

Results of the Art Project "Remembering, Shaping, Living" 2020 at Bahide Arslan Square:

Remembering, Shaping, Living Participatory art project for the redesign of Bahide Arslan Square August 2020 As part of the "Interventionist Art Gaarden" competition, the city of Kiel funded the participatory art project "Remembering, Shaping, Living." In 1992, neo-Nazis committed arson attacks on two houses in Mölln, resulting in the deaths of Bahide and Yeliz Arslan and Ayse Yilmaz in the flames. A group of artists from Gaarden, in collaboration with the Arslan family and Gaarden residents, explored how Bahide Arslan Square could be redesigned. The focus was on improving the quality of stay and enhancing the memorial character of the square. Discussions and drawings took place with passersby for 10 days. Drawings and texts were exhibited outdoors, categorized, and later displayed in the ONspace K34 e.V. gallery. Based on the results, a group consisting of organizations located at the square, representatives from the Gaarden local council, the Round Table against Racism, the Arslan family, and the artists developed a specific proposal for the square's reconstruction. In December 2020, the Kiel City Council decided to use this proposal as the basis for administrative planning. The administration is now tasked with calculating the costs for inclusion in the city's budget.

Results of the Project: The square is to become car-free, with lowered curbs. Three trees representing each victim will be planted based on the triangular shape of the square and the number of victims. The trees will serve as focal points for concentric circles overlapping, resembling water droplets on a water surface. The intersections will be marked with greenery, paving, or gravel. Circular seating areas surrounding the trees will have a noticeable gap, symbolizing the absence of the victims. The seats will be adorned with texts characterizing the victims as ordinary people (e.g., hobbies, plans) to prevent reducing them to their roles as victims. A small water feature in the form of a subtle fountain will be created between the trees. New steles or memorial plaques will be erected, mentioning all three victims. The text and design must involve the Arslan family, particularly Ibrahim Arslan. A memorial committee will be established to decide on events allowed on the square to avoid disrupting its memorial character. Possible composition: square residents, local council, various organizations, Arslan family. Ben Siebenrock's memorial stone will be moved near the entrance of Gustav-Schatz-Hof but within the square. The attached visualizations are conceptual aids and do not represent a static implementation plan.

At all stages of the project, and in the future, the Arslan family is actively involved. The project does not support anything rejected by the Arslan family. After some delays, an interim solution is set to begin in spring 2024 as a precursor to the final implementation.

Project Timeline:

- 2020: Participatory art project with the Arslan family, yielding detailed results for reconstruction. Project awarded through a cultural office tender for Interventionist Art in Gaarden.
- 2020: City Council instructs administration to determine costs for reconstruction and initiate the process.

- Delays due to Gaarden local council inquiry about preserving parking spaces, potentially hindering the project according to the Department of Civil Engineering and Cultural Office.
- Delays due to vacant positions in the Cultural Office.
- Delays due to the pandemic.
- October 2022: Local council relinquishes the preservation of parking spaces.
- According to the Department of Civil Engineering, the final redesign will take approximately 5 years. An interim solution is proposed to symbolize the eventual state before the actual work begins.
- January 2024: Meeting with the Department of Civil Engineering, Cultural Office, artists from the project, Arslans, and Gaarden local council.
- Spring 2024: Start of the interim solution reconstruction.

Final Reconstruction:

- Involvement of the bereaved at all stages.
- Car-free zone with removal of bike stands.
- Lowering of curbs.
- Planting of 3 trees due to the triangular shape of the square and the number of attack victims.
- Paving in concentric circles around the trees, resembling water droplets on a surface.
- Circular seating around the trees, with an obvious gap to symbolize the victims' absence.
- Backrests of seats inscribed with texts depicting the victims as ordinary people, preventing reduction to victim roles.
- Small modest water feature between the trees.
- Information steles honoring all 3 victims.
- Establishment of a memorial committee to ensure the square's commemorative character during events.
- Moving Ben Siebenrock's memorial stone to the top of the square.

Interim Solution:

- Relocation of the memorial stone to the top of the square.
- Information stele.
- Retractable bollards to prevent regular vehicular traffic around the square.
- Removal of parking spaces.
- Removal of bike stands.
- Partial lowering of curbs for partial accessibility.
- Color application on the pavement to indicate the eventual paving in concentric circles.
- Placement of planters to symbolize the trees to be planted.

Some crucial changes are missing in the interim solution but will be implemented later. At the beginning of the art project, it was not clear to all of us that the reconstruction would take so long. This is undoubtedly due to the usual procedures and constraints of such a reconstruction within a municipality like Kiel. Therefore, such reconstruction must be part

of the overall concept of the municipality. We welcome the long-awaited start and urge everyone to stay involved, preventing further delays or alterations to the design concept. After all, we are only ensuring the realization of a participation whose results were long ago adopted by the City Council as the standard for the reconstruction.

We are in close contact with the Arslan family, keeping them informed and involved in all steps. The bereaved and survivors must have a significant say, as they are not mere bystanders but experts in the matter. Reclaim and Remember.