buildings, and the integration of the site-specific and legal framework conditions within the overall design.

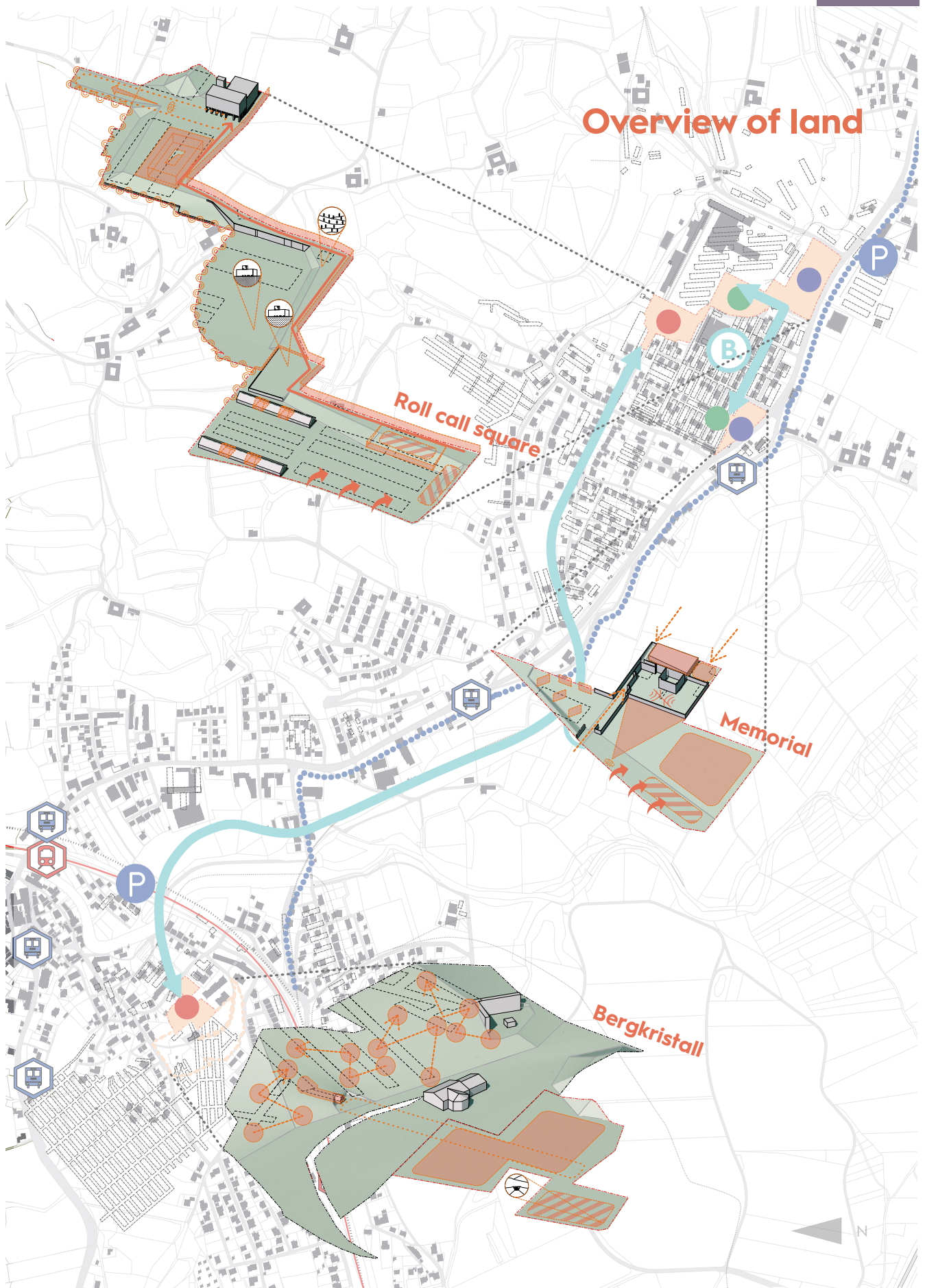


Fig. 11: Overview of land

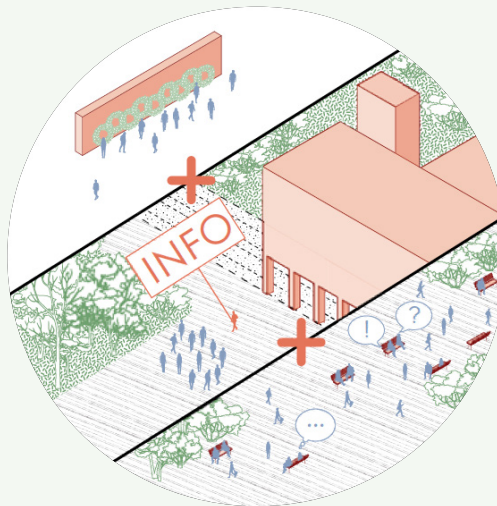
Principles

General

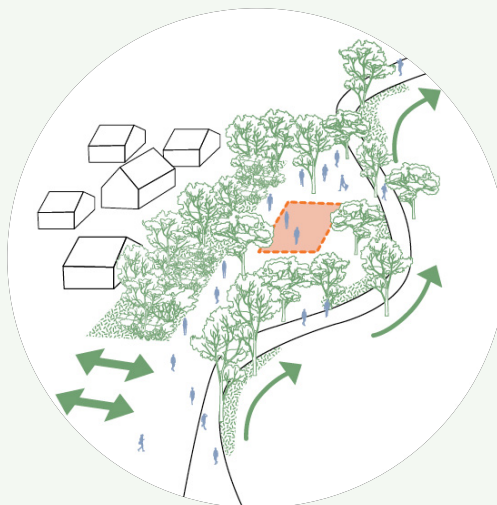
- 1 A clear and recognisable **arrival system** should be created for all area (Gusen Memorial). It should nevertheless be possible to visit individual areas separately.



- 2 **Respect** is a keyword: respect for the different **commemorative / visiting and meeting activities**, which take place at a memorial site. The aim is to offer education, added value and quality for both visitors and the local population.



- 3 Development of **green structures** as a contribution to **ecological resilience**, as **added value** for visitors, residents and the immediate neighbourhood.



Strategies

General

- 1 A **primary arrival zone** between the former SS barracks and the former ornamental garden at the roll call square is defined in the master plan. However, the **provision of information and knowledge transfer** will be available **at all areas**.

- 2 To ensure the respectful coexistence of different interest groups, **communicative zones** transferring information as well as **contemplative areas** for quiet and individual time and **public meeting places** are defined. Different target groups and perspectives of "others" come together in the public zones.

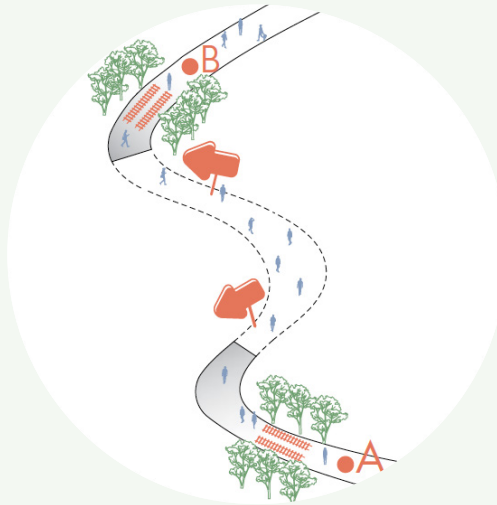
- 3 Wooded areas such as rows of trees, field hedges, etc. can be used as **buffers** between the memorial and the municipality or the commercial area, facilitating orientation and increasing the **quality of time spent**.

Fig. 12: General principles and strategies

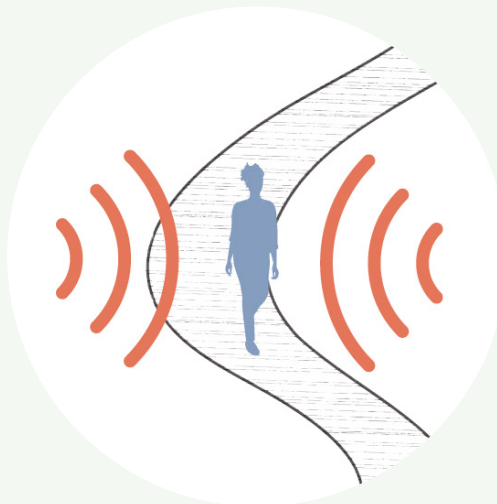
Principles

General

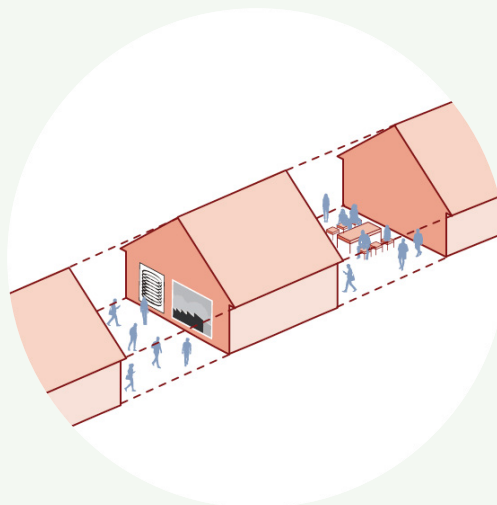
- 4 The aim is to ensure **recognisability** and "**visual links**" between the areas due to functional and historical connections. Keyword: semantic links.



- 5 Consideration of **historical** and **current** situations regarding noise levels is recommended.



- 6 The **integration** of the existing former **SS buildings** as well as the continued use of the visitor centre ("Memorial" site) and the **House of Remembrance** should also be considered.



Strategies

General

- 4 A recognisable intervention in the area of the original **industrial railway** leading from the "**roll call square**"/**stone crusher** to the "**Bergkristall**" tunnel system is suggested. Other connections between the plots, such as the **camp wall** ("Memorial" - "roll call square") can also be considered.

- 5 Several places within the area were characterised by constant noise when the camp existed. Some of these places are nowadays in the immediate vicinity of industrial and commercial zones. It is recommended that **consideration be given to this aspect regarding future functional areas**.

- 6 The existing buildings are to be used for **presentations, exhibitions** and **educational activities**. Existing activities can be expanded and deepened.

Fig. 13: General principles and strategies

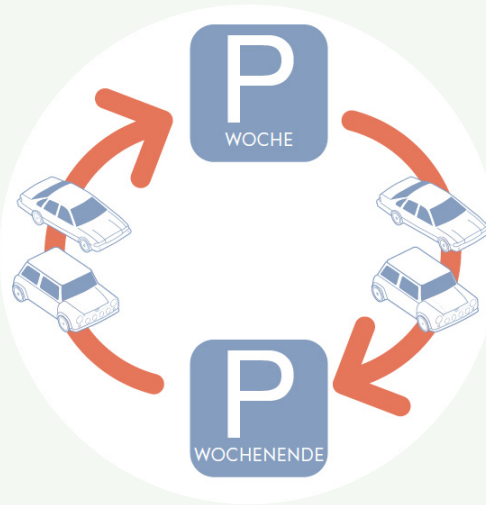
Principles

General

Strategies

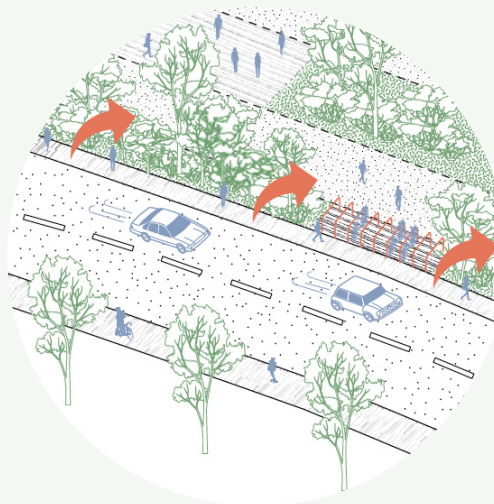
General

7 The development of an **innovative mobility concept** including additional synergies within the municipalities is envisaged. The aim is to positively influence both the daily exercise habits of the local residents and those of the visitors.



7 **Mobility Points** will be created in each area. These provide a **minimum number of parking spaces for employees, accessible parking spaces, e-parking spaces** and a minimum requirement for visitors. In addition, **synergies** are being sought **within the communities**.

8 Transition zones are defined for the areas adjacent to **Georgestraße**.



8 In the **transition zones**, innovative concepts should be developed both with regard to the **external impact** (how does the place become recognisable/accessible?) and the adjacent traffic (how can a **buffer** be created?) in combination with a new mobility concept.

Fig. 14: General principles and strategies

Principles

Roll call square

- 1 A **new entrance area** should be created for general functions.
- 2 A **Mobility Point** is to be made available for both visitors and staff.
- 3 The **SS buildings** will receive a new concept for use. Existing areas can remain function-free to a certain extent.
- 4 Making the **stone crusher accessible** as a **viewing platform** is **perceived critically** based on the results of the **participation process**.

Strategies

Roll call square

- 1 A **new building** is proposed for **welcoming visitors and conveying knowledge** (general functions such as archive, office, arrival, small gastronomy offerings / system with vending machines, book sales). The building is proposed within the embankment area by the former 'ornamental garden' connected to the public green space in front of it.
- 2 A Mobility Point is proposed in the **area of the arrival building**. A sensible **solution** in relation to the **busy Georgestraße** should also be found
- 3 Site-specific and topic-specific knowledge transfer is recommended for the SS buildings. **Space for "emptiness" or exhibition areas** for an understanding of the different time layers is designated within the master plan, with one third of the buildings.
- 4 Due to different parameters (**monument protection, accessibility, view of private gardens**), it has become apparent that making the upper area of the stone crusher accessible is deemed controversial, both practically and in terms of content. The **basement area** is currently under water, adaptations can be examined. It is recommended that the **exposed areas** in the **ground floor zone** be considered for access, including the yard areas.

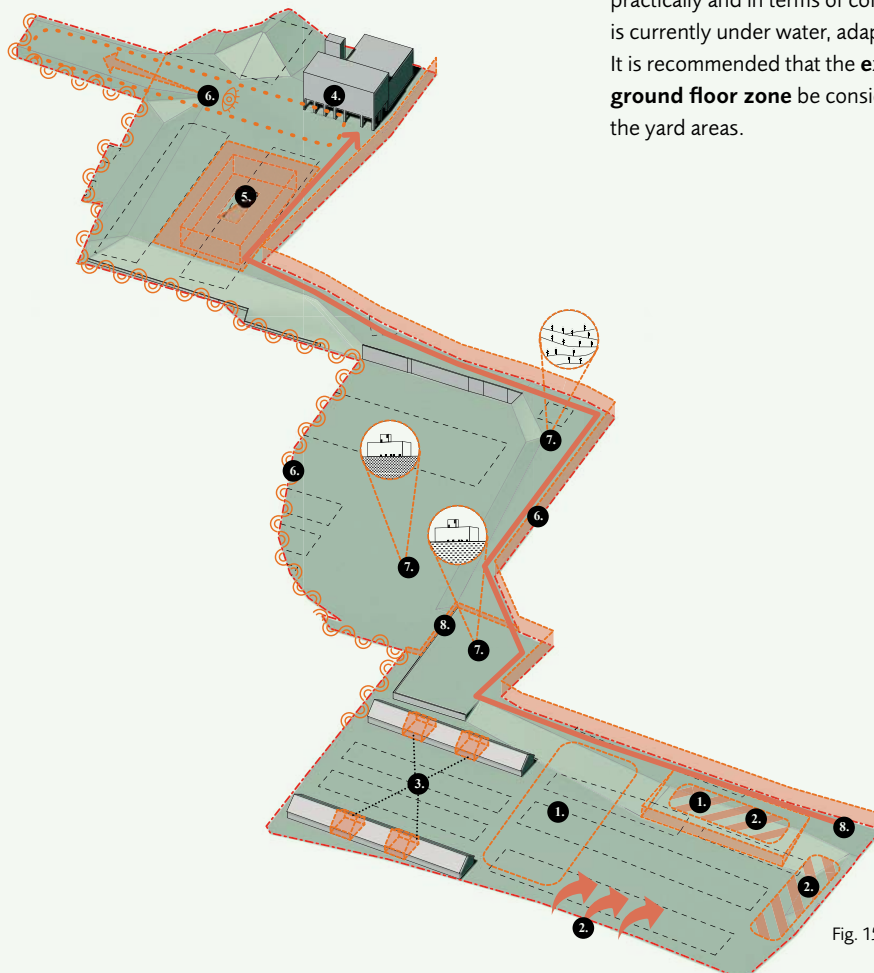
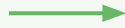


Fig. 15: Roll call square principles and strategies

Principles

Roll call square

- 5 The **upper edge of the terrain** in front of the stone crusher (former Steyr hangar) has been raised by **3-4 m** to its current level over the years. A design **intervention** within the **filled ground** can be considered.
- 6 A sensible approach to **legal** and **locally specific** framework conditions is expected.
- 7 The design should take important **visual axes** into account.
- 8 **Safe, economical** and **logical use** of the area should be ensured.



Strategies

Roll call square

- 5 The master plan proposes partial developments for the filled ground. The possibility for a **room of silence** in this area can be considered.
- 6 **Privacy protection measures** and contractually defined framework conditions can and should be examined for additional functions (**added value**). To the west of the stone crusher, a partially accessible installation that can be viewed from the outside is proposed in order to take the view into the neighbouring gardens into account.
- 7 Existing visual axes, such as from the **roll call square** and the former **depot** in the **direction of the stone crusher** or from the **embankment/roll call square** in the **direction of the quarry** should be taken into account in the overall concept.
- 8 **No access outside opening hours** in particular for the roll call square and the stone crusher is proposed. Nevertheless, the entire area remains visible from the somewhat higher area of the former depot. An internal **service and access road** is envisaged on the north-western boundary of the site.

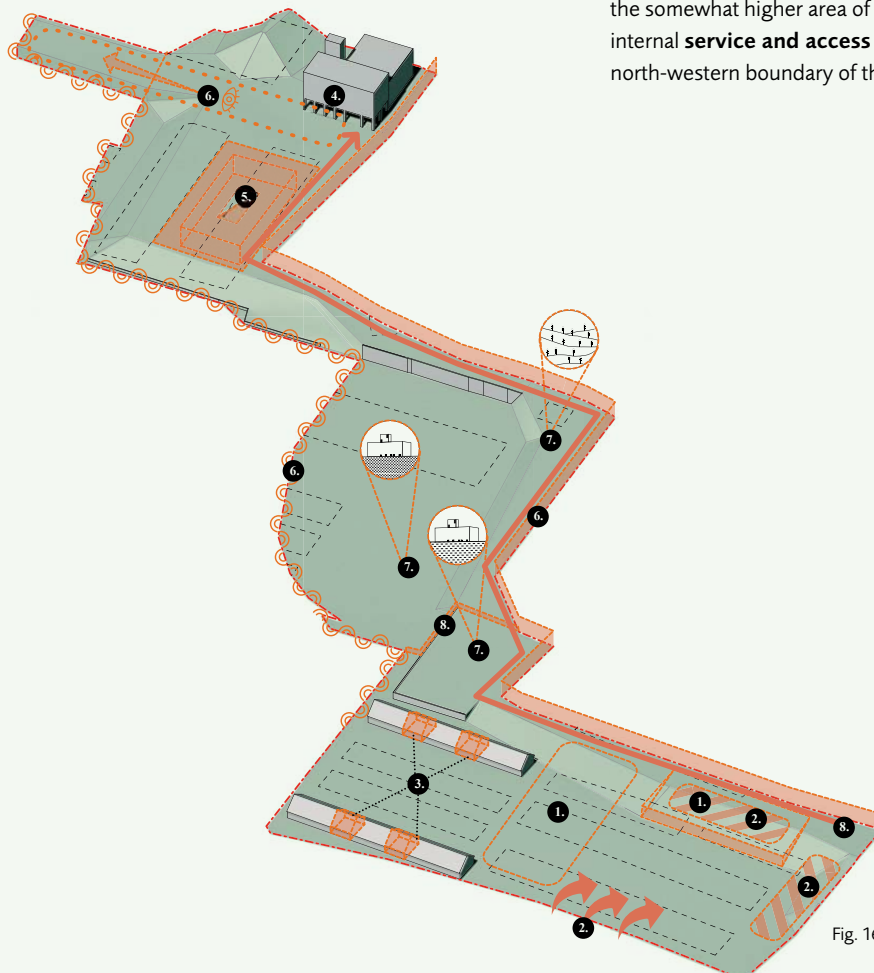


Fig. 16: Roll call square principles and strategies

Historical images



SS Guard House, probably spring 1943 (Museu d'Història de Catalunya, Fons Amical de Mauthausen)



Roll call square, after 5 May 1945 (Mauthausen Memorial, Jerzy Ginter collection)



Stone crusher, 2 June 1963 (Alfred Herzig collection)



Gusen, 1947 (Simone Bonnet private collection)



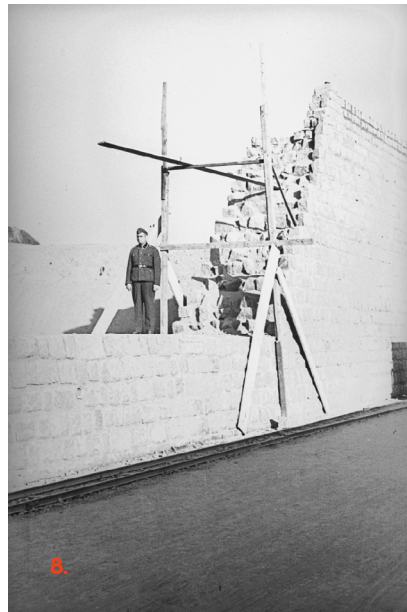
Construction of kitchen block, spring 1940 (Museu d'Història de Catalunya, Fons Amical de Mauthausen)



Bergkristall tunnels, 1990s (Franz Walzer collection)



SS Camp Commandant Fritz Seidler and his wife in front of the home for senior SS personnel (private family memorabilia)



Northern retaining wall, presumably spring 1943 (Museu d'Història de Catalunya, Fons Amical de Mauthausen)



Gusen panorama, 1949 (Mauthausen Memorial, Henri Bousset)



Camp Commandant Fritz Seidler and his wife in the SS ornamental garden, presumably 1942 (private family memorabilia)



Gusen crematorium, 1949 (Simone Bonnet private collection)



Roll call square, after 5 May 1945 (Mauthausen Memorial, Jerzy Ginter collection)



Stone crusher, after 5 May 1945 (Mauthausen Memorial, Jerzy Ginter collection)

Fig. 17: Historical images

Legend













































	Plot boundary		Private road (access only for roll call square)
	Municipal boundary		Transition zone
	Boundary between playing field, lawn, play area and residential area (Zoning plan info.)		Fence
	Boundary between special area and residential area (Zoning plan info.)		Consider privacy of private properties
	Area marked for farming and forestry activity, barren land (Zoning plan info.)		Start of audiowalk
	Green space (Zoning plan info.)		End of audiowalk
	Construction of buildings not permitted (Zoning plan info.)		Contemplative zone/remembrance
	Railway		Public zone
	Light railway		Communicative zone
	Former camp buildings		Arrival zone
	Siding		Education
	Archaeological remains, presumably largely destroyed		Exhibition
	Further archaeological items not documented		Infrastructure
	Archaeological findings		Service road
	Archaeological findings (not visible)		Mobility Point, cycles
	Pedestrian access		Mobility Point, general (cars, cycles, buses, etc.)
	Pedestrian link		Newly defined areas
	Cycle access		Wooded areas as privacy protection, buffer zones and shading. Preservation and development encouraged
	Cycle path		Green spaces for development as buffers/privacy protection and green corridors
	Cars		Improvement in spaces to spend time via shading, cooling and greening
	Visual axes, historical images		
	Symbolic link between sites		
	Introverted, quiet		
	Extroverted/insightful		

Fig. 18: Master plan legend

LAYOUT

Roll call square

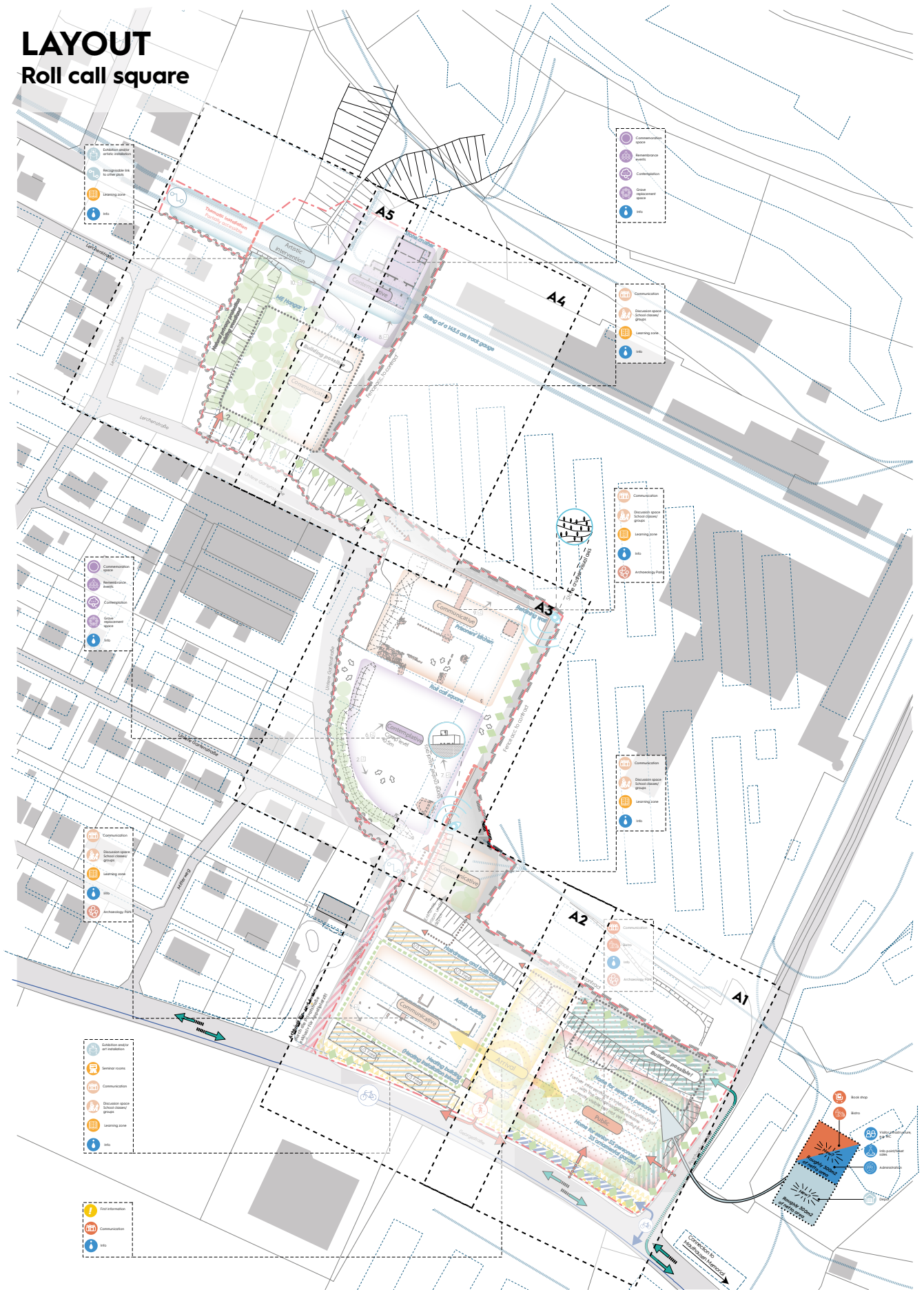


Fig. 20: Master Plan - Roll call square layout (Sections A1 to A5 shown on the following pages)

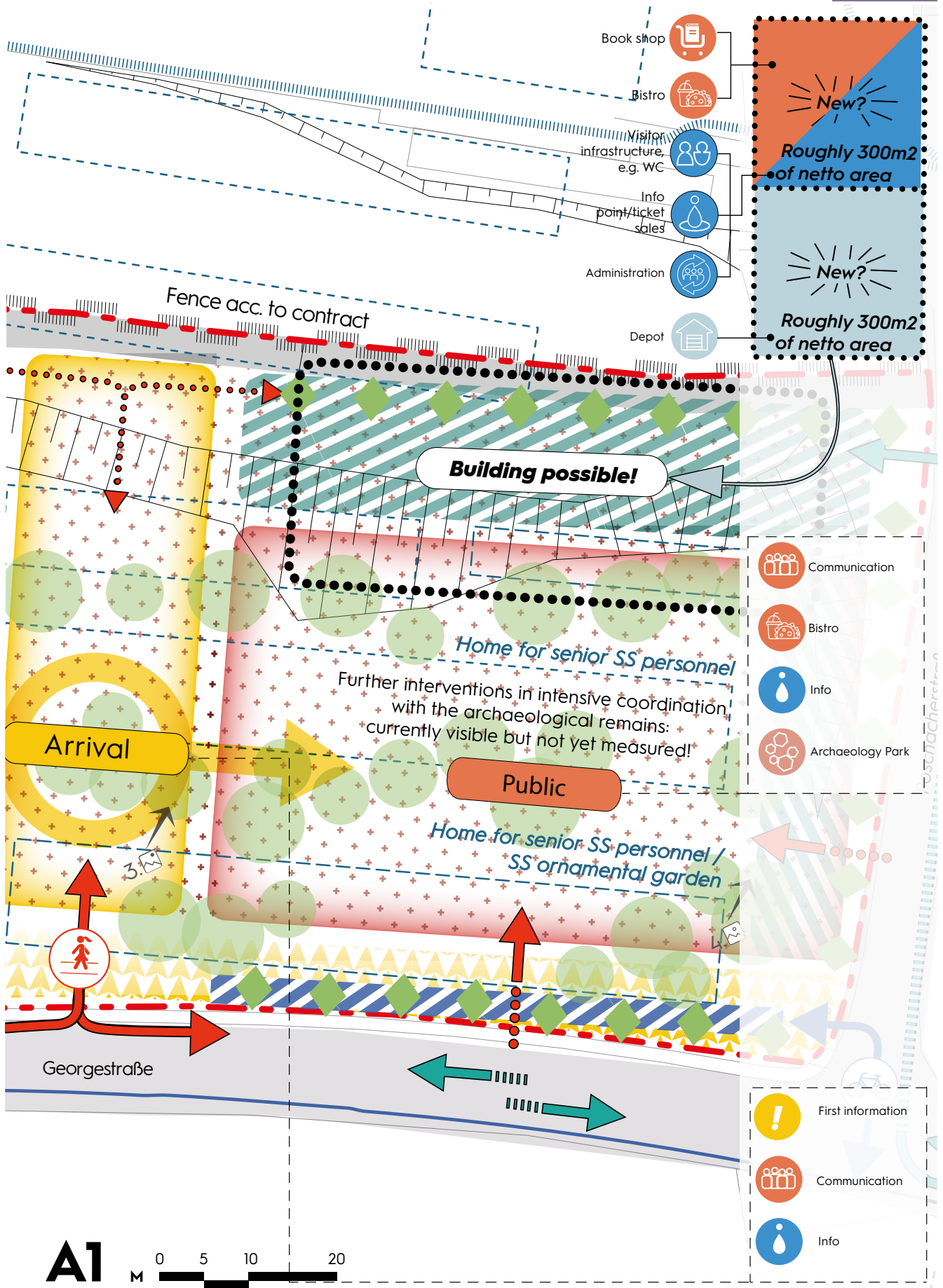


Fig. 21: Master plan - Roll call square layout (Section A1)

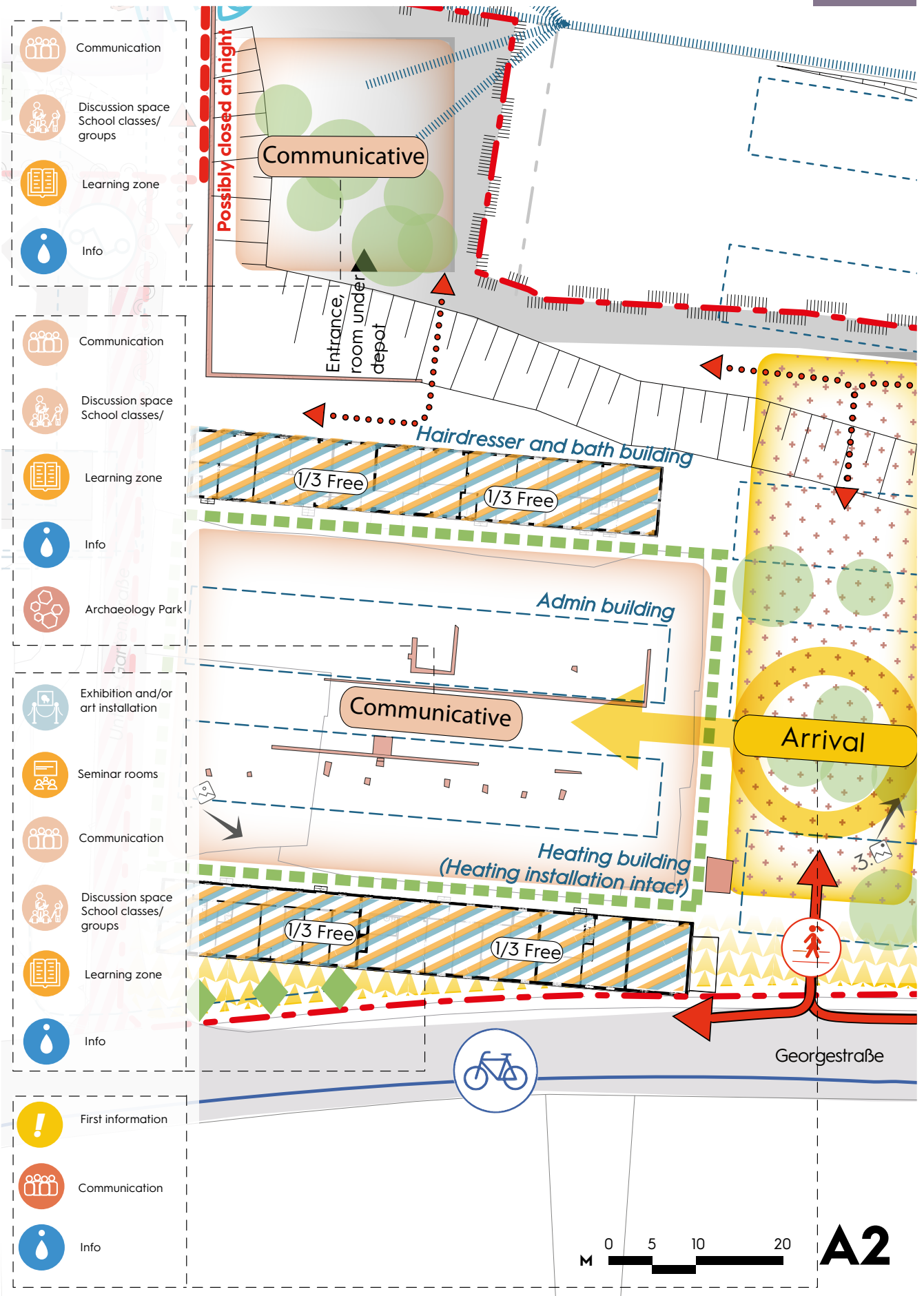


Fig. 22: Master plan - Roll call square layout (Section A2)

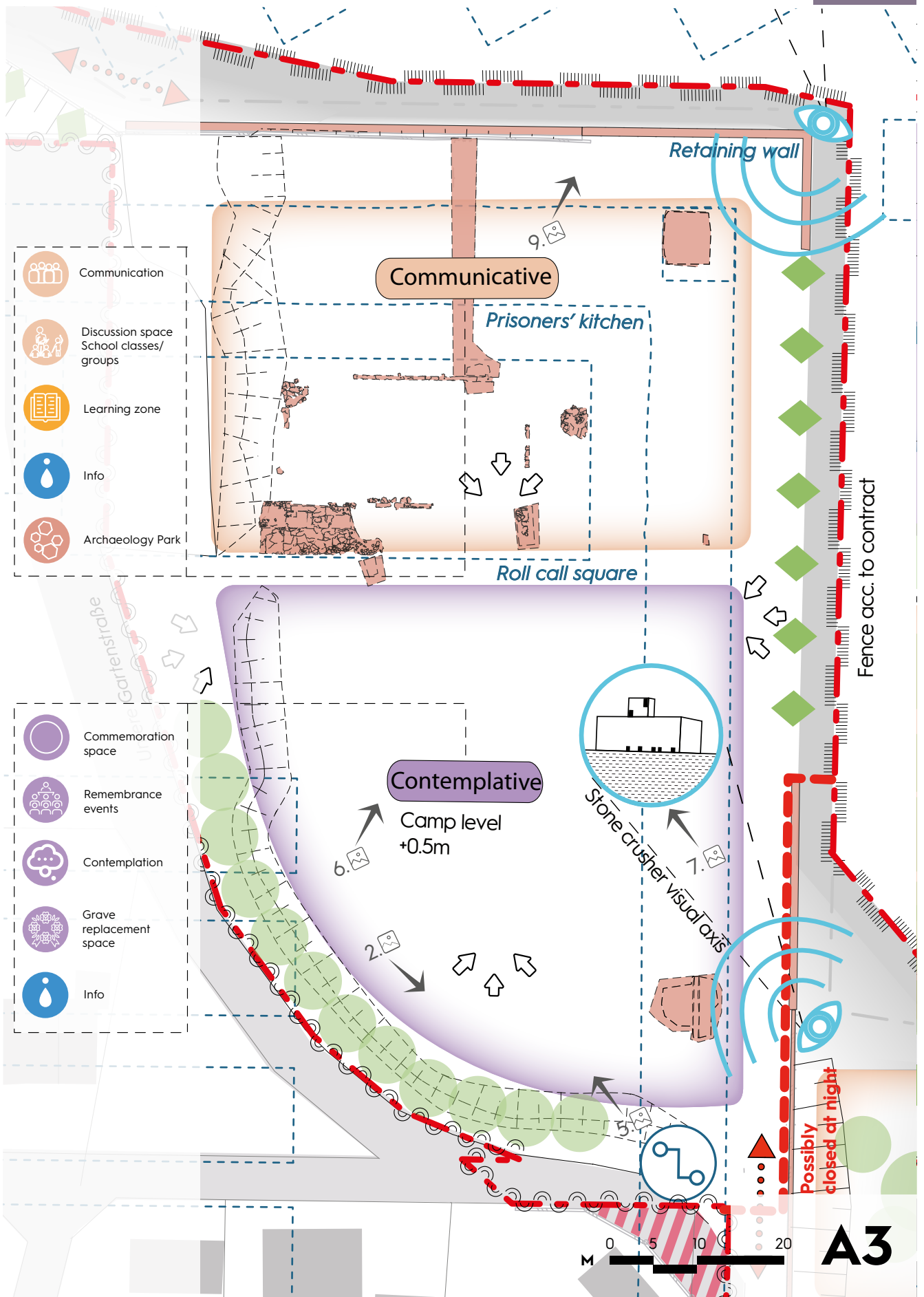


Fig. 23: Roll call square layout (Section A3)

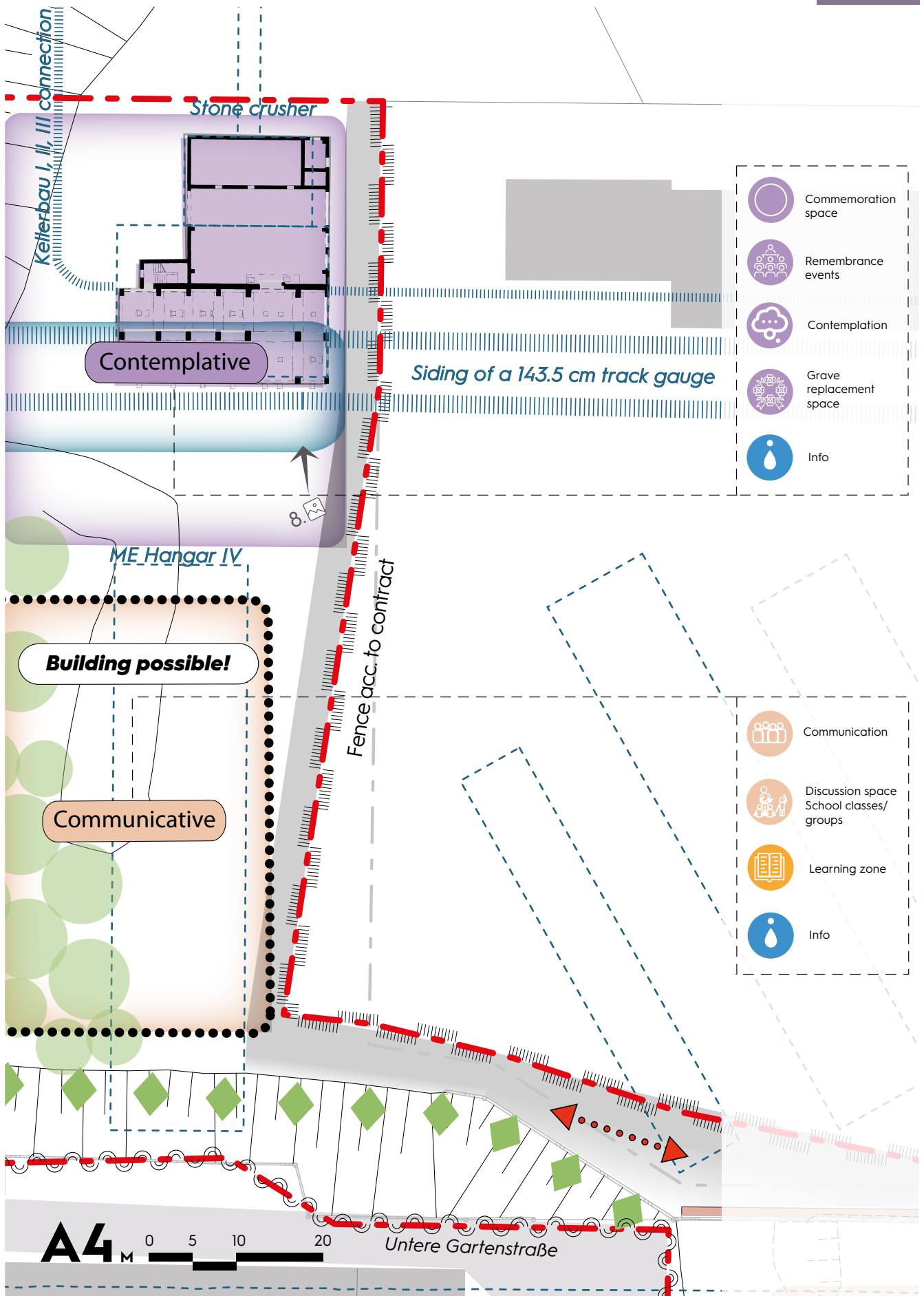


Fig. 24: Master plan - Roll call square layout (Section A4)

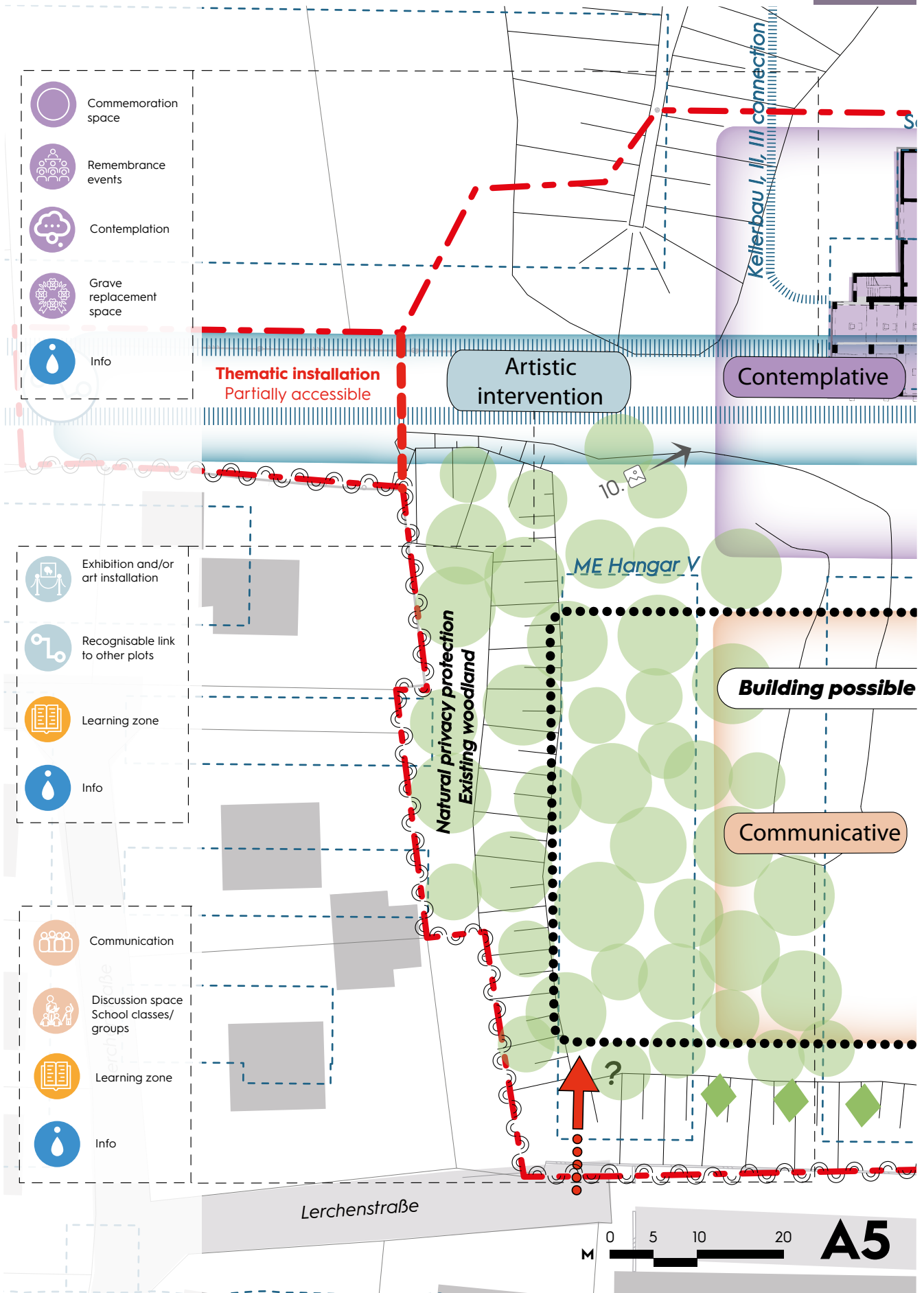


Fig. 25: Master plan - Roll call square layout (Section A5)

Principles

Memorial de Gusen

- 1 A new **access** solution at the Memorial is needed.
- 2 The **visitor centre** will continue to be used in its current function - minor adaptations can/should take place.
- 3 A **new concept** is being sought for the **green area** next to the visitor centre on the Obere Gartenstraße.
- 4 The possibility for both locals and visitors to **use the meadow in front of the Memorial** should be ensured.
- 5 The **view of the Memorial** should continue to be kept clear.
- 6 The **internal area of the Memorial** should ensure a **quiet and contemplative environment**.

Strategies

Memorial de Gusen

- 1 No more cars should be parked in the current access area of the Memorial. This area will thus be **calmed down for the benefit of the visitors** and the **potential for conveying knowledge** outdoors. An easily accessible **Mobility Point** is envisaged on Georgestraße.
- 2 New **access from Obere Gartenstraße** is being sought. **Access to a public toilet** should be provided outside opening hours. The current **exhibition** needs to be **re-curated**.
- 3 The area is to be made more attractive as a **public space for visitors and local residents**.
- 4 The meadow in front of the Memorial is intended to offer both visitors and locals new ways to spend quality time. The design should take into consideration the **busy Georgestraße** on the southern boundary.
- 5 Measures that **impair the view** of the Memorial are to be **avoided**.
- 6 When **designing the floor coverings**, care should be taken to ensure that they are **as quiet as possible**. **Expanding the grave replacement space** on the empty monument walls would also be possible.

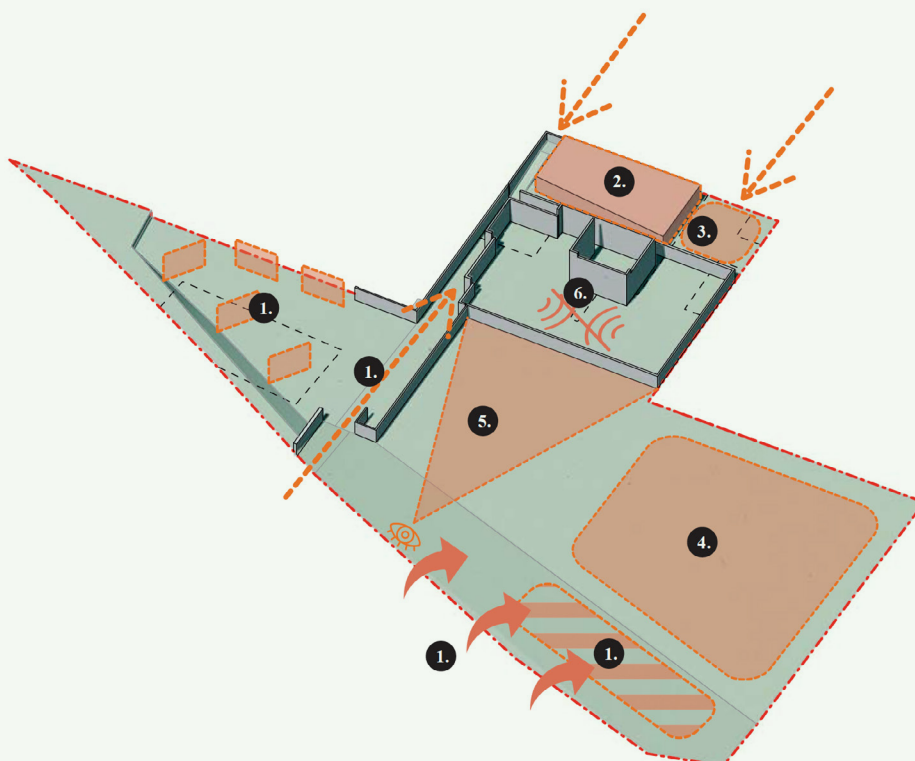


Fig. 26: Memorial site principles and strategies

LAYOUT Memorial



Fig. 27: Master plan - memorial site layout

LAYOUT Memorial

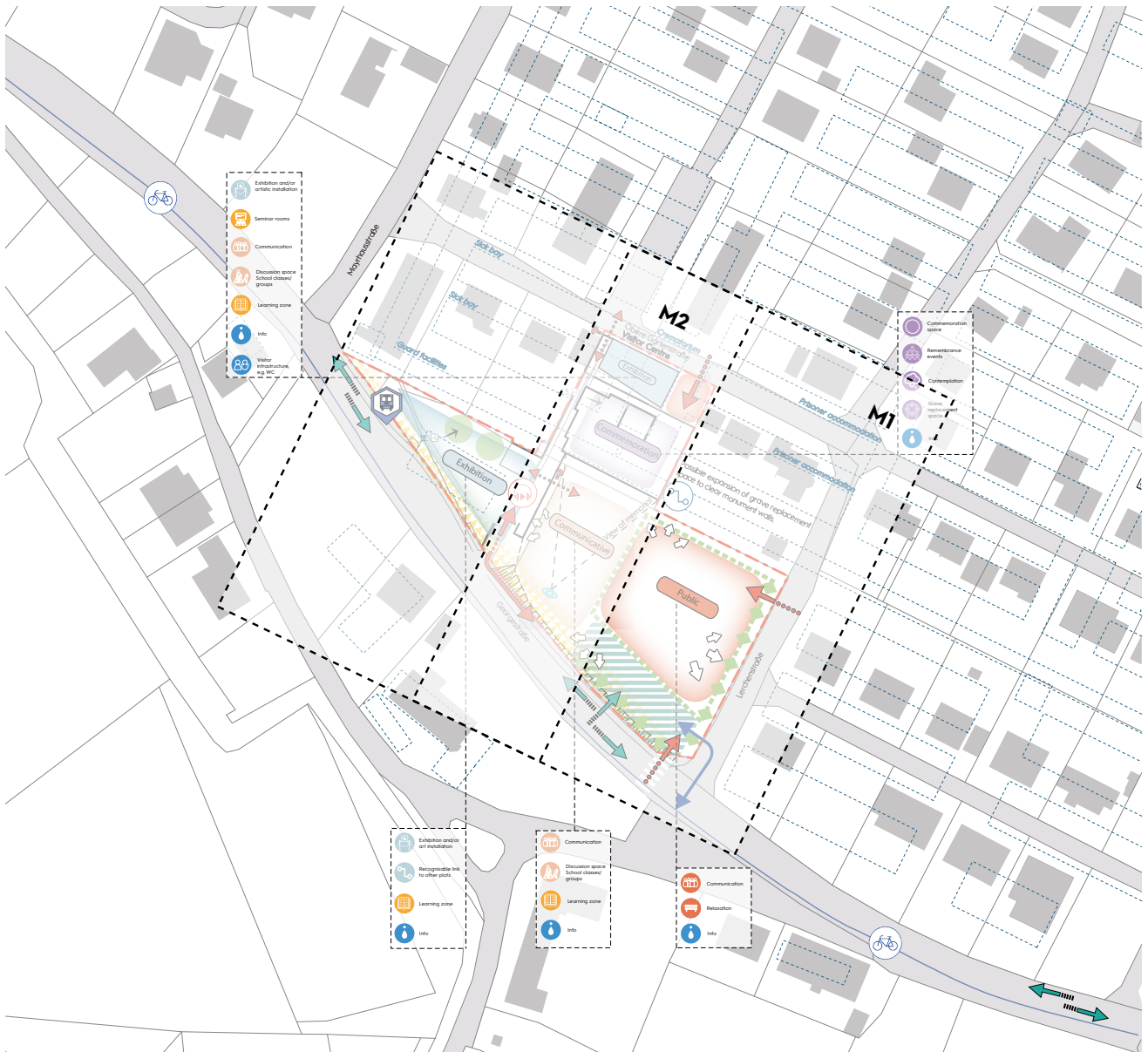


Fig. 28: Master Plan - memorial site layout (Sections M1 to M2 shown on the following pages)

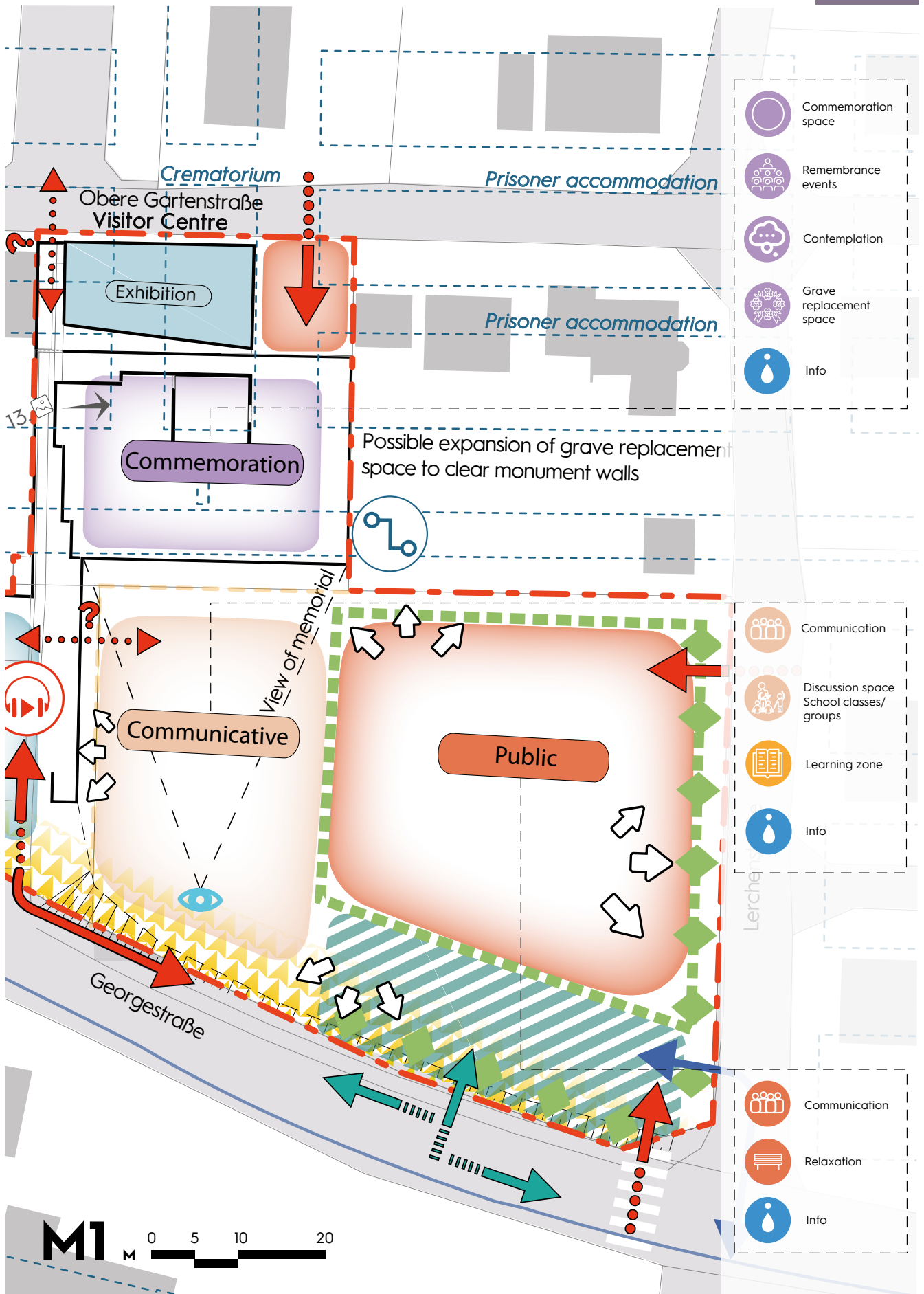


Fig. 29: Master plan - memorial site layout (Section M1)

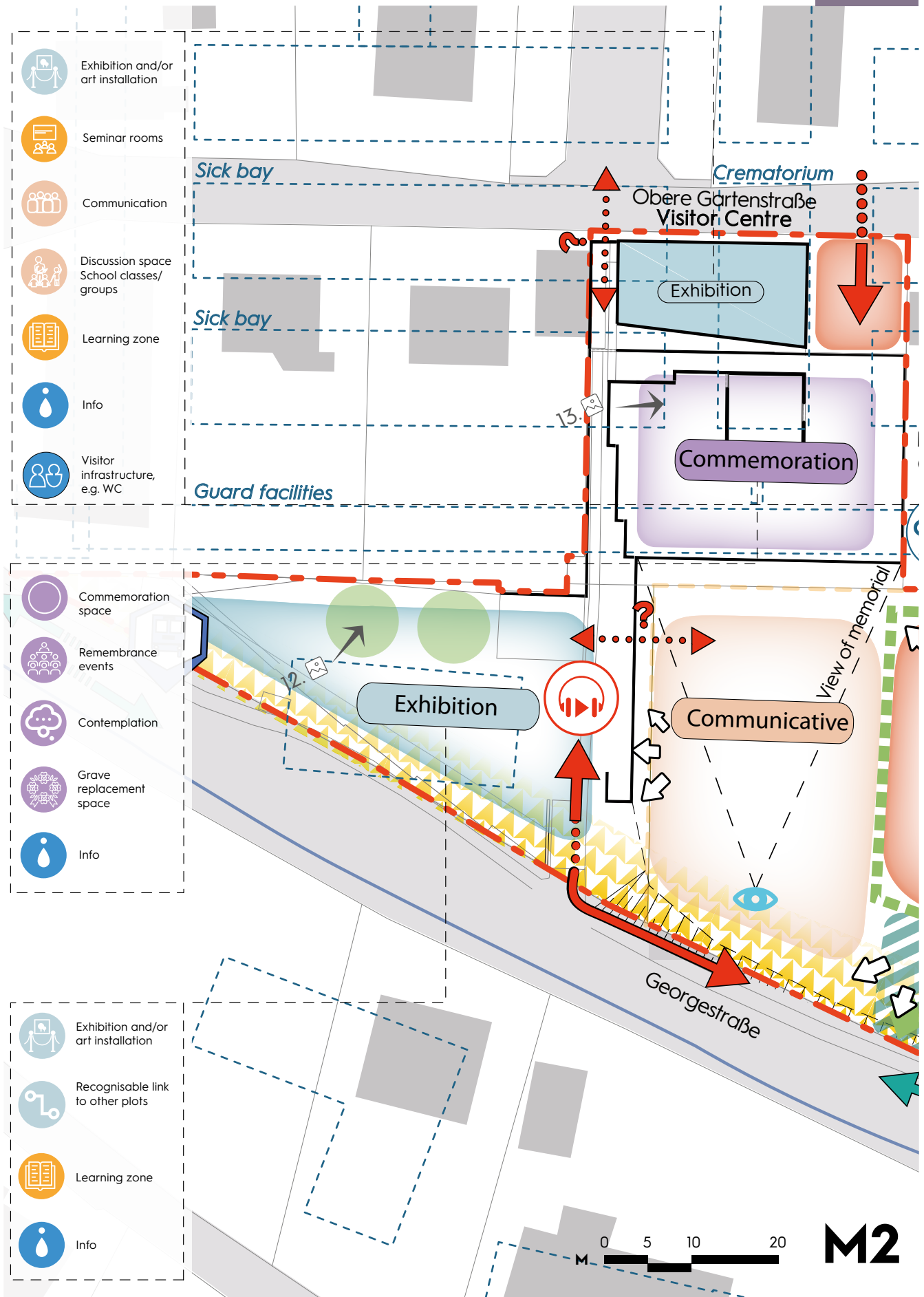


Fig. 30: Master plan - memorial site layout (Section M2)

Principles

"Bergkristall"

- 1 The **tunnel system** should be made **tangible** and **understandable**.
- 2 The area and the House of Remembrance are currently accessed via **Marcel Callo Straße**. This **solution** is **disadvantageous** for both visitors and the locals. An **alternative solution** is necessary.
- 3 The **tunnel entrance** should be **clearly visible** from the Mobility Point.
- 4 **Joint use** of the area by both locals and visitors should be ensured.
- 5 The embankment at the tunnel entrance should be understood as a **natural memorial landscape** with selective interventions.

Strategies

"Bergkristall"

- 1 **Partially opening** the tunnel system and giving access can be considered. The aim is to **get an impression** of the **tunnel system**. This can also be done via a short section in the front tunnel areas.
- 2 A **Mobility Point** on Bahnhofstraße is proposed.
- 3 Measures that impair the view of the tunnel entrance are to be avoided. The **view of the entrance** should be strengthened.
- 4 Potential design interventions should take into account that the area in front of the **entrance to the "Bergkristall"** tunnel system and the House of Remembrance has been and will continue to be **heavily frequented** by the public, especially by children.
- 5 Informal guidance is proposed. Visitors will be given the **opportunity to "discover" places** and enter a "contemplative zone" left to nature. Possible **views** (former tunnel entrance, potential exhibition areas) should continue to be **maintained and used**.

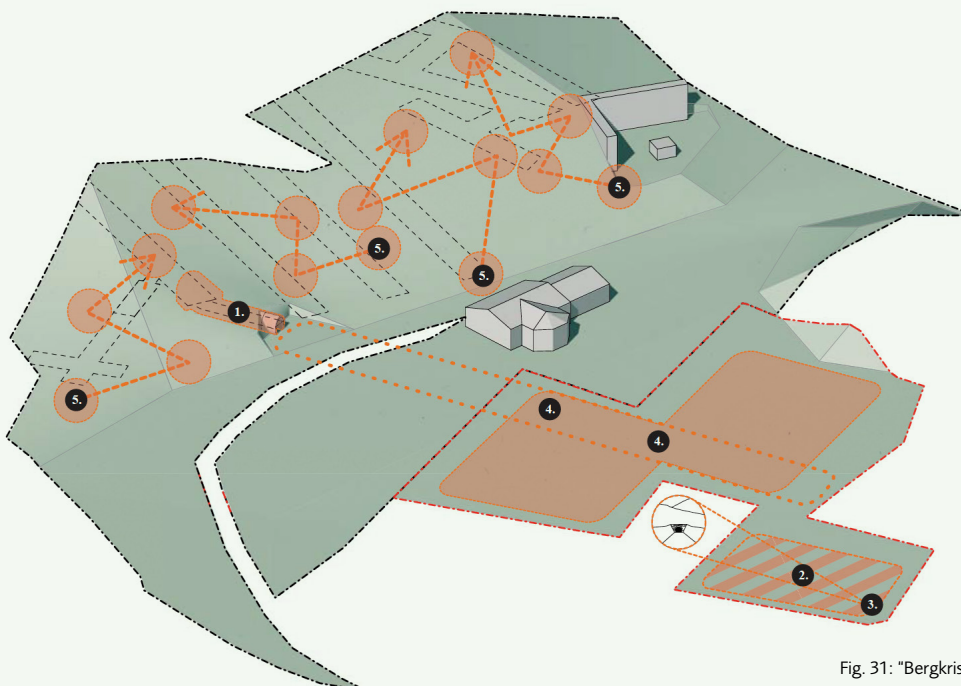


Fig. 31: "Bergkristall" principles and strategies

LAYOUT Bergkristall

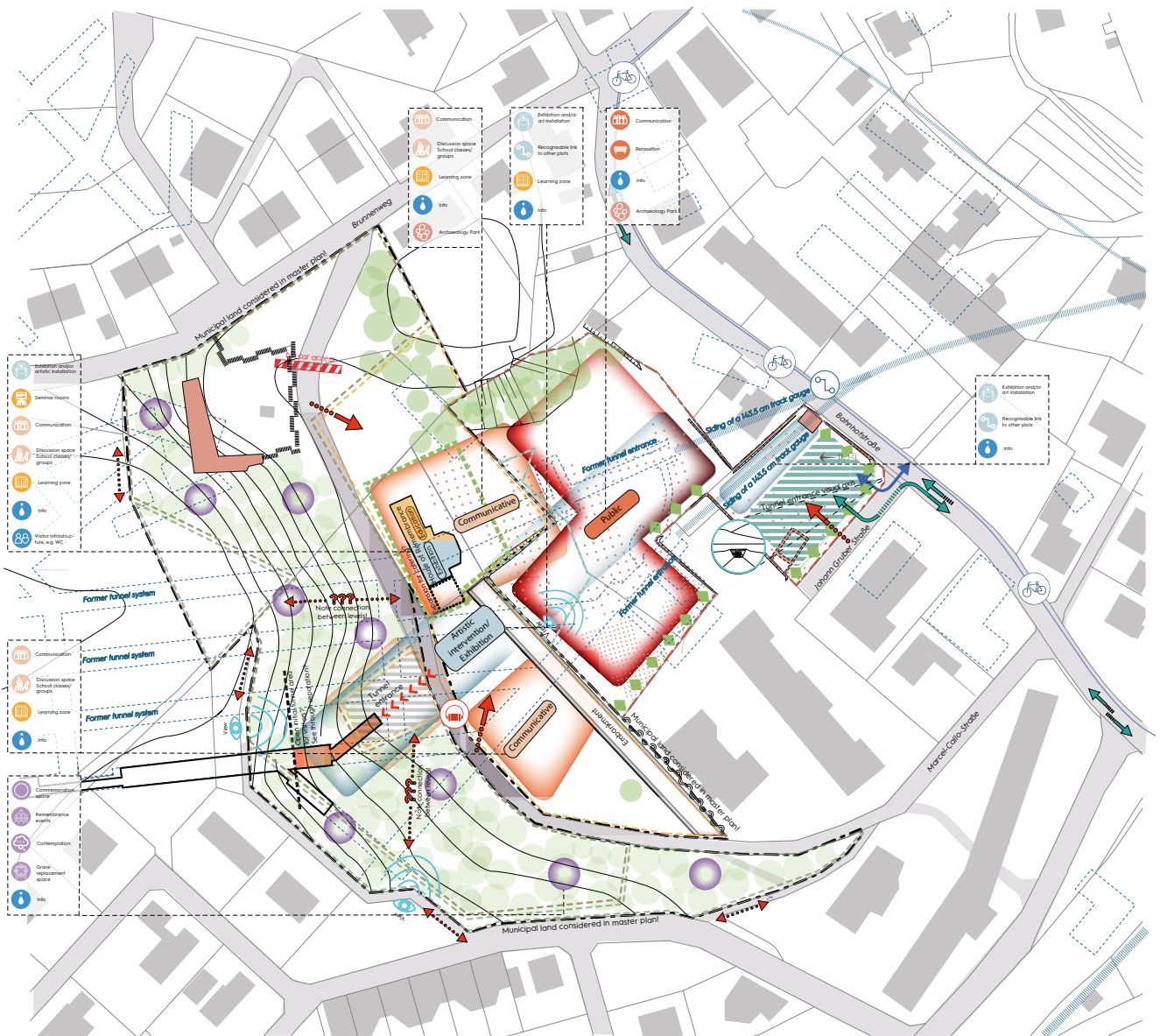


Fig. 32: Master plan - "Bergkristall" layout

LAYOUT Bergkristall

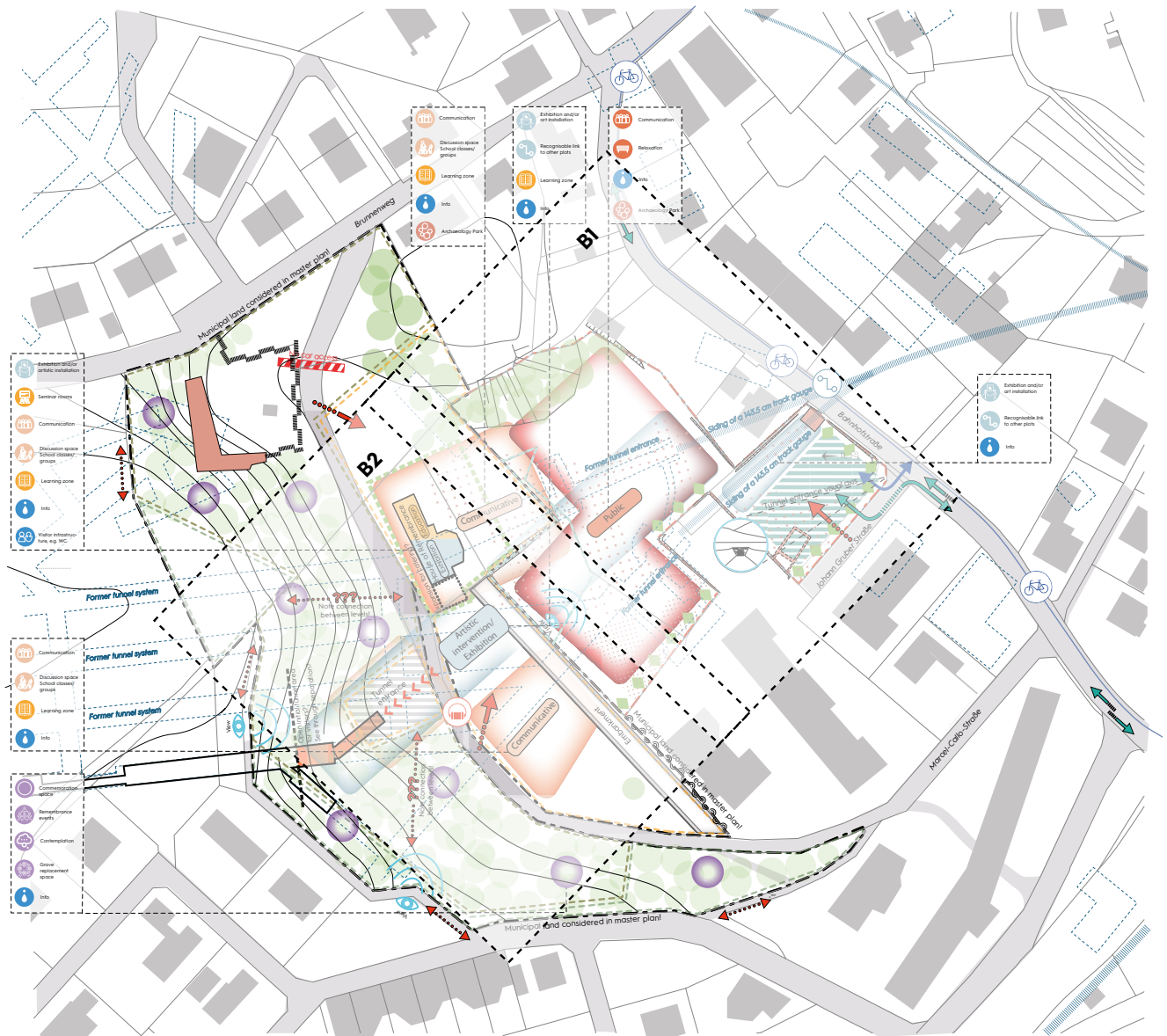


Fig. 33: Master Plan - "Bergkristall" layout (Sections B1 and B2 shown on the following pages)

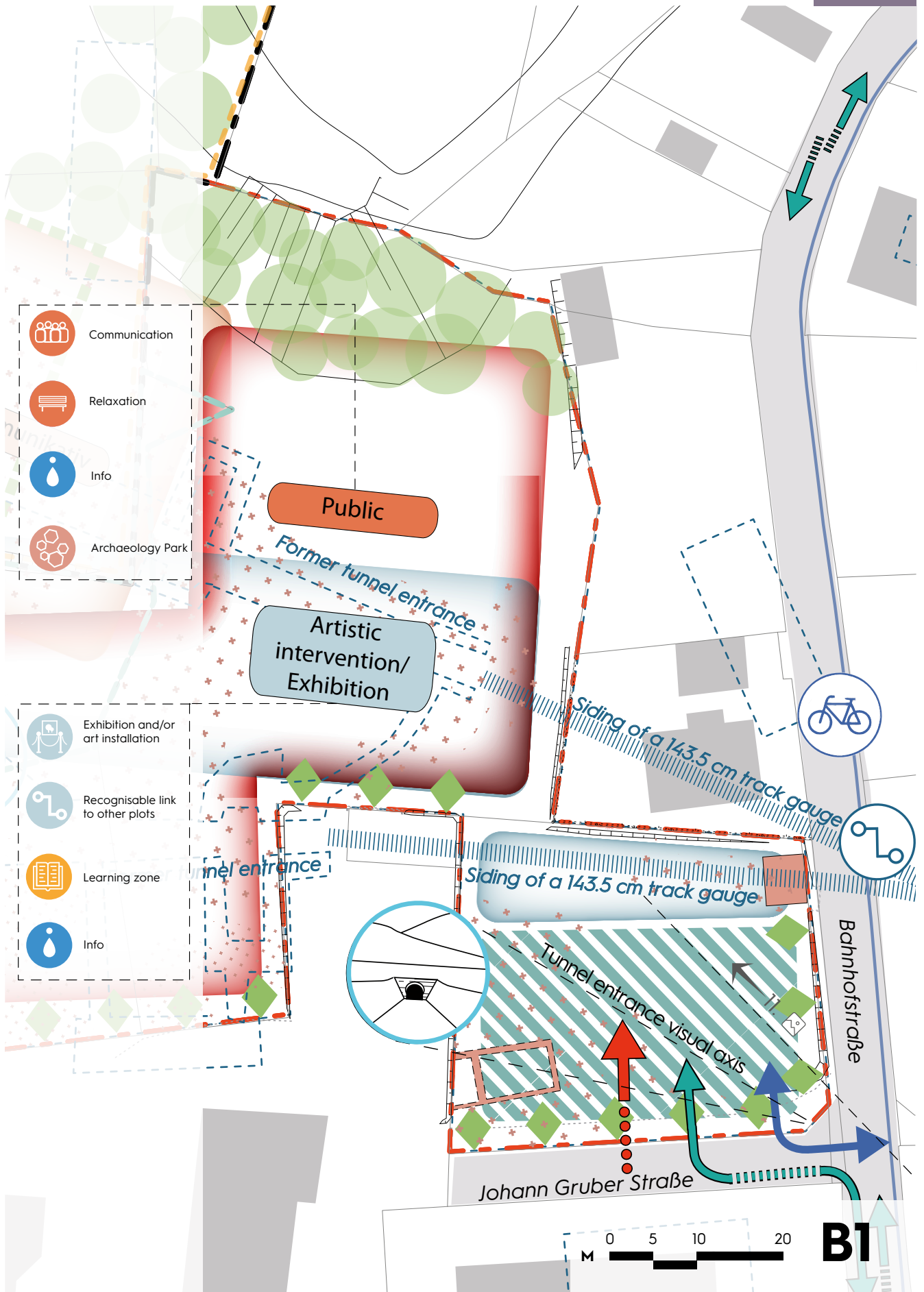


Fig. 34: Master plan - "Bergkristall" layout (Section B1)

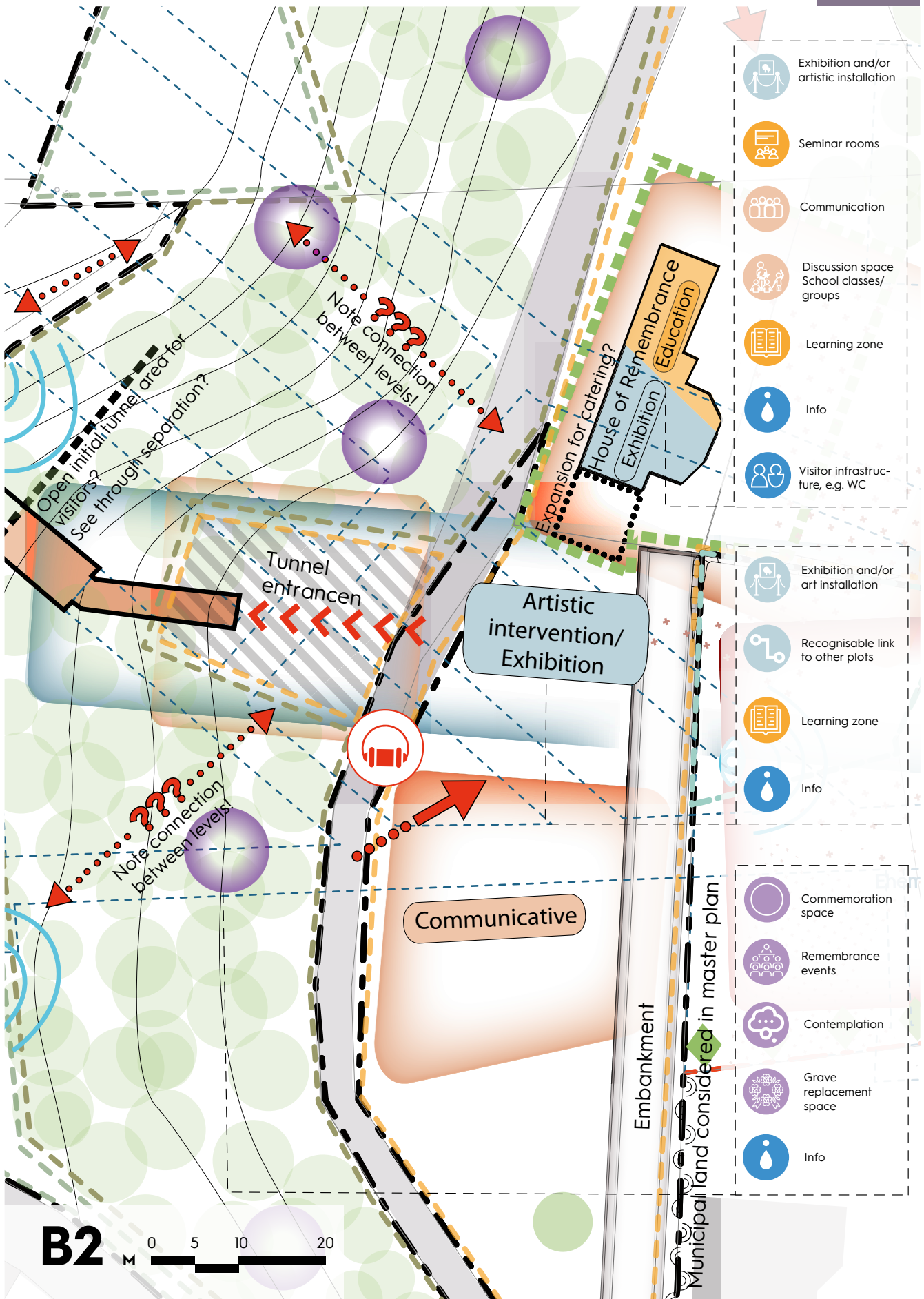


Fig. 35: Master plan - "Bergkristall" layout (Section B2)

Master plan figures and data

Total land area:	67.741 m²
Roll call square, SS buildings and stone crusher area:	34.055 m ²
Memorial de Gusen area:	6.745 m ²
"Bergkristall" tunnel system area:	6.825 m ²
"Bergkristall" tunnel system municipal land area:	20.116 m ²
Mobility Points:	
Roll call square land: <i>(incl. around 39 parking spaces and 1 bus stop)</i>	roughly 1.138 m ²
Memorial de Gusen land: <i>(incl. around 12 parking spaces and 1 bus stop)</i>	roughly 728 m ²
"Bergkristall" tunnel system land: <i>(incl. around 15 parking spaces and 1 bus stop)</i>	roughly 950 m ²
Exhibition/educational spaces and areas for artistic/curatorial activities:	
Roll call square land (indoors):	roughly 700 m ²
Roll call square land (outdoors):	roughly 2.000 m ²
Memorial de Gusen land (indoors):	roughly 110 m ²
Memorial de Gusen land (outdoors):	roughly 1.200 m ²
"Bergkristall" tunnel system land (outdoors):	roughly 1.700 m ²
"Bergkristall" tunnel system (indoors):	roughly 300 m ²
Municipal land (House of Remembrance):	roughly 200 m ²
New buildings and extensions:	
Roll call square land: <i>(arrival building and depot, "Room of Silence")</i>	roughly 800 m ²
Design of outdoor spaces and green areas, paved areas and internal access roads:	
Roll call square land:	roughly 31.900 m ²
Memorial de Gusen land:	roughly 5.700 m ²
"Bergkristall" land:	roughly 5.600 m ²
Municipal land St. Georgen/Gusen:	roughly 19.900 m ²

Fig. 36: Master plan figures and data

Recommendations beyond master-plan locations

The master plan focuses on the three plots of land owned by the Republic of Austria (roll call square, Memorial, and "Bergkristall" tunnels) and the municipal plot in St. Georgen, which was added in the course of the process. In addition, issues arose in the course of the development that cannot be reflected in the master plan:

Future expansion to include Jourhaus and prisoner building

During the participation process, the wish was expressed several times to purchase further plots of land and buildings and to integrate them into the future memorial site. This mainly concerns the former Jourhaus and two preserved prisoner accommodation buildings. Should such a purchase actually be realised in the future, these areas could be included in the master plan with minimal adjustments.

Accommodation offers in the region

The participants in the participation process see great potential for educational programmes lasting several days at the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camp memorials. The accommodation required for this will probably have to be located outside the area of the memorial sites. This is where a solution must be sought in the region together with the municipalities and the province of Upper Austria.

Comprehensive mobility concept

A general mobility concept including soft mobility is currently being developed. This should also include areas outside the sites and general transport services for visitors and locals.

Traffic concepts for days with above-average footfall

The master plan refers to the everyday needs of the memorial in terms of visitor numbers and traffic. Traffic concepts for days with above-average numbers of visitors (e.g. memorial services) should be developed specifically and in addition.

Renaming of memorial site

The renaming of the Gusen Memorial to the "Mauthausen-Gusen Memorial" was suggested several times during the participation process. Before any changes are made, the Scientific Advisory Board and the International Advisory Board of the Mauthausen Memorial must be consulted and a consensus must be reached in these bodies. The actual renaming would have to be formally decided within an amendment to the Memorial Sites Act (*Gedenkstättengesetz, GstG*).

Inclusion of other former concentration camps

Including the Mauthausen Memorial and the memorial site at the former Gusen III concentration camp in Lungitz into an overall concept should be pursued.



Wall remains of the former "SS-Unterführerheim"

Overview of rough cost estimate

The rough cost estimate* is based on the master plan with the following items divided over a period of eight years:

Landscape design and presentation of archaeological remains

Currently, the new plots largely consist of forest and meadow areas or fallow land. These outdoor spaces must be designed according to uniform principles and made safe to walk on. Transition zones to the surrounding municipality or the industrial area must be created, including privacy protection. Pathway systems for visitors must be created. It is also important to conserve the existing archaeological remains of the camp and to make them accessible to visitors via design measures. This part of the project comprises the largest area of the redesign and extends across all pieces of land. A budget of EUR 19.2 million has been estimated for this item.

Rehabilitation and safeguarding of historical building fabric, and user adaptations

Two fully preserved former SS buildings and the concrete silo of the former stone crusher are located on the acquired land. The SS buildings are to be renovated so that they can house exhibitions, seminar areas and administrative areas of the concentration camp memorial in the future. The stone crusher needs secured and preserved, and could be made partially accessible to visitors in the future. EUR 13.2 million is budgeted for the planned renovation and adaptation costs.

New construction measures

In addition to adapting existing buildings, the master plan also proposes the construction of two new buildings. A new arrival building with the necessary (visitor) infrastructure and space for a museum depot and gastronomy options is to be built. A second new building would create the necessary ambience for individual acts of remembrance ("Room of Silence"). EUR 9.1 million is budgeted to implement the new construction measures.

Exhibitions, digital visualisations and knowledge transfer as well as artistic interventions

The designed outdoor areas and renovated or newly constructed buildings require content curation that makes the place understandable for future visitors and provides them with the necessary information. For this purpose, several indoor and outdoor exhibitions will be designed and information systems will be set up for all areas. There will be a particular focus on digital measures. Several artistic interventions are also planned, in particular to make the semantic relationship between the individual areas tangible. The costs for planning and implementing the content curation are expected to amount to EUR 6.9 million.

Technical infrastructure, access and traffic routes

It is contractually obligatory to erect some kind of boundary to the neighbouring commercial enterprise, which will have to be designed appropriately for a memorial site. A new access road is to be constructed to connect the individual plots for internal development purposes. Mobility Points in the arrival areas of the individual plots should ensure basic transport connections. There should also be shading and seating available on all pieces of land. A budget of EUR 6 million has been earmarked for these measures.

Accessibility of "Bergkristall" tunnel system

In the participation process, the desire for improved access to the "Bergkristall" tunnel system was clearly expressed. The master plan therefore envisages the permanent opening of a smaller part of the tunnels in the entrance area. In this regard, safety and legal framework conditions and possibilities must first be clarified. If implemented, however, several structural and technical measures will be necessary, such as erecting a partition glass front or a ventilation system, for which EUR 2.8 million is proposed.

Structural adaptations of existing visitor infrastructure and furnishing of interior spaces

There is already existing memorial site infrastructure in Gusen and St. Georgen. In Gusen there is a visitor centre with a permanent exhibition, in St. Georgen there is the House of Remembrance used by the "Awareness Region". This infrastructure is to be incorporated into the future expanded memorial and adapted and extended for this purpose. EUR 1.5 million is budgeted here.

Further project costs

For the entire project implementation, consisting of the EU-wide competition and the architectural and content-related redesign of the Gusen Memorial, personnel and material costs of EUR 6.7 million are planned over an 8-year project term.

The rough cost estimate, taking into account the implementation steps described above, produces a total budget of around EUR 65 million over a project period of 8 years.

** according to ÖNORM B1801*

Outlook and planned implementation steps

Assuming a funding commitment before the end of 2023, a preliminary implementation schedule for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial was drawn up. This envisages the organisation of a design competition for architectural and landscape planning services.

Parallel to this, research and investigation projects will develop the foundations for the content and curatorial design of exhibitions, educational formats and digital knowledge transfer. The first measures from the competition are expected from the beginning of 2026.

The planned timeline envisages partial operation once the site is taken over in 2024. From this point on, the areas will be accessible to accompanied visitors. From the completion of the outdoor facilities, probably from 2029, there will also be general public access to the outdoor areas for individual visitors. The newly designed Gusen Memorial is expected to be fully operational upon the completion of the exhibition in 2031.

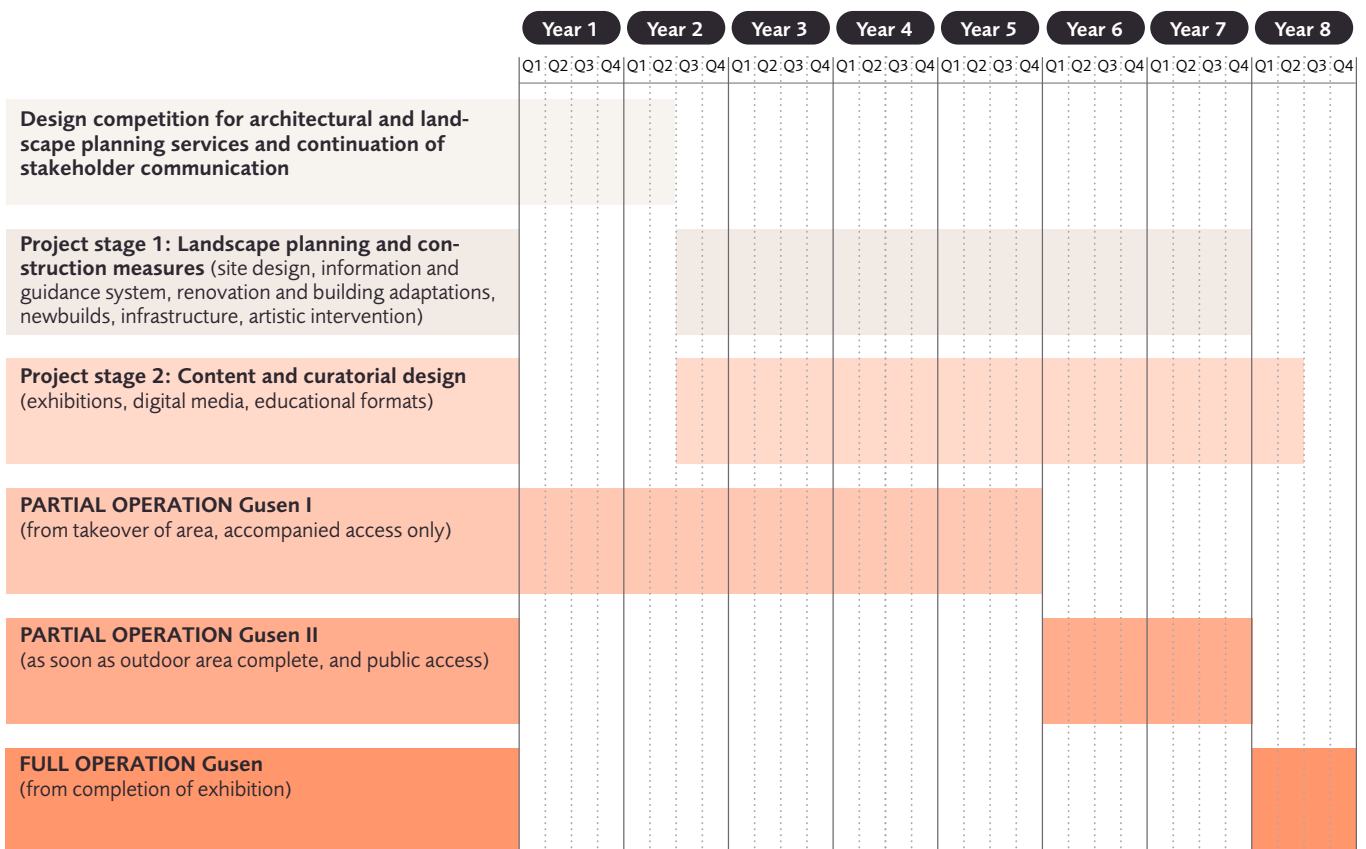


Fig. 38: Preliminary implementation schedule for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial (assuming funding commitment in 2023)

Participants in the process

Survivors and descendants of victims

- Survivor Dušan Stefančič
- Survivor Stanisław Zalewski
- Second-generation descendant of a survivor

Representations of victim groups and commemoration initiatives

- The Mauthausen-Gusen-St. Georgen Awareness Region
- Federal Association of Austrian Anti-fascists, Resistance Fighters and Victims of Fascism
- Comité International de Mauthausen and its country representatives
- The Gusen Memorial Service Committee
- Grupo de Trabajo "Triángulo Azul"
- The Jewish Community of Vienna
- Jehovah's Witnesses in Austria
- The Cultural Association of Austrian Roma
- The Austrian Mauthausen Committee
- National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism
- The Austrian Bishops' Conference
- The ÖVP comradeship of the politically persecuted and their allies for Austria
- The Papa Gruber Circle
- The Johann Gruber Platform Association

Diplomatic representations

- Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium
- Embassy of the Czech Republic
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Embassy of the French Republic
- Embassy of Hungary
- Embassy of the State of Israel
- Embassy of the Italian Republic
- Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland
- Embassy of the Slovak Republic
- Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
- Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain
- Embassy of Ukraine
- Embassy of the United States of America

Participants from the region

- Christian Aufreiter, Mayor of the Municipality of Langenstein
- Andreas Derntl, Mayor of the Municipality of St. Georgen an der Gusen
- Participants from the Municipality of Langenstein
- Participants from the Municipality of St. Georgen an der Gusen

Experts

- Christian Angerer, Coordinator at www.erinnern.at
- Francisco Ferrándiz, Anthropologist at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Advisor in the State Secretariat for Democratic Memory of the Ministry of the Presidency in Spain's central government
- Helmut Koch, Co-Managing Director komobile - transport planning office
- Tomasz Kranz, Historian, Director of the State Museum Majdanek
- Astrid Messerschmidt, Educationalist, Professor at the University of Wuppertal, member of the Scientific Advisory Board Mauthausen
- Michael Mondria, Managing Director of Ars Electronica Solutions
- Bertrand Perz, historian, Professor at the University of Vienna, Institute of Contemporary History, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board Mauthausen
- Jan Rydel, historian, Professor at the Pedagogical University of Krakow and Poland's representative on the International Advisory Board Mauthausen
- Petra Weiss, Technical Director of the Federal Monuments Office

Other participants

- Third-generation descendant of an SS member
- Students from the Federal Business Academy Perg, Austria
- Students from the Prachatice Secondary School, Czech Republic
- Students from the Léopold Sédar Senghor Lycée, France
- Students from the Wojciech Kilar State Music School Katowice, Poland

Project team

Mauthausen Memorial

Aleksandra Božić

Studied cultural studies, German language and literature and project management in Linz, Salzburg and Vienna. Subsequently, she worked at the Institute of Modern and Contemporary History at the JK University Linz, and was involved in international technical project management at Continental AG, among other things. As project manager at the Mauthausen Memorial, she is involved in coordinating and implementing organisational development and IT projects. In addition, her main areas of activity include project controlling and ICS management.

Christian Dürr

Studied philosophy and history at the University of Vienna. He is curator of the Mauthausen Memorial and co-editor of the publication series "Mauthausen Studies" and "Mauthausen Memories". He was a member of the working group for the redesign of the Mauthausen Memorial and takes curatorial responsibility for the permanent exhibitions at the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camp memorials. His research and publications focus on concentration camp history, Holocaust history and memory, and the Argentine military dictatorship.

Barbara Glück

Director of the Mauthausen Memorial (KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen), holds PhDs in both history and political science. She has headed up the Mauthausen Memorial for 17 years, now establishing it as an independent organisation. Apart from management of the Mauthausen and the Gusen Memorial, Dr. Glück is also responsible for a number of memorials based at sites of former subcamps of the Mauthausen concentration camp. Her most sizeable project to date was fundamental restructuring of the Mauthausen Memorial and the organisation of two permanent exhibitions: "The Mauthausen Concentration Camp 1938-1945" and "The Crime Scene of Mauthausen. Searching for Traces". She is redefining modern-day commemoration, focusing in her work on political education in a historical context and internationalisation. Dr. Glück has completed a six-month research fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, is a member of numerous commissions for the further development of Austrian museum work for the reappraisal of history and has also been awarded the Henrietta and Friedrich Torberg Medal. She is responsible for the overall management of the participation process for expanding the Gusen Memorial.

Bernhard Mühleder

Completed an apprenticeship as a bank clerk and then as a carpenter. Later he completed training in cultural management and memorial education in Linz. In 2001 he began working for the Mauthausen Memorial for the first time as part of his civilian service. Since 2010 he has been working as a facilitator for the Mauthausen and Gusen memorials. In addition, he has undertaken various research activities and interviews with contemporary witnesses for the redesign of the exhibition at the Mauthausen Memorial. Since 2016, he has been working in the educational department, especially in the areas of project management, training and further education of facilitators, and the creation of educational programmes for the Mauthausen and Gusen Memorials.

Julius Sevcik

As an employee in the Public Relations & Events Department he is responsible for event management, social media and media relations at the Mauthausen Memorial, among other things. A qualified events technician, he did his Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum in Australia, where he worked together with Holocaust survivors. He is still involved in Austrian youth commemoration work today.

Valerie Seufert

Studied theatre, film and media studies in Vienna and Lyon. She then worked as a drama adviser at the German State Theatre in Timișoara and in the press and marketing department of the Bayreuth Festival. From 2015 she was responsible for public relations for theatres and orchestras in Meiningen, Dresden and Erlangen. At the Mauthausen Memorial, she has been in charge of the Public Relations & Events department since 2021.

Robert Vorberg

Studied history and is curator of the Mauthausen Memorial. In addition, he is involved in various projects related to contemporary history and Austrian remembrance policies, including as co-curator of several exhibitions and a member of the working group for the redesign of the Mauthausen Memorial. As curator of the Mauthausen Memorial, his main areas of activity are coordinating the substantive/scientific programme of the memorial as well as exhibition and knowledge transfer projects in the field of public history. As project manager, he is responsible for the project management of the participation process for expanding the Gusen Memorial.

Jochen Wollner

Studied law in Graz and Berlin. From 2000 he worked as a lawyer in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and switched to the Mauthausen concentration camp memorial in 2007. Following the spin-off of the concentration camp memorial, he was appointed commercial director and has filled this role since 2017.

Burghauptmannschaft Österreich**Claudia Paul**

After graduating from the Technical School for "Construction and Environmental Technology", she trained as a project manager at the University of Economics and is a certified Heritage Maintenance Manager. Since 1994, she has been working in the public sector for the preservation of architectural heritage. In 2000, she was entrusted with the management of Department 403-Schönbrunn at Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, and representing the owner she is also jointly responsible for the maintenance of the memorial sites in Upper Austria. She is also a structural environmental manager and staff representative, as well as a project member in various EU projects dealing with the conservation and energy efficiency of historical buildings.

Lorenz Tributsch

After graduating from the Technical School for "Restoration, Structural Engineering and Local Conservation", he worked as an architectural surface conservator for five years with a focus on stone in Vienna and the surrounding area. From 2001 onwards, he worked for the Federal Monuments Office in connection with the organisation and seminar activities of the Mauerbach Charterhouse, and is considered a recognised expert in the field of monument protection and preservation. He switched to Burghauptmannschaft Österreich in 2021 as deputy head of Department 403-Schönbrunn, and is responsible, among other things, for the preservation of memorial sites in Upper Austria.

Participation process – art:phalanx

Klara Fritz

Studied social sciences and urban studies and has been working in urban research ever since. She is a project manager at the communications agency art:phalanx, where she works on projects related to urban life. She accompanied the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial particularly in the consolidation phase, and contributed to the data analysis for and writing of the final report.

Clara Gallistl

Studied cultural, linguistic and literary studies at the Universities of Vienna and Nottingham and rounded off the theoretical foundation with trainings in the field of arts, culture and project management. Together with their team, Clara Gallistl founded "Community Building Austria" in 2019 and published the "Community Building Handbook". In the participation process, Clara Gallistl advised on the conception of the workshops and moderated selected dates.

Clemens Kopetzky

Studied social sciences and economics and is managing director of the communications agency art:phalanx. He is responsible for the design and realisation of numerous projects at the intersection of culture, architecture and urban life. His focus lies on communication and programming as well as the development of urban space and utilisation concepts.

Marlene Maier

Studied fine arts and cultural studies and works as a project manager at art:phalanx. She is involved in the design, coordination and implementation of projects at the interface of communication, culture and urban life. As project manager, she oversaw the participation process for expanding the Gusen Memorial throughout all the project phases.

Master plan – heri&salli

Rumena Trendafilova

Studied architecture at the University of Dundee, Scotland and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. She joined the team of architects at heri&salli in 2015. As project manager, her areas of expertise include innovative technologies and construction methods, and she oversees in particular the development of sustainable mixed-use projects, combined with public spaces, participatory master-plan developments, as well as exhibition and interior design.

Heribert Wolfmayr

Managing director, together with Josef Saller, of the architecture studio heri&salli founded in 2004 and based in Vienna. Winners of both national and international awards, heri&salli understand architecture, design and urban development as a symbiosis of different disciplines. Sustainability, resilience, technology and innovation are the basis of creative processes to create liveable space for humanity. They also teach and lecture alongside their work.

Imprint

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