



Research Topic

Perspektive München is an urban design and planning framework that focuses on strategic, proactive, and urban development approaches to city planning. The guiding principles and strategies focus on the city as a whole, as well as the surrounding regions as a means of influencing change. The strategy was first introduced into Munich planning and development system in 1998 and for the next 17 years it would continue to be utilized as a framework for planning and design strategies as well as urban development reports.

As a leading edge city in Germany, Munich is an economic power house of the wealth, productivity, knowledge and creative economy. It is constantly attracting people, firms and purchasing power. With all this growth, Munich consistently assumes responsibility to sustainably deal with its resources in order not to foster unwanted urban sprawl, decrease mobility with private cars, and more recently and most importantly establish corridors of compact development and accessible green spaces. However, this does not come without its own set of challenges that push city planners to constantly implement initiatives that meet the growing demands of the city.

Primary Research Objective

Having gained a foundational understanding of urban planning and development in Munich, the intent of my research was to assess the ways sustainable development and urban connectivity can curtail monotonous and expansive development through participatory urban planning. My approach to this was through the lens of “strengthening of individual parts of the city through district development” and the “creation of future-oriented neighbourhoods through development that is compact, urban and green”.



Research Findings

During my time in Munich, I spent several days interviewing both city planners and urban planning professors learning first hand about the strengths and challenges of land use planning, development and green space planning in Munich. The approaches used to shape development in a city that is continuously growing can be utilized as a precedent for other leading cities, especially the top four cities in Canada. Through my research, case studies, and interviews it became apparent the implementation of initiatives is constantly dependent on co-operation between all municipalities, private actors, and state actors at the federal level.

Planning System in Munich, Germany

The hierarchical planning system gives municipalities within the Bavarian State the ability play a strong role in shaping development by establishing their own land use plans and implementation strategies. Through my interviews it became quite apparent that although municipalities are strong influencers in the planning realm, they must also develop plans and strategies that go hand in hand with federal development programs and plans. For example, at the regional level land use designations are established to help shape development however, alone these plans are weak in terms of policy and implementation. Therefore, municipalities develop land use plans that are reflective of regional goals, which are then incorporated into projects and initiatives.

Planning Challenges

Munich has essentially reached its capacity for growing outwards with development. The challenges urban planners face in Munich is how to balance the pressures of growth with quality of development. To address these challenges, Munich has undertaken several approaches such as introducing green infrastructure planning that is socially inclusive, where plans include the perspective of societal groups; multi-functional plans where different elements such as green spaces, built environment, recreational, as well as transit are included; and the rule of 1/3 where 1/3 of projects are commercial, 1/3 are residential, and 1/3 green space and recreational.

Case Studies

Case Study #1: Messestadt Riem

The Messestadt Riem project, an initiative aimed at redeveloping and redesigning an old Munich airport, is setting the standard for city development by instilling the aforementioned approaches. In keeping with the rule of 1/3, the urban district located in the east of the city, has been able to establish coherent and well-connected corridors within the city as a means to comply with the principles of compact, urban and



green. More specifically, it was able and continues to establish connections to Munich's Rapid Transit U-Bahn as well as a landscape park that became the third largest in the city.

Case Study #2: City of Munich Landscape Plan

As part of its Green Corridor Development, the city of Munich has established a Landscape plan that is integrated into its land use plans. It is a precedent for balance urban green spaces with rapid growth of the built environment. It focuses on general green spaces, sites for intensive use (playground and recreational fields), and green spaces of ecological importance (agricultural lands). In principle and practice, the plan has succeed in outlining provisions for the types of green spaces needed to ensure the balance between green spaces and the built environment as growth continues to increase in Munich. The city has been successful with simultaneously utilizing the plan alongside land use plans as a way to create a hierarchy of green space standards that are set at the city level. The Isar River is an example of a green corridor that has been redesigned to reintegrate urban green spaces back into the built environment.

In its entirety, Munich has been successful thus far with respect to taking Perspektive München and utilizing as a framework to remain a powerhouse while addressing its rapid growth and development as a world city. Instead of creating a city where the built environment and urban green spaces functioning as silos, Munich has sustainably adapted its resources to bring compact functionality to the forefront of its planning system. In the long run, this has supported Munich with pursuing economic wealth, power and knowledge without compromising the quality of life or functionality of spaces and people.

