

im Grünen; zentral, offen, alt

Munich —> Alter Botanischer Garten and surrounding area, mid-July to mid-September 2021

www.kunstpavillon-im-gruenen.org

The project im Grünen; zentral, offen, alt draws closely upon the existing overall structure of the Alter Botanischer Garten, home to the Kunstpavillon. From mid-July to mid-September, the public spaces surrounding the pavilion will provide the backdrop for a series of artistic actions – subtle interventions whose changing contexts will produce new visual and verbal forms over the eight weeks of the project's run.

The Alter Botanischer Garten is a place where two worlds overlap: a top city-center location, and a so-called “hotspot” of antisocial activity, in direct proximity to the city's main train station. And it is here, too, that different histories meet: from the garden's 19th-century colonial period to the now-destroyed Glaspalast (Glass Palace), and from the redesign of the garden by the National Socialists to the union-organized reconstruction of its Kunstpavillon (art pavilion) in the postwar period. To what extent do these various historical epochs and their attendant power relations continue to influence the public space today, in both its design and sense of openness? Which relationships, histories, powers, and desires can be read and seen within the context of the Alter Botanischer Garten, as a central green space that is open to all?

Mobile objects, bodily interventions, and one-off activities and routines will produce temporary processes of change within the setting of the Alter Botanischer Garten. Invited participants and interlocutors will work in around the park on their respective practices: writing, drawing, reading, speaking, creating poetry, performing, observing, lingering, walking, reporting, broadcasting, researching, and pausing. The various activities and actions thematize the different perspectives the Alter Botanischer Garten provides onto the past and the present alike, as a central location within Munich where everything seemingly converges: prestige location and problem area, city history and urban space, culture and cultivation, power and architecture, reconstruction and infrastructure, public space and public fears, botany and colonial history, relaxation and surveillance.

The project website provides those involved with a platform for mapping out, describing, and sharing their performative interventions, conversations, and experiences. A place to reveal, sharpen, and articulate relationships, note observations, and select and compare details.

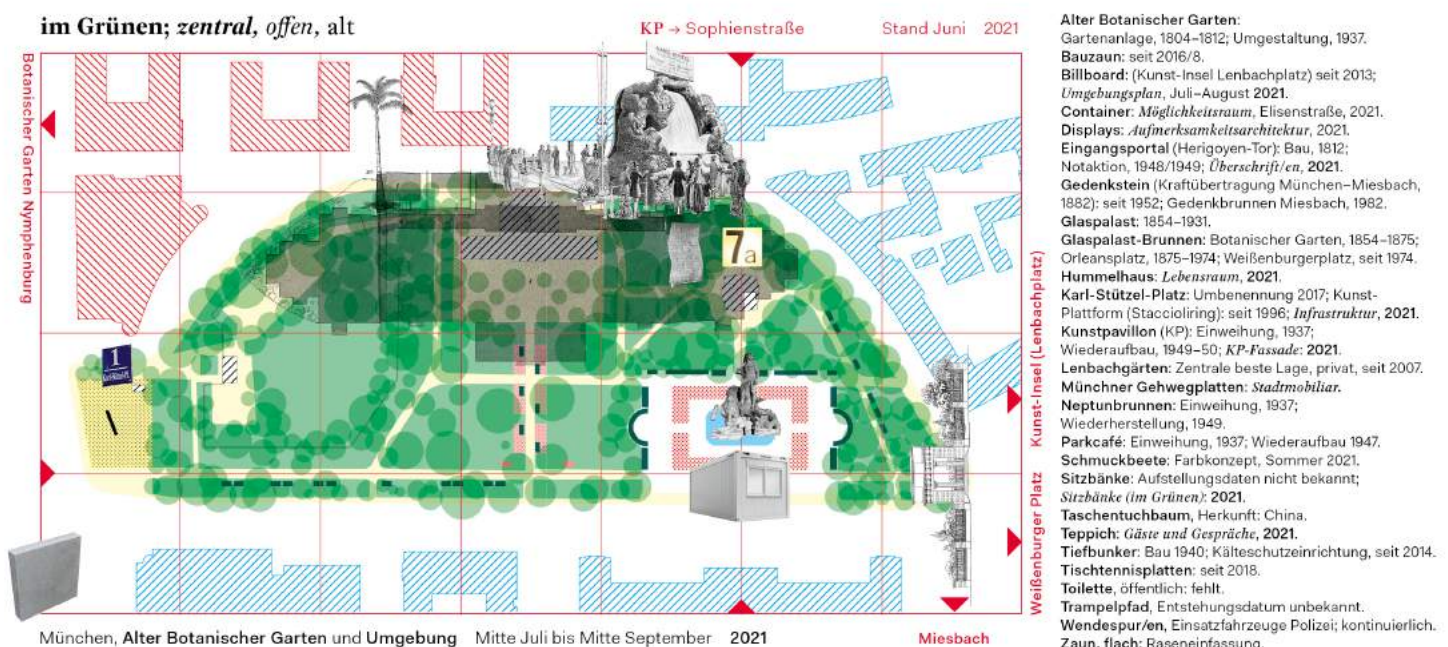
The Kunstinsel am Lenbachplatz billboard marks and contextualizes the location of the Alter Botanischer Garten, with maps of the site and its surroundings displayed on each of its two sides. These present an inventory of the area's historic features and vanished places that effectively communicate its complex history – a cartographic method that forms the core of the im Grünen; zentral, offen, alt project.

Selected locations within the Alter Botanischer Garten will be repeatedly photographed, with the results published on Instagram – a continuous process of observation that will further enrich the ongoing narrative of the project throughout its duration.

A selection of locations and routes will also be added to the City of Munich's geoportal as themed maps. In combination with the geodata, these will enable visitors to engage with both their own (automatically detected) location and with aspects of the city's current public inventory, such as digital maps, aerial photographs, and municipal buildings.

Announcements and information on activities, stories, histories, interventions, and conversations relating to the project have been available since mid-July, both on the project website and in flyers and posters distributed throughout the area.

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[short version]

The project will see the public space of the Alter Botanischer Garten and the area surrounding the Kunstpavillon temporarily transformed through a series of mobile objects, bodily interventions, and process-driven activities and routines that integrate into the garden's existing structure. Invited participants will write, draw, read, lead conversations, produce poems, perform, observe, wander, linger, report, broadcast, research, and pause. The activities thematize the garden's history and present as a central location within the city where everything seemingly converges: prestige location and problem area, city history and urban space, culture and cultivation, power and architecture, reconstruction and infrastructure, public space and public fears, botany and colonial history, relaxation and surveillance. To what extent do historical power relations and political influences on the cityscape continue to shape public space today – in its design, sense of openness, and legibility?

Further details can be found both on location and on the project website, along with information on its participants and activities, and how to get involved.