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Pictures and ideas about Industrial Landscape

By Prof. H. Wiepking, Hannover

It is not easy to define the concept of an industrial landscape. There are old and new industries and industrial landscapes, small ones and big ones. They may vary very considerably. The old trades and industries were largely bound to the location and to the landscape, such as stone quarries, mills, hammer-mills and saw-mills, mining galleries. They were for hundreds of years elements in a homogeneous political economy. The workers came from neighbouring country districts, where they lived and often had house and garden among peasants and townsmen. They were all still engaged in a craft.

With the arrival of the steam engine, trade and commerce on a large scale, with new inventions, new sources of energy and new materials, immense industrial landscapes, industrial provinces and industrial countries arose, which grew together into national and international collective economies. Destruction of the old peasant landscapes around the cities and industrial sites is a cosmopolitan, uniform phenomenon. The earlier a country became highly industrialized, the greater was the destruction. The situation was not foreseen and therefore there was no adequate planning. Governments and the authorities failed hopelessly to keep abreast with the technical and social development.

After horrible mistakes it is gradually being recognized that by destroying a landscape of the old peasant type, you endanger to an extreme degree humanity with its creative energy and its dignity.

An industrial landscape, even a modern one, is associated with a restless, transient, secular life. It is merely a question of time when factories and firms grow old and disappear. Technical, economic, political and human conditions are liable to undergo rapid changes. Till now the factories, cities, mines, traffic and supply undertakings were all conglomerated close together. It means a big problem in designing to make a large factory with the necessary living and social amenities fit into a thinly inhabited landscape, even when smokeless fuel is available and can be produced without injurious refuse; but the difficulties become gigantic if one looks, for example, at the Ruhr district. Problems arise which can no longer be solved by a small working team of factory directors, engineers, architects and landscape architects alone.

The landscape is already being utilized far beyond its capacity. Drinking water and service water has to be laid on, sewage, waste gas, rubbish has to be disposed of. New mines have to be built, as old ones are abandoned. Mining of coal is replaced by that of

iron, refinement, processing, marketing. Nobody can say what the situation will be in 50 years time, for example, in the field of chemistry alone. In all trades workers are being split up, often with abrupt changes. Men and goods have to travel daily more and more miles by rail and other means of transport, than occurs in large countries with a more agrarian economy.

We may be subject to constant error, but nature is without error. The laws of life of humanity have remained appreciably unchanged over long periods of time. Humanity cannot tolerate a world removed from nature and devoid of life. The unity of body and mind is being recognized more and more. Maintenance of the creative energies of humanity is the great central—and international—task. The quotation from the Bible: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" has become an obligation to all who are engaged in designing a sound and vital industrial landscape, and it can be supported by subtle scientific evidence. The responsible landscape architect will not oppose either a genuine technical development nor an increase in economic efficiency in a landscape. But the measure of all things, and particularly in an industrial landscape is Man! Nowhere else do people need so much help, as in industrial areas of this type. Nowhere else is vegetation so urgently required. The conclusions to be drawn from this may be summarized as follows:

Planning in advance to separate work-place, living quarters and recreational areas;

Maintaining the water, air and soil in a healthy state, by making a land-register, legally binding for all consequences, of these most important commodities in the landscape. This must be done before erecting industries and large housing estates; Creating housing areas with green spaces and a green belt, and forming communities which are full of vitality and keen on culture.

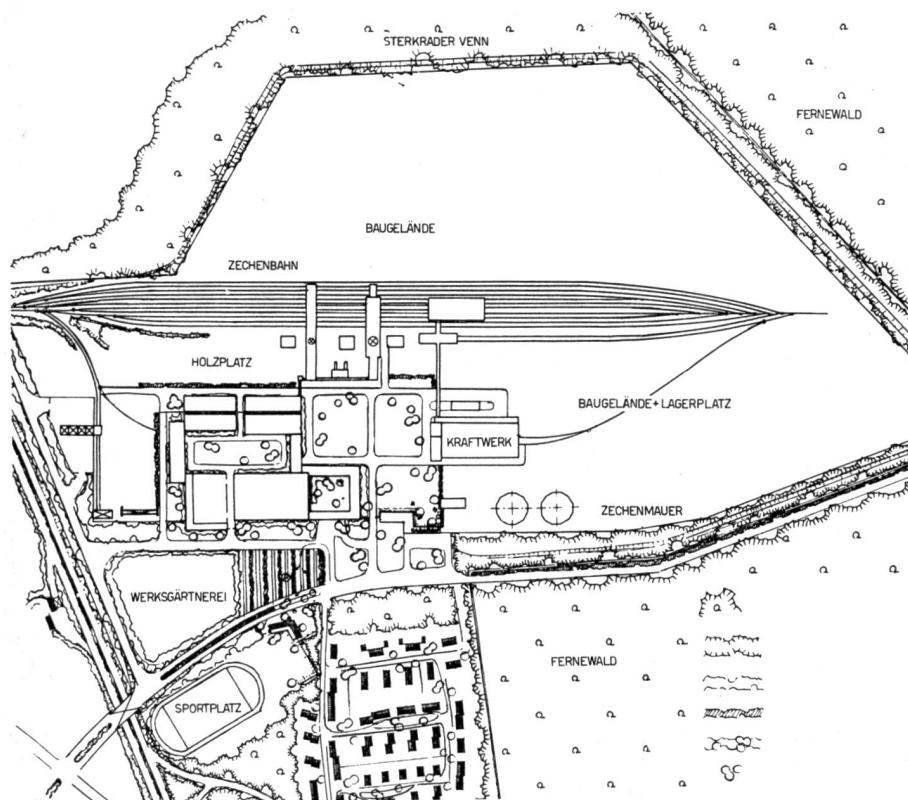
The scantier the space available in the industrial area, the more intensive must be the production of gardens and landscape from the soil. Everything senseless is lack of culture. The more meaningful any type of vegetation is, the more it will benefit people. In the final analysis, with knowledge an ability developed to a fine art, the best family and public gardens, the best meadows and fields and the best woods should be situated in the immediate neighbourhood of mines and quarries. Grazing cattle poisoned by smelter smoke, people endangered by waste gas and sewage are glaring signs of extreme lack of culture,

Geordnete Industriegebiete – Paysages industriels ordonnés – Planned Industrial Landscape

(Institut für Landespflege der Technischen Hochschule Hannover, Prof. H. Wiepkings)



Geplante Industrielandschaft - Paysage industriel aménagé - Planned industrial landscape.



Von Schutzpflanzungen umgebene Industrie- und Wohnsiedlungen - Aménagement d'industrie et d'habitation entouré de plantations de protection - Settlement of housing and industry, protected by surrounded plantations.

VORPLANUNG FÜR INDUSTRIE UND LANDESPFLEGE !

NICHT SO:

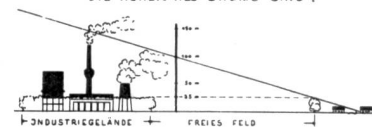


SONDERN VORHER PFLANZEN !



Fig. 1

WIE PFLANZT MAN BAUTEN IN DER LANDSCHAFT AB, DIE HÖHER ALS BÄUME SIND ?



DIE AB- ODER SCHUTZPFLANZUNG
— DER NAG IM ENGEREN UND WEITEREN SINNE —
GEHÖRT IN DIE WIRKSAME BLICKNAHE
ZUR WOHNUNG, ZUM GARTEN U. ZUR STRASSE

Fig. 2

WO MUSS 'WALD' STEHEN ?



UM ALLE SIEDLUNGEN IN DER LANDSCHAFT



Fig. 3

PFLANZT GENÜGENDE BREITE SCHUTZSTREIFEN MIT LICHTSCHNEISEN UM INDUSTRIEWERKE !

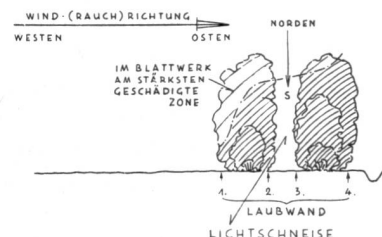


Fig. 4

WO MUSS 'WALD' STEHEN ?
AUF ALLEN ZUM LANDBAU NICHT TAUGLICHEN BÖDEN,

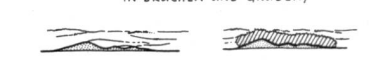


Fig. 5

which is a disgrace to any nation which prides itself on its culture. The landscape architect, particularly when working in an industrial area, must know that prevention is better and more important than cure. To a great extent the man who provides green areas can be a healer of humanity, and by example and education—as the grandiose work of Peter Josef Lenné shows—can be a guide and shaper of people, and all the more in a landscape which is in danger. Such an example is an obligation to us. A children's playground of a suitable nature protected from smoke, noise and wind may cost less than the maintenance of a single Tb. bed in one year! Culture is always economic, from whatever point of view it is regarded.

Within easy reach of mother and pram should be:

windsheltered spots for mothers and small children, play-gardens and playgrounds, shops for every day things, quiet gardens for work veterans and those in the evening of life. The paths should also begin here which lead to the larger countryside, which belongs to us all and which has become the modern village common of the whole nation. Nobody should have the power to take away or diminish a part of this common heritage from anybody else. If it is necessary to interfere with or change the wider landscape, for reasons of general interest or superior policy, then the usufructuary should offer society full compensation, which cannot be limited to money. We must grow out of an age of heartlessness into an age of brotherhood.

Recent examples of Industrial Landscape Design in the United States of America

By Leon Zach, President, American Society of Landscape Architects

As a result of the greatly expanding economy in the United States the large industries are undergoing corresponding expansion to satisfy increased consumer demand; and there is increasing recognition by the management of these fast-growing industries as to the desirability and wisdom of providing happy surroundings and pleasant working conditions for their many thousands of workers.

Ford Motor Company. Thus, one of our firms, Wilcox and Laird of Birmingham, Michigan, have been retained to develop the grounds of many of the new facilities of the gigantic Ford Motor Company. These include four different projects, all done by the same architects, Giffels and Vallet, Inc., and L. Rossetti, and located in four different cities.

These same architects and landscape architects have collaborated on many other industrial projects, such as for the General Electric Company (Electronic Parks, N. Y.); Federal Telecommunications Laboratories, International Business Machines Company, and the Fruehauf Trailer Company.

In other similar cases we find a firm of architects becoming familiar with the capabilities and methods of a favorite landscape architect; and, therefore, retaining his services in the collaborative work of site development and planting at many installations. Such is the case in three other projects, all of which are the collaborative work of Albert C. Martin and Associated, Architects and Engineers of Los Angeles, California, and Arthur G. Barton, Landscape Architect of Glendale, California.

Pacific Tube Company, Los Angeles, California. Here the industry undertakes the manufacture of steel tubing. For the comfort and convenience of their workers, and to improve the appearance to the benefit of the general public, the grounds have been planted and car parking has been provided. The planting was done in 1953.

Consolidated Western Steel Company, Los Angeles, California. A steel company improved its new general office building in 1954.

Lakewood Center, Lakewood, California. The largest single-family residential development must, of

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- 1 *Development Plan for the Future Landscaping of Industry.* If planning is omitted, the growth of the plantations is retarded.
- 2 *How to obscure Unsightly Constructions of considerable Height?* The plantations of protection must be well-planned for housing, gardens and roads.
- 3 *Where should "wood" be planted?* "Wood" must be planted in industrial areas and around settlements.
- 4 The plantation areas must be large enough, to include rides in order to allow sunlight into the growth. They must act as smokescreens and give adequate protection against the west wind.
- 5 *Where should "wood" be planted?* On all undulating slopes, in quarries and cuts, on dunes and marchland.

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- 1 *Projets préalables avant le développement des installations industrielles.* Si les projets sont omis, les plantations plus tard croissent mal.
- 2 *Comment masquer des constructions qui sont plus hautes que les arbres?* La plantation de protection doit être efficace pour les habitations, les jardins et les routes.
- 3 *Où doit-on planter du « bois »?* Le « bois » doit être planté dans le paysage de tout aménagement industriel et des cités d'habitation.
- 4 Les bandes de plantations doivent être larges alternant avec des laies de lumière. Elles doivent protéger contre le vent de l'ouest et la fumée. Direction des laies de lumière vers le nord.
- 5 *Où doit-on planter du « bois »?* Sur tous les mauvais terrains. Sur toutes les pentes et les versants d'élévations. Dans les carrières, dans les fosses et les creux. Sur les dunes et les terrains mouvants.