

Piles and Fictions of Tiergarten

Soviet Memorial
Post-war Replantation
Coexistence Border



The Battle of Berlin Remembered: The Soviet War Memorial in the Tiergarten

Soviet Memorial

The Soviet War Memorial is one of several war memorials in Berlin, the capital city of Germany, erected by the Soviet Union to commemorate its war dead, particularly the 80,000 soldiers of the Soviet Armed Forces who died during the Battle of Berlin in April and May 1945.

The memorial is located in the Tiergarten, a large public park to the west of the city centre, on the north side of the east-west axis in the Tiergarten locality.

Soviet Memorial

A Transient Illusion of Historical Synthesization



The retrospection of Soviet Memorial in Tiergarten could be seen as a high-resolution reconstruction, which encompasses the relationship between memorial resolution and visual/tactile texture.

Depending on different memorial resolution, our focus shift from the notion of the *Whole* (the image content) to its constituent elements, the *Part* (the pixel).

For the *Whole*, we could look at the stoa-shaped war memorial with the ruins of Nazi office building in the background.

The Soviet War Memorial at Tiergarten pictured with the ruins of the German Reichstag in the background, circa 1945.

Soviet Memorial

A Transient Illusion of Historical Synthesis



The marble of Soviet War Memorial from destroyed Nazi office buildings, including Hitler's Chancellery Building.



Soviet T-34 tank and ML 20 howitzer gun in the Tiergarten, Berlin



Soviet cemetery behind the Tiergarten Memorial in Berlin



Flowers left at the Tiergarten Soviet War Memorial in memory of the Battle of Berlin

For the *Part*, we turn to the marble of the memorial, the military artifacts, the artistic adornments, the splashes of color from flowers and mementos left behind by people.



The Tiergarten, 1950 and 2022. Shots from Google Earth.

Post War Replantation

World War II brought significant changes to the Tiergarten, much of the forest was destroyed and from the 200,000 trees originally only a few hundred survived. Also, Berliners cut the remaining trees to use the firewood as fuel. For a time, the deforested fields were turned into 2,550 plots of farm land to grow potatoes and vegetables.

Post War Replantation

A Transgressive Narrative of Dynamic Changing Heritage



Reichstag, Brandenburger Tor, and a statue in Tiergarten where all trees have been cut down



Berliners planting potato seedlings by the ruins of the Reichstag, Tiergarten, Berlin, May 1946.



1949 West Berlin's Governing Mayor, planted 1st of 250,000 tree saplings donated by West Germany



East Berlin refugees digging and replanting trees in Tiergarten, relief work, 1953

1945, began the restoration of Tiergarten by the local government ordering the difficult job to Wilhelm Alverdes (Tiergarten manager after the war). 1949-1959, the area was replanted with the emergency programme of Animal Services and the donation of a total of 250,000 trees by the entire country. 1955, the Tiergarten was converted to the public park that we know today, equipped with infrastructure, like canals, playgrounds, monuments and even bars.

Post War Replantation

A Transgressive Narrative of Dynamic Changing Heritage



Vertical layers structure

Forest floor, consists of shed vegetative parts and non-vascular plants.

Herb layer, dominated by shade-tolerant species.

Shrub layer, characterized by woody vegetation relatively close to the ground.

Underwood, consisting of small trees.

Canopy, layer of meeting of the most crowns trees.

5 most common species

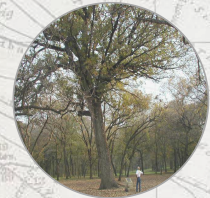
Linden (Tilia), is the most characteristic.

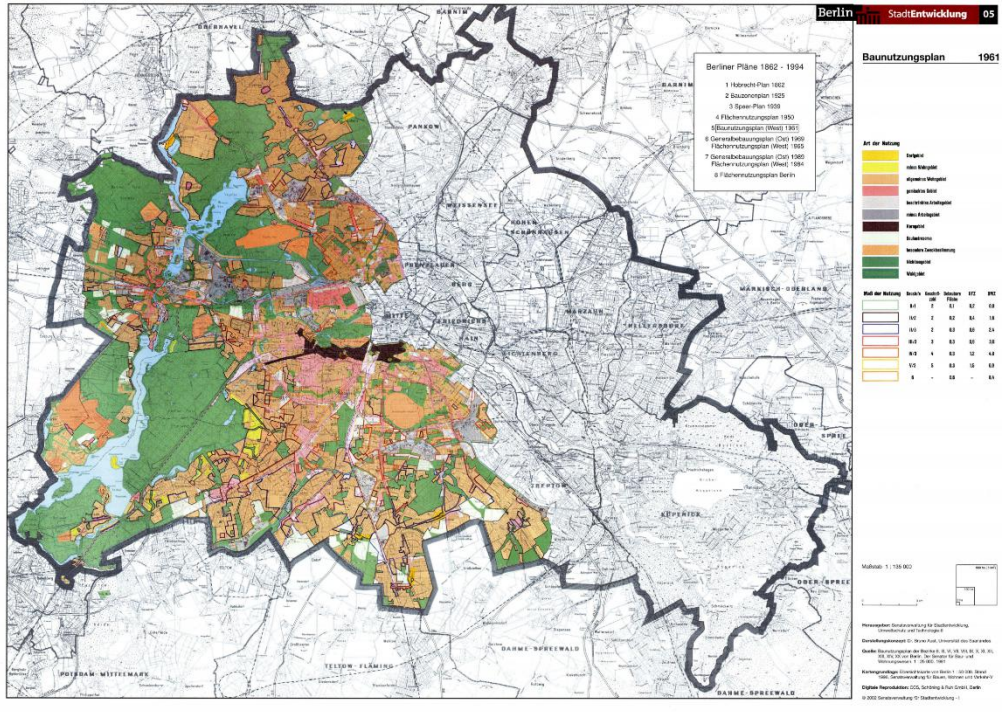
Maple (Acer), is another very common tree.

Oak (Quercus), one of them it is the Tiergarten's oldest tree of about 350 years.

Plano (Platanus), finding abundant specimens in the major avenues.

Chestnut (Aesculus), scattered throughout the whole area.





The West Berlin Biotope Map, 1961

Coexistence Border

The growing ecological movement of the 1970s also increasingly influenced the understanding of German cities as they underwent paradigmatic changes. West Berlin, a city enclosed by a wall, was placed in a very peculiar psychological situation where all open green areas were viewed and cherished as a precious anomaly. The Berlin Senate commissioned the charting of all biotopes in West Berlin in an extensive map that interpreted the city as a habitat for nature, especially in relation to spontaneous plants growing in the urban environment.

Coexistence Border

A Soft Environment of Redefined Autonomy



JuliusKlinger_ZooAdPicture

The scale of biomass and the density of vegetation establish a level of autonomy that makes this place powerful. Tiergarten does not only dissolve the alleged antagonism between city and nature but also offers an alternate response to the Anthropocene, a model that conceives of human and nonhuman creatures as equal and mutually dependent. Tiergarten is ultimately post-human.

Coexistence Border

A Soft Environment of Redefined Autonomy



Bird Thing, Tiergarten, 2013



Mining Bee Nest, Tiergarten, 2017



Poplar Tree Stump, Yew Bush, and Human Couple, 2018



Ancient Beech, Tiergarten, 2015

The relationship of Tiergarten and its plant communities is prerequisites for the park's spatial diversity, which fosters many different species and use.