

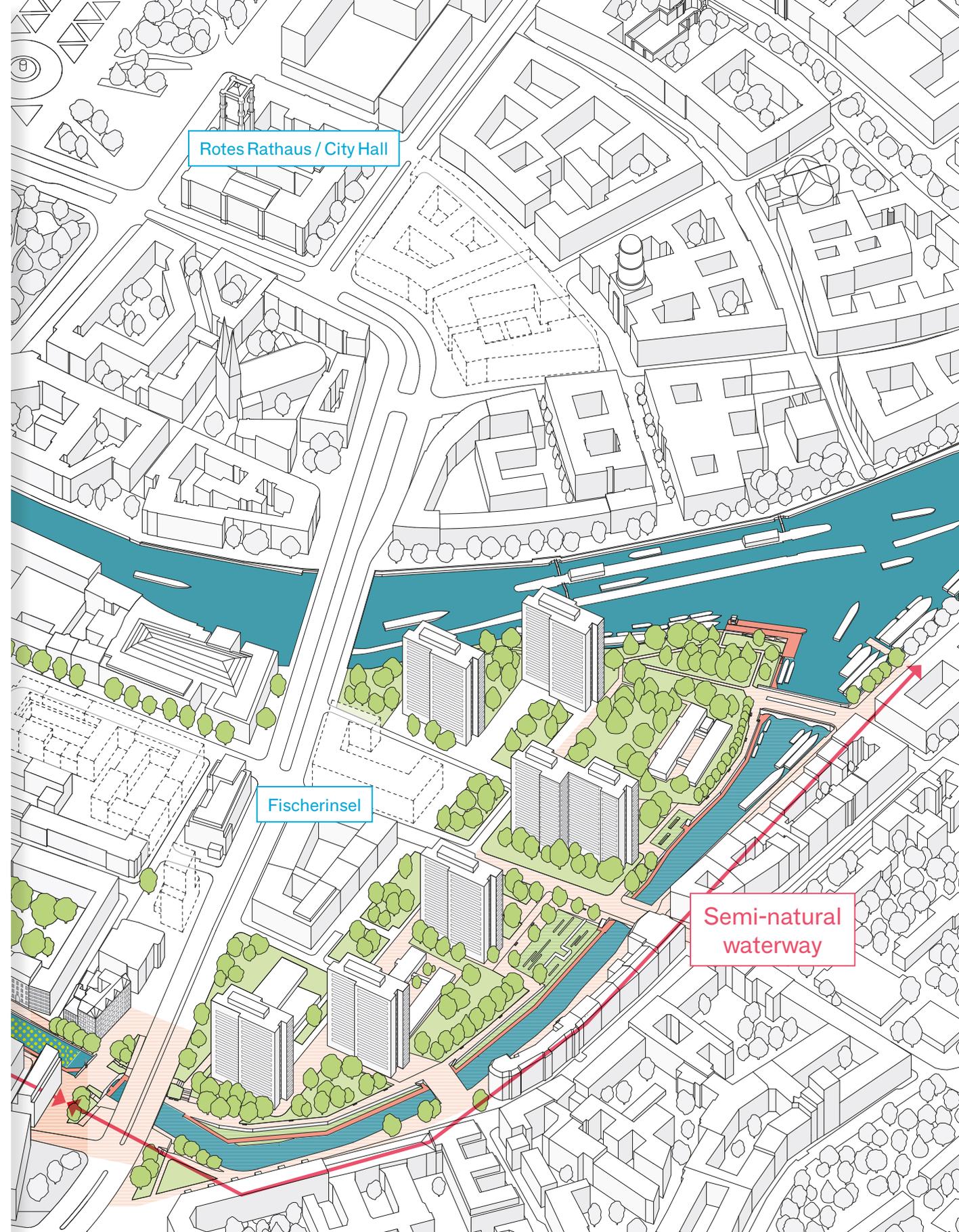
# Fluss Bad Berlin

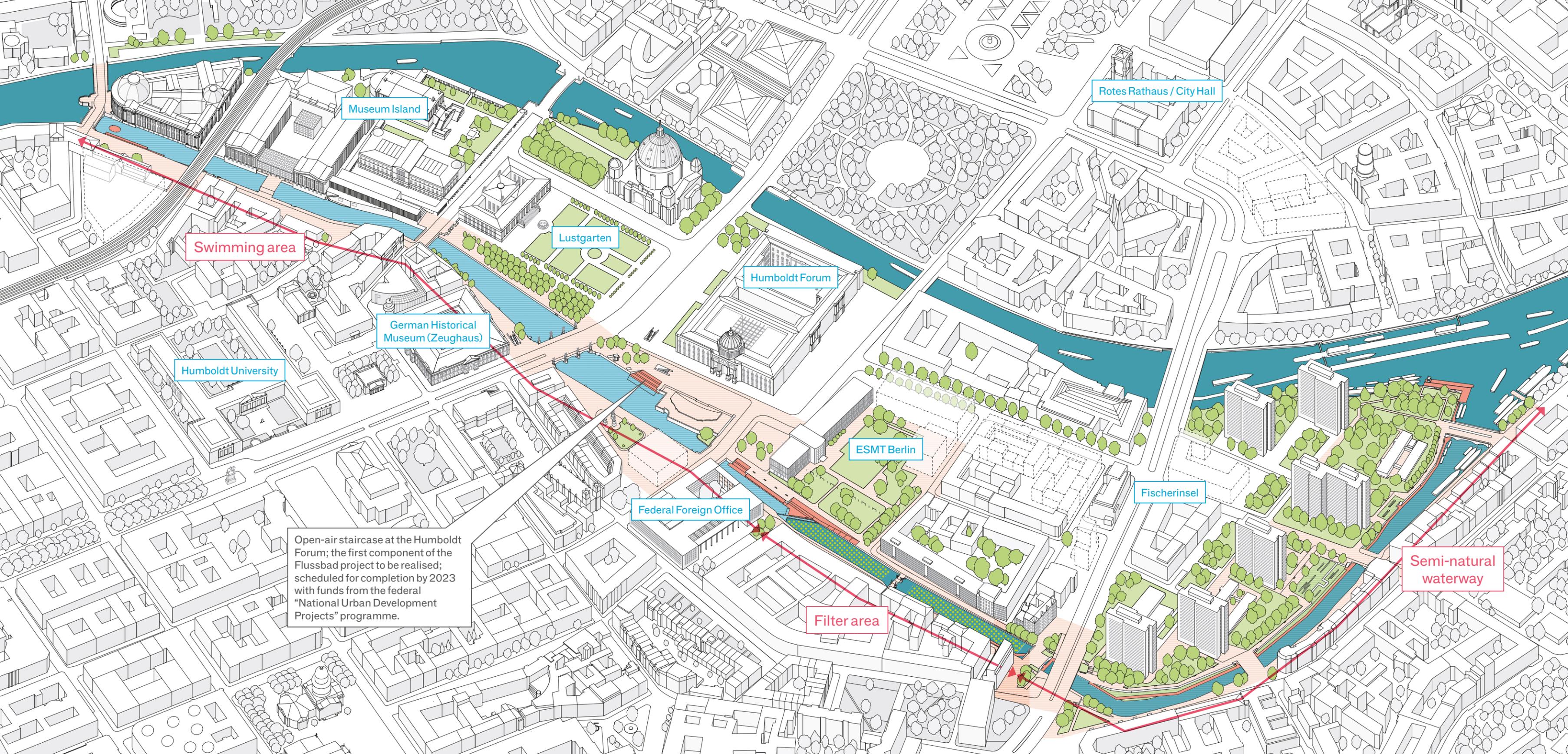


An agenda for the city

## Flussbad Berlin. An agenda for the city

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Museum Island

Rotes Rathaus / City Hall

Swimming area

Lustgarten

Humboldt Forum

German Historical Museum (Zeughaus)

Humboldt University

ESMT Berlin

Fischerinsel

Federal Foreign Office

Open-air staircase at the Humboldt Forum; the first component of the Flussbad project to be realised; scheduled for completion by 2023 with funds from the federal "National Urban Development Projects" programme.

Filter area

Semi-natural waterway



Berlin Senator Katrin Lompscher at the opening of the Flussbad Garden on 10 June 2017  
cc Stefanie Loos

## Greeting

The Flussbad Berlin is a project unlike any other. It is the embodiment of a highly unique vision whose aim is to create an urban space for Berliners in the historical heart of the city between Fischerinsel and Museum Island. It is also true that we still have a long way to go before we can transform this exceptional idea into a reality – for Berlin residents and visitors alike.

The first items on the agenda are the so-called “renaturation” of a section of the Spree Canal and the natural cleansing of the river water that remains contaminated to this day. These steps will make it possible to achieve a level of water quality safe enough to swim in. The natural revitalisation of the Spree Canal will also contribute to an improvement in the city’s overall climate.

In order to reach our goals, we are going to need courage and commitment – but also, in particular, the open and steadfast cooperation of all of the stakeholders involved. When it comes to the historical centre of Berlin, it is our key task and responsibility to reconcile the diversity of interests at play in the area.

In the past several years, the federal and state funds received by the Flussbad as part of the “National Urban Development Projects” programme have provided the decisive impulse for its conceptional and technical development. Today, our overarching aim is to implement the Flussbad project, and we are currently working together with all stakeholders to make that happen. We are eager to make the environment around the project area as inviting and accessible as possible for everyone, whether as a site of research, recreation or swimming. All at one unique location in Berlin.

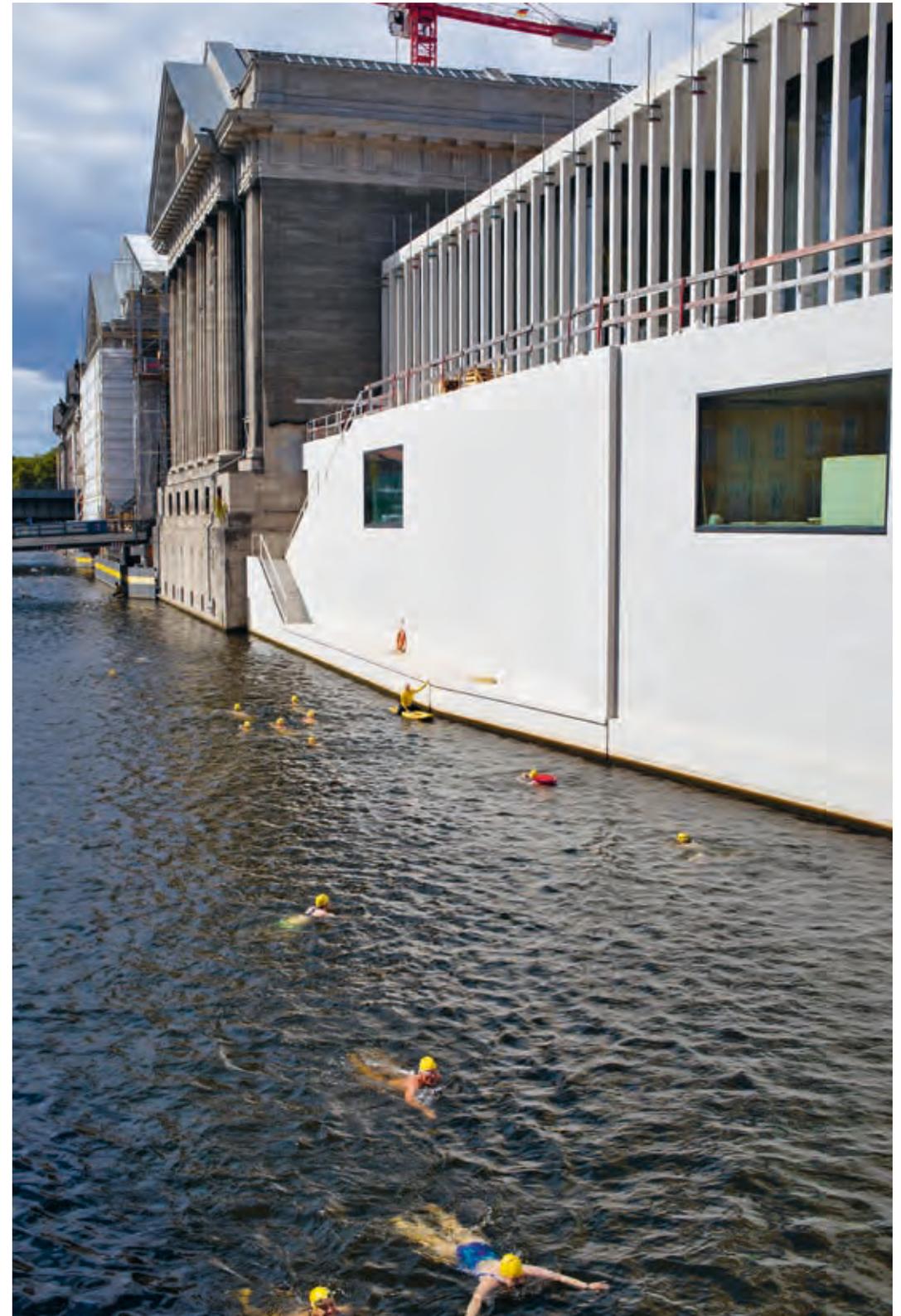
Katrin Lompscher  
*Senator for Urban Development and Housing*

## Greeting

For years now, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community has enjoyed great success in its efforts to foster high-end urban development projects by means of a programme known as the “National Urban Development Projects”. The projects chosen to become part of this programme set quality standards in terms of urban planning, architectural culture and social participation, while also demonstrating a high level of potential for innovation.

The Flussbad Berlin counts among this group of premium projects. In 2014, on the recommendation of an independent jury, the Flussbad was first acknowledged by the programme and provided with €2.6 million in funds. By 2018, the conception and detailed planning of this sustainable, innovative urban development plan were completed. In order to now bring the project successfully to fruition, we are going to continue to need an intense civil dialogue as well as effective interdisciplinary planning and coordination among all of the institutions involved at the municipal, state and federal levels.

Marco Wanderwitz  
*Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community*

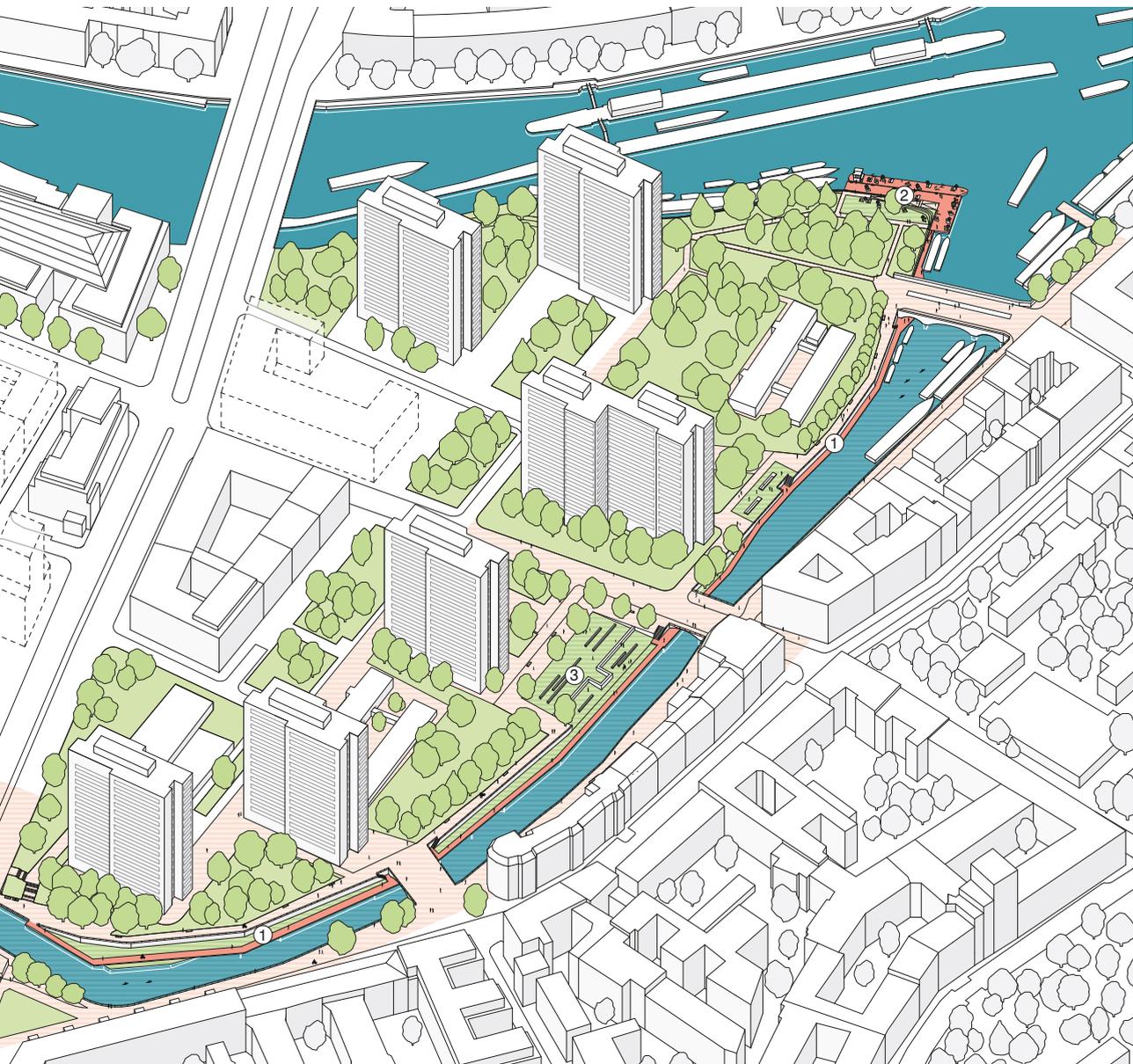


Swimmers along Berlin's Museum Island during the 4th Berlin Flussbad Cup  
cc 2018 Sibylle Fendt / OSTKREUZ

## An agenda for the city

The Flussbad Berlin is an urban development programme created to foster a joint and future-oriented use of a section of an inner-city waterway running through the very centre of historical Berlin. Along this roughly 1.9-kilometre stretch of water known as the Spree Canal, the plan involves creating a biotope landscape and a section for the natural filtering of the river water. In the adjacent section, which runs for roughly 850-metres of the canal, open-air staircases will provide multiple-point access to the water and invite visitors to take a swim. Between 2015 and 2019, the non-profit association Flussbad Berlin was granted €4 million by state and federal governments for the further development and communication of the project as part of the federal programme known as the “National Urban Development Projects”. In 2019 followed another round of funding from the same programme, with a total of €6.4 million granted for the realisation of the first open-air staircase, which is scheduled to be built at the Humboldt Forum.

This publication is designed to present the structure and planning of the overall project, including the various steps we still must take in order to turn the Flussbad Berlin into a reality.



Semi-natural waterway at the Fischerinsel:  
 1 Pedestrian walkway along the canal and shallow water zone  
 2 Viewing platform  
 3 Green and archaeological "window"  
 cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.

## A clean river

The Flussbad is an invitation to Berliners to rediscover the river that runs through the very heart of their city. Our goal is to make it possible for everyone – pedestrians, swimmers and people looking for recreation and relaxation – to experience the water. The project involves using an ecological, plant-based filter to purify the water of the Spree, thus making it possible to swim and enjoy clean water in an urban setting. First-hand experience with the water will also make it easy to see how great it is to have a clean river running through the city. In order to achieve this undertaking, the 1.9-kilometre Spree Canal will be divided up into three sections: the semi-natural waterway and the filter area will create a green ribbon along the water, with the subsequent clean-water swimming area as the crowning touch. The next few pages provide a short introduction to each one of these three distinct areas.

### Discover: The semi-natural waterway

The first section of the Flussbad project lies between the eastern tip of the Fischerinsel and the bridge known as the Gertraudenbrücke. The stone canal will be transformed into a semi-natural waterway lined by a pedestrian walkway with seating opportunities. The walkway will be some metres away from the shore and run just above the water. The semi-natural waterway will create a resting zone for fish, insects and plants – and thus contribute to the restoration of the ecological balance of the city. The walkway will also open up new perspectives on Berlin. For example, a new recreational area will emerge at the eastern tip of the island in a green area neglected up until now. A large viewing platform will offer panoramas of the Spree – which is over one hundred metres wide at this point – and the historical port. The platform will be located at the very spot where the Spree River splits off into a river and a canal. Just a little further downstream, on the banks of the Fischerinsel, the project foresees uncovering the foundations of the medieval city wall as part of a new green area and archaeological "window".

- 1 Pedestrian walkway running along canal
- 2 Unfiltered water
- 3 Canal wall (existing)
- 4 Green and archaeological "window"
- 5 Renaturalised shallow water zone
- 6 Historical city wall
- 7 Sheet pile wall

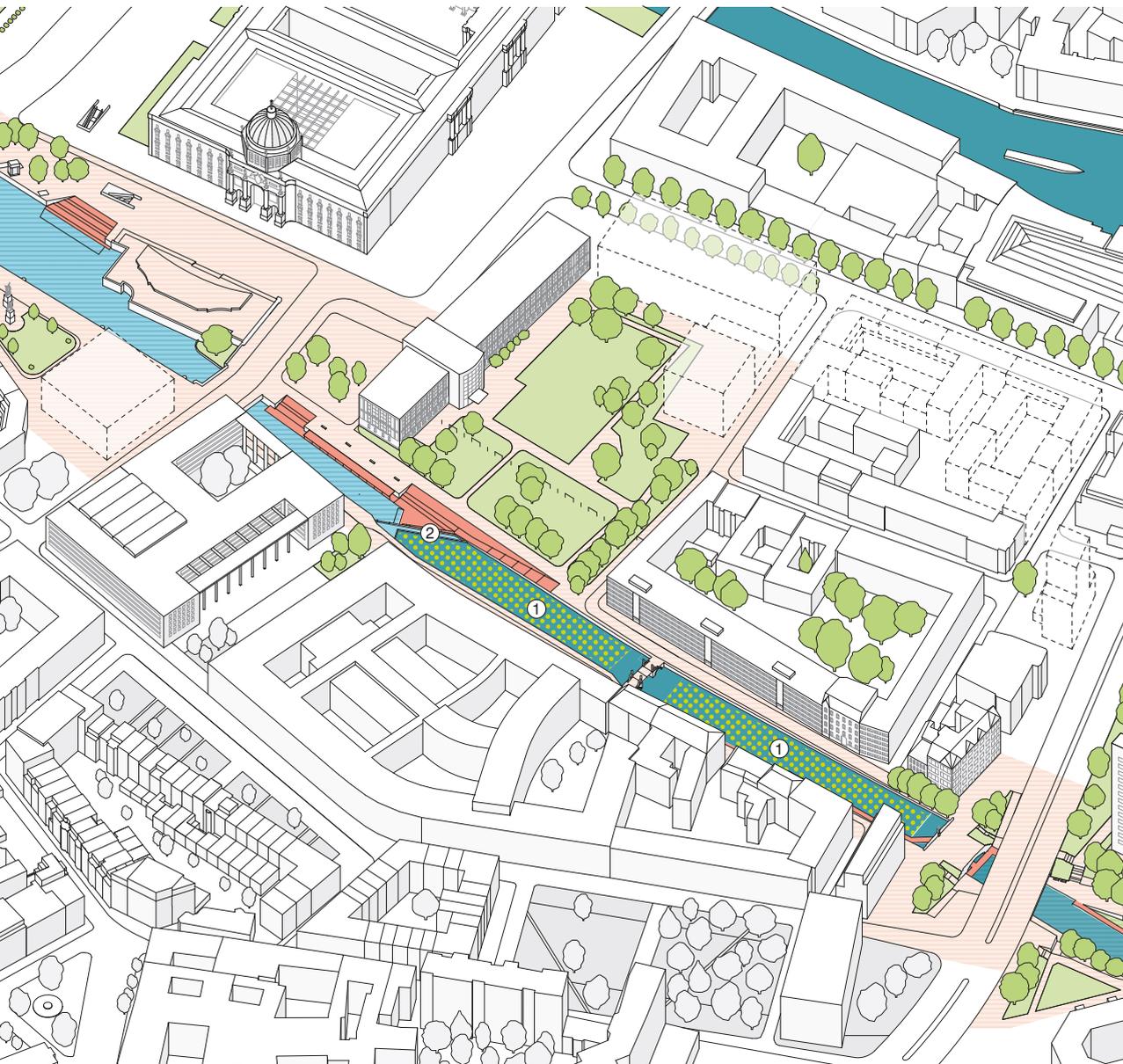




Semi-natural waterway with pedestrian walkway along the canal at the Fischerinsel (visualisation). [cc](#) realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.

## Research & explore: The filter area

In the Flussbad's second section, which runs along the Friedrichsgracht, the focus is on the water quality in the canal. In order to purify the water here, a natural plant filter will be installed directly in the riverbed itself. This element of the Flussbad project makes it unique in the world; the process involves introducing a layer of gravel and reeds onto the bottom of the canal over a stretch of 300 metres, with the reeds growing directly on the gravel bed. Driven along by gravity, the water will flow slowly through the layer of reeds and gravel and then enter the subjacent drainage layer. From there, the purified water will flow into the lower-lying swimming area. A process of biodegradation within the gravel layer will purify the water and filter out germs and suspended matter. In turn, the roots of the reed plants will supply the ground with oxygen and keep the filter permeable. This set-up ensures that the swimming area is constantly supplied with clean water. Special attention must be paid here to the fact that the water quality in the Spree Canal is subject to tremendous fluctuations, especially during downpours. Indeed, after heavy rains, the Berlin sewer system tends to run over, which results in untreated wastewater being flushed into the Spree. The Flussbad's filter system is designed in such a way that it will be able to handle these extreme situations. The high quality of the water in the swimming area is thus always guaranteed. At the same time, the filter area will also be a place of research and education. In this section, the water will be purified but also monitored for its quality. Visitors are invited to visit this section of the project already today to learn more at the information and event platform known as the "Flussbad Garden", which was set up here in 2017. Several groups of schoolchildren and visiting scientists have already gathered here to learn about the issue of water pollution. A number of display boards, guided tours and lectures also showcase the Flussbad as a model project of environmental rejuvenation.



Filter section in the Friedrichsgracht area:  
1 Plant filter  
2 New weir  
cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.

- 1 Reeds and rushes
- 2 Open water area before and after the bridge
- 3 Contiguous distribution drain
- 4 Canal wall (existing)

- 5 Sheet pile wall (existing)
- 6 Gravel filter
- 7 Drainage layer
- 8 Floodwater passage



Cross-section of the filter area at the Friedrichsgracht  
 cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



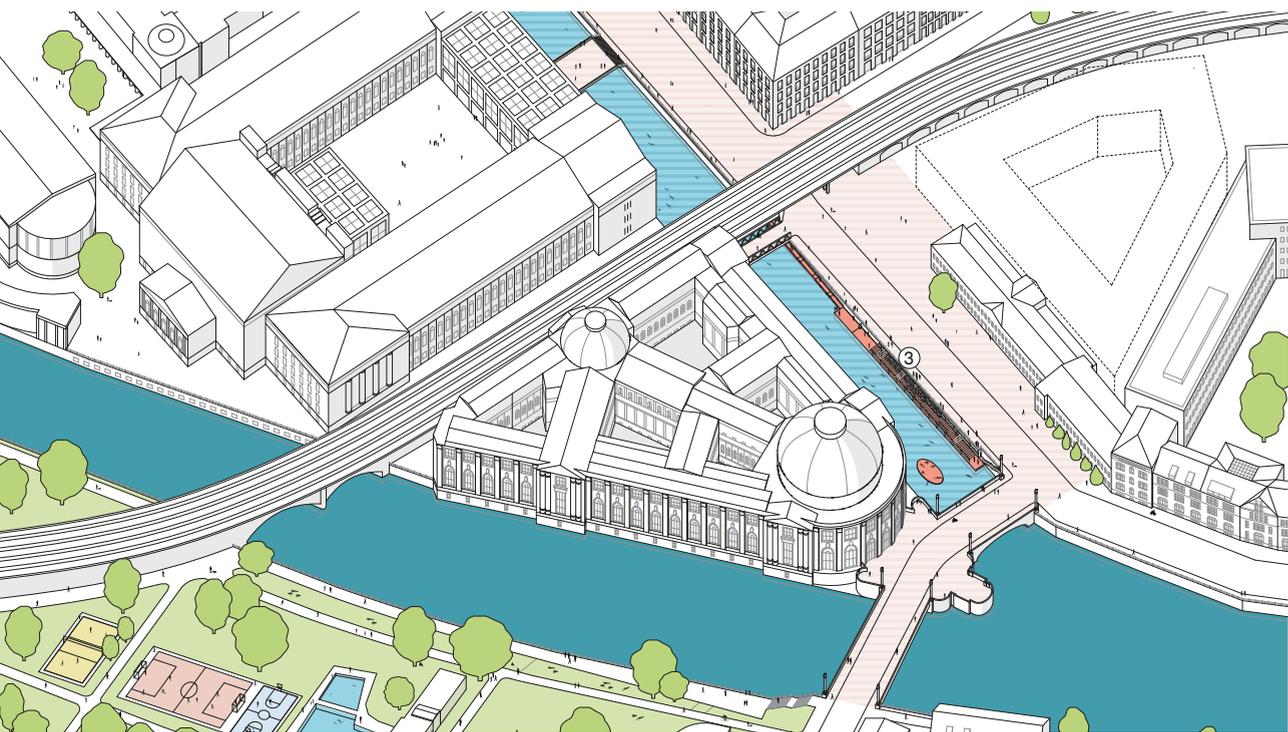
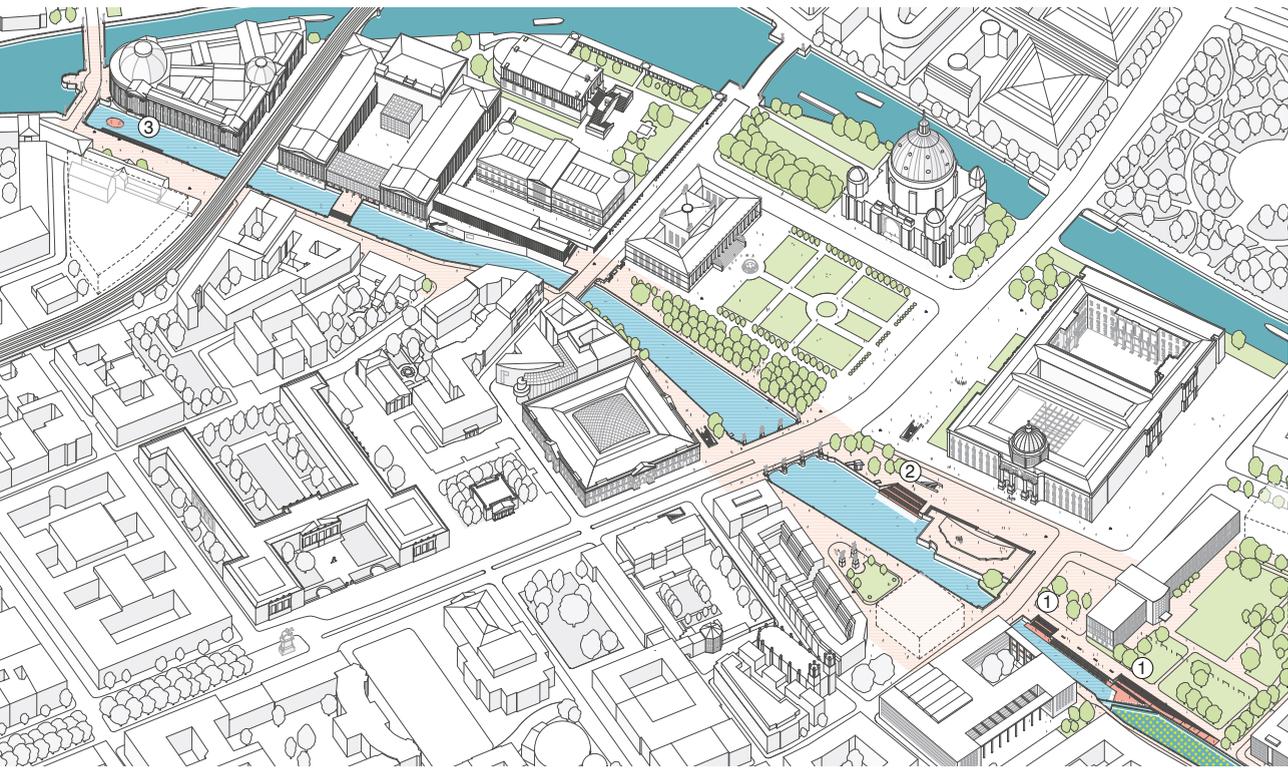
Filter area along the Friedrichsgracht (visualisation)  
cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



Access point to the swimming area at the ESMT Berlin with changing rooms and wooden pontoon-jetty (visualisation). [cc](#) realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



Access point to the swimming area at the ESMT Berlin with changing rooms and wooden pontoon-jetty (visualisation). [cc realities:united](#), Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



Swimming section from Humboldt Forum to Bode Museum:  
 1 Open-air staircase at ESMT Berlin  
 2 Open-air staircase at Humboldt Forum  
 3 Water access at Bode Museum  
 cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.

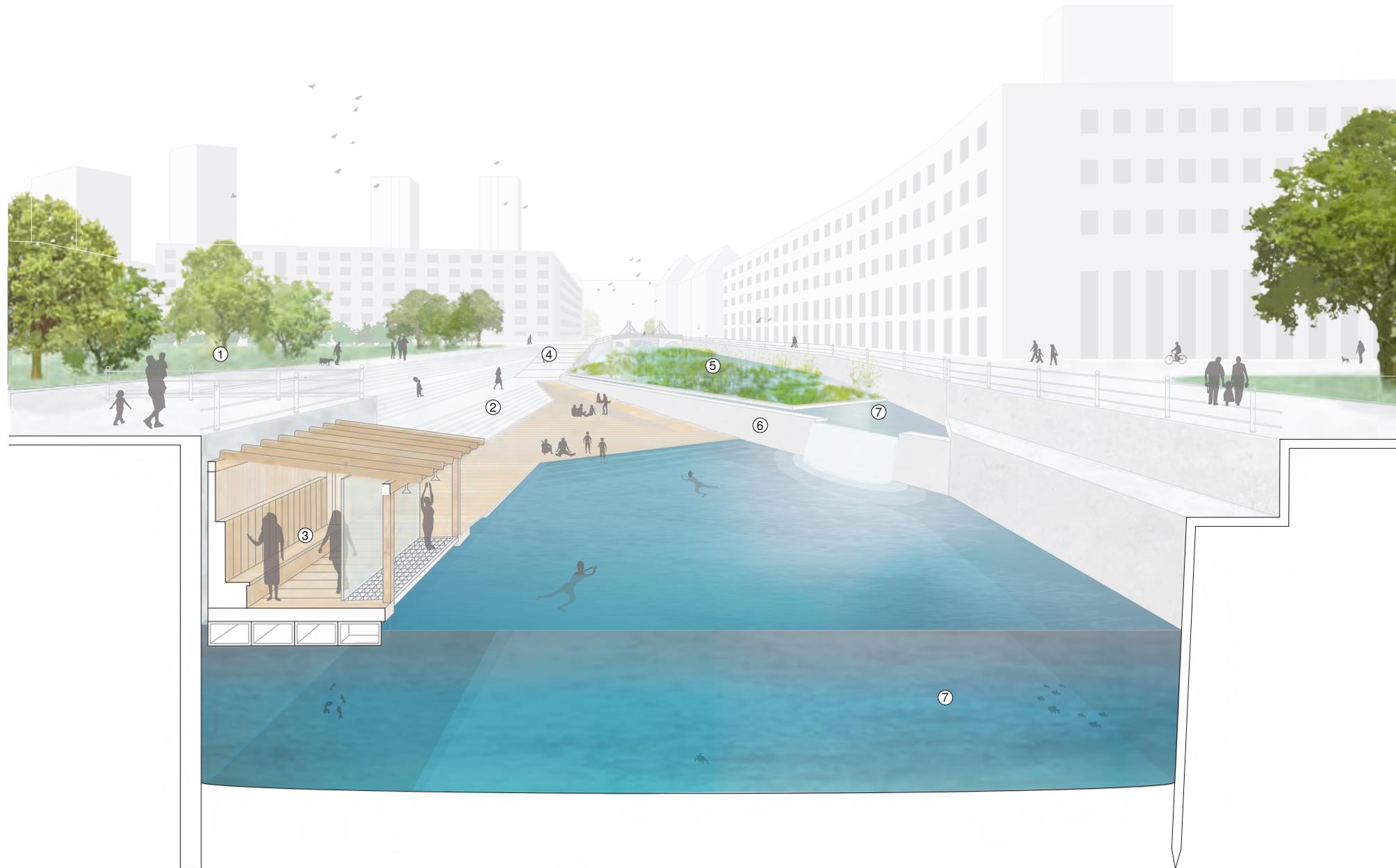
## Dive in: The swimming section

The last river-bathing area in the inner-city Spree was closed in 1925 for health and hygiene reasons, but soon – roughly 100 years later – swimmers will be able to do their laps again in clean Spree water thanks to the Flussbad’s upstream water filter. The section for open-water swimming is very large, that is, between 15 and 45 metres wide and 835 metres long. The area begins at the steps near the European School for Management and Technology (ESMT) – which is located today in a GDR-era building constructed to house the East German State Council – and runs from the Federal Foreign Office past the Humboldt Forum all the way to the northern tip of Museum Island. Swimmers will be able to access the water here via two open-air staircases that will replace today’s vertical canal walls near the ESMT Berlin and Humboldt Forum. Covered and screened-off changing rooms, showers, WCs and lockers will be set up on a wooden pontoon-jetty along the canal wall adjacent to the college area. These facilities will be accessible to all – including wheelchairs – via open-air staircases and ramps. A third access point to the water will be created across from the Bode Museum. Here, too, there will be a narrow pontoon-jetty along the canal wall, with covered changing rooms and lockers just above the water level.

The Berlin Flussbad is not a “swimming pool” in the traditional sense. Access to all of the staircases and jetties will be free and open to all. There will be no fenced-in area or any other kind of boundaries. There will be no cashier’s desk and no official operating hours. There will be no particular sunbathing or non-swimmer areas, and swimming will be only one of many ways to take advantage of the new access to the water. The open-air staircases will no doubt be attractive areas in all seasons and help bring the river back into the view of city residents.

- 1 Public garden belonging to the ESMT Berlin
- 2 Open-air staircase
- 3 Changing room with showers
- 4 Barrier-free access

- 5 Filter area
- 6 New weir
- 7 Filtered water



Cross-section of the access and swimming area at the ESMT Berlin  
 cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



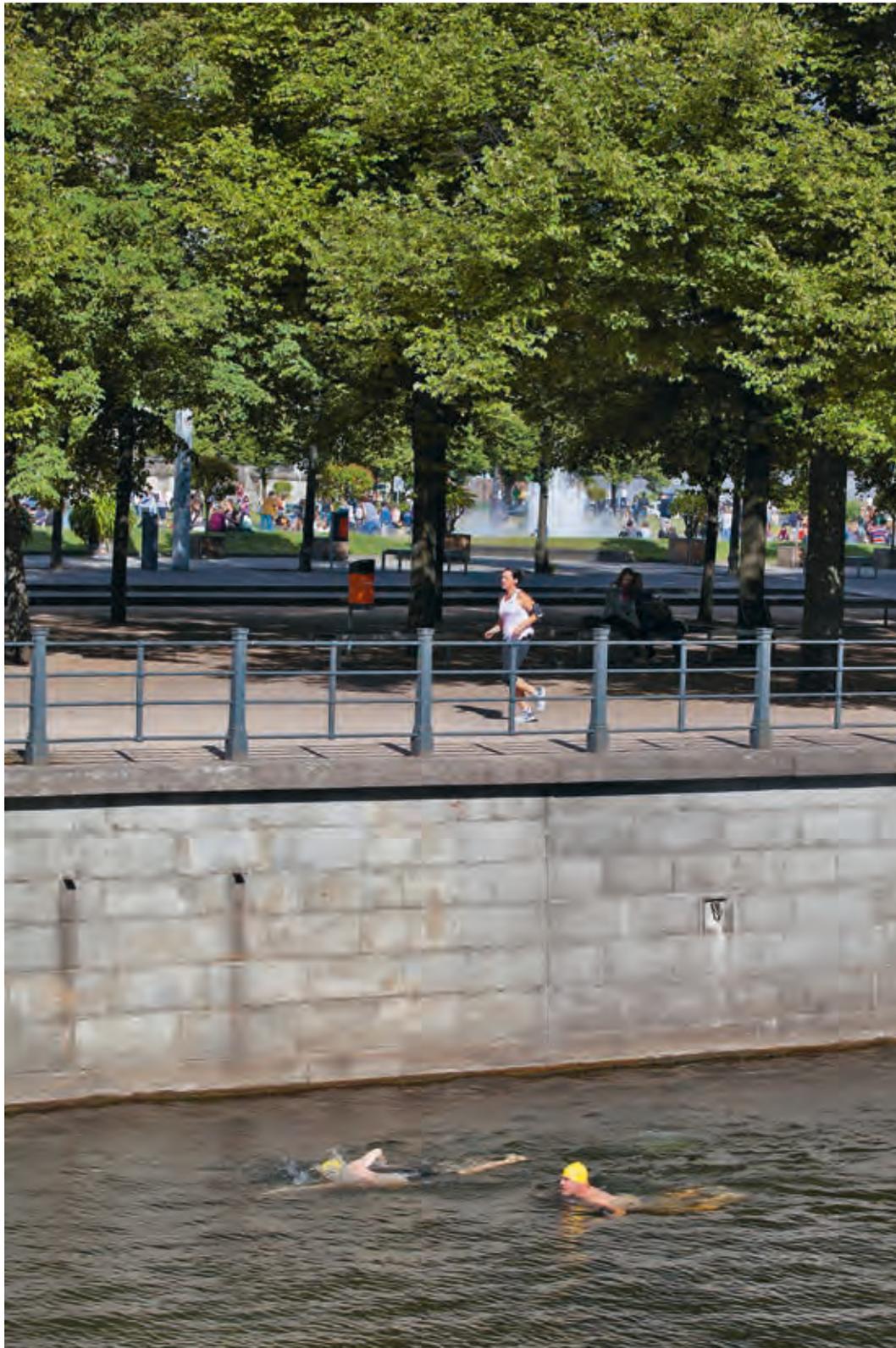
Swimming area at the Humboldt Forum with the new open-air staircase (visualisation)  
[cc realities:united](#), Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



Swimming area at the James Simon Gallery (visualisation)  
cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



Swimming area at the Bode Museum (visualisation)  
cc realities:united, Berlin / Flussbad Berlin e.V.



## An enrichment for Berlin

The Flussbad project unites a wide range of themes and goals. For example, it focuses on future-oriented urban development and the improved handling of the city's natural resources and also creates a new urban gathering spot. As a project, it seeks to benefit and reflect the needs of people of all ages and social classes – residents of Berlin as well as guests of the city. And, last but not least, the project's biggest benefactor is the environment itself.

### Sustainable urban development

A city like Berlin, which is growing and changing rapidly, is going to need as many open and functioning public spaces as possible. The Flussbad project enables Berlin to create precisely such a vibrant social site at its very centre. The quality of life in the historical heart of the city will improve tangibly for residents from all levels of society. The Spree Canal will become a vibrant part of the city again, and this renewed function will give it back pieces of its original historical meaning. The key role played by the water will be made visible to all at many points along the canal. For example, the open-air staircases and the pedestrian walkway along the Fischerinsel will allow people to experience how the city has reclaimed the river for itself. To this day, most of the planning and building done in Berlin's historical Mitte has been carried out without any consideration paid to the river or the canal. Thanks to the Flussbad Berlin, however, the city will turn its attention once again to the water.

A Spree Canal that brings the city a multitude of benefits – these are the very features that make any currently required expenditures to maintain the canal today a good investment. Indeed, the Flussbad project allows Berlin to become a role model for other cities with regard to how to make use of resources in efficient, economical and sustainable ways.

## Focus on ecology

What does sustainable development mean when it comes to rivers? Today, the pollution of natural waterways is a major issue all over the world. Many rivers, lakes and canals are heavily polluted. Unfortunately, Germany and Berlin are no exception to the rule. Even in 2019, not one federal state in Germany was able to fulfil the self-imposed commitment made in 2000 by all EU member states to bring their waterways into “good condition”. The Flussbad seeks to make a small yet impactful contribution to fulfilling this commitment. Especially thanks to its plant filter and its measures for reducing wastewater discharges, the project takes on the function of a role model in terms of the improvement of the water quality in the Spree. The Flussbad also contributes to the ecological revitalisation of the zones along the canal, in particular the area around the Fischerinsel. Yet another benefit is the fact that the new plant-filled shallow-water zones at the Fischerinsel and in the filter area will increase the cooling, microclimatic effect of the river throughout the city.



A section of the Spree contaminated by a sewage overflow near the Oberbaumbrücke, 8 July 2014  
cc Tim Edler



cc 2018 Hendrik Lietmann / OSTKREUZ

## A win-win situation for society

The Flussbad will help to fill a number of functional gaps at the centre of Berlin. Especially at the city’s historical core, there is a need for open, public spaces designed for leisure, recreation and casual sports. Like a natural green ribbon running along the water and culminating in the large open-water swimming area, the Flussbad will offer Berliners and visitors alike many opportunities for exercise and recreational sports of all kinds. Open spaces such as parks, swimming areas and lakes also always serve to foster encounters among different social groups and thus a more tolerant and cohesive civil society. We are obliged to take a critical look at the current lack of attractive public and recreational space in Berlin’s historical centre, given that even more buildings are scheduled to be built here, with even more open spaces disappearing.

The Flussbad, however, is a project that is much more than just a place to meet and relax. Visitors will also be able to experience first-hand just how good clean water feels. These up-close encounters are an excellent way to convey the overriding idea that



The swimming route during the Berlin Flussbad Cup against the backdrop of the James Simon Gallery. [cc](#) 2018 Annette Hauschild / OSTKREUZ

the protection of nature and natural resources is of equally great urgency in the middle of the city as it is in the countryside. With its multifaceted features, the Flussbad will transform the Spree Canal into a powerful symbol of water protection. In turn, this will impact the role played by the city centre: an area that has functioned primarily as a site representing traditional cultural values will subsequently open up as a space focusing on the themes of ecology and sustainability. In this sense, the Flussbad gives the historical centre of Berlin a chance to become a key site for the discussion of some of the most pressing issues of our day.

## The project in the context of the city

The Flussbad is an unusual urban development plan. Rather than building something new, the project seeks to take something old and use it in a new way. The Spree Canal is one of the oldest waterways in Berlin. From the 16th to the 19th centuries, it was the main connecting route for ships passing through the city. It was only when the lock known as the Mühlendamm Schleuse was opened in 1894 that the main Spree River, which runs along the east side of the island, was made passable for shipping transport. This move took away the main function of the Spree Canal and sent the waterway into a deep slumber.

The Spree Canal leads straight through old Berlin. Over the course of its 1.9 kilometres, it flows past many different sites: at its southern end, it passes the residential high-rises on the Fischerinsel and the historical buildings of the Märkisches Ufer with its historical port. At its mid-point, it passes the residential blocks at the Friedrichsgracht, but also the Federal Foreign Office, the ESMT Berlin, the Humboldt Forum and the future Bauakademie. At its northern end, the canal passes the German Historical Museum (housed in the Zeughaus), the Lustgarten and Museum Island. In other words, the shores of the canal are home to everything from residential areas, business schools and federal government offices to cultural giants and public spaces. In order to be able to respond to the interests and needs of all of these institutions and neighbours, the Flussbad Association has reached out to them as part of discussions that have resulted in a number of adjustments to the project: for example, access to the water at the Bode Museum will be made available on a provisional basis at first, so as to test the function of the Flussbad in this area and bring it into harmony with construction work on the Pergamon Museum. The Flussbad was also able to develop a close relationship with the ESMT Berlin, with the business school now hosting the Flussbad Garden on its property. One of the future open-air staircases down to the canal is also scheduled to be built near the ESMT Berlin.

Not only does the Spree Canal have several prominent neighbours and adjacent buildings, it is also subject to a number of legal stipulations and usage conditions. For example, the canal itself is officially a “federal waterway” managed by the federal government, while its bridges and walls are maintained by the state of Berlin.

One of the great challenges facing the Spree lies underground. In order to make the Flussbad project possible, the Berlin sewage system will need to be modernised in spots. The canal will have to continue serving as a basin for floodwater overflows, for which complex technical solutions have been developed. Yet another key item on the agenda is the protection of historical monuments in the direct vicinity, including the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site known as Museum Island. All of these challenges and conditions have been integrated into the project planning, with the Flussbad Association also creating a comprehensive record of all monuments and ensembles in the project area. This documentation made it possible to find solutions to a number of monument-related concerns: for example, a more modest planting of the filter area at the Jungfernbrücke will allow the historical



Test filter on the “Hans-Wilhelm”, a barge set up in the Spree Canal near the Flussbad Garden  
cc 2018 Martin Henseleer



View of the future swimming area at the Schlossbrücke, with the ESMT Berlin in the background  
cc 2017 Dawin Meckel / OSTKREUZ

building to continue to reflect in the water. Also, the original idea of having an open-air staircase at the Lustgarten was retracted due to objections from monument preservationists. Instead, access to the water will be set up at the Humboldt Forum and at the ESMT Berlin.

## A fluid process

In 2015, the Flussbad Association launched the “Flussbad-Pokal” swimming competition, which has now become an established early-summer event held every year in the Spree Canal. Hundreds of participants take part in the swim and experience how great it feels to swim in the Spree Canal.

For the Flussbad Association, each of these annual “test runs” has brought new and additional insights for its concrete project planning. The association took a similarly practical approach to the challenge of water filtration; a team of experts was hired to determine the most effective filter method as part of a years-long experiment under real-time conditions on a barge in the Spree Canal. In other words, the planning philosophy behind the Flussbad has always been one of individual steps – one followed by the next. This also applies to the implementation of the Flussbad project itself, which is scheduled to be realised in several individual phases.

### Planning and approval phase, approx. 2019–23

Technical requirements are the first thing the Flussbad must meet. These conditions will have to be planned and approved down to the smallest detail. In this initial phase, the planning for the filter area – including the completion of the new end weir and the swimming section – will have to be presented to and agreed upon by the many authorities involved. In May 2019, the Berlin Senate voted to permit the construction of the first Flussbad component, namely the open-air staircase at the Humboldt Forum. It is scheduled for completion in 2023 together with the newly designed open spaces around the Humboldt Forum. During this phase provisional swimming opportunities at regular dates will also be offered for the purpose of testing the feasibility.

### Construction phase of the central section, approx. 2023–25

This phase will see the construction of the project’s technical facilities: first up will be the plant filter and then the new weir between the filter and swimming area. The access points to the water will also be created: at the ESMT Berlin, the vertical canal wall will be replaced at two points by an open-air staircase descending to the water. A minimal infrastructure for swimming will also be set up here. At the northern end of the swimming area next to the Bode Museum, another access point to the water will be built, however it will only be provisionally. The approval process for the semi-natural waterway at the Fischerinsel will also take place in this phase.

### Partial operation and Fischerinsel construction phase, approx. 2025–33

The filter and the two southern open-air staircases are completed by now. Regular operations will be taken up in the swimming area adjacent to the Humboldt Forum and the ESMT Berlin. If the renovation of the Pergamon Museum is ongoing, swimming will be permitted there only provisionally and at pre-determined times. The semi-natural waterway at the Fischerinsel will be under construction. Some of the canal walls will be replaced by flat embankments, and a pedestrian walkway will be built in the water. The viewing platform will be set up at the eastern end of the island.

### Construction phase at the northern Kupfergraben, completion approx. 2033–35

At this point, the renovation of the Pergamon Museum is expected to be complete. Temporary access to the Flussbad swimming area across from the Bode Museum will now be replaced by a permanent access. This third access point, most likely in the form of another open staircase, will emerge together with the new “Museumshöfe” as an integrated part of a spacious new waterfront area opposite the Bode Museum. The more precise planning will take into account the experiences gathered over the previous years. At this point, the realisation of the Flussbad will be complete.



A participant in the 2nd annual Berlin Flussbad Cup  
cc 2016 Annette Hauschild / OSTKREUZ

## Keeping it simple

When people hear about the Berlin Flussbad for the first time, many of them imagine it to be some kind of open-air swimming pool. But a project like this is something quite different, as one can see by looking at other cities, where river bathing means much more than just another place to go swimming. Today, the residents of Copenhagen are delighted at how clean the city's port has become. In Chicago, polluted canals are being transformed into ecological lifelines. The residents of Paris now flock to the annual "Paris Plage" event in the centre of the city on the Seine – with plans to make it possible to swim there in the future, too. Residents of Zürich swim in the Limmat River, where some river bathing areas were set up as a deliberate urban development measure near previously problematic city districts. In Basel, people delight in swimming in the Rhine, which is clean once again today thanks to the greater environmental awareness that resulted from the devastating chemical catastrophe of 1986.

Where swimming is permitted in the rivers mentioned above, the bathing areas are usually freely accessible and have a very simple infrastructure. These intentionally low-key and tasteful facilities have proven their worth and are valued highly by residents; so much so that the "Aare swim" in the Aare River in Bern is now considered to be an "immaterial" world heritage site.



cc 2018 Sibylle Fendt / OSTKREUZ

### A summer's day in Berlin in 2030

A 40-year old Berlin resident makes her way from her apartment on the 20th floor of a building on the Fischerinsel to the southern tip of the island. In the light of the morning sun, she does her stretching on the wooden platform at the Spree River and enjoys the peaceful quiet and the water vista. A couple from Greece is also on the platform; they are in Berlin on holiday and just starting their day touring the city. On their way to the Humboldt Forum, they stroll on the pedestrian walkway along the water. In the semi-natural waterway section, they hear birds singing and see

hummingbirds fluttering about. They are amazed at how green and natural Berlin is. After they pass under the Gertraudenbrücke, they arrive at the filter area with its lush reed plants. They gaze at the historical Jungfernbrücke as it reflects beautifully in the canal. At the ESMT Berlin, they pass the new weir and marvel at the crystal clear water flowing into the swimming area. At the Flussbad Garden, a school class from Neukölln is just arriving with their biology teacher. They are eager to carry out the pre-prepared water-quality tests. Further downstream, beyond



cc 2018 Sibylle Fendt / OSTKREUZ

the new weir, two older gentlemen are walking down the open-air staircase on their way for their morning swim. One of them is a pensioner from the district of Moabit who comes here almost every day, even in spring and autumn. At 19 degrees Celsius, the water is still quite fresh today, but also completely clear. He swims with the hardly noticeable current and takes in the always impressive backdrop of the historical city centre. He feels connected to his city – and yet very far from everyday urban life. He quickly swims the 200 metres to the Humboldt Forum. Here, on the second

open-air staircase, swimmers and tourists sit next to people in suits on a break from the office. As the pensioner takes a seat on the stairs and squints in the sun, he overhears people talking behind him; it's a small group of people who just visited the Humboldt Forum, and they've also just discovered the Flussbad. They plan to come back the next day to go swimming – all the way to the Bode Museum. For them, it's a typical Berlin thing to do.



The founding of the non-profit association Flussbad Berlin on 1 November 2012  
 cc Flussbad Berlin e.V.

## Who's behind the Flussbad?

Brothers Tim Edler and Jan Edler first had the idea for the Flussbad back in 1998. Active in Berlin as architects and artists under the name realities:united, the brothers continue to work tirelessly until today to achieve their vision. In 1998, the then building councillor for Berlin-Mitte, Thomas Flierl, described the project as “sufficiently unrealistic that we can talk about it with ease”. In 2012, the Switzerland-based Holcim Foundation honoured the Flussbad project on two occasions with one of its most important international prizes for sustainable architecture. At this point, the Flussbad idea started taking on shape in Berlin. The project's first technical feasibility study was financed with funds from the LOTTO Foundation and proved that a natural river-water filter was feasible and could deliver good results. Several individuals joined the team at this time and committed themselves to driving the project forward together with the Edler brothers to this day. Architect Kai Dolata is in charge of finding the best possible filter system. Architect Charlotte Hopf created the exhibition on display in the Flussbad Garden and continues to represent the project at conferences and events as well as on guided tours. Press officer Barbara Schindler takes care of publicity for the project and created the Flussbad-Jahresheft (Annual Review). Susanne Bernstein handles the finances and manages the Flussbad management office. Lisa Blum handles the planning fundamentals and conceives and implements events such as the Berlin Flussbad Cup. Lisa Maja Bannert is in charge of the educational outreach programme for schoolchildren and students. Elena Erickson is an open-space planner who designed all the Flussbad's current technical plans. Martin Henseler is a student trainee and supports the team in all things relating to the Flussbad Garden and test filter. Franz Minh Kloth is doing his official “voluntary

ecological year” at the Flussbad Berlin. To be mentioned as well are Ulrike Rose, the first ambassador of the project; Ana Shalin Stoeckermann, who originally developed the areas of education and participation; and Dr. Sylvia Metz, the trusted project consultant. Today, the non-profit association known as the Flussbad Berlin e.V. has over 400 member supporters, many of whom also volunteer their time. And not to forget the expert advisory board, which includes Prof. Kristin Feireiss (Aedes Architekturforum), Herbert Lohner (German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation or BUND), Ulla Luther (architect), Jürgen Mayer H. (architect), Prof. Dr. Harald Welzer (sociologist and journalist) and Cornelia Ziehm (lawyer). The association's supervisory board is made up of Dr. Heidrun Kletzin, Mania Lohrengel and Dr. Tilman Reinhardt.

The development and testing of the Flussbad project by its team members, management office and external experts was initially made possible by a four-year financing grant from the federal government's “National Urban Development Projects” programme. These funds were made available by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community as well as by the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development and Housing and were also recently renewed for the upcoming years.

## Themes and events



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### Berlin Flussbad Pokal – The Flussbad Swimming Cup

The Berlin Flussbad Cup swimming cup takes place once a year on a Sunday in early summer in the stretch of the Spree Canal between Bode Museum and Schlossbrücke. It is one of the rare opportunities for swimmers to get to know the future Flussbad swimming area. The event involves a competition for advanced swimmers, but it also gives recreational swimmers a chance to have a relaxed swim past the treasures and stunning architecture of Museum Island. In 2018, more than 500 swimmers took to the water. Today, the Pokal has taken up its rightful place as a must-do event on many people's annual calendars.

[www.flussbad-berlin.de/flussbadpokal](http://www.flussbad-berlin.de/flussbadpokal)

### Flussbad Garden at the ESMT Berlin

Each year in May, we officially usher in the new season at our Flussbad Garden next to the Spree Canal. Just adjacent to the grounds of the ESMT Berlin, this stretch of green has established itself as a gathering spot and a place for learning and communicating. We showcase the Flussbad project here with a free and open-air exhibition, and we also hold events to present the project's progress so far. It's also a great place to converse with other initiatives and institutions or just enjoy a good coffee together.

[www.flussbad-berlin.de/flussbad-garten](http://www.flussbad-berlin.de/flussbad-garten)



cc 2018 Benjamin Renter



cc 2017 Stefanie Loos

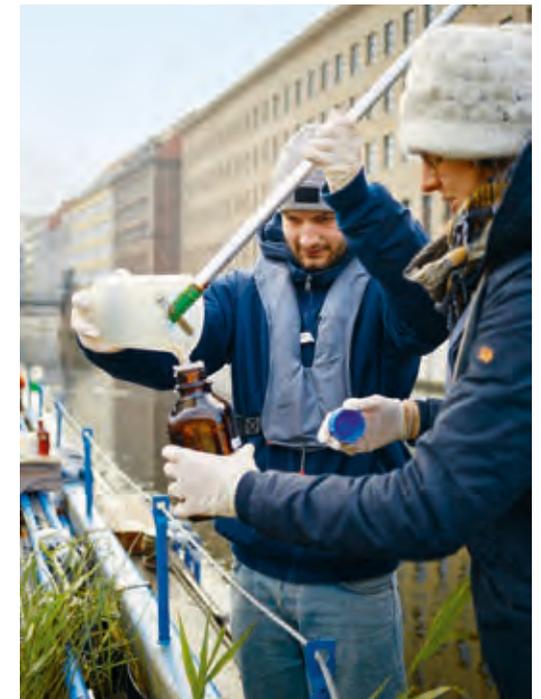
### FlussLÄUFE

These guided tours along the 1.9-kilometre Spree Canal provide information and updates on the Flussbad project. The FlussLÄUFE – literally “river walks” – are an excellent opportunity to get to know the entire project area, but also to examine all the details, historical links and current state of planning for the Flussbad. Guided tours take place on a regular basis at least once a month and upon request. [www.flussbad-berlin.de/flusslauf](http://www.flussbad-berlin.de/flusslauf)

### The test filter on the “Hans-Wilhelm”

Starting in mid-2017, the Flussbad team has been carrying out regular tests on the water in the Spree Canal with the help of a test-filter system installed on an old barge known as the “Hans-Wilhelm”. Working together with experienced environmental engineers, we work on determining which natural materials – expanded clay, shells, plants or gravel – we should use to optimally purify the inner-city waterway. In order to cover roughly 30 different parameters, we have been taking weekly water samples from early spring to autumn as part of a multi-year test phase. These samples are then analysed at an environmental lab, which then provides us with the results. This process has already given us a good overview of the state of the water and the effectiveness of the filters in the test area.

[www.flussbad-berlin.de/testfilter](http://www.flussbad-berlin.de/testfilter)



cc 2017 Dawin Meckel / OSTKREUZ

## Raise your voice for the Flussbad



cc 2016 Axel Schmidt

A crystal clean river in the heart of Berlin. A waterway that invites swimmers to take a dip and everyone else to enjoy strolling along its shores and taking in its nature. The Flussbad idea – combined with a desire to contribute to the sustainable and ecological restructuring of our city – is already prompting an enthusiastic response among many people today, not just in Berlin.

Hundreds of individuals have already signalled their commitment to the Flussbad concept in Berlin by becoming members of our non-profit association, officially known as the Flussbad Berlin e.V. Many of them also personally volunteer their time and energy at our many activities and events. We encourage you to do the same and help us turn these hundreds of supporters into thousands! By becoming a member of Flussbad Berlin e.V., you not only support us in the further development, planning and communication of the Flussbad project; “your voice” also lends our efforts the valuable weight we need as we become more and more active in the political

decision-making process on our way to realising the project. We encourage you to get involved with an annual contribution of only €30! New members will receive an attractive welcome prize upon request. Of course, membership fees and donations are tax deductible, with all receipts for your tax returns sent to you automatically.

Get involved today and help us make Berlin and the Spree even better!

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