

**"Wier" = "Wier" = "Wier"**

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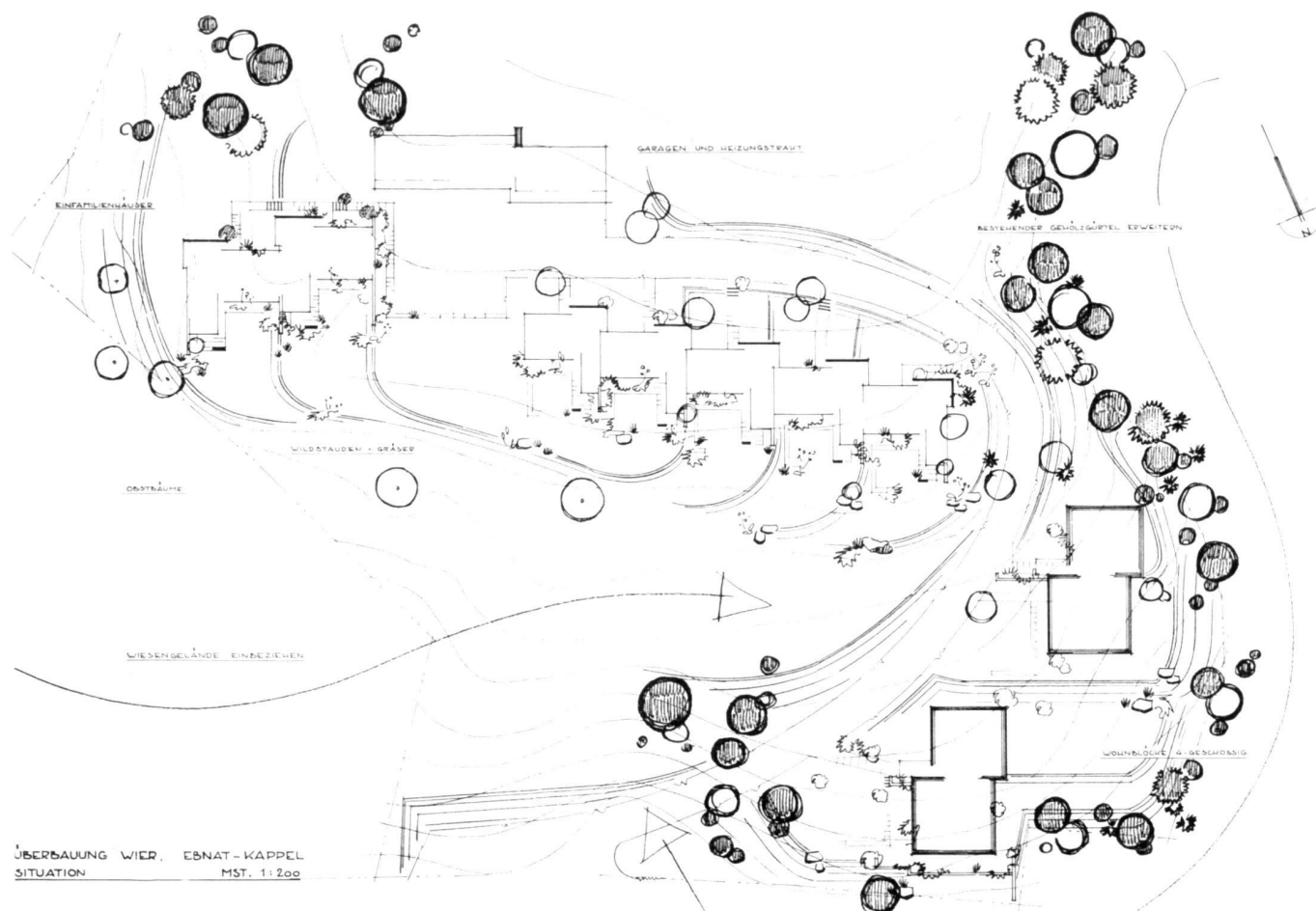
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ÜBERBAUUNG WIER, EBNAT-KAPPEL  
SITUATION  
MST. 1:200

Ein Wohnquartier in Ebnat-Kappel im Toggenburg

Architekt: Thomas Schmid, ETH, SIA, Zürich  
Gartenarchitekt: A. Sulzer, BSG, in  
Fa. Buchmüller-Wartmann, BSG, St. Gallen

Es handelt sich um ein Wohnquartier, das am Ortsrand in einer schönen landschaftlichen Umgebung von einem Industrieunternehmen errichtet wurde. Es liegt auf einer Geländekuppe an den Waldrand angelehnt und so weit zurückgesetzt, dass es nicht aufdringlich im Landschaftsbild steht. In diesen Grundgedanken muss sich auch die Gestaltung der unmittelbaren Umgebung der Häuser einordnen. Von der Talseite gesehen stehen sie in der Bergwiese drin. Erst aus der Nähe kann man den U-förmigen Grundriss der Einfamilienhäuser feststellen. Er umschließt einen kleinen, nach der Talseite offenen Gartenhof, der nach den besonderen Wünschen der Bewohner eingerichtet und bepflanzt werden kann. Wenn dies im Einzelfall schlecht geschehen sollte, so wird das

Fortsetzung auf Seite 40

Un quartier résidentiel d'Ebnat-Kappel, dans le Toggenburg

Architecte: Thomas Schmid, ETH, SIA, Zurich  
Architecte-paysagiste: A. Sulzer, BSG, de  
Buchmüller-Wartmann, BSG, St-Gall

«Wier» a été construit par une entreprise industrielle à la périphérie de la localité, dans une très jolie zone de verdure. Adossé à la forêt, ce quartier est situé sur un mamelon. Il a été bâti en retrait, de telle sorte qu'il ne dépare pas le paysage. L'entourage immédiat des maisons a été conçu dans le même esprit. Vues de la vallée, ces dernières ont l'air d'être éparpillées dans les prés. Ce n'est qu'en se rapprochant que l'on remarque la forme en U des villas. La construction entoure un jardin ouvert sur la vallée, aménagé et planté selon les désirs personnels des habitants. Si les goûts des uns ou des autres devaient laisser à désirer l'ensemble du décor n'en pâtirait guère. Les prés du sommet du coteau, assez plats, font partie du lotissement, qui n'est ainsi pas coupé de la nature environ-

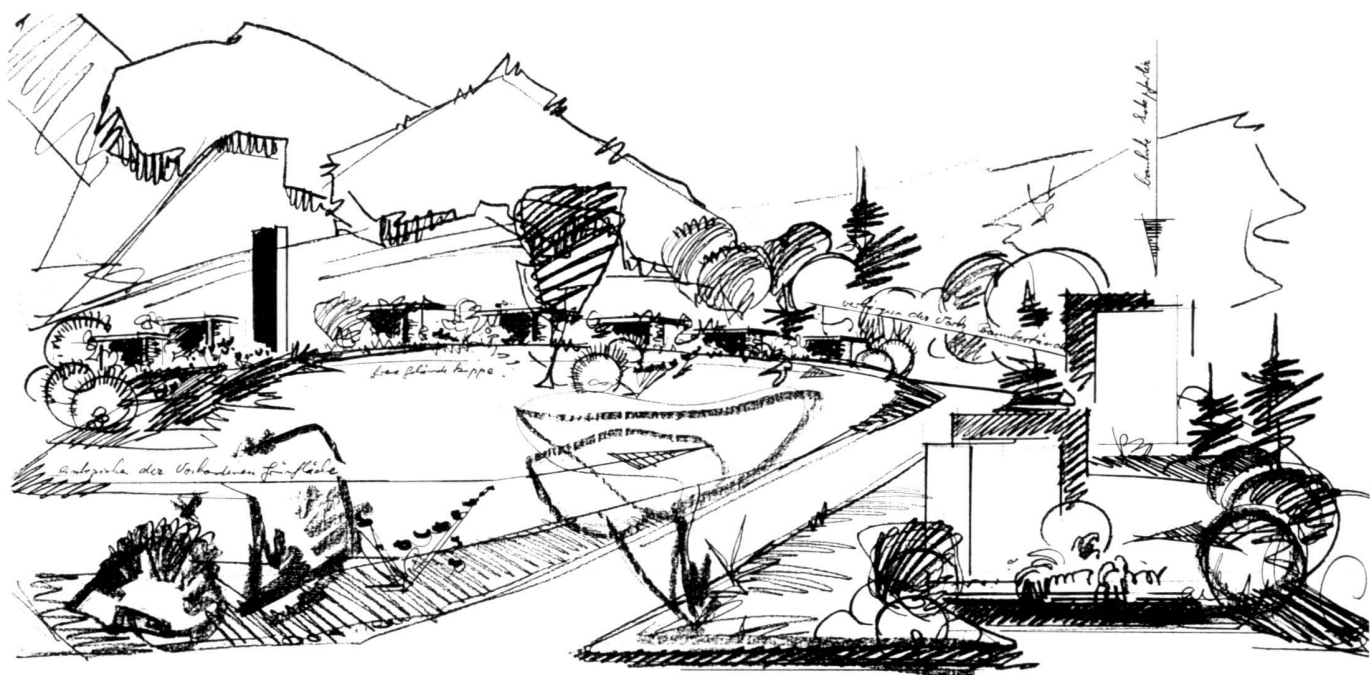
Suite à la page 40

A living quarter at Ebnat-Kappel, Toggenburg, Switzerland

Architect: Thomas Schmid, ETH, SIA, Zurich  
Garden architect: A. Sulzer, BSG, of the firm  
Buchmüller-Wartmann, BSG, St. Gallen

"Wier" is the name of a living quarter built by an industrial enterprise at the outskirts of the place Ebnat-Kappel in midst of a very fine scenery. It lies on the crest of a hill near the edge of a wood and has been taken back so far as not obtrusively to interfere with the landscape. This was the general idea with which also the fashioning of the immediate surroundings of the houses had to be brought into harmony. When seen from the valley it looks as if the houses had just been placed into a mountain meadow, and only when coming near do we notice that the ground plan of all these homes has the shape of a U. It encloses a garden court open at the side looking down into the valley which can be arranged and adorned with plantings according to the wishes of the inhabitants.

Continued on page 40



werden, wobei allerdings zu berücksichtigen ist, dass es die Tendenz hat, seine Partner zu unterdrücken. Am besten geeignet als Mischungspartner sind erstklassige, krankheitsresistente Rotschwingelsorten, die zu Penn-cross passen, wie beispielsweise Highlight und Penn-lawn. Allzu kleine Mischungsanteile von Penn-cross sind wiederum nicht empfehlenswert, weil sich sonst nur vereinzelte Pflanzen zu entwickeln vermögen, deren Ausläufer dann über die anderen Rasengräser kriechen und von der Mähmaschine aufgerufen werden. Bei Reinsaaten ist noch zu beachten, dass Penn-cross infolge des sehr dichten Rasens und je nach Schnitthöhe die Tendenz hat, einen Teppich 'aufzubauen', so dass sich im Abstand von einigen Jahren Renovationen mit Verticutiermaschinen empfehlen, damit der Rasen nicht schwammig wird. Zusammenfassend kann gesagt werden, dass Penn-cross Bent wohl gegenwärtig das am vielseitigsten verwendbare Rasen-Einzelgras darstellt. Dank seinen vielen guten Eigenschaften verdient es auch in der Schweiz vermehrte Beachtung und wird vor allem dem Gartengestalter ein wertvolles neues Hilfsmittel sein.

Conclusion from page 38

houses—appears to me as a way of creating actual playing space outside the Euclidian system of coordinates. The mystery of the 'twisted space', the roundings, the obtuse angles, diagonal overlappings and the unmethodical arrangement will stimulate man's curiosity in a much higher degree than conventional design and encourage action and cooperation. The presence of man with all his qualities is after all a necessity in order to fill the 'space without qualities', to make it effective, to form man's counterpart and to provide space. A point that should not be overlooked in this connection is the fact that space is not only formed by its surroundings in the vertical line but just as much by the surroundings in the horizontal line—roads, paths, squares—and that it is not determined by man alone but also by things. And as we place man—homo ludens—into the center, the predominancy of things in space must be reduced. To allow for playing space to develop, all traffic, and all the vehicles (parked or in motion) have to be banished from living quarters. In the field of subsidized flat-building the necessary room for furniture and cabinets, ecc. has been carefully ascertained and the so-called basic needs in square feet and cubic feet per person is the object of detailed studies. Likewise we are happy to know exactly how many square feet of scratching ground a hen needs in order to

be able to lay the greatest possible number of eggs under the best possible conditions. But so far nobody seems to have thought of ascertaining the necessary and usable free space for man to move in freely, and no one has as yet demanded that in planning new settlements this point should be taken into consideration. The results of my own research in personal surroundings and those found together with colleagues here in Berlin are so far conclusive enough for me to say that the basic needs of 'playing space' between one house and another is not so much dependent on size as on variation, not so much active as passive; it is not so much a question of aesthetics as of being seizable. The value of the free space is not determined by outer measurements alone, but rather lies in freedom of motion, that is the freedom to be able to choose how to arrange the rooms which are put at one's disposal. Man's requirements as to playing space can indeed hardly be expressed in measurements of any kind, nor can there be any hard and fast rules or principles to be applied. The lay-out or the arrangement of the field used or being of possible use will certainly determine the place and the manner to a certain extend, and yet I believe that there can be playing space and freedom of motion wherever man is allowed to fill the empty space with the fruits of his own activity, instead of being given these fruits—even though they may be presented to him in perfect shape and arranged in settings of the most exquisite taste. I am, however, far from thinking that parks, the 'social greens' or maybe children's playgrounds should be praised as the conclusive answer to all problems in city building. On the contrary; I should even go so far as to say that the more playgrounds there are on the map—no matter how they may be arranged or equipped—the more questionable or even erroneous the conception must be. Playgrounds and public parks are and remain what they always have been, namely artificial limbs and substitutes for the real thing. To be sure, the old quarters of the cities with their density of population cannot be reformed without them—but this does not mean that they should at any rate form part of any plans for the extension of an existing city or for the building of entirely new settlements. In my youth the open landscape was the playground at the same time. There was freedom of motion for everyone to his heart's content, for the young and for the old, and not only in small towns but even in and around Berlin which was a town of millions of inhabitants already at the beginning of this century and before the First World War there was still enough of the open landscape round about it. In the same proportion as man's freedom of motion is limited, man's elementary playgrounds are destroyed—without the victims even realizing it. Wishes as to living standards and the general desire of enjoying

better housing conditions have centrifugal effects. One moves away from the inner quarters of the town, and in doing so follows the paths to the playgrounds in the open landscape. As a result there are carefully planned, clean and more and more growing garden-cities, which threaten totally to destroy the landscape playground. These garden zones—houses and greens—which have a personal character only in a very limited manner do certainly provide a sort of air cushion and keep off a good deal of noise, but they do not offer playing space in the sense of freedom of motion, and certainly not in the sense of spiritual freedom of motion. There must be room for play everywhere—by which I mean space for free motion—in the country as well as in town, wherever spaces are built. Spaces are formed by their surroundings, by natural limitations, by buildings, roads, and plantings. And people have their share in forming space, provided that they should be allowed to enter it, to move about and to do something. Man's action in space begins with reconnaissance—spiritually and visually—by taking stock, to be followed by actual annexation for temporary or permanent stay. We have observed that man's urge to play finds still insufficient scope within the limits of small regularly laid out gardens. Only in certain cases will gardening and playing in a garden fully respond to actual needs and provide the space for mental development. Experience shows that the garden is very often not so much a playground as a ground calling for further duties. Gardening then becomes a question of prestige. Gardens along thoroughfares—I do not mean just roads, for roads can have a certain playing and space element in themselves—indeed the ready-made gardens provide few possibilities of elegant variations; they do not even provide possibilities in the same way as well-planned dwelling space, where the furniture can be rearranged within a short time and at comparatively small costs. The landscape—at least in the surroundings of large towns—thus being lost as playing space we observe that the parks and the town forests offered as substitutes are accepted as such on the condition that space planning should be carried out on the basis of thorough research of human behaviour and in such an unobtrusive and inconspicuous manner that the choice of playgrounds seems to be left entirely to the people's own initiative—or provided that maintenance work is being done in such a casual way as to convey the impression that the accidents of nature are in no ways interfered with so that Nature itself seems to determine space. I shall have to admit that demands of that kind will create new problems in technics, plantings and especially maintenance. And here is where the expert comes in. Here is his place in human society.

Schluss von Seite 32

Landschaftsbild im gesamten doch kaum davon beeinflusst. Von der angrenzenden Wiese gehört noch der verhältnismässig ebene Teil auf der Kuppe zu den Häusern. Daran schliesst sich das landwirtschaftlich genutzte Gelände ohne besondere Abschränkung an. Die zur Einbindung der Häuser in die Landschaft noch notwendigen Pflanzungen wurden hier in vollständiger Anlehnung an die Umgebung ausgeführt.

Fin de la page 32

nante. Les plantations nécessaires pour relier davantage encore les maisons au paysage ont été choisies en accord avec les espèces du cadre naturel dans lequel les constructions s'insèrent.

Conclusion from page 32

If in some instances the solutions should be rather unfortunate, it will hardly interfere with the picture of the landscape as a whole. Of the adjacent meadow the relatively flat part on the crest also belongs to the quarter, and next to it, not separated by any special fencing, is the agricultural estate. The plantings required to achieve harmony between the houses and the scenery were selected from among the native species of the surroundings.

| Veranstaltungen<br>Buchbesprechungen |                                                                                    | Manifestations<br>Livres |                                                                                                    | Manifestations<br>Books |                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 1965                          | XII. Nordischer Garten-architektenkongress                                         | Août 1965                | XIIe Congrès nordique des architectes paysagistes                                                  | August 1965             | XII. Scandinavian Garden Landscape Architects' Congress                                 |
| 29. 4.–17. 10. 1965                  | Bundsgartenschau Essen, Deutschland                                                | 29. 4.–17. 10. 65        | Exposition horticole fédérale d'Essen, Allemagne                                                   | Apr. 29–Oct. 17, 1965   | German Federal Garden Exhibition, Essen, Germany                                        |
| 26. 9.– 2. 10. 1965                  | 7. Internationale Begegnung junger Unternehmer des Gartenbaus auf der Insel Mainau | 26. 9.–2. 10. 65         | 7e Rencontre internationale des jeunes chefs d'entreprises horticoles, sur l'île de Mainau         | Sept. 26–Oct. 2, 1965   | VII. International Meeting of young Gardeners on the Isle of Mainau (Lake of Constance) |
| 22. 9.–25. 9. 1965                   | Regionalplanungsgruppe «Regio Basiliensis» mit internationalen Referenten in Basel | 22. 9.–25. 9. 65         | Groupe régional de planification «Regio Basiliensis», avec des orateurs de différents pays, à Bâle | Sept. 22–25, 1965       | Regional planning group "Regio Basiliensis" with lecturers of international standing    |
| 1966                                 | Internationaler IFLA-Kongress in Stuttgart                                         | 1966                     | Congrès international de l'IFLA à Stuttgart                                                        | 1966                    | International IFLA Congress at Stuttgart                                                |