

## WHERE IS WOLFSBURG?

Wolfsburg lies about midway on the east-west axis between Berlin and the Ruhr region. Thanks to an ICE connection and its proximity to the A2 autobahn, this city in Lower Saxony can be reached in an hour from Berlin and an half hour from Hanover, the state capital. An economically flourishing city, Wolfsburg now has a population of about 124,000.



## THE JURY

The award process is offered by the city of Wolfsburg, represented by the City Planning Director. The architectural advisory board for the city of Wolfsburg serves as the independent jury. The architectural-cultural working group supports the process. Execution is handled by the Architecture Forum.

## GUEST JUROR

To promote internationalism and the global exchange of ideas, with each offer of award the city of Wolfsburg invites a guest juror onto the WOLFSBURG AWARD jury. Guest juror in 2022 will be Prof. Sabine Müller, co-founder of SMAQ architecture urbanism research, Berlin. Sabine Müller studied at Kassel University, Columbia University and at the Graduate School for Architecture Planning and Preservation in New York. After working in New York and Rotterdam, she and Andreas Quednau founded SMAQ in 2001. During her longtime international academic teaching activities she taught at Karlsruhe State School for Design, Delft University of Technology and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. Since 2015 she is Professor for Urbanism at the Oslo School of Architecture.



## CITY | SPACE | HISTORY

is a city of Wolfsburg series designed to sensitize the public to the planning, construction and use of the built environment.



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# WOLFSBURG AWARD

## for urban vision\_2022

### GUEST JUROR

Prof. Sabine Müller, SMAQ  
architecture | urbanism |  
research, Berlin | Oslo School  
of Architecture and Design

Wolfsburg's student concept competition

Marlon Hecher,  
WOLFSBURG AWARD winner 2020



WOLFSBURG AWARD for urban vision 2020,  
1. prize: Aalto Forum.  
Marlon Hecher, Technische Universität Braunschweig





## WHY WOLFSBURG?

Newly constructed in its entirety, Wolfsburg is playing a special, much-noticed role among the German cities and is offering unique opportunities. With its systematically executed idea of a city landscape and outstanding individual examples of architecture, Wolfsburg perhaps is the most important city representing the so-called postwar modernism in Europe. Founded on July 1st, 1938, it developed into a major city by the early 1970s.

The time between 1951 and 1972 is – from a structural point of view – the most exciting epoch in the development of this young city. The city’s growth paralleled the Volkswagen plant’s rise from an individual car production facility to a globally active group with about 665,000 employees at 117 manufacturing locations worldwide.

Influenced by its close interrelationship with economic trends on the one hand and with political and social changes on the other, the overall urban planning concepts of the 20th century emerged in nearly unadulterated form over large expanses. They included models of the garden city from the 1930s, the principle of the “multi-limbed, relaxed city” of the postwar era and finally the ideals of the “Charter of Athens,” which led to the development of the first satellite towns in 1960.

The concept of a decentralized city was implemented – with the currently noticeable consequences for a urban center. Nearly sole residential areas were demarcated from one another with extensive green belts and linked by broad transportation axes. The “city fit for the automobile” was developed here in a pure form.

In a fully new city structure, with practically no built models, outstanding individual examples of architecture became points of crystallization. Some of them are among the most important German building monuments of their time. For example, Wolfsburg witnessed the rise of three construction projects by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto: the Cultural Center at city hall square, the Holy Ghost Community Center and Church of St. Stephen. Designed in 1965, the Wolfsburg Theater at Kliefersberg by Hans Scharoun has been described as the little sister of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Central figures in Germany’s overall development, such as Friedrich Wilhelm Kraemer, Dieter Oesterlen and Paul Baumgarten have left their mark on the city’s landscape. Beginning in 2000, star architect Zaha Hadid was given the chance to realize her first large museum project: the “phæno” world of experiments, which created a sensation worldwide.

The “WOLFSBURG AWARD for urban vision” intends to add to Wolfsburg’s architectural-cultural dynamism as a model city. About sixty years after the high point of postwar modernism, many individual structures and residential areas are facing the issue of modernization. The principles of the modern city are increasingly called into question. Today Wolfsburg is confronted with new challenges like the question of a new mobility and the future urban interaction of plant and city.

## INTRODUCTION AND EXCURSION

The Wolfsburg Architecture Forum is the official contact for all questions concerning the participation in the competition, e.g. finding a work topic or for digital planning data. University groups are offered a free of charge introduction in Wolfsburg on the city’s history and present questions in urban development.

## WOLFSBURG’S PRIZE FOR IDEAS

The WOLFSBURG AWARD is a further development of the Wolfsburg Koller Award, which has been handed out since 2007. In 2015 it was renamed as WOLFSBURG AWARD for urban vision and is since then open to students from all European universities. This takes account of the further internationalization of Wolfsburg. Since 2016 the award is offered biannually. Participants have to be enrolled in a master’s degree program.

Potential submissions are not limited by concrete design tasks or planning areas. There is a demand for creative planning approaches for developing Wolfsburg’s architectural and urban-planning characteristics further and contending with their special history of development.

Value is placed on innovative or experimental approaches that promise new stimuli. The scope is defined by the fields of urban and landscape planning, building construction, historical preservation, and structural engineering, as well as a set of themes: “City Space History.”

The WOLFSBURG AWARD has been allotted a total of 5,000 euros; 50 percent of the prize money goes to the award-winner or -winners. The prize consists of a certificate and the monetary award. The jury nominates up to ten works out of all those submitted. These works are published in a documentation and shown in an exhibition in Wolfsburg. The best idea is honored with the WOLFSBURG AWARD and is acknowledged in a public ceremony. Recognition prizes are presented as well.

Detailed documents on the competition can be requested in writing or by e-mail from the city of Wolfsburg until June 1st, 2022. Participants are sent the documents upon request at no charge.

Please contact us:  
wolfsburgaward@stadt.wolfsburg.de

Deadline for submissions: August 12th, 2022  
Announcement of award-winners and award ceremony:  
December 2022