Identity & Resilience

in the Neglected Industrial Region of Western Germany

Tidy Up the Ruhr!

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declaration of originality

I hereby declare that this thesis is an original piece of work, written by me alone.
Any information and ideas from other sources are acknowledged fully in the text and notes.

in Amsterdam
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acknowledgments

I shall give my gratitude to the master studies in architecture in Prague that allowed rising my passion for industrial remnants in this world. That was the beginning of the path that led me to heritage studies in the first place. Industrial heritage came only as a tiny sparkle in the whole heritage dynamic; however, it caught my heart to the fullest.

The motivation for this research, therefore, arose as a pure fascination with industrial/post-industrial landscapes and brownfields, which has (especially) the Western world developed in the last 200 years. Both German and Dutch practices indicate knowledgeable and presumably appropriate cognisance in the omnipresent paradigm through revitalisation and "healing." As such, the selected case study of the IBA Emscher Park in Western Germany comes as a justified idol in the post-industrial-brownfield themes, not only in architecture and urban planning, but also through the lens of heritage studies. I remember when I began to "dive deeper" into the phenomenon of transforming derelict sites and regions, Emscher Park and Ruhr had always found their way through the theoretical and practical background as a distinguished outcome admired by experts as well as the general public.

In this part, I would like to specifically thank the former and current Heritage Studies programme coordinators at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Dr. Linde Egberts and Dr. Gabriel Schwake, for opening up my mind in ways I would have never imagined it could have been done. In the end, I easily found myself thinking about thinking. I instantly became sincerely enthused by the rising field of heritage studies, which succeeded in offering yet unexplored but significant tracks and discourses. The ever-evolving notions that keep reversing by 180 degrees over several years or even months prove the discipline to be very much formable. I believe that even more fascinating theories are yet to appear and move the ideology ahead. Last but not least, I thank my colleagues from the Czech Technical University in Prague for giving me a hand in extending the source materials, which are certainly crucial for this research. And I partly blame them for pursuing my enthusiasm for industrial heritage.

abstract

Post-industrial landscapes shape today´s world topography more than one could generally admit or acknowledge. They surround and interfere not only in urban areas, oftentimes being left abandoned and misused, practically at the mercy of destiny. Thus, now the time has come to address the industrial legacy, reclaim it back and, preferably, set it going.

The master thesis engages in the global paradigm of revitalising, re-using and transforming post-industrial landscapes from the Heritage Studies perspective. The industrial residues and derelict moonscape sceneries often form so-called brownfields and wastelands in urban planning. The question is what it actually takes to integrate them back into common use by not only human society. Undeniably, the desired act of reviving such an "obsolete" environment requires a thoroughly planned agenda. One aspect presents a "new" form of heritage from the relatively recent industrialisation period in both tangible and intangible ways. Thus, it ultimately follows and engages in the present-day paradigm of Critical Heritage Discourse while nurturing a transdisciplinary overtone. In a certain sense, the not-at-all natural landscapes embody anthropological "scratches" gathered around preserved sculptures and remnants (of the built environment, machines, ensembles and landscapes). The industrial identity of a place interferes and sets new boundaries for any potential transformative actions. In this respect, the research analyses the industrial heritage value and regional identity of the Ruhr region in Western Germany through the 1989-99 post-industrial restructuring initiatives of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park until today. Furthermore, it examines the inputs and outcomes of capitalising on Ruhr´s strong historical narrative towards fresh identity-building and valorising its industrial heritage.

keywords

post-industrial landscape, regional identity, industrial heritage, heritage value, Ruhrgebiet, IBA Emscher Park

acronyms

AHD	Authorised Heritage Discourse
CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
CHD	Critical Heritage Discourse
ERIH	European Route of Industrial Heritage
IBA	International Building Exhibition (EN)/Internationale Bauausstellungen (DE)
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
RVR	Regionalverband Ruhr
TICCIH	The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

chapter 01

introduction

01. a. research background

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01

01. introduction

Over the past forty years, humankind has slowly but surely been acknowledging the necessity to deal with derelict industrial landscapes and their consequences on the planet. The landscapes had often remained abandoned before men sought to avail themselves of their potential for industrial actions from the 19th century onwards. After almost 200 years, the time has come to heal the rooted scars inflicted by serious human deeds. Areas that are often utilised to their maximum, in many cases even violently abused, desire exclusive attention. Their complexity longs for proper analysis as "a scar, …, often conveys ambiguous and complex pasts about injustice and fear, along with survival, resilience and courage" (Storm 2014, 1). Nowadays, rather tiny as well as large industrial areas of barren ground with majestic though rusty ensembles occupy the surface. Furthermore, lost identity and fallen values often accompany the current dispositions of such brownfields and wastelands. And so, we find ourselves on the threshold of a new epoch where change and dynamic temporal reshaping begin to dominate our understanding of history/heritage relationship and the environment around us. Post-industrial transformation and revival, with a proper amount of respect towards the past, is necessary for the planet to function more effectively in the future. Consequently, the primary question remains how to achieve an ideal equilibrium between the past, present and future.

The industrial period comes as a recent past. Thus, we often stand before a matter of whether this particular recency sets positive or negative connotations to intangible (identity, values, memories) and tangible industrial legacy, moreover, how to express them adequately. Hence, experts from various disciplines, together with the general public, gradually endeavour to find what appears as the "right solution" for approaching neglected post-industrial landscapes and interwoven industrial heritage. Their symbolic meaning leaves us hanging upon a new understanding of the heritage and landscape concepts. Yet again, a new paradigm shift arises, asking for complex, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scrutiny. Overall, industrial remnants show a necessity for new methods and dynamic systems within presumably new methodologies. Therefore, current research in post-industrial areas and leftovers emerges to be on the very front burner.

The thesis presents the case study of the Ruhr region (*Ruhrgebiet*) in Western Germany as one of the germane examples of putting the rising theories into practice. Ruhr´s ongoing restructuring dates back to the 1980s when extensive coal mining and iron industries were deemed obsolete in favour of novel alternative and more sustainable resources. Hence, German´s initial economic and European industrial heartland has been

transitioning from a decaying industrial environment into a yet-again functioning post-industrial landscape. One of the reclamation agendas introduces the regional 10-year programme of the *International Building Exhibition Emscher Park* (*Internationale Bauausstellungen* in German). The IBA particularly addresses Ruhr´s industrial legacy as a major element for identity re-building instead of being portrayed as a mere blameable factor for the contemporary region´s struggles. Innovatively, its central leitmotif is of an environmental and cultural rather than economic nature. Although the main IBA schedule stretches between the years 1989 and 1999, the urban regeneration process is still ongoing and builds on similar objectives. The thesis looks into the evolving reconstruction of Ruhr´s regional identity as its 1980s gloomy image full of social, ecological and economic distresses gradually transforms into a new blue and green thriving semblance. Furthermore, it examines the IBA´s intent to build on a powerful historical narrative based on industrial heritage and its valorisation.

01. a. research background

The research participates in the interdisciplinary discourse of recycling post-industrial landscapes, echoing worldwide during the last decades. Post-industrial sites pose major challenges on every level, from environmental sciences and engineering to politics and urban planning. It is the society at large that must handle the complexity of industrial legacy and determine its reintegration. The more we aim at exploring the background of industrial consequences, the larger set of challenges emerge. The contemporary emergence of industrial heritage builds on a rising 21-st century paradigm shift within heritage and landscape studies. Nevertheless, crucial interdisciplinarity ultimately occurs. The research contribution follows several contemporary themes, extensively resonating in history and heritage studies practices – value, obsolescence, and regional identity. Universally, heritage context in terms of conservation endeavours to find an appropriate level of commemorating the previous characteristics and place identity. A form and degree of prescribed reuse often correspond with the question of authenticity and various kinds of value. Resilience, in this sense, correlates with something valuable, and obsolescence vice versa, with something valueless. Reuse and reclamation of a landscape are believed to reverse the state of obsolescence and potential decay. However, we often doubt the scale of potential contemporary interventions concerning all present aspects (environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic) surrounding us.

Interestingly, industrial heritage renders a cultural value that the builders or initial users have not previously identified. A broader perception of industrial heritage on the scale of cultural landscape additionally pursues a complex network of inputs (materials, human labour, energy) and outputs (production, waste, values). Thus, the network participates in the internal and external lives and self-determination of local communities, pervading identity formation. Hence, the industrial heritage discourse gradually opens up for seminal inclusive participation with diverse strategies and meanings. Bottom-up engagement begins to predominate over top-down initiatives, which furthers the present Critical Heritage Discourse (CHD). On top of that, "an informed society is the best guarantor of maintaining heritage" (Douet 2012, 127). Indeed, a collaboration of disciplines brings a major turnover in understanding the recycling of manufactured (industrial) areas. Furthermore, we propose the potential of landscape as a valid historical source and physical manifestation of change. In this respect, the thesis analyses the relationship between the construction of collective pasts (industrial heritage) and collective spaces (regional identity).

The global echoing matters within the heritage and landscape contexts are subsequently implemented and reviewed along the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park development in the German Ruhr region, with a special dedication to two chief post-industrial complexes – Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord and Zeche Zollverein. The former solely heavy-industrial region experiences various use and value shifts in its current de-industrialisation process. The research traces the ongoing transformation from the depressing industrial image to the present, supposedly more sustainable, environment along its forty-year-long process. We nowadays recall the industrial remnants to substantiate a New Heritage notion, collectively referred to as *industrial heritage*. Although the IBA Emscher Park programme and Ruhr´s transformation process are considerably known worldwide, less attention has been so far dedicated to the concepts of industrial heritage value and place identity and their shifts from the heritage studies´ point of view. Generally, the programme´s social, cultural and political dimensions are studied less than the economic aspect, with less data to analyse, especially in the English language (Goch 2002, 89).

01. b. research aim, objectives & questions

The analysis engages in the global themes of revitalisation, reclamation, reuse and the concepts of *industrial heritage* and *post-industrial landscape.* The theories emerge as a rising phenomenon within the present and future building, heritage and landscape practices. As such, the thesis aim follows the omnipresent discourse to reflect the

potentiality of *transformation processes within post-industrial landscapes* while providing a continuation of *identity, value* and sustainability using the heritage lens. Heritage forms a place identity which is particularly substantial for any transformation and future decision-making procedure. In addition, heritage, in this sense, explores its various forms of substance that have been extensively studied since the 1980s, with the rise of the heritage studies discipline. The value comprises the essence of the heritage concept and thus is crucial for understanding the discipline in general. We see it as a part of the sociocultural processes in the contemporary Critical Heritage Discourse, not merely a quality prescribed to a place and taken for granted. The thesis investigates how actors (local, regional and national) within a region selectively produce and utilise their industrial heritage as a subjective dynamic process in the times of present de-industrialisation.

The focal point introduces *industrial heritage* as a recent point of interest. Besides, the research considers crucial elements of the Critical Discourse Analysis/Heritage Discourse (CDA/CHD) adopted from the "New Heritage" milieu and way of thinking. Inclusion, intangible and tangible attributes and critical engagement resonate in the post-industrial heritage development. We consider specifically the intangible legacy to support the de-industrialisation transitions into a more resilient future. The focus is put on the precise nature of what is the exact relevance of regional identity and industrial heritage value and how they are carried out in the reclamation and revitalisation processes of the derelict post-industrial sites. In this matter, the thesis analyses the concrete post-industrial region of Ruhrgebiet in Western Germany and, explicitly, its restructuring programme of the IBA Emscher Park from 1989 to the present. The research asks the main question, based on the context of post-industrial landscapes, industrial heritage and regional identity, global phenomena introduced in Chapter 02 and the case study in Chapter 03:

> ***"How are industrial heritage value and regional identity manifested in the 10-year post-industrial restructuring process of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park in the Ruhr region from 1989 to today?"***

Subsequently, the examination continues and is enunciated by two general and theoretic sub-questions, interconnected and related to the examination of post-industrial ruins and the physical and intangible evolution along their existence:

> *"What does regional identity indicate along the transformation processes of the derelict post-industrial landscapes?"*

> *"What contemporary heritage challenges do the regeneration and revitalisation processes of the neglected industrial environment bring?"*

By looking at the case study of Ruhrgebiet as the largest European post-industrial region, the research seeks to answer these sub-questions. The IBA Emscher Park project depicts one of the first successful transformations on a regional level. Hence, we easily pinpoint its significance in the heritage-led redevelopment of the post-industrial landscape for any potential future reference.

01. c. scientific relevance

A central concept of sustainability plays a crucial role in the current inter/transdisciplinary discourses, pivotally echoing in the landscape and heritage studies disciplines. We believe that interconnected problems of contaminated industrial regions exceed the possible abilities of one discipline. Their demanding complexity requires scientists, designers, engineers, planners and residents (among others) to collaborate on their transformation. A revitalisation method of heritage portrays one of the proper responses to this critical issue. The idea presents a reasonable phenomenon of utilising what we (as humankind) have already inherited and built ourselves. In other words, repurposing and giving a new form of life to already-built structures and urban sites, especially those in a state of decay or abandonment, invites a more sustainable and progressing future. Thus, the research engages in the omnipresent discourse towards post-industrial revival from the heritage perspective.

Specifically, one type of patrimony strikes as a convenient mediator in the issue of brownfield reclamation– the urban environment from the relatively recent industrialisation period since the 19th century. We jointly address it as *industrial heritage*. During the transformation process, we follow the identity shifting from a pure working environment to a protected ensemble, introducing new and rediscovered tangible and intangible (social, cultural, environmental, ecological) perspectives. The concept of heritage, identity, and consequent values constantly evolve and transition according to contemporary social perceptions. Undeniably, defined identity vehemently shapes further decision-making in any reuse/reclamation process. Hence, understanding the complexity of heritage value devaluation and revaluation comes as an essential step in dynamic management. The desired outcome portrays a non-physical manifestation of a place´s worth. Moreover, identity heavily influences the discourses around policy, political, public and organisational contexts of heritage essence, protection and evolution. Furthermore, the study of identity formation reveals a complex engagement in the heritage concept. While implementing scientific theory into real practice, analysing the Ruhr and IBA Emscher Park case study provides an all-embracing understanding of an experienced regional application.

The leitmotif of current research within industrial heritage and landscapes aims at supporting their reuse, revaluation, considerate maintenance and reintegration into the everyday reality of today´s society rather than solely documenting abandoned and decayed structures. There is a strong need for the upcoming decades to address the legacy of 19th and 20th-century industrialisation (Kirkwood 2001). Extensive industrial areas and brownfields can again fulfil the central role of regeneration, sustainable development and modernisation in urban planning. Moreover, the continuation of identity remains present. Acceptance with inclusive participation, value awareness and shared positive experience form the key elements of the long-range processes and engage in the contemporary Critical Heritage Discourse. Decay and mutual obsolescence open the horizons of possible opportunity for an essence and idea transition. It becomes a basis for the future area and living conditions of yet-again high value. In addition, post-industrial areas have great potential to draw on new opportunities for new and critical thinking towards sustainable philosophy and, additionally, heritage discipline. Generally, Danish researcher Svava Riesto (2018) alerts that "to study the past and present of an industrial landscape and to propose scenarios for its future are not separate activities" (18). We acknowledge that the past and present define any transformation process in the future. In conclusion, the scientific relevance of this research lies in raising the awareness of all these perspectives mentioned above while understanding the interconnected concepts and processes through the real practice and experience of Ruhr.

01. d. research methodology & structure

The thesis emphasises the close relations of contemporary universal topics of interest – industrial heritage, identity and value and the role of obsolescence/resilience in the regional post-industrial transformation process. It does so by using the lens of heritage studies. The definition and demarcation of each of these essential phenomena build a theoretical framework through secondary qualitative data necessary for the research´s complex understanding. The primary objectives direct at an exploration of intangible heritage connotations, values, identity and decay, bound to the specific example of the post-industrial landscape and its transformation since the 1980s. Therefore, it is not a mere description of the site´s physical attributes.

The general findings are therefore examined in one exemplifying case study –the Ruhr region in Western Germany. The representative case study choice precisely follows the main theme of regional identity as the Ruhr´s International Building Exhibition Emscher Park project comes as one of the few post-industrial transformations operating on the regional

level. Hence, stakeholders label the IBA initiative "A Workshop for the Future of Industrial Regions." The analysis demonstrates one clear example of acknowledging the specific circumstances of industrial heritage and post-industrial landscape reclamation leading to current decision-making. Deductive research with the case study method enables us to comprehend industrial heritage value and identity concepts. The case-study method demonstrates how specific issues and contextualised knowledge within the context of post-industrialism and industrial heritage are interpreted in practice and real-life situations. It thus can contribute to scientific development. It is partly inspired by Danish geographer Bent Flyvbjerg and his theoretical assumptions about the positive implementations of a case study. Hence, Flyvbjerg (2010) universally emphasises that "case knowledge is central to human learning" (224) while learning from and testing theories on a real practical experience. Herein, a type of critical case (Ruhrgebiet) is chosen thanks to the strategic importance relating to the general research (post-industrial landscape, regional identity and industrial heritage value). The thesis sets the research criteria from the heritage studies perspective as follows:

- Industrial heritage and its tangible and intangible value form a key part of the present post-industrial transformation process and more resilient future decision-making.
- The significance of regional identity engages in the contemporary understanding of sustainable heritage-led development upon building a community and inclusion.

The research implements a variety of methods, each time regarding a "tailored" analysis based on desirable findings. Firstly, it comprises a systematic theoretical framework through multiple textual secondary sources. Primary sources of archival documentation and representation (photographs, drawings, as well as mappings), particular to the environment, support the case study examination in forming the context of its changing meanings. Comparing historical maps with the existing conditions reveals the visible and extinct landscape features, giving a rich perspective in understanding changes over time in the specific environment. In addition, it provides a collation of technological and architectural development, pivotal for any industrial legacy. Furthermore, archival documentation demonstrates essential historical traces of Ruhr´s economy, technology, society, politics and culture. This is all particularly crucial for defying regional identity and future transformation. Personal multi-level analysis to observe the present-day conditions helps to properly integrate the knowledge of previously discovered findings. These methods altogether suggest an explorative understanding of the area´s qualities and current state. The incorporated photographs use the monochrome colour scheme to emphasise the place´s industrial identity

and overall gritty atmosphere. They are acts of communication (Douet 2012, 84). Analysis of photographs conveys and conduces to a social context and tangible and intangible industrial heritage.

Subsequently, secondary data with reports, surveys, devoted articles and subject-oriented interviews discover the "hidden" intangible essence regarding epistemological focus on the value shift (including obsolescence and resilience) and the region´s identity. Personal interviews by the author capture an essential part of regional identity during the ethnographical fieldwork. The one-on-one sampling interviews are semi-structured and strategic, resulting in written records. The additional method of "heritagescape", introduced by archaeologist Mary-Catherine E. Garden, substantiates a means of exploring the qualities of a heritage site. It allows for a material manifestation and characteristics (identity and sense of the past) peculiar to the environment and interconnected, considering heritage as a physical place bound to cultural constructs (Sørensen and Carman (eds.) 2009). The essential perspective recognises all heritage sites as cultural landscapes. Here, the thesis employs the use of landscape evidence, considering all possible aspects and traces (tangible and intangible), both present and vanished from the site.

The thesis structure follows the main line of intangible industrial legacy value and identity within recycling post-industrial landscapes. **Chapter 01** ("Introduction") focuses on research classification and integration into the global discourse within heritage and landscape studies. It summarises the conceptual and methodological framework within the scientific relevance. **Chapter 02** ("Industrial Heritage Value and Post-Industrial Identity") introduces designated terms and concepts viable for the theoretical base as well as for answering the general research sub-questions. The specific case study of the Ruhr region represents a neglected post-industrial area. The thesis analyses its transformation primarily since the IBA Esmcher Park programme in 1989 along **Chapter 03** ("Das Ruhrgebiet"). Subsequently, concentrating on two prime industrial flagship sites within the transformation process, Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord and Zeche Zollverein, allows for better integration of research contributions and understanding of theoretical knowledge. The master thesis finishes with research findings (**Chapter 04**) to answer the research questions, a discussion (**Chapter 05**) and a conclusion (**Chapter 06**).

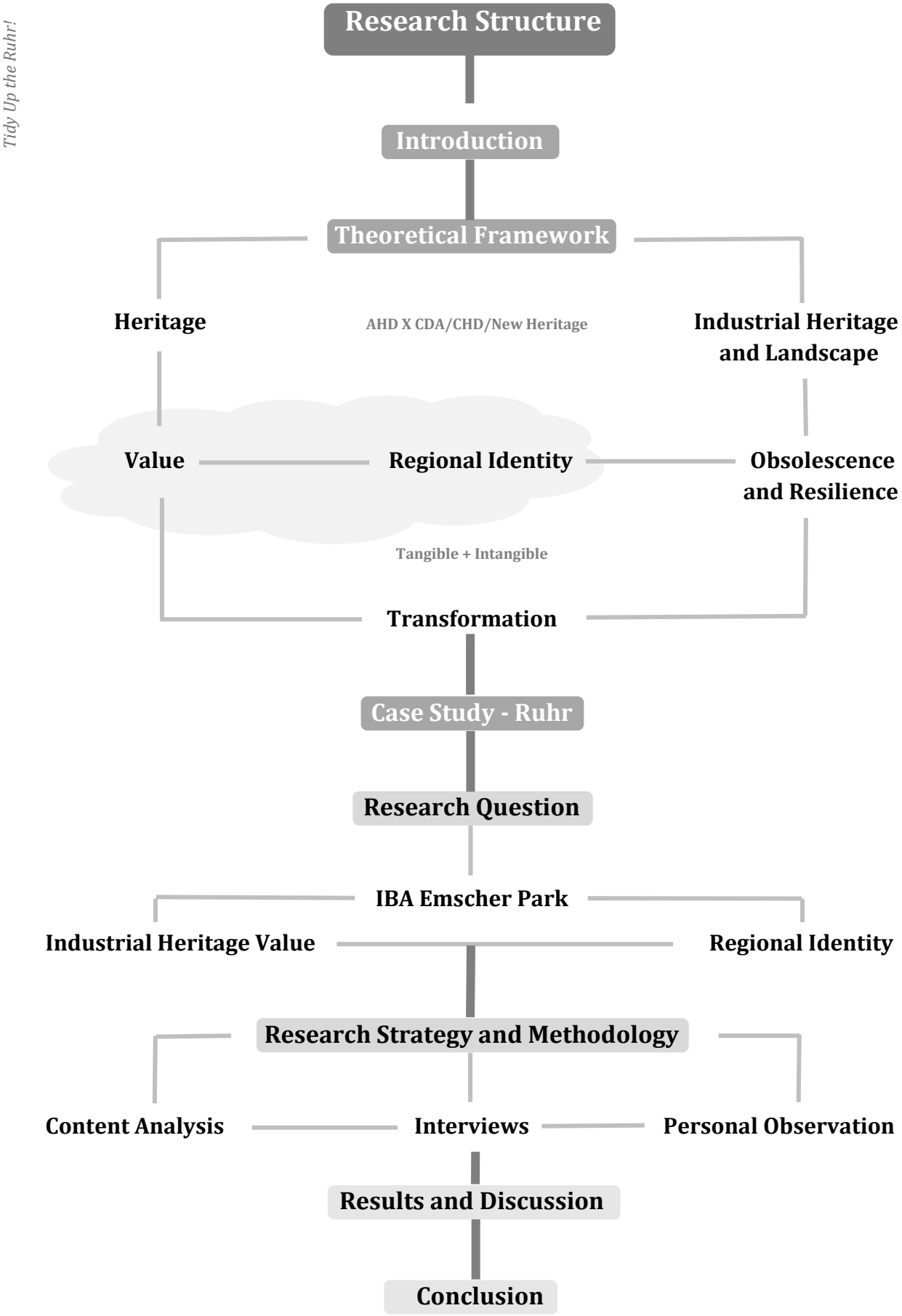

Figure 01.1. *Research Structure.*

chapter 02

industrial heritage value & post-industrial identity

02

chapter 02

industrial heritage value & post-industrial identity

02

"*We need to recognise that **industry**, with its huge buildings, is no longer a disturbing part in our town/cityscape and in the countryside, but **a symbol of work**, a monument of the city, which every citizen should show the stranger with at least the same amount of pride as their public buildings.*"

(Douet 2012, 201)

Fritz Schupp

German architect

1932

02. industrial heritage value & post-industrial identity

The chapter introduces the theoretical foundations underlying the exploration of post-industrial transformations. Firstly, it deals with the general definition and contemporary demarcation of heritage and its thorough development. The following part addresses the understanding of more-detailed concepts of industrial heritage and landscape with the evolution of the industrialisation period, which is essential for putting the analysis into a historical and social context. Along the landscape-shaping process, people associate different place identities and values, which is undeniably vital for any urban development. This builds another part together with the possible consequences of (industrial) heritage value decrease and increase – resilience, obsolescence and decay. Obsolescence potentially leads to post-industrial revitalisation or landscape reclamation, which are collectively reckoned as transformation processes. Lastly, the ideas behind these practices are examined, addressing the post-industrial landscape and heritage context as a dynamic social perspective. Overall, the theoretical background sets the universal stage before presenting a case study with concrete critical analysis.

02. a. demarcating the definition of heritage

The paradigms within the heritage studies pursue an understanding of a complex post-industrial transformation while considering all aspects during a design process. A temporality suggests taking the past into the present to be taken care of for future generations. Or, more controversially, *heritage* becomes a bridge between our preferred past and imagined future. Here, the word "preferred" is crucial, pointing to the reality of selection resulting in a proclaimed choice of the present generations to give meaning (Harrison 2010, 9). Especially during the 19th century, romantic appeal to the past dominated people´s fear of actually managing it. On that account, Australian researchers Ashley Paine, Susan Holden and John Macarthur (2020) state that heritage and history suppose that "we should appreciate things that our ancestors loved even if we do not" (13). Although, this introduces rather a passive reliance on received authority instead of a critical engagement. It sees heritage as an objectively stated and innate value of something material.

A relatively contemporary perception stands on the contrary, majorly discussed by Australian archaeologist Laurajane Smith. In her book, we encounter words like "there is no such thing as heritage" (Smith 2006, 11). It questions the model that heritage actually is an

intrinsic value based on "objective" criteria such as age or beauty. Overall, Smith´s counternarrative defies the notion of Western "official" (institutionalised) heritage, termed *authorised heritage discourse* (AHD), combining the aspects mentioned in the first paragraph. The international UNESCO agency comes as an utterly disparaged mediator, often with fixed policies and frameworks. For instance, it does not yet accept intangible heritage for its own value as it is solely associated with tangible elements. Some authors, predominantly from the 1950s, put wise to heritage being a marketable product (see, for instance, Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994). It is closely related to the fact that heritage evolution is largely associated with historical monuments and the 19-th century preservation. To some extent, people´s desire to preserve can be attributed to fast-changing and mercurial industrialisation. Heritage growth supposedly reflects traumas of loss, change and fears of the future. Thus, we value our heritage the most when a potential loss, decay or threat arises (Lowenthal 1998). Consequently, the 1960s experienced an attention makeover from artefacts and buildings to larger ensembles and areas of heritage/history interest.

02. a. 01. new heritage

Smith´s contribution integrates into the universal concept of *New Heritage* (or the *paradigm of transformation* coined by Dutch archaeologist Jan Kolen), propagated in the rise of heritage studies since the 1980s. It does not recall heritage only as a mere object (termed a monument) but defines it in a broader sense as a dynamic process (Kolen 2006). On the contrary to the selective heritage method comes a persuasion that everything can be heritage. Heritage is "more comprehensively and straightforwardly everything that we have inherited [and] is a part of everyday life" (Council of Europe 2009, 30, 36). Smith altogether regards a necessity for critical engagement while thinking over long-established understandings. Thus, scholars universally refer to the turnover concept as the *Critical Discourse Analysis* (CDA, following the term coined by Smith) or, synonymously, the *Critical Heritage Discourse* (CHD). Heritage is and can be an intangible idea and feeling constantly redefined by the current negotiation of values. "Thus, heritage is object and action, product and process" (Fairclough 2009, 29). Additionally, the word "new" does not signify a mere replacement of the older practices. It preferably pursues a co-existence within the dynamic heritage field. Society tends to identify with regional/local distinctiveness through heritage (Egberts 2017). Contemporary heritage perception acknowledges a tangible/intangible dichotomy as well as a question of minor and major stories and, primarily, a context of it all. An individual subjective contribution to embedded values (both physical and immaterial) and local identity define the concept´s direction. Our orientation now shifts towards sustainability, first termed in 1985, in the sense of social and environmental responsibility (Council of Europe 2009).

In contrast to the rooted AHD, the CHD assumes that each definition of heritage is continuous and constantly changing. Thus, the past can be interpreted in many unrelated ways. The contemporary discourse about value assessment in the ongoing democratisation process increases (de la Torre (ed.) 2002, 3). Each individual, in every moment, settles a constitution of each unique heritage. According to the CHD/CDA, humans should regard heritage as a present-centred dynamic expression of societal values where the past and future interact to form a cultural change. This makes it a time-specific subjective concept. On top of that, relatively problematic when we consider that one chooses from a variety of pasts and the selection itself thus naturally closes the door to parity and inclusion. When someone selects a certain heritage, it automatically disinherits someone else. Present desires compose a process through which we attribute the stipulated values and determine to which degree a particular site, building or landscape is recognised as "unique." Overall, heritage serves to bolster social compactness through the construction of concepts such as origin, identity and morals (Harrison 2010). It is also important to note that the modern understanding of heritage (CDA or CHD) recognises that "for every object of tangible heritage, there is also an intangible heritage that "wraps" around it" (Harrison 2010, 10). Architectural historian Miles Glendinning (2013) points out that "heritage is not something that is just ´there´ and has always been ´there´" (1). Here, we stress the particular emphasis on identity and heritage values along with the critical understanding as a response to rising nationalism, globalisation, but also de-industrialisation of the last sixty years. Simultaneously, we follow an ongoing phenomenon of trans/interdisciplinarity in academia and practice, especially in the last two decades. Thus, the heritage concept nowadays aims to be an asset for any planning process.

02. b. what is reckoned as industrial heritage & landscape

The previous part introduces the term *heritage* as necessary for contemporary definition. Here, we ultimately deal with one specific division of the collective heritage scape: a patrimony coming from the recent industrialisation epoch. The *industrial heritage* concept nowadays widely echoes, particularly in architecture and urban planning. It is a complex assortment of places, people, practices and processes (Douet 2012). Industrialisation heavily continues to affect the urban landscape and has tremendously done so for the last 300 years. It markedly influences the landscape evolution throughout its whole temporality, from the past, through the present into the future. Every temporary input creates a so-called palimpsest with various identities, values and uses cumulated on each other. Additionally, in her book, researcher Anna Storm (2014) argues that the

interconnection of these layers is crucial for understanding the general heritage concept (4). The industrial landscapes may seem relatively novel, although they often hide the previous layers of agriculture and villages or, from time to time, other prior forms of their appearance. Initially, an industrial setting´s essence is not to depict aesthetic and historically meaningful traces or to be cherished for future generations. It solely responds to contemporary requests. Accordingly, humankind and its morality choose to commemorate the "crumbs" of the industrialisation period as part of present-day development.

02. b. 01. from industrialisation to de-industrialisation

We roughly categorise the industrialisation period into three larger subgroups, marked by an imposing reversal with subsequent development. Altogether, Western society sets an utter cradle of industrial progress into the middle of the 18th century. The capitalist revolution converts all aspects of human existence with both positive and negative influence and undeniably a higher level of change than any other epoch in human history. Industrialisation suddenly becomes the main engine of national economies (Douet 2012). On that account, British historian Neil Cossons argues that "the origins of the industrial age, the first great global empire, stand with those of ancient Egypt, Athens or Rome" (Douet 2012, 15). Primarily three industrial factors pushed the first wave forward – textile, steam and iron casting (majorly impacting the construction industry). Naturally, urban expansion heavily transitioned the landscape´s appearance. Yet the industrial units of that time created isolated islands far from the urbanised spots. Thus, scholars often imputed blame to the rise of industrial society in evoking a certain loss of communal memory and identity that has stayed apparent until nowadays (Wicke, Berger and Golombek 2018).

Society and its evolution have progressed quicker than expected, especially following the last 150 years. A traditional rural community rapidly transitioned into a (modern) industrial association (Douet 2012). This period marked the second wave of the ongoing revolution, roughly from the 1850s. Material and transport innovations (automotive, coal, steel, reinforced concrete) determined the industrial complexes to move closer to the vicinity of larger cities and urbanised territories, often forming affiliated industrial districts. Landscapes worldwide experienced extensive transitions with new settlements around industries, transportation routes, exploitation of resources and extraction of materials (Chatzi Rodopoulou 2020). Swift changes set the progressing pace for another century. Though until the 1950s, agriculture still took a great position in the mass society´s existence. In coping with the Prussian era´s fragmented political and social issues, Germany specifically experienced late though rapid outset after the 1850s.

An apparent decline in traditional industries came rather quickly after the two World Wars. Consequently, a large number of facilities fell into decay, sometimes leaving the ensembles abandoned only after several decades. The industrial decline leading to abandonment and obsolescence could be perceived as equally disastrous to its praising rise. Some saw industrial activity destroying natural order in landscape and social establishment (Trinder 1982). It assumed that the planet could have absorbed any desired human action. Overall, the industrial revolution changed human´s relationship with the planet and nature. Up to today, the de-industrialisation development has moved mass production (industries) outside the Western world (Western and Eastern parts being divided according to the sociological dichotomy). Local emphasis on smaller-volume production substituted global mass automation for its ability to adapt faster. The urban transition has thus left behind extensive redundant industrial areas and, for instance, as in the case of Germany, whole deteriorating regions suffering from depopulation, unemployment and poverty rates. Since the 1980s, political debates in Western countries have focused on class hierarchy following de-industrialisation and the coal industry decline (Harrison 2010). Indeed, humankind´s duty fell upon necessary regeneration after fully squeezing all possible resources out of the industrial development during the two previous waves. Moreover, a new form of society emerged along the process with a greater comeback of community binding.

02. b. 02. industrial heritage

The idea of *industrial heritage* emerged as a subject of concern chiefly in the 1970s and 80s following a rapid increase in material and fuel costs and the 1973 oil crisis (Çakir and Edis 2022). Nowadays, we endeavour to address the legacy and validity of the Industrial Revolution. It is only after industries come to an end that a phoenix in the form of industrial heritage rises from the ashes. However, we do not particularly recognise industrial sites for mere aesthetic values. Hence the idea of heritage broadens in the sense of the CHD. Altogether, such occurrences substantially shift the previous grasp of heritage studies. Time and context become the main variables in contrast to the classical “authenticity” and “integrity” regarded in other types of heritage and the AHD (Douet 2012, 171). Change and adaptation fundamentally accompany the meaning and future intentions of industrial heritage. Clearly, a relation between the instituted technological sequences and processes and the industrial remnants reveals a proper understanding of its context, form and function (Palmer and Neaverson 1998). Essentially, industrial heritage portrays a difficult and contested type. One can be grateful for its positive impacts on present-day conditions and identity preservation, nonetheless “is thankful never to have experienced [it] at first hand”

(Trinder 1982, 2). Although, the industrial past is still a lived experience for many. Here, while implying the term *heritage*, we consider a broader substance of its raison d´être with a variety of tangible but also intangible values, experiences and feelings following the CDA/CHD. People suddenly realise that the identity tracks bounded with former workspaces mean something. To the extent that industrial heritage revival instead of dismantlement emerges.

Its image shifts from an ugly duck full of loss and despair to a prideful secular sanctuary of modernity (Berger and Wicke 2014). The leftover structures incorporate production buildings (factories, mills, warehouses) and connected "social activities" built environment (housing, educational), transportation, infrastructure, machinery and their surrounding area (environment/landscape). The first representative of industrial heritage appeared on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 1978 (Harrison 2010). The event elicits many turns in heritage development to come when placing the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland next to global icons such as the Acropolis, Stonehenge, or Great Wall. Thus, industrial monuments and their symbolic significance begin to be discerned even in the "official" heritage. It also suggests a pervading closure of the industrial activity epoch. Generally, industrial legacy becomes an essential part of cultural heritage with a value of historical, technological, social, architectural and scientific nature (The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage July 2003). Striking specifications surround its cultural patrimony, making it rather complex, with its technical intricacy, social contribution, scale and magnitude, economic weight or, from the time-to-time inclement atmosphere. Industrial heritage undeniably challenges traditional concepts as it shows the potential of being a subject for study not only by specialists but by the broader public. The attention has shifted from simple maintenance of the industrial monuments in the landscape to the whole context (tangible and intangible) of industrial structures (Palmer and Neaverson 1998). Albeit, along the process, industry idealisation undeniably heavily marks the industrial heritage acceptance in today´s world (Höfer and Vicenzotti 2013, 500).

02. b. 03. post-industrial landscape

The global paradigm could be altogether regarded as what Danish landscape architect Ellen Braae (2015) terms as *recycling post-industrial landscapes*. Industrial landscapes create a fundamental part of brownfield terminology. It determines previously developed urban territories that gradually become derelict due to miscellaneous agents, unwittingly reaching a state of decay and obsolescence. Generally, a brownfield delineates a contaminated site by human activity. Its subsequent effective utilisation and reclamation

depend solely on a preceding regeneration process. Our shifting perspective employs brownfields as an immediate valuable resource for a region´s changing future and economic redevelopment through urban renewal. Brownfields are defined by their present conditions and substantiate a "second-hand" landscape (Kirkwood 2001). In their book titled *Wasteland*, Dutch researchers Frits Gierstberg and Bas Vroege (1992) talk about the brownfield as "probably the most natural area that we (do not!) know" and "spots where nature, albeit after an emphatic human intervention, again has full play for a space of time" (4).

Understanding the complexity of industrial production is vital to comprehend an area´s identity and core meaning, which is substantially crucial for its reintegration. Therefore, regeneration suggests no common pattern for all. Industrial landscapes diversify in nature, scale, location and extent of environmental degradation. We bear in mind that "many industries are fundamentally transient in nature, and the material remains that survive are not necessarily representative of what occurred during the most significant periods of industrial activity" (Douet 2012, 55). In addition, the environment and events are vehemently influenced by landownership (economic value and property boundaries) and established policies (Trinder 1982). Indeed, men are the main actors in its shaping and reshaping. *Post-industrial landscapes* as a whole still lack a broader understanding and inclusion in the "official" statements of legacy, first and foremost in comparison with other industrial heritage (ensembles, edifices, transport structures). Herein, landscape comprehends much more than solitary buildings or artefacts but also forms the most fragile remains of the erstwhile industry.

When dealing with industrial legacy, the first steps lead to acceptance. The second awareness calls for a transition of human perception since common knowledge largely recognises a decayed landscape as of little to no value and forlorn identity. Indisputably, contemporary economic and ecological issues pose great challenges upon reclamation. The areas are often reckoned as no longer feasible in the current de-industrialisation with a product-oriented economy. Braae (2015) claims that precisely industrial artefacts, along with their surroundings, can become a new cultural heritage of contemporary and future generations and their formations. Determining different kinds of value assesses to what extent industrial regions can do so. The Faro Convention (the Council of Europe treaty) (2005) defines *cultural heritage* as "a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions" (2). In this sense, the term "everyday landscape" echoes throughout the ideology. "They are embedded in our everyday culture and thus in our culture of remembrance" (Braae 2015, 13). The essence reflects "a

form of society…, thus they function both as mirrors of society and places of memory" (Braae 2015, 12). Overall, German geographers are considered the first to intellectually integrate a dynamic viewing of industrial landscape "as an area whose morphology can be studied and analysed" (Douet 2012, 49).

02. b. 04. industrial archaeology

The term *industrial archaeology*, introduced in 1955 by British archaeologist Michael Rix, covers all multidisciplinary, international research within heritage resulting from the industrial culture. Its boom is associated with recording and preserving particularly British yet unexplored industrial heritage in times of rapid urban redevelopment and destruction. It addresses what we can essentially learn as humankind from industrialisation while using various methods to appropriately understand the industrial past and avoid former parochialism (Palmer and Neaverson 1998). Although initially, the focus was mainly on tangible character. The 2003 Nizhny Tagil Charter For The Industrial Heritage (the first widely recognised international guideline, see Appendix), published by The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), gives a precise definition:

> *"Industrial archaeology is an interdisciplinary method of studying all the evidence, material and immaterial, of documents, artefacts, stratigraphy and structures, human settlements and natural and urban landscapes, created for or by industrial processes."*

The voluntary TICCIH Committee (founded in 1973 as a part of the ICOMOS) generally establishes its purpose "to study, protect, conserve and explain the remains of industrialisation" (Douet 2012, iv). To avoid a solemn attribution of industrial archaeology to the concept of the AHD´s "heritage conservation," British historian Marilyn Palmer (2005) emphasises its complex studying with all its contributions. These involve social and cultural developments of the industrial epoch, production, waste, landscape transformation, and sites and complexes of various scales and uses. Consequently, a researcher in industrial archaeology, Barrie Trinder, alerts that "there is a need for a constant re-thinking of the process of industrialisation…, for innovative thinking, for productive methodologies and enlightening models" (Douet 2012, 29). Universally, industrial heritage relies on studying various outlooks (labour, geography, sociology, technology, construction) and is thus a complex field of knowledge.

02. c. what does regional identity tackle

Industrial sculptures surrounded by an idle landscape tend to constitute a strong character. Their symbolic meaning often influences the perception of a whole ensemble/area/region. Consequently, diverse feelings emerge, be it fascination, fear or memory. And so, a place´s industrial uniqueness frequently supplements an intense impression.

02. c. 01. heritage and identity

Special and multiple identities, characters and spirits always define a *place*. Indeed, meanings, values and histories prescribed by people (!) make a place something more than a point. Personal and cultural identity is bound up with it (Tilley 1994). Knowledge of place comes from human experiences, feelings and thoughts, as everything intervenes in its specific identity. In heritage, it is exactly through the place that the past is made present (Macdonald 2013). English archaeologist Graham Fairclough (2009) talks about the place as a local cultural product, as it is heritage for both residents and visitors. (Cultural) heritage forms one reliant component and resource in identity building and place planning. It enables an understanding of certain history and site evolution. Heritage ideology generally assumes, among all, to commemorate the cultural identity of its ancestors. However, a place´s unique entity or "personality" is not static but rather a dynamic social process continually reproduced like heritage. Hence, *place identity* is created in a particular context. Specifically, it is the social value aspect that contains identity and place attachment. "[Heritage] is both created by and in turn shapes, the sense of locality based on the uniqueness of local place-identities" (Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994, 19). It follows that individuals and communities define identity in competition and conflict with others. This notion had globally come to the prevailing fore after WWII when the fear of change occurred. Similarly, the concept of place has risen after the 1980s as a contrasting response to the lack of place declaration in post-war urban planning and forced individualisation (Riesto 2018). Contemporary societies use heritage in the (re-)creation and management of collective identities, senses of belonging, and place representations from a global to an individual scale. Certainly, some vigilance comes with unintentional or intensified marketing, using identity (as well as heritage) as a mere tool for place commercialisation.

02. c. 02. region and identity

The interconnection of "region," "regionalism," and "identity" embodies a relatively retrograde concept revived circa three decades ago (Egberts 2017, 2). (Regional) identity is

closely bound with an idea of *community*. Its evolution shifted from the 19th-century focus on rather exclusive regionalism (with dominating regional political identity) to the 20th-century objective of a *society* or mass socialism. New nation-states emerged towards the end of the 19th century, building on new (sometimes forced) identities and nationalistic ideologies. The nation-state representatives often "invented" heritage to create collective identities and manipulated them for national purposes according to the AHD presumptions. The current tendencies (reviving in Germany since the 1980s) experience a community return in a more inclusive sense to, among other things, pursue feelings of security for an individual. However, it was not until the 1960s that the contemporary identity concept began to progress. Its importance in these times responds to globalisation, individualism/capitalism and nationalistic conceptions (Hobsbawm 1996). Consequently, de-industrialisation threatens with social loss. People nowadays essentialise identities as qualities of landscapes/regions. Thus, region becomes a social construct rather than a territory. Yet, we acknowledge that personal identities play an equal role in identity building. A unifying conception of, in its nature, multifaceted *regional identity* (as national identity) can sometimes be misleading or somewhat conflicting when we approach a region as a unitary social object. On that account, British historian Eric Hobsbawm (1996) states that "multiple identities lie behind even [regional] homogeneity" (1067). In this respect, Dutch researcher Christian Wicke (2018) reasons that "ultimately, in the same region, there is more than just one regional identity, which not only is dependent on the internal complexities but also on the region´s embeddedness in fluid national, transnational and global networks" (III). Multiple identities and heritages define a singular place, and place identity is indeed plural.

02. c. 03. industry and identity

We recognise the 1960s decline of industrial regions to have engendered a sincere interest in the past and have raised uncertainty in creative professions. Tracing its awareness leads to mingling and communication with the idea of *New Heritage* (CDA/CHD) and an overall emphasis on the intangible local legacy. As with the industrial heritage concept, a present shift perceives working-class identity as something to cherish and be proud of. It also suggests quite an un- or little-explored area of interest, particularly when it comes to interdisciplinarity. The universal focus on *region* develops as a response to urbanisation (humankind losing a sense of place) and, for the most part, industrialisation (Egberts 2017, 9). Thus *regional identity* and (post-) industrial landscape meet and are nowadays often discussed together in academic discourses. "The past has once again become a decisive element of personal and collective identity" (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015, 167).

Industrial leftovers, today possibly considered "monuments," tie up to a specific site, region and country. After human´s departure, they suddenly create a rare attribute in values "simply by virtue of the accident of survival" (Douet 2012, 10). The TICCIH (2003) generalises the idea, stating that "every territory should identify, record and protect the industrial remains that it wants to preserve for future generations" (3). Therefore, industrial heritage becomes a part of the regional identity and of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel´s "relations of production" concept (in 19th-century materialism), where social relationships are counted upon people´s survival, production and reproduction in their means of life (Douet 2012, 142).

The identity of ruinous industrial complexes often used to be overlooked. Besides obsolescence and decay, another reason was the difficulty in finding memories and intangible heritage bound to the place´s industrial history when the bearer of their existence (people) has deserted. On that account, Braae (2015) remarked that "…the dynamic qualities of landscape have been the centre of renewed attention as productive and performing entities" (78). Certainly, a threat to an original communal binding appears when the industry leaves. Interestingly, Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman (1996) argues whether we notice the identity concept de facto "ex-post" after its disappearance or major shift. As they say, the owl of Minerva only flies at dusk and identity as such emerges only with its departure. "Identity is a critical projection of what is demanded and/or sought upon what is; or, more exactly still, an oblique assertion of the inadequacy or incompleteness of the latter" (Bauman 1996, 19). Thus, the real issue is hitherto not how to build identity but rather how to preserve it. This phenomenon appears to be particularly true for post-industrial landscapes.

Acknowledging a site or region as a "palimpsest," according to American architect Peter Eisenman´s design conceptualisation from the 1980s, suggests a set of historical layers and identities comprised of various areal aspects. Their juxtaposition is crucial as history is not, in this sense, seen as a mere linear notion but a combination of past and present notions. Thus, we analyse the site from multiple intervening vantage points (Kirkwood 2001). Specifically, a notion of layered landscape recognises various traces in a web of multiple temporalities (Kolen, Renes and Hermans (eds.) 2015). On top of that, with post-industrial areas, we deal with the so-called *cultural landscapes*, a phenomenon in its essence truly significant and reflective of specific techniques of land use by people. Humans have a key role in understanding and making landscapes as they always leave a personal imprint. People´s association with "unique" intangible heritage is always specifically bound to the exact location, creating a mutual relationship between them and the environment (Harrison 2010). Landscapes reveal an informative comprehension of the environment´s state of conditions, which is nevertheless always evolving. They are the tangible manifestations of change.

Accordingly, as do heritage studies through the CHD/CDA, landscape studies acknowledge that the intrinsic qualities are not merely embodied in the landscape, as they are conferred upon them by society in every moment of its existence. "Idealised or representative heritage landscapes are an essential component of every social construction" (Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994, 135); therefore, they constitute the very part of regional and national identity. "Landscape integrates all natural and human systems and thus operates as a framework of dynamic interdependencies between people and place" (Plieninger and Bieling (eds.) 2012, 33). Ultimately, uniqueness is bound to each site in every possible aspect, and thus the circumstances, environment, identity and values are unrepeatable. Therefore, the solutions and potential threats for reclamation and reuse portray sui generis evaluation as well. As defined by the Nizhny Tagil Charter (2003), the significance of an *industrial place* embodies historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific value. While assessing the significance, one of the requirements is examining the overall context to recognise and define the identity. Different levels of significance accompany diverse features or characteristics of the site – for the industrial heritage, they are primarily the landscape elements, a strategy of technology, the built environment, structures, documents and intangible associations. Furthermore, German researcher Wolfgang Ebert notes that "if the conversion of old industrial regions is to have any chance at all, it must rely on people. This is why it is of primary importance in this age of globalisation to preserve regional identity" (Douet 2012, 204).

02. d. the 20-th century contemporary themes of resilience & obsolescence to heritage connotations

General belief suggests that when an environment is not capable of adapting to environmental, social, economic or political modifications, it falls into *obsolescence* and *decay*. In this sense, a layer of patina portrays a static picture of its pervasion.

02. d. 01. resilience vs. obsolescence

Although how to handle such a change in value? A degree of unpredictable circumstances always comes along a creative practice. Moreover, the uncertainty intensifies when we consider the constant ephemerality of the industrial landscape and rapid shifts in appearance, appreciation and use. A contemporary demand is placed upon the existing building stock to be more efficient as well as resilient. Primarily a physical attribute of the *resilience* concept had evolved until the 1970s, mainly favouring conditions of the tangible

properties of an examined object (Merrill and Giamarelos 2019). Only after this period did scholars focus on its immaterial value within the contemporary AHD-CHD transition. In this sense, resistance is regarded as a system´s capacity to withstand change while retaining its identity (Plieninger and Bieling (eds.) 2012). Hence, heritage and identity easily become a tool for resistance. Interestingly, some literature on change theories uses the contradictory term of *temporal resilience*, putting the overall assumption of the resilience concept contra to presumed eternity.

02. **d. 02.** resilience vs. **obsolescence**

A comprehensive examination and idea of *obsolescence* emerges along the decay and contra to the resilience echoes. Generally and naturally, when a thing loses value (here, we interpret any kind of value), it becomes obsolete. Several factors contribute to the process through different time lapses. Pure decay forms an incontestable portion of the landscape layers. It allows a rapid change in an area´s semblance, let alone when left at the mercy of nature. Interestingly enough, Dutch researchers André Thomsen and Kees van der Flier (2011) associate obsolescence with the words "cure" and "diagnosis." By contrast, current notions contend that its proper understanding requires an appreciation of circumstances. "Obsolescence teaches us that frameworks of change are themselves changeable creations" (Abramson 2020, 39).

First, the obsolescence concept within creative professions described the economic devaluation of skyscrapers during financial decay in the 1910s. Therefore, it suggested an overriding connection with economic value and had less to do with heritage or history. The idea later broadened to larger scales of urban obsolescence - landscapes. In both cases, it initially hit the universal reality of denial, ultimately present until the 1950s, with everyone fighting for resilience (Abramson 2020). Even nowadays, society is concerned about obsolescence due to its particular and constant relation to economic value and temporality. On that account, authors Stephen Cairns and Jane M. Jacobs (2014) fearlessly introduce *decay* (or "death") as something inevitable as "life by definition is finite" (1). Experts question whether some sort of decay should perhaps be protected in an amassed collection of the area´s resilient layers (Braae 2015). Thus, it evolves as something to celebrate and welcome rather than fear or fight against. Decay, although negatively connotated within today´s society, is as life-giving as it is life-taking. By all means, it indicates change and the passing of time. Nonetheless, it proposes novel (fresh) ideas, alternatives and lives and gives way to something "other." English researcher Sally Stone (2020) notes that obsolete characteristics embrace the possibility of being exploited. And precisely, transformation processes (reuse, revitalisation, reclamation) allow for a revaluation of obsolete structures.

02. d. 03. appreciation of ruins

We associate an ongoing phase of decay with the term *ruin*. It substantiates a moment when an object passes into a decayed state as a sign of obsolescence. People have encountered the dogma of ruins in relatively recent history (500-600 years), finding unforeseen value in its process and aesthetics. Through their complex relationship with ruins, humans search for personal and collective identities (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015). When analysing its substance, we realise that "a cult of ruins associates specially selected relics with particular values or significance" (Braae 2015, 174). Ruins portray an individual type of aesthetics in its essence and, such as value, can be and are subjective. "The ruin creates the present form of a past life" (Simmel 1911, 131), as does heritage. Hereby, German sociologist Georg Simmel (1911) interestingly puts the ruin (speaking only of buildings) in peace between the forces of nature and human beings. "Every ruin [is] an object infused with our [humans´] nostalgia; for now, the decay appears as nature´s revenge" (Simmel 1911, 125). Therefore, appreciation of ruins and obsolescence requires us to learn to accept temporality and focus on time and the life/death cycle. Some argue that ruin demonstrates resistance to time´s destructive forces and enables us to look from the present into the future. A fine line between obsolescence and ruin exists while it puts ruin into the position of "not the humble endpoint for an architecture seemingly embarrassed about its own vanity but as evidence of an enduring worth" (Cairns and Jacobs 2014, 173).

On that account, Austrian art historian Alois Riegl (1996) defines two implicit values - of age and history - associated with monuments initially constructed for purposes other than commemoration (70). Age value discusses permanency and emotions (and goes against the AHD monumental preservation); historical is more scientific and addresses testimony. Historical value transforms to age value with time. The cultural phenomenon of assigning value differentiates two contrasting but mingling perspectives of debris versus treasure. Riegl connects both to decay and chiefly to its consequential physical attribute – *patina*. Thus, the kernel of ruin lies in our subjective (re-) evaluation rather than its mere existence. Even though Riegl bases his ideology on monuments (his conservation text is titled "The Modern Cult of Monuments"), contemporary industrial remnants utilise the theory nowadays.

02. d. 04. industrial ruins

In his book *Industrial Ruins*, Professor Tim Edensor (2005) invites the productive reuse of post-industrial environments into alternative urban spaces. He places the value of ruin and decay upon liberty, playfulness and creative freedom and elevates its

unpredictability. Especially when considering industrial scenery, layers of rust oftentimes resemble something worth exploring. The same aspect of freedom applies to the ruin´s economic reintegration. Humankind has endeavoured to gradually learn to address corrosion and decay as they are permanent and persistent. Ultimately, deterioration can never be fully averted. Moreover, industrial heritage acquires "ruin" as revealing the passage of time and history itself (Douet 2012).

The industrial revolution and its topographical reshaping notably bequeath a significant number of ruinous materials that no other historical epoch has hitherto done. The scale of ruinous industrial landscapes arises as an unparalleled challenging matter for the design professions. And as a vanguard, so do the relatively fast paces of decay and obsolescence when considering the short emergence of the industrial environment compared to other built environments and topographies. Their authentic appearance and symbolic/phenomenological meaning force a Western paradigm shift in understanding major ethical directions of aesthetics, value assessment and preservation. It is happening to this day, considerably forming the novel epoch of de-industrialisation. Consequently, an initial purpose of production and service slowly transitions into a monumental "artistic" perception.

02. e. how does value influence the perspective decision-making

We strive for a symbiosis of different kinds of value when it comes to value assessment. Aesthetic, historical, communal or economic impulses play a significant role, and their interaction always results in complex, sometimes ambiguous decision-making. "It is clear that one man´s rubbish can be another man´s desirable object" (Thompson 1979, 97). The heritage conception discusses heritage value since the beginning. Heritage experts define v*alue* as a set of *positive* characteristics or qualities within cultural objects or sites that an individual or a group discerned. Universally, "there is no heritage without cultural value" (de la Torre (ed.) 2002, 11). The value of society´s collective memory is claimed to be a general responsibility and is ethereal and inexpressible (Stone 2020). After all, value substantiates the heritage essence and aims to result in mutual agreement on what is of value. It constitutes the interim (!) starting point in any decision-making process. Thus, although it is an ever-evolving and subjective method, many scholars of the 20th and 21st centuries intend to identify, order and categorise (heritage) values.

02. e. 01. value: from the AHD to CHD

Precisely utilisation determines a particular value matrix as a prominent key in today´s heritage handling. Generally, humans define diverse kinds of value within a common typology to present a sufficient outlook. The elementary typology divides main value categories into economic, ecological and sociocultural (historical, artistic, educational, aesthetic, spiritual) (de la Torre (ed.) 2002). However, one of the many issues of value assessment insinuates that the result is not necessarily objective or collective. Value does not come as something inherent (a former AHD assumption); humans always prescribe it within particular determinations of contemporary society (the CHD). "All cultures insist upon some distinction between the valued and the valueless" (Thompson 1979, 2), even though humans value different things and, above all, value the same things differently. Thus, the criteria can frequently appear fragile and highly vigorous, responding only to the current perspectives of society. Smith (2006) argues that all heritage and criteria should be constantly re-evaluated and examined by current social needs and practices. It is also stated by the 2005 Faro Convention and the Council of Europe. In other words, "contemporary value judgments inform the interpretation of the past" (Stone 2020, 33). And the importance of understanding context is yet again crucial. More than twenty years ago, American researchers from the Getty Conservation Institute pointed to the omnipresent issues in assessing cultural values while conducting heritage-led research. These were primarily (01) the deficiency in knowledge and (02) acceptance of methodologies for the assessment, as well as (03) obstacles when impartially comparing economic and cultural values. They alerted that we should have welcomed and cherished compromises, inevitable trade-offs, and respectful and meaningful gatherings of various values to acknowledge the appropriate democratisation within the heritage field. Eventually, "value is formed in the nexus of ideas and things" (de la Torre (ed.) 2002, 8).

02. e. 02. industrial heritage value

The landscape comes as a man-made commodity that is layered, shared and used for values. Here, the 20th-century somersaults in theories give rise to an ascertainment that every landscape possesses cultural value (Gierstberg and Vroege (eds.) 1992). Industrialisation gave rise to a new kind of urbanised geographical landscape. Altogether, industrial heritage sometimes builds on the universal value of industrial evidence rather than individual sites´ solitary worth and uniqueness. We can observe a quick value transition from a working environment to present cultural meaning, not necessarily retained in the beginning. It brings a whole meaning shift not perceived by the initial builders or users.

Trinder (1982) dates back the universal disinterest and disgust of industry inside the back-then-cultivated society in the 1830s. Ultimately, the yet-again raising awareness and appreciation of industrial history spread around the 1960s. Today, we majorly consider industrial structures to portray the icons of a pioneering industrial past, contrasting the primary solely functional characteristic. Furthermore, their token switchover establishes a symbol of changing human relationships in the present day. It is precisely the social value that goes above all other types (aesthetic, historical or environmental), thus distinguishing industrial heritage from other legacy categories. Post-industrial landscapes certainly form an interesting paradigm in the evaluation studies since their cultural, environmental and heritage values have broken out quite recently. The transition from something valueless to valuable has experienced several somersaults since the 1980s (Palmer and Neaverson 1998). Thus, public awareness is still quite fresh, allowing the global discourse to be flexibly reshaped.

Consequently, its social and cultural value appears difficult to capture, particularly on the "official" level of the legislature. The first legal protection of industrial heritage originated in the 1960s on British islands, as did the Industrial Revolution. Nonetheless, its expression consequently becomes more powerful and emotional. Conservation of industrial heritage particularly longs for an ineradicable link between generations to identify with and respect the past character. It requires community consciousness in relation to the former working environment and livelihood. Nowadays, "the value of keeping and maintaining [industrial] structures is well recognised and understood and includes issues of regional identity, economic development, neighbourhood stabilisation and sustainability" (Douet 2012, 118). Furthermore, "the essential feature of industrial heritage is a productive process seen in its proper place and local context" (Douet 2012, 172); therefore, architectural, urbanistic or landscape values accordingly play a minor role. Testimonial value (working and social life) becomes equally or more cardinal than the intrinsic value of age, aesthetics and authenticity. More often than less, industrial heritage does not appear aesthetically pleasing or "old enough," and the environment seems too "common." In conclusion, it portrays the legacy type in the CHD objectives, sometimes lacking intrinsic characteristics.

02. f. what does transformation hold for the future of post-industrial landscapes

The Western world has noticed a gradual decline in the day-to-day utilisation of industrial premises since the 1960s. Here, an emphasis on geographical

demarcation suggests the unstartling quick transfer from the Western to the other parts of the world where labour suddenly reveals to be cheaper and full of downmarket sources (Braae 2015). Firstly, precisely such movement in the industrial sector notes an ongoing notion of the current post-industrial period. Secondly, the rising preservation movement marks another vehement turn in the 20th-century storyline.

02. f. 01. through the past to the future

Conservation´s sudden evolution primarily responds to the second wave of industrialisation, urbanisation and WWII´s irretrievable destruction. Little by little, modern culture honours the practices of heritage preservation. "Restoration offers an interpretation of the past for the present generation and for posterity" (Braae 2015, 72). However, a paradox arises with preservation being predominantly about the future, not the past. The tension between the heritage concept and adaptive reuse represents an issue of potential value or identity loss. Only until recently (the 1990s), heritage preservation predominantly marked what Kolen (2006) named the "grand conservation project," meaning careful managing and safeguarding of the fragile past by the elite (50). It engaged as a practical part of the AHD. This sudden obsession responded to the then notions of industrialisation, capitalism and fascination with history. Today´s perception rather acknowledges that "the mere fact of preservation, even if it is intended to do no more than stabilise, necessarily involves a whole series of innovations, if only to arrest the "pleasing decay" (Samuel 1994, 303). Returning to the identity concept, "heritage offers creative industries the benefit of identity in order to root the innovation in the local community" (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015, 62). A revitalisation process aims to provide a new and continuous form of life together with the rediscovery and introduction of former and novel intangible values. Thereafter, an interdisciplinary issue arises in recognising and edifying the original intentions within an area together with current interpretations.

02. f. 02. transformation process

The thesis explicitly uses the umbrella word "transformation" to imply any process regarding change. As such, it includes the diverse extent of preservation, regeneration, demolition, reclamation and adaptive reuse and their potential interconnection. Its leitmotif is simply to transition something from, what we consider, a negative state into something with potentially positive effects on itself and its surroundings. It elicits complex dialogue and compromise of integrity between the past and present, creation and interpretation, ideas and materialisation. In the end, it all depends on "how much we are able – and willing – to carry over from the past and to absorb in the present" (Douet 2012, 110).

Interestingly, the abandoned phase of post-industrial landscapes, marked by decay and obsolescence, continued somewhat unconsciously without notice until the 1980s. A primary issue portrayed an incredible challenge that requested reorganisation and critical rethinking of all previous practices. It was not until several years later that experts reacted, urged by the echoing exigency of sustainability (implying fulfilment of present needs without any deprivation of future needs), restoration and the environmental crisis. As a consequence, professionals are constantly obliged to make active choices during urban redevelopment (Riesto 2018). They depend on a specific and complex matrix of contemporary inputs. Another point of view introduces industrial areas as extensive urbanised lands. On the larger (regional, national) scales, an option to simply do nothing does not exist. Their magnitude is often crucial for a universal economy. The sustainability and cultural cohesion backgrounds do not advise mere removal of the residues, let alone arrangement of completely new land use without any conserved traces. Building upon this conviction, re-use, revitalisation or preservation actions thus arrive as a needed shift. A critical understanding of value definition precedes any regeneration process. Furthermore, Braae (2015) alerts that "transformation is not a desk strategy but requires presence and observation on site and action in the form of interventions" (285).

In practice, transformation in urban planning consumes an excessive amount of funding. The viability of conversion vacillates within the economic climate. Thus, a reuse project can be assumed successful on all levels when the design is economically, energetically, socially and physically sustainable (Mısırlısoy and Günçe 2016). An elaborated as well as convenient symbiosis of all aforementioned design inputs often seems to complicate the adaptive process. Nevertheless, the interdisciplinary arguments for rather than against renewal prevail more and more significantly.

02. f. 03. post-industrial transformation

The redundant industrial scars ask for design creativity. However, when considering various social issues of density, land use, sustainable building practice and economic value, we fast approach the danger zone of stakeholder collisions and appropriate return evaluation of a reuse process. The more theoretical questions of authenticity, place identity and value assessments come on the contrary and often seem to lose significance throughout the project´s progress. However, derelict industrial areas offer a convenient mediator in learning how to revive heritage, even as a part of experimental methods such as error-and-trial. The post-industrial landscape constantly evolves and does not come as a static environment. Thus, the 20th-century conservation and preservation practices seem

neither possible nor desirable (Palmer and Neaverson 1998). They substantially strive for active engagement and inclusion following the CHD remark.

The often "extreme" conditions and otherness of industrial lands and brownfields in general, not previously recognised by humans, strive for a holistic understanding of the environment (as all parts are interconnected and contribute to the whole) and acknowledgement of all tangible and intangible circumstances (Gans 2004). The purpose of revitalisation is, among others, to lift an object/landscape up to date to allow present generations to better comprehend their predecessors. Industrial ensembles often substantiate an isolated area outside urban development from the 18th to the 20th century, albeit the segregation happens not only in spatial terms. Functional and cultural division from the forward-developing districts presents a challenging matter in potential social re-engagement. Thus, newly provided *accessibility* comes as a prime key in a transformation process (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015). Consequently, each part of heritage deserves its right in the development process and is crucial for its identity. Industrial complexes used to be a private domain; therefore, naturally, public awareness is limited. The industry is often perceived as rather "noisy and air polluting," deemed to remain on the edge of both society and urban boundaries. Yet, production and economy prevail by connecting industrial sites to important (local or global) trade networks. Adaptive reuse has saved and saves a majority of neglected industrial heritage and brownfields from potential demolition/removal. On top of that, a general aim seeks to incorporate new economic and employment opportunities.

By contrast, the social aspects often extensively emerge in the critical framework of any urban transformation and brownfield reclamation, factors such as gentrification or competition for space. Some argue that preserving or conserving the "untreatable" old buildings results in more energy demand during an edifice´s life (Douet 2012, 136). Yet, transformation processes save initial inputs regarding the non-recoverable embodied energy from a structure's beginning. Reusing what we already inherited and what stands/lies on the site demands fewer newly-added resources. Although the theory is indeed reasonable, experts hit against the practice of where to actually remove the leftovers. Here again, any pragmatic cogitation regarding resources and environmental footprint determines the unsustainability of such behaviour. On the other hand, we desire more than complete preservation of the industrial patrimony. The design process calls for an ideal equilibrium of the past, present and ensuing values emphasising techniques such as "reuse" and "revitalisation." The identity´s essence and reintegration into cultural and social lives bring a whole new meaning into today´s society. The effect and scale of industrial traces incorporate a much more extensive notion into the landscape palimpsest. The landscape of today is open

to dynamic reshaping and therefore led by the temporal order of human society (Braae 2015). Researchers Heike Oevermann and Harald A. Mieg (2015) focus on the conflicting matter of an ideal balance between change (the present and future transformation) and preservation (the past and heritage). As a result, they categorise three prime perspectives, clashing during any reclamation of industrial heritage site: (01) heritage conservation – concerning preservation, (02) urban development – aiming for a liveable environment and (03) architectural production – based on inventiveness (12). The three discourses mingle, and their interconnection defines each step of the transformative process based on their theoretical inputs (as shown in Table 02.1.). Finding a proper balance between these three subcategories is the keynote of any transformation process.

		Concepts	Objectives	Assumptions	Values
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE	**(01) Heritage Conservation**	Heritage-led development Inclusion Minimal intervention Tangible and Intangible	Preservation of the past testimony, the landmark, the rescue	The tangible heritage is a testimony of the past.	Accessibility Bottom-up Identity Heritage Integrity Re-use
	(02) Urban Development	Urban regeneration Culture-led development Heritage	Interactive use of culture, creative industries and heritage	Culture, creative industries and heritage are assets for transformation.	Accessibility Bottom-up Economic Environmental Image Vision
	(03) Architectural Production	Adaptive re-use Site-specific architecture Iconic architecture	To re-use the existent for the new forms	The existent is the raw material for design.	Accessibility Identity Design Aesthetics Re-use Image

Table 02.1. *Analysis of Three Discourses Within the Transformation of Industrial Heritage Sites and Their Theoretical Inputs.*

Adapted from Oevermann, Heike and Harald A. Mieg, 2015, *Industrial Heritage Sites in Transformation: Clash of Discourses: Studying Transformations of Industrial Heritage Sites (Chapter 2)*, London and New York: Routledge.

chapter 03

das ruhrgebiet

03

chapter 03

das ruhrgebiet

*"The sky above **the Ruhr district***

must become blue again."

(Ganser 1999, 10)

Willy Brandt

German politician & statesman

April 28, 1961

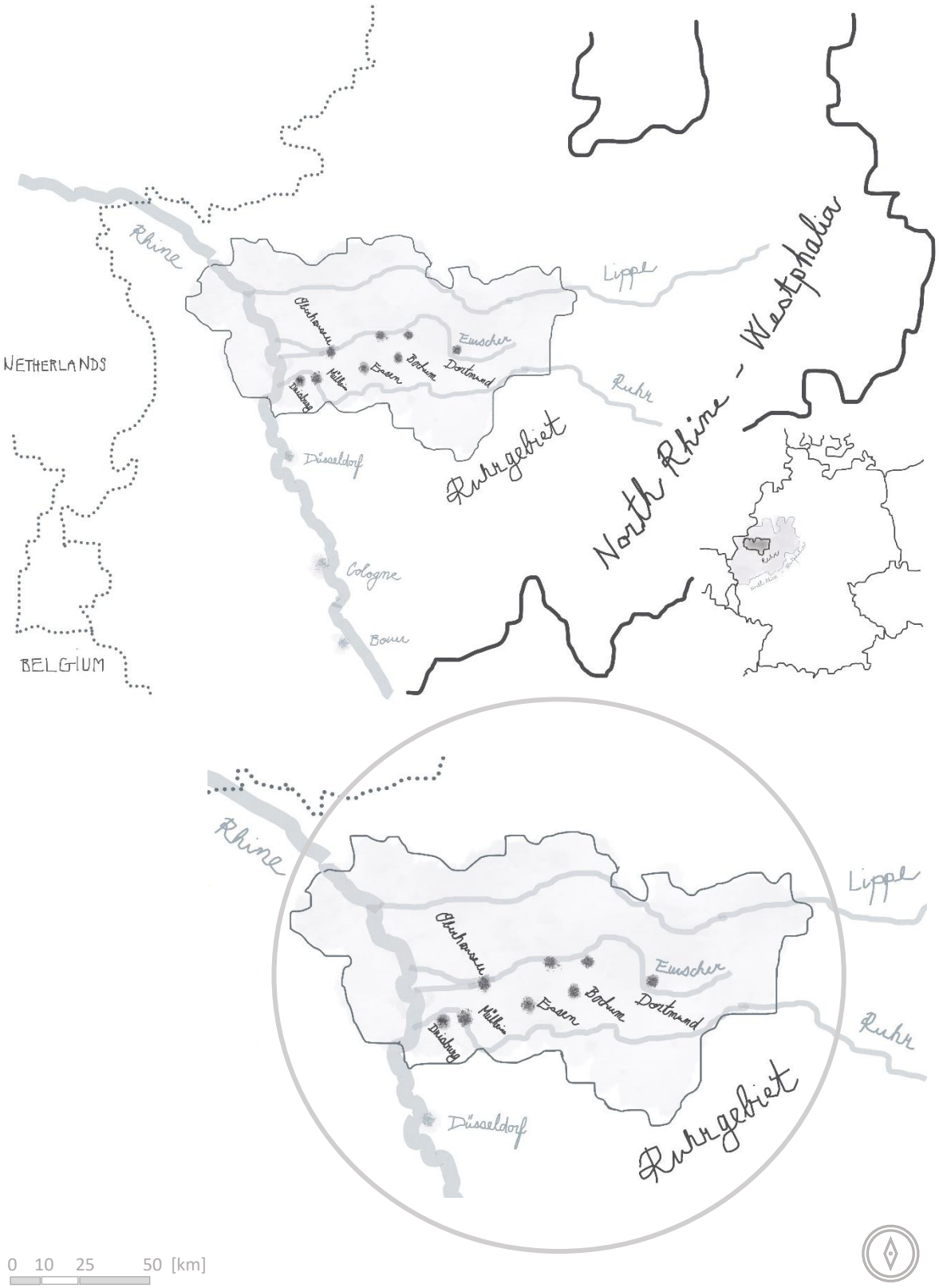

Figure 03.1. *Ruhrgebiet General Map.* The upper map puts the Ruhr region on the larger scale of the German state North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany in general. The bottom expanded map depicts the region´s major cities along its rivers. Drawing by the author.

03. das ruhrgebiet

The chapter explores a specific industrial heritage value and regional identity through one case-study analysis of Ruhr in Western Germany. It engages in the central theme of regional post-industrial transformation processes while addressing tangible, though mainly intangible, industrial legacy in practice. First, it situates *Ruhrgebiet* (the Ruhr region) in the late 19th-century revolution setting while rising as a transnational industrial heartland. It establishes the beginnings of Ruhr´s strong local identity and follows its gradual evolution in the second part. The history then moves to the de-industrialisation period, with Ruhr suffering from the irretrievable scars left by heavy industrialisation leading to cultural, ecological and economic distresses. Consequently, people regard the neglected urban landscape as obsolete, covered with structures of no positive asset for present-day society (termed a brownfield or wasteland). Thus, the region (as charted in Figure 03.1.) had been longing for some form of revival with the final breakthrough in the 1980s. On that account, the chapter primarily examines the actions of the *International Building Exhibition Emscher Park*, introduced as a 10-year-long post-industrial regional restructuring. During the process, various stakeholders, locals, and creative professionals strive for a perfect balance of identity re-building and value of industrial remnants, commemoration, ecological and environmental impacts and economic stability. Thus, the programme offers a form of possible guideline regarding future international transformation practices along the post-industrial land issue. While building on the preceding theoretical framework in Chapter 02, the chapter´s narrative leads to answering the main research question following regional identity and industrial heritage value during and after the IBA process. It does so mainly via one-on-one interviews with six locals done by the author, personal site observation and desk research. The synthesis explains the key lessons learned from the case study review with a theoretical knowledge application. The final parts discuss two specific IBA flagship projects – the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord in Duisburg and the Zeche Zollverein in Essen.

03. a. site history alias setting the regional identity

03. a. 01. industrial rise

For several decades, the Ruhr region had significantly participated in Germany´s 19th- and 20th-century economic bloom. Nevertheless, the Ruhr Basin noticed its first industrial actions rather late compared with the Industrial Revolution initiator - Great Britain, concretely towards the late 18th century. As anywhere, primarily agricultural society

preceded the industrialisation era. Regional urban machine suddenly replaced the long-evolving, sparsely populated rural topography full of extensive oak and beech forests (Egberts 2017, 150). Its character experienced a 180-degree turn, primarily in the late 19th century. The initial land use of agricultural and commerce nature transitioned into the focus on labour, particularly visible in the region´s fast-changing industrial silhouette and topography. Consequently, the typical *Ruhrgebiet* industrial monoculture of coal mining, steel production and chemical, mechanical and electrical engineering experienced a furious rate. Newly established coal mines in the north along the Emscher and Lippe Rivers replaced the exhausted coal deposits along the southern Ruhr River. New urban centres rapidly arose along the way, and historical towns "obstructing" the area´s development, to put it mildly, vanished (Douet 2012). Duisburg and Dortmund, with around 5 000 inhabitants, remained the initially largest settlements (before industrialisation). Ruhr quickly became the prime mover while forming Europe´s significant industrial heartland thanks to a discovery of large coal and iron ore deposits at the turn of the 20th century. An extensive network of around 3 200 coal mining spots primarily flooded the region (shown in Figure 03.2.).

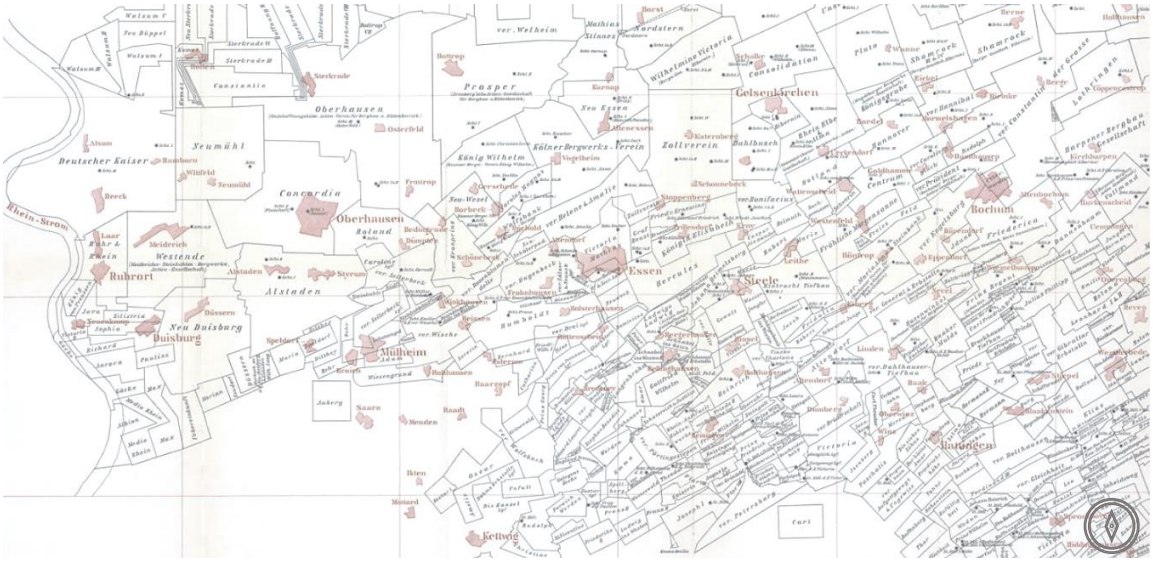

Figure 03.2. *Ruhr´s Coal Mining Areas in 1895.* The coal mining network rapidly developed all around the region after the 1850s with more than 3200 deposits (captured by dark red shapes).

In those times, urban planners approached the landscape as an open, undetermined field without visible obstacles for further utilisation. Therefore, it quickly grew into what the Germans called a *Lebensraum*, a territory the nation assumed was necessary for its natural development (Gans 2004). Industrial structures, mining, roads and extensive rail networks soon crowded the region with new major settlements from Duisburg, Essen, and Bochum to Dortmund while creating a polycentric urban structure (as depicted in Figure 03.3. and its historical comparison). These core cities evolved along the initially important medieval route of Westphalian Hellweg, connecting two principal rivers - the Rhine and Elbe. Naturally, Ruhr

invited all "inhabitants who put their lives at the service of progress" (Gans 2004, 52), welcoming a substantial number of immigrants (around 12% in the 1950s) from Poland, Italy, Turkey or former Yugoslavia (Hospers 2004, 149). Thus, Ruhr´s typical diversity and multivocality found their origins, although one unifying conception prevailed – the regional identity building on the industrial past. In 1867, German author Nikolaus Hocker first coined the name *Ruhrgebiet* in his article, referring to its noteworthy industrial activity and "romantic" industrial landscape (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 29). The area continued contributing to sustained national economic growth (so-called *Wirtschaftswunder*) following WWII until the 1970s. Back then, German regions had strong vernacular traditions, and their identification depended upon typical regional aspects (Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994). This followed the 19th-century regionalist rather than nationalist unifying tendencies with prominent regional political identity and a sense of *community* rather than *society*.

Figure 03.3. *Ruhr´s Rapid Urban Development from 1830 to 1930.* The archival maps compare the regional urban structure along the so-called "ruhrbanity" in 1830 [1] and 1930 [2]. We can thus follow Ruhr´s century-long process of polycentric urban evolution.

Source [1]: Friedrich Wilhelm Streit 1830. Source [2]: Chief Administration of Geodesy and Cartography under the Council of Ministers of the USSR 1967.

03. a. 02. industrial decline

However, Ruhr´s notable but short progress declined during the 1970s and 80s in the course of the third wave (de-industrialisation) period. Besides other things, it followed the 1958-68 closure of mines (*das Zechensterben* – coal crisis) and the 1974 steel crisis emerging due to cheaper and alternative resources. "The industrial region became a foreign country" (Wicke, Berger and Golombek 2018, 1). Denial and progressing "forgetting" initiatives rather than remembering the industrial past led to several proposed demolitions of the industrial remnants. Obsolescence and decay quickly replaced the expansion and resilience of the preceding decades. The coal belt turned into a so-called "rust belt," as many derelict brownfield sites sprung up (Leppert 1999). Furthermore, "the ecological degradation was mirrored by psychological resignation among much of the population" (LaBelle 2001, 222), full of unemployment and lost prospects. The regional identity (historical, economic and cultural) became resentfully affiliated with industrial plants, collieries, slag heaps, and foundries, and the challenge hung upon its reinterpretation. Massive turn in Ruhr´s character accompanied rather negative ("obsolete environment") than former positive ("the European industrial heartland") connotations. Interestingly, the starting hints of industrial decrease noted the Ruhr´s first establishment of higher education (the independent Ruhr-Universität Bochum, also the first one in the Federal Republic) in the 1960s with a focus on the tertiary instead of secondary sector (Shaw 2002, 81).

A top-down initiative on a national level introduced a consistent plan for the region´s brownfields at the end of the 1980s. As the name indicated, the 10-year restructuring programme of the *International Building Exhibition Emscher Park* focused mainly on the area around the Emscher River in the course of 1989 to 1999. However, it set the post-industrial transformative processes going all around Ruhrgebiet. Shortly after, it hit the reality of already established values and demands by local people, forming primarily during the last five to ten years. Quite surprisingly, locals fought louder for a wider scale of industrial revival and preservation of "original" identity than the municipality and the government (Braae 2015). Ruhr certainly could not hide its history of massive human occupation and the trauma from rising de-industrialisation. The landscape bared what scholars called the "burdens of eternity" (*Ewigkeitslasten)*, the irretrievable and deep scars (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 28). Undeniably, its physical and intangible heritage, connected to the steel and coal industries, portrayed the prime core of its character. Slowly but surely, residents, and primarily workers, started to address and respect their history with pride instead of embarrassment. The threat of the past´s and identity misuse emerged when the Social Democratic Party began to see potential in industrial heritage to approach workers and

ordinary people of Ruhr. On that account, the IBA agenda had been criticised in the beginning stages for not truly incorporating locals and communities, thus forming almost an "elitist" transformation as part of the Authorised Heritage Discourse. The project expectations did not instantly meet with the desired outcomes as the top-down and bottom-up notions collided. Furthermore, the stakeholders did not count on providing new work opportunities in order to fight the highest unemployment in Western Germany. Nevertheless, the absolute sea change in these matters was slowly introduced towards the end of the designated timeline (the end of the 1990s).

One might have said that Ruhr had no choice but to accept its industrial remains and yet again build its "fresh" identity on the post-industrial landscape. Inevitably, a person could not walk one kilometre through Ruhrgebiet without stumbling upon some kind of industrial residue. Eventually, it happened to establish a positive outcome in the given case. The IBA Emscher Park, shortly after the 1980s neglect, exemplified one of Germany´s efforts to confront its rather tangled past. At that time, Germany generally searched for a reassertion of self-confidence and a "new" identity vehemently based on heritage rediscoveries, especially following the omnipresent paradigms of modernism and globalism since the 1950s (Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994). It undeniably contributed to the fact that this century truly came as a challenge, particularly for this country. Naturally, a prime distinction of German identity on the regional but also national level came with the necessity to be mainly justified following the actions of WWII. Natural bias, so to say, shamed the "too-loud" national associations. While forming an important area for German forces in both World Wars, the foregoing destructions, primarily during WWII (with severe bombings and incursion), deepened the Ruhr´s difficulties with revitalisation and retrograde engagement in social and economic rise (Storm 2014). The regional image continued to use the dedicated slogan "*Das Ruhrgebiet: Ein starkes Stück Deutschlands*" ("Ruhrgebiet: A Strong Piece of Germany"), which later transformed into "Ruhrgebiet: The Driving Force of Germany," to indicate the unflagging national importance (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 35). Slowly but surely, the substance of industrial land (a place of work and home, *Altindustriestandorte*) turned into the post-industrial landscape (heritage, *postindustrielle Landschaften*).

03. a. 03. post-industrial reality

Ruhr´s recent shift in identity follows the omnipresent reinforcement of industrial heritage value. The transitioning process from the past´s disgrace to its esteem reflects the contemporary heritage and history notions. Indeed, such shifts in value seem crucial for any successful post-industrial reclamation. In general, the descendants of contemporary Ruhr are

now proud and closely bound to their ancestors and "do not want to disown the heritage their predecessors worked so hard to achieve" (Leppert 1999, 182). Especially the ongoing bottom-up initiatives emphasise such a maxim. They are aware that "iron, steel, and coal are important in defining their identity" (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015, 206). The new regional identity builds on the same substance of values, and industry plays its vehement role in the re-establishment. Thus, Ruhr portrays one of few examples where industrial heritage becomes the leitmotif of the 20th- and 21st-century transformation, even on the extensive regional level. Some scholars even argue that we can hardly find another region worldwide with representation building as extensively on industrial heritage valorisation (see, for instance, Wicke, Berger and Golombek 2018). The present mind shift gives Ruhr´s population a reassuring connectedness (regional identity) with the past in an individualistic and not-so-sure future. "It is these lost identities, remnants of traumatic pasts, which define a society´s present identity" (Egberts 2017, 145). Scholars argue that its denial would solely harm the regional rejuvenation and establishment of its current character. We see that such an evolution in practice again contributes to the theoretical reinvention of community and the significance of identity followed roughly since the 1980s.

Moreover, the "contested" kind of heritage on a more extensive scale (landscape, the built environment, space) speaks louder of the local character and embodies its sense of place. One of the regional policies informs that "with a declining number of inhabitants, it is necessary to strengthen cultural historical reference points" (Regionalverband Ruhr 2022, appendix 4), promoting industrial heritage as the key to these unique points. Generally, Ruhr´s regional identity relies on relatively recent and limited history and culture and, just like any other region, builds upon what is socially acceptable, politically possible and financially suitable. Nowadays, the industrial past forms the upper "peeping-out" layer in the regional palimpsest and takes the leading role in any (self-) representation. As such, regarding a necessary acknowledgement of Ruhr´s legacy, a local duo of Bernhard and Hilla Becher comprise one of the most visible systematic documentations of post-industrial changes and obsolete structures in the region via photographs. Their endeavour implements capturing and preservation of the changing world as it has been since the 1950s and public awareness of industrial qualities (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015). German photographer Heinrich Böll together with Chargesheimer (Karl-Heinz Hargesheimer) offer a similar set of Ruhr´s raw and "exotic" photographs in their volume *Im Ruhrgebiet.* Even up to now, the colloquial language uses various terms for Ruhr regarding its "boiling" and changing past, such as *Kohlenpott, Ruhrpott* or simply *Pott.* Nonetheless, various sources reveal that public perception, primarily on the national scale, still considers Ruhrgebiet a "trouble spot of Germany." It addresses the negative viewings of a financially unstable and unfeasible

"decayed" environment, fighting its industrial past and its inglorious consequences, albeit the regional efforts to distance from them. The research reveals that people of Ruhr perceive such universal connotation as disrespectful and are therefore rather sensitive towards their categorisation as "inhabitants of Ruhrgebiet." We thus see that the concept of industrial heritage still has to pave its way towards greater recognition and positive acknowledgement, for the most part, among the general public.

03. a. 04. ruhrgebiet in (dis) unity

In the case of Ruhr, the regional identity interestingly encounters a conspicuous issue with a long-established rivalry between its major cities (Duisburg, Oberhausen, Essen, Bochum and Dortmund). They are located next to each other along a watercourse with practically no clear borders. Their conflicts of interest are not only passionate about sports teams (such as a strong soccer affection as a "working-class" sport, every year culminating in the so-called "Revierderby") but also in the economic and cultural spheres (Egberts 2017, 139). Thus, Ruhr is seen as a decentralised region (or a city or perhaps something in between?) due to its rare independent rapid urbanisation with no prominent leader since the late 19th century. Following the events of the industrialisation period, it has evolved into the largest German agglomeration with a high concentration of mutually intertwined municipalities (53 cities altogether) and population density. Local architect and urban planner Christa Reichel refers to its development and workers´ lifeworld as "*ruhrbanity*" with Ruhr being "a city of cities [from] industrial villages, built close to the mining complexes and steel mills" (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 36). Interestingly, Ruhr´s cognisance as a region emerges only with the beginning of 19th-century industrialisation, though it does not truly spread until the post-war period. Initially, two historical regions divided the area of Ruhrgebiet – Rhineland (the west) and Westphalia (the east). Ruhr´s own regional association and planning authority *Regionalverband Ruhr* (RVR), dates back only to the 1920s (initially arising as the Ruhr Coal District Settlement Association - *Siedlungsverband Ruhrkohlenbezirk*) (Wicke, Berger and Golombek 2018). In the present day, the RVR takes responsibility for ongoing restructuring and open space development after the IBA. Besides, the Ruhr region, as we know it today, receives its fixed name only in the same decade (the 1920s). Until today, we can follow the regional fragmentation as seen in Figure 03.4. A considerable doubt addresses whether a unified regional identity indeed exists since studies indicate greater loyalty for an individual city rather than the whole region. Even nowadays, Ruhr´s residents address themselves rather respectively to their hometowns as Dortmunders, Esseners and so on. Before the IBA introduction, some regional parts even denied their connection with Ruhr while inclining to neighbouring regions in North-Rhine

Westphalia (Berger and Wicke 2014). Although, the political structure becomes more cooperative after introducing the IBA´s common visions.

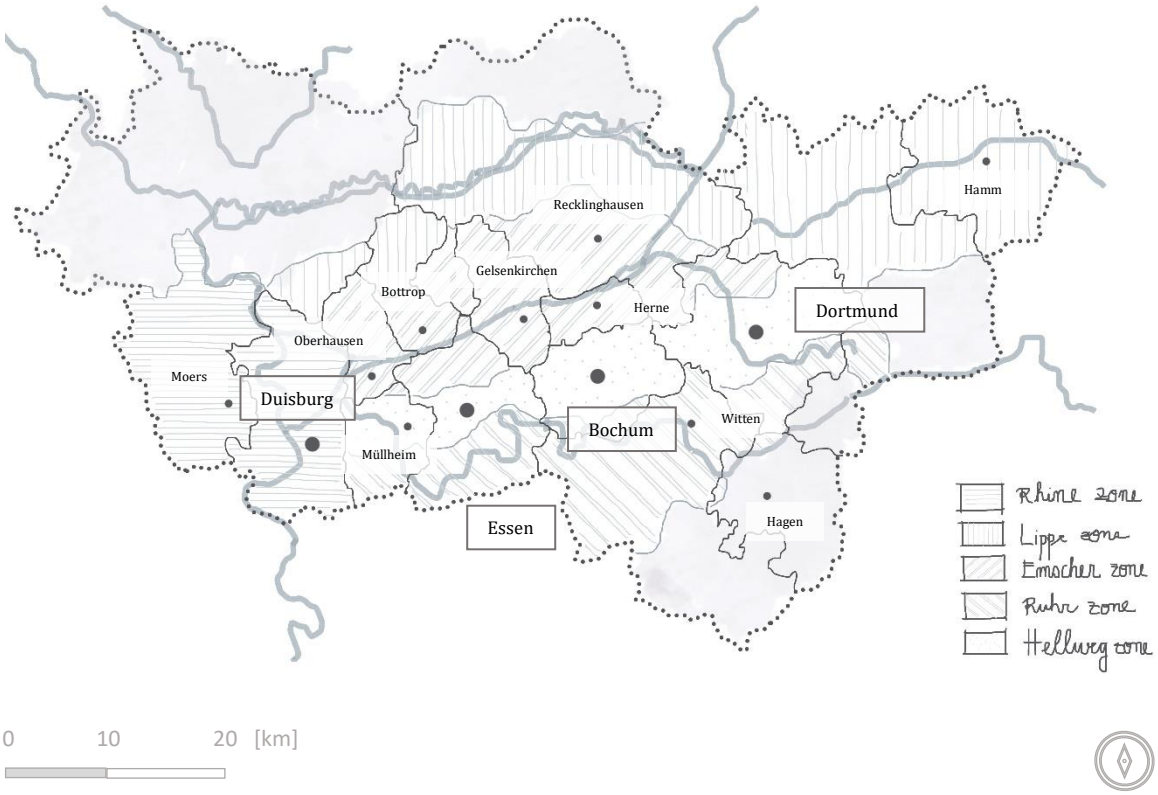

Figure 03.4. *Ruhr´s Fragmentation Map.* According to the river´s name (Rhine, Lippe, Emscher, Ruhr and Hellweg), five zones divide Ruhr´s economic, social and political interests. Moreover, the map follows the polycentric urban structure with four major (big black points, with more than 300 000 inhabitants) and ten minor cities (small black points, with more than 100 000 inhabitants). Drawing by the author.

Nevertheless, the interdependence of urban centres is conditional in order for the region to flourish. In consequence, the idea of *Ruhrstadt* comes into existence with plans to arrive at comprehensive cooperation and mutual backup between the cities (Berger and Wicke 2014). As such, it promotes a sense of togetherness in *Metropolis Ruhr*, building on the industrial character. Diverse cultural elements accompany the initiative with terms such as *Ruhrdeutsch* (the typical Ruhr dialect with Polish residues– a so-called *regiolect*) or *Ruhri* (Ruhr´s inhabitant). Various customs and cultural elements (songs, fashion, food) build on regional industrial connotations with examples of *Glück Auf!* (a workers´ greeting) or *currywurst* (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 31). However, setting a "fresh" regional identity in Ruhr thus still comes as a complex challenge. The IBA Emscher Park is seen as one of the attempts to unify and strengthen the shared sense of belonging yet again as it pursues

co-creation among the individual municipalities. Currently, the metro population climbs to almost 6 million, with a rapid increase considering the relatively short timeline of two centuries. Moreover, the region falls within the so-called European "Blue Banana" (Figure 03.5.). It defines a transnational corridor in a banana-like shape between Western and Central Europe (from the United Kingdom to Italy) with high urbanistic and economic growths regarding population and capital. The network´s significance emerges with the industrial development marking the originally imposing industrial regions; however, becoming particularly relevant during the 1990s (Braae 2015). Currently, urban sprawl and maximum land utilisation within the Blue Banana endanger a potential cultural reintegration of inactive post-industrial sites. Up to now, Ruhr, as Europe´s largest post-industrial region, is in a constant state of restructuring (or *Strukturwandel*). Table 03.1. pinpoints the central milestones in its chronology before and during the IBA Emscher Park.

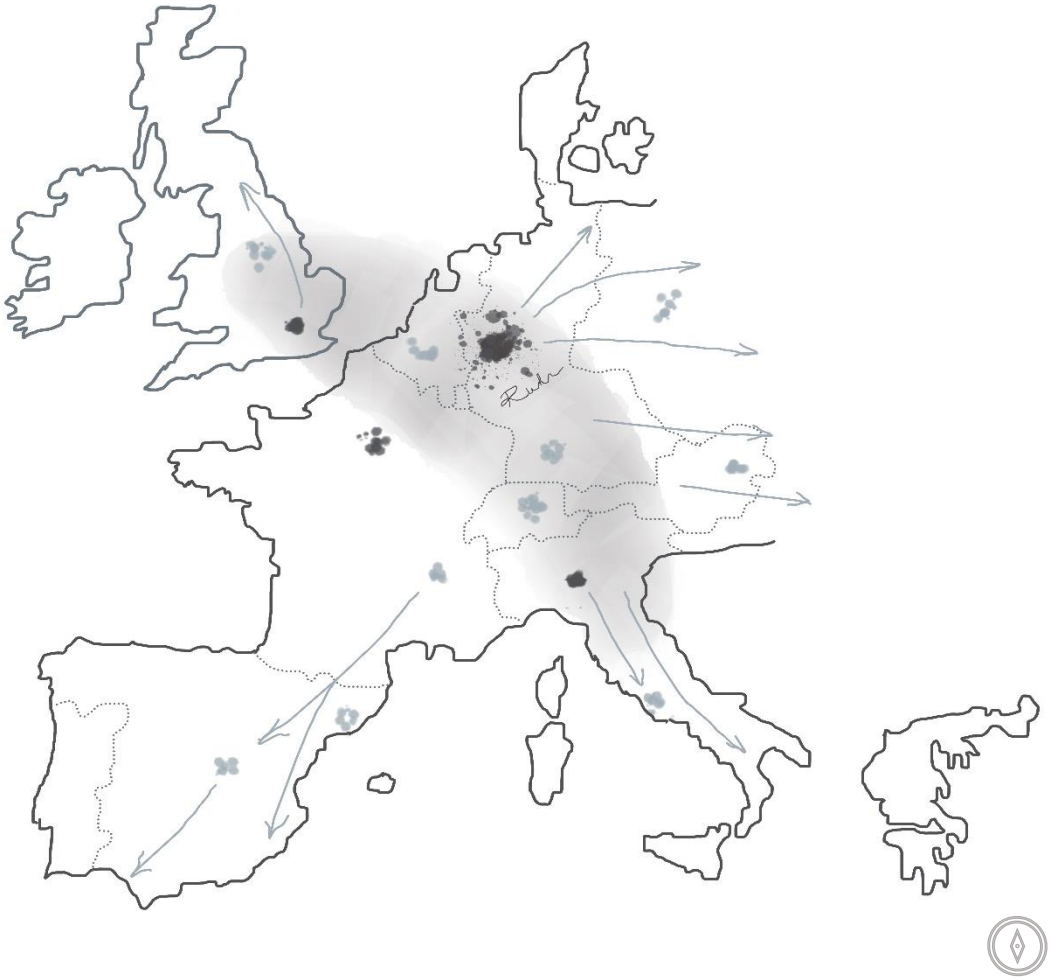

Figure 03.5. *The European Blue Banana.* The banana-shaped territory marks significant industrial points in the European 20th-century development. Its relevance lies within economic strategy even nowadays (during the de-industrialisation period). Arrows show important directions of strategic movement. Drawing by the author.

Year	Event/Instrument
1960s	Coal industry replaced by cheaper and alternative fuels - *das Zechensterben.*
1966-67	Recession resulted in extensive mine closures and the establishment of national economic regulation body Ruhrkohle AG.
1968-73	Ruhr Development Programme introduced modernisation of mining industry, public transportation, development of the settlements and higher education.
1974	Iron and steel crisis followed similar destiny as did coal.
1979	Ruhr Action Programme provided financial resources for urban renewal, environment, energy and technology transfer, however, without any successful development plan.
1980s	The economic crisis deepened through a lack of alternative industries and employments. This happened to be particularly visible in the Emscher area.
September 1987	Town Planning Minister visited the IBA Berlin, accompanied by a group of experts.
May 1988	The Prime Minister announced the IBA programme for Ruhr´s restructuring on the national conference press.
November 1988	The IBA Cabinet declared and announced the IBA Emscher Park agenda.
May 1989	Open project calls for local authorities, companies and initiatives revealed more than 400 submitted ideas for flagship projects.
1990-94	More than 60 architectural and urban planning competitions discussed the final vision of individual projects.
1996	The IBA Emscher Park became a part of the German contribution to the Architecture Biennale in Venice.
Summer 1999	The final presentation of the IBA Emscher Park introduced the results.

Table 03.1. *Chronology of Ruhr´s Restructuring (Strukturwandel) Before and during the IBA Emscher Park Following the Middle 20th-century Industrial Decline.*

Adapted from Danielzyk, Rainer and Gerald Wood, 1993, "Restructuring old industrial and inner urban areas: A contrastive analysis of state policies in Great Britain and Germany," *European Planning Studies (1),* no.2: 123-147.

03. b. post-industrial (dis) placement of ruhr

It happened to be the year 1989 when a group of specialists from various disciplines determined a necessity for Ruhr´s brighter future. At that moment, severe obsolescence and gradual decay have been striking the heavily industrial and coal mining landscape for several years. After the omnipresent crisis denial, the Western German region was "finally" left utterly to its mercy at the beginning of the 1980s. The preceding legacy of large-scale steel and coal industries and their decline resulted in a number of miscellaneous issues, such as space fragmentation, environmental pollution, high unemployment or activity and population decrease (Dammers, et al. 2004). Consequently, Ruhrgebiet has faced a severe economic crisis since the 1970s. Thus, the necessity to fight for Ruhr´s past remained largely on the shoulders of an outside power. Interestingly, the industrial spread, specifically around the Emscher River, happened only during the second wave of industrialisation, thus transpiring quite late in the process. However, at that time, it was particularly this area that predominantly produced the iconic image of neglected industrial archaeology full of discarded products and the contaminated Emscher River. Ergo, it became Ruhr´s weakest point socio- and economically wise (Storm 2014).

03. b. 01. international building exhibition emscher park

In those days, the German tradition of the so-called *International Building Exhibition* or *Internationale Bauausstellungen* (IBA) has previously proved to fulfil its duties and desires in many urban and regional redevelopment projects nationwide, for instance in Darmstadt (1901), Stuttgart (1927) or Berlin (1957 and 1984) (Douet 2012). The IBA formed an ad hoc low-budget agency while replacing the traditional public administrations to address urban challenges in an experimental setting. The innovative strategy operated on a high-value criteria selection of projects eligible for future transformation. The election principally built on architectural and landscape quality, energy savings, inclusion and ecology. The introduction of Ruhr´s 10-year programme (1989-1999), under the umbrella of the *Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Transport for the Land North Rhine-Westphalia*, pushed its formerly local initiative to another large-scale (regional) level with the area of over 800 km^2 and implementation of 117 individual projects (Zlonicky 2004). Following the accomplishment of the 1984 IBA in Berlin, it dedicated energy to the already existing building stock and, primarily, the urban planning level. In general, the Park interconnected inactive industrial areas with redundant spots along the Emscher River between the cities of Duisburg and Kamen. The future-oriented holistic perspective prioritised public dialogues within the projects, design competitions and an idea of exhibition rather than ordinary administrative

consultations and the usual unapproachableness of planning development. It presented a "renewal from within" under the idea of "Workshop For the Future of Old Industrial Areas" (Hospers 2004, 153). Besides, the bottom-up inclusion precisely served as one of the indispensable contributions to the overall IBA success. The early awareness towards Ruhr´s regeneration through the IBA programme stemmed from preceding local incentives. Creative competitions with a great diversity of actors in all projects (locals, visitors, stakeholders) promoted innovative and armed character under the IBA guidance. Hence, the final regional plan derived from all presented flagship projects as a peak moment, not vice versa. Moreover, the first priority of the post-industrial renewal was of an ecological (landscape park), not economic nature (employment and business). Plus, a cost-benefit analysis preceded each potential transformation while pursuing the desirable economic feasibility (Dammers, et al. 2004). Overall, the primary aim of its agenda focused on uplifting Ruhr´s identity and potential with an ideal equilibrium of bottom-up and top-down initiatives.

The IBA non-governmental institution (termed a *quango*) set five prime leitmotifs on the agenda of the Emscher Park project (as charted in Figure 03.6.). Firstly, the "Landscape Park" (1) presented eight major transitions along seven green corridors, focusing on former agricultural land, slag heaps, forests, and grasslands. It also incorporated the most prominent example of Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, discussed in the following subchapter. With more than 450 km^2, it became the largest European regional park (Berger, Musso and Wicke (eds.) 2022). Secondly, "Ecological Regeneration" (2) complemented the environmental strategy of the Emscher River reclamation. As a matter of fact, the whole idea of the Ruhr revitalisation originated from the idea of providing the Emscher River as an ecologically functional territory. The agenda proposed a shift from an open sewer to a yet-again natural watercourse. It included over 350 kilometres of streams piled up with waste since the 1900s. Subsequently, the discharge of polluted wastewater transitioned into an underground sewer (Ganser 1999). Thirdly, the "Working in the Park" (3) cultural retrieval operated within 22 designated post-industrial sites to offer new services, commercial and cultural use and recreation for locals and visitors with new job opportunities. Fourthly, the "New Use for Industrial Buildings" (4) section comprised tangible and intangible heritage and identity themes. The fifth and final core brought forth 26 housing projects to reinvent settlement principles labelled under the "Housing and Integrated Urban District Development" (5). This addressed the long-term population decrease, fragmentation, gentrification, diverse social issues and Ruhr´s urgent need for social housing. Altogether, each theme fell under the mutual "quality" criteria of architecture, urban development, reintegration and life. The qualitative criteria were of urban, architectural, economic, social and environmental values and strived for a matrix as an ideal equilibrium among all. Ultimately, the strategic plan

introduced various sub-projects with local bottom-up interventions and top-down mediation, presenting a harmonious urban synergy.

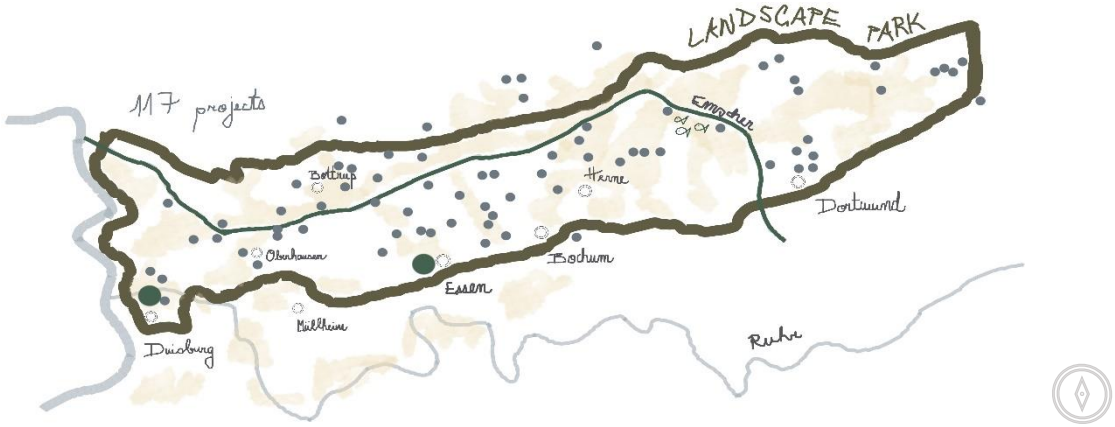

Figure 03.6. *Area of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park.* The Landscape Park encircles 117 projects in total (small dots). Two green points mark two discussed flagship projects of Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord and Zeche Zollverein. Drawing by the author.

In the spring of 1990, selected international landscape architects received a chance to present fresh perspectives on the area´s ecological, economic and cultural renewal *in situ*. By then, impassable birch forests, corroded railway tracks, fallow slag heaps, and idle sewage systems occupied the land following the preceding industrialisation process. At first sight, one would not describe the scenery as raising pride, delight or magnificence. However, it undeniably provoked a strenuous challenge for the decade to come. "Tidy Up the Ruhr" broke out as the new unifying slogan (Zlonicky 2004). The architects ventured for a risky deal when coping with the omnipresent conceptions of authenticity, obsolescence, reuse and value of the past, present and future. The ruinous industrial scape offered these three timelines to communicate in a mutual dialogue, evolving a beauty hitherto not properly recognised in the previous epochs. Yet again, temporality played a crucial role in the overall approach and the following decision-making. Hereby, industrial heritage embodied potential for cultural identification. The central idea evoked Ruhr´s identity to constantly look both forward and backwards. Thus, "landscape was the new unit that was recreating regional identity" (Braae 2015, 55). The future (new perspectives on the identity) operated with respect to the past (source of inspiration for the perspective) and the present (decisions about design approvals). Here, the IBA arrived at the principle of layering alias intervening rather than restoring hitherto forms. At last, this allowed industrial reuse without deprivation of historical or structural identity. Regarding the reclamation of brownfields, using the usual contaminant removal method would have perhaps only erased the essential traces of germane characteristics. Accordingly, the act of modification was part of the indefinite evolution while adding another layer (Stone 2020, 19).

03. b. 02. industrial heritage as a symbol?

Although, what do we consider unique about the IBA Emscher Park? Would it be the innovative strategy for value preservation or carefully maintained inclusive process in terms of sustainability desired "in every nook and every cranny"? Undeniably, all aforementioned aspects contribute to the project´s uniqueness. Ultimately, scholars sometimes refer to Ruhrgebiet as "Europe´s laboratory" with the practical embodiment of the error-and-trial method within the ruinous industrial landscape (Braae 2015). The IBA project often becomes an idyllic scenario in the global discourse on the (post-) industrial environment. The transformation appears to happen in the ruins of industrialism, serving as the vital essence of design and the new future. Eventually, the industrial scratches are so evidently embedded in the regional identity. Additionally, industrial heritage arises as a concern in identity re-establishing since the first phases (Egberts 2017). Therefore, industrial structures easily turn into a symbol of the region, transformation, and people. A new understanding of urban development, industrial heritage, landscape and industrial nature accompany the IBA evolution. This becomes particularly evident in all types of Ruhr´s evidence, from photographs and drawings to literature and mappings. Sustainable thinking navigates its way through all five leitmotifs, even though the concept of sustainability as such was in those times only in its beginnings. Change, in this respect, becomes rather celebrated than feared; thus, stability and resilience do not collide in the making. "Change is also valued as a resource" (Storm 2014, 124), and obsolescence of the past implies present and future creativity.

Peter Zlonicky (2004), one of the authors of the IBA Emscher Park, highlights its most precious heritage to reside in a "set of strategies in conflict with traditional planning methods" (60). While implementing this idea, the concept suggests relatively vigorous content with no fixed formal structure, although with a comprehensive strategic vision. As argued in the previous chapter, accessibility forms one of the most significant criteria in post-industrial transformation. Thus, in the end, the Emscher principle presents "a regional open-space body constituted by uniting leftover space and post-industrial areas" (Braae 2015, 94), while interconnecting them with an easily accessible system of roads, cycle routes and footpaths. In the rather flat landscape, various slag heaps and artificial hills from the industrial activity serve as new points for distant views and orientation. The unity of created public spaces and open nature easily enhances social and cultural value with an emphasis on the nature-culture relationship. This might be delineated as a process of acupuncture where "needles are inserted into the region in the hope that the self-healing power of the region will do its work" (Mayer and Siebel 1998, 7). Hence, the *Ruhr Industrial Heritage Route* (*Route Industriekultur*) under the RVR introduces significant attributes within the ideology. It

operates on a level of industrial monuments, termed "anchor points," and a level of "theme routes" to stimulate cultural and social engagement with discoveries, adventures and various interests, established chiefly to promote tourism based on the regional identity (Douet 2012, 203). The region´s evolving welcomeness and openness over the last three decades, not only through local and universal tourism, strengthen the regional identity and heritage value and rouse a hidden pride. For instance, former factory workers find jobs as tour guides within the designed cultural hubs. The IBA also substantiates Europe´s first official utilisation of public funding to rescue industrial heritage (Egberts 2017).

In addition, the IBA Emscher Park incorporates several significant sites within the *European Route of Industrial Heritage* (ERIH) as part of the strategic development plan. The Route showcases a network of industrial heritage transformation projects in Europe (Pottgiesser and Dragutinovic 2022). Culture is a driving force to stimulate the usage and inclusion of industrial sites for an enhanced quality of life in the region. Local cultural activation supports regional identity as a symbol. The IBA is the first in Ruhrgebiet to incorporate local artists and various cultural events on a regular basis which motivates activity up to today. Subsequently, following its industrial heritage and post-industrial reclamation and the slogan *Kultur durch Wandel – Wandel durch Kultur* (Culture through Transformation – Transformation through Culture), the Ruhr area became acclaimed as the "European Capital of Culture" in 2010 (Douet 2012, 204). Under the unifying project name *RUHR.2010*, it was the first ever region to be considered as a whole, building on the complex transformation, reinvention of identity and present polycentric cultural metropolis.

03. c. research relevance & synthesis

03. c. 01. on industrial heritage

The IBA Emscher Park generates a demonstrative example of flagship projects with two nominal consequences: firstly, a multiplier effect with the continuous development of individual projects towards an ongoing ideal balance in the post-industrial transformation process, and, secondly, a leverage effect where regeneration and reuse of heritage gradually rise a new added value. The essence of post-industrial urban regeneration and reclamation lies in the prideful recycling of its industrial legacy. It states an example of a long-term heritage-led regeneration, focusing on an active role of industrial heritage in all stages of the revitalisation scheme. Accordingly, Ruhr´s representatives have asked how heritage can contribute to the desired regional transition since the beginning (the 1980s). They predominantly stress the reliance on heritage and its importance when it comes

to regional identity in the era of momentous transformations. It creates the region´s substance as "regions, just as much as nations, have an existential need for their own historical culture to legitimate their existence as spatial and institutional entities" (Berger, Wicke and Golombek 2017, 22). Moreover, when talking about identity, regions rather than nations correspond to a more useful spatial category for studying industrialisation as its concentration on the national level is highly crumbled. As a consequence, we primarily address *regional* identity when analysing industrial legacy (Douet 2012). Space and individual actors themselves (particularly people in this case) carry Ruhr´s symbolic meaning and form and maintain the regional identity. Thus, they take the past as a grasp by addressing one´s industrial heritage, and its re-evaluation considerably contributes to the region´s image. However, we always remain careful when considering the region as a "whole unity" since its construction depends on personal identities and is not consensually based.

The Ruhr region utilises a (rough) recent past for its reconstruction, allowing itself to record and elaborate on intangible connotations (memories, feelings, identities). Initial subdivision and land consolidation sufficiently support the disintegration of the region´s overwhelming extent while not stripping it of its context or identity. Industrial heritage becomes the unifying element of the whole territory. Consequently, Ruhr becomes a sole urban region that extensively builds upon the uniqueness and significance of industrial heritage in general representation. Sometimes it leads to an extreme extent when de-historicisation unintentionally results from excessive heritage aestheticisation. In theory, the whole context of industrial heritage value and the IBA´s aforementioned practices lie within the contemporary CHD concept of heritage studies. Subsequently, the ongoing interest and presentation of Ruhr, particularly on the higher levels (inter/national, continental), strengthen the regional identity, pride and self-confidence of locals. However, scholars and heritage theories warn about the potential of this representation to become a sole marketing tool or a tool for heritage touristification while inclining back towards the AHD. Cultural geographer Tim Edensor (2005) advises avoiding extreme commercialisation as it only leads to the re-contextualisation of unintended historical parts, their sanitation and the senseless fostering of political agendas.

The 1970s onwards mark the era of industrial culture (*Industriekulttur)* and industrial heritage, reaching not only Germany. The German term *Industriekultur*, introduced by German art historian Tilmann Buddensieg and pursued by cultural scientist Hermann Glaser, reckons the concept of *industrial heritage* in English (Wicke, Berger and Golombek 2018). Its leitmotif proposes that "industrial complexes should not be protected *against* development; rather, they should be protected *for* development" (Egberts 2017, 175). As

such, it denies the theory of preservation and conservation in the 19th-century sense and is incompatible with the AHD hypothesis. Furthermore, the IBA´s idea of building upon the local heritage values of Ruhrgebiet and their cardinal intervention in planning development through inclusive community and heritage democratisation becomes the foremost and central reference for the New Heritage paradigm and Critical Heritage Discourse. To conclude, Table 03.2. indicates the concrete analysis of primary (core) and secondary values within the IBA Emscher Park regarding the discussed three pivotal discourses in the post-industrial transformation process (heritage conservation, urban development and architectural production) according to Oevermann and Mieg (2015).

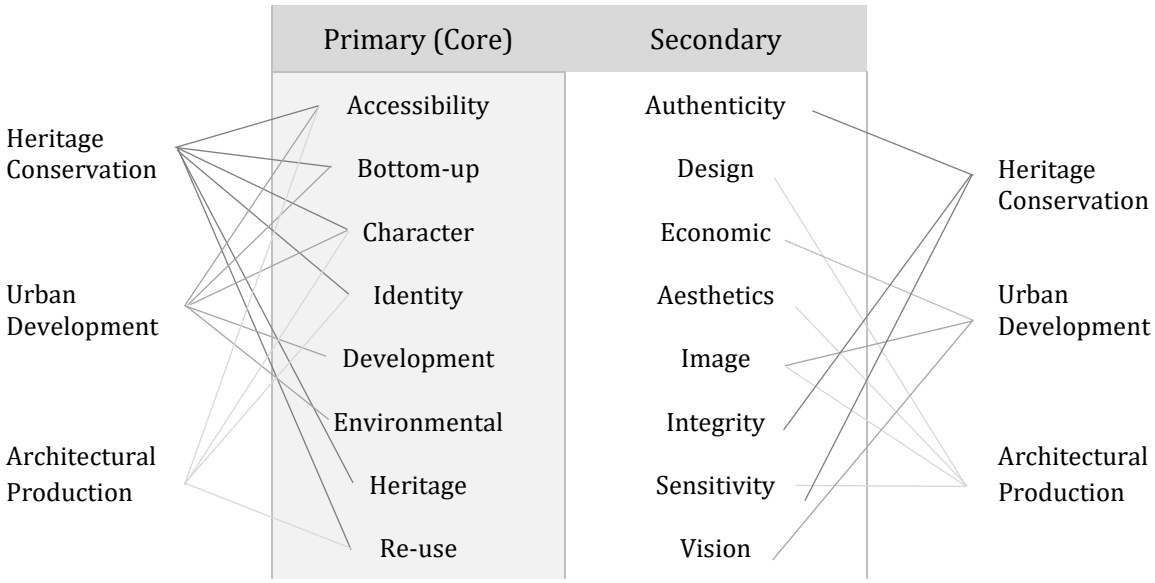

Table 03.2. *Primary and Secondary Value Categorisation of the IBA Emscher Park According to the General Transformations of Industrial Heritage Sites.*

Adapted from Oevermann, Heike and Harald A. Mieg, 2015, *Industrial Heritage Sites in Transformation: Clash of Discourses: Studying Transformations of Industrial Heritage Sites (Chapter 2)*, London and New York: Routledge.

The concept of industrial heritage in Ruhr germinates only after the industrial decline through bottom-up attention. The representatives notice the potential of Ruhr´s industrial legacy relatively soon after the decline, more thanks to the dedicated incentives from locals, artists and academics. Immediately, several local associations form in order to fight for heritage protection. The constant information flow ensures greater public participation. Such bottom-up initiatives are furthermore more approachable and easily integrated into the patron process while henceforth reviving new and often unexpected public spaces. Sometimes, locals recognise their area´s character sooner and know what is lacking/needs to be activated. As a result, a major part of the research findings builds on the

personal interviews with six local citizens conducted during April 2023 by the author (see Appendix for the interview transcript). They primarily provide a sufficient and valuable narrative of Ruhr´s regional identity (in the sense of personal identification) as the locals have lived in the region for years, some even for decades. Moreover, the perceptions "from below" (coming from the local community itself) support the examination of a particular shift from disgrace to pride in understanding industrial heritage and Ruhr´s eminent character.

03. c. 02. on resilience

Another IBA´s essence creates a fragmented landscape with a stack of historical layers (the so-called palimpsest). The extensive efforts of stakeholders mark a gradual reconnection of individual pieces. They accede to some scholars arguing that the resilience approach has the potential to inform the landscape policies in improved handling, analysing and understanding of change and loss (Plieninger and Bieling (eds.) 2012). The vulnerability of Ruhr´s industrial landscape becomes the key determinant. Additionally, the IBA initiative, knowingly or unknowingly, continues with an idea of resilience in landscape studies introduced by German architect Florian Beigel along with his research group (Beigel and Christou 2010). As an exception, the idea tends to disassociate itself from the omnipresent issue of resilience. The Beigel group works within a context of "connecting links" derived from an instant uncertainty of urban development, thus preventing a territory´s potential obsolescence or decay. The link strives for a temporal joint between the present and chancy future. Ultimately, the post-industrial landscape substantiates a so-called "garden" where a possibility to pre-set a formable agenda for latter building and spatial programs exists. Therefore, the time-resilient plan propounds an opportunity for open interpretation and potentially transforming circumstances. We follow the exact steps in the IBA agenda and two discussed flagship projects. It does not use a unifying, concretely settled plan throughout the whole 10-year process. Rather, the positive uncertainty is open to modifications and creativity. The temporality of landscape constitutes one of the thought-provoking ideas behind this concept. Therefore, we acknowledge the constant transformation of the landscape in every moment and every circumstance; thus, the landscape is not timeless. Moreover, such a strategy is considered to move the boundaries of the quality aspect of a well-designed programme or project (Beigel and Christou 2010). That is why we look at the IBA practice as one of the successful pioneering cases of this theory.

Naturally, the factual (aesthetical) value of ruined landscapes comes with rather superficial aspects of diversity, otherness and coarseness (Douet 2012, 153). The natural weathering processes generate it with little connotation to human intervention. The gradual

transferring of transient nature, little by little leading to decay and obsolescence, yet again contrasts the perception of durability and resilience. In reality, these two processes of value decline and increase intermingle. Sometimes to the extent that a line between human´s presupposition of resilience and obsolescence disappears or hastily turns over. Again, obsolescence marks the turning point when an area or structure reaches its definite expected lifespan, and thus its economic and social value turns virtually zero. Two primal influences merge along the way – those of technological innovations and fashion (Thompson 1979). This is particularly through for industrial spaces where the aspects of essence change faster and faster, and the temporality is certainly noticeable. In the end, observing and discussing what the future brings regarding the decay and obsolescence of the relatively novel projects within the IBA in some thirty to fifty years is particularly interesting. It provokes a question of what happens when industries that substantially give meaning to the region in the past and present fully disappear in the future. In general, it elicits potential research into the next step of the de-industrialisation process following the era of sustainability.

03. c. 03. on value

On a practical note, researchers Marilyn Palmer and Peter Neaverson (1998) point out that "in a dynamic environment, cultural resources must have an economic value and justify their existence in monetary terms as a heritage attraction or a viable adaptive reuse" (141). The danger of mere favouring of economic over cultural value, which predominantly affects all heritage processes, does not come as a burden for Ruhr´s restructuring. The overall funding derives from several resources; therefore, it is not altogether only reliant on a high-budget input during the preliminary phases. Consequently, the economic value does not dominate any project actions. Ultimately, the apparent solution to this issue emerges with placing a higher value on cultural identity, in the end, to arrive at its superiority rather than a means of economic well-being (Ashworth and Larkham (eds.) 1994, 225). This concerns Ruhr´s both top-down and bottom-up heritage-led initiatives. Nevertheless, Riegl (1996) alerts that the preservation processes must (!) always consider a contemporary value (or, as he recalls, "a practical daily value") along with the historical one. Here, we arrive at a general conclusion that "conflicts in heritage and planning practices are based on differences in values" (Oevermann and Mieg (eds.) 2015, 13). The IBA Emscher Park planner and architect Thomas Sieverts stresses a universal perspective that a human´s expansion of understanding of what is valuable derives from acknowledging different characteristics of his/her physical environment (Riesto 2018). An unfamiliarity or otherness in the process of understanding post-industrial areas produces novel perspectives in general revitalisation. The inconsistent and not strictly defined boundaries countenance a dynamic shaping of identity, values and

decay. Thus, it comes as a constant movement. People learn to utilise and underline the otherness rather than dismantle it. Specifically, the concept of New Heritage (CDA/CHD), as previously mentioned, suggests a wide variety of value prescriptions in the preliminary research, even to an extent when two matters collide. In that case, a mutual dialogue provokes an eye-opening perspective in future actions and allows for a broadening of possible horizons. Only then can we rely on our final decision made upon a presumably "right" choice. Hence, according to the sources, this is another theory implemented during the IBA Emscher Park.

03. c. 04. on transformation

We could easily regard the neglected industrial areas of Ruhrgebiet with spontaneously growing vegetation as an "accidental" park-like landscape. Nowadays, many experts argue that connecting the industrial parts back into the city rejuvenation and urban land exposes a great ecological potential where fauna and flora reappear and intercommunicate (see, for instance, Braae 2015). We can follow such predispositions even in the 18th-century picturesque gardens of Great Britain, where antique and ancient ruins embodied the decaying contrast to nature. This also becomes a central goal on the IBA´s agenda, concretely through one of the five leitmotifs called the "Landscape Park," where green corridors connect individual industrial sites. It represents kind of a novelty in the relationship between nature and humans (culture), with former brownfields as natural retreats and dumps as natural landmarks. Moreover, neologisms such as "industrial nature" (*Industrienatur)* to stress the Ruhr transitioning identity resonate all along (Douet 2012, 146). Nevertheless, we cannot forget the (occasionally) harmful consequences of industrial actions on ecological stability. Therefore, in general, the aim of recycling post-industrial landscapes is not trying to recover a pristine ecosystem. Elaborated examples of current practice, together with Ruhr, show a manageable retainment of biological diversity even in (post-) industrial areas. When industry vanishes, a new interpretation of "second-hand" natural cycles receives an opportunity to reappear in the urban context. Wild nature claims its place as the uncommon aesthetics and fascinating sublime layer. Interestingly, some of Ruhr´s green areas become part of the *European Garden Heritage Network*, a non-profit organisation which supports transnational cooperation between historically valuable gardens to patronise regional development and cultural heritage (Berkenbosch, Groote and Stoffelen 2022).

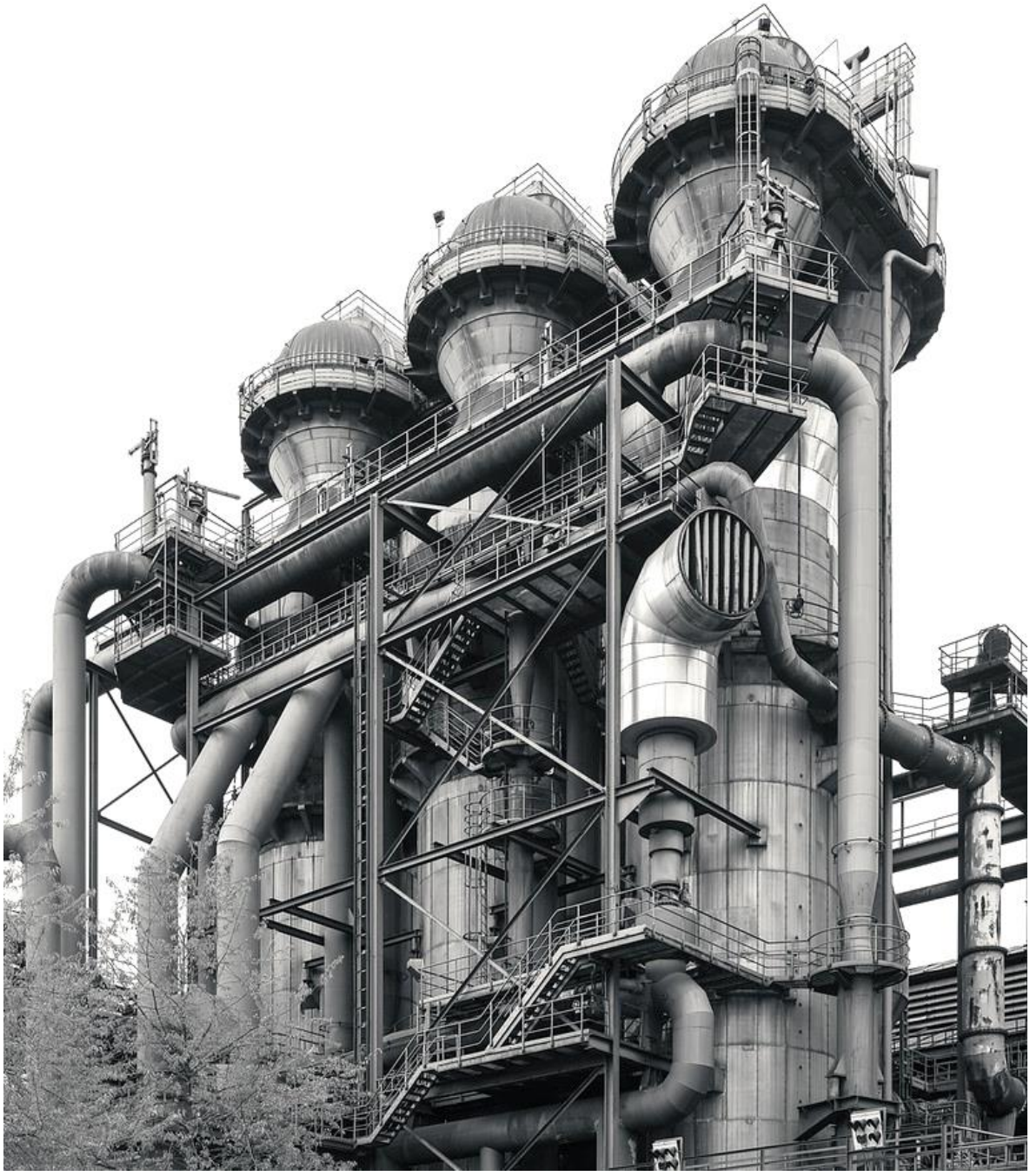

Figure 03.7. *Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, Hochofen 5 und Aussichtsplattform.* The design incorporates newly accessible viewing platforms around the industrial sculptures. The photograph captures one of the former blast furnaces. Photograph by the author.

03. d. zooming on: landschaftspark duisburg-nord

The winning transformation proposal of the IBA flagship project titled *Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord,* presented by Peter Latz in 1990, begins with *acceptance*. The form and extent of this acceptance define the first steps within architectural and urban design. This follows the leading theoretical supposition of dealing with industrial heritage in post-industrial landscapes. Nevertheless, it is even more pursued when empathy towards heritage and previous land use appears in the process. In this sense, the industrial structures and sculptures of the Thyssen Ironworks provide harmony between the old and new, with qualities and opportunities instead of waste and repurpose instead of demolition. The temporality of the landscape is present, connecting the past, present and future. German Latz+ Partner office (led by above mentioned Peter Latz) and their revitalisation approach unconditionally strive to recognise as many qualities and values of labour and technological processes engraved on the site as possible. The prioritisation of the maximum preservation based on memory makes the office a winner of the announced competition among five other international planning teams. It ultimately continued in the bottom-up initiative of the locals, which argued for structural preservation right after the workplace´s closure and the last tapping of the blast furnace in April 1985 (Storm 2014, 106). The first step begins with the shallow rescue of ironworks remnants from proposed demolition. Responsibility surrounding the complex proceeding towards a well-received post-industrial transformation thus appears extensive. Luckily, Latz shows no fear in the possibility of heating an argument about whether the industrial installations hold either a future economic or ecological potential. In addition, such preliminary schematic research weighs all inputs entering the design process regarding economic, ecological, social and cultural factors and values. In the end, the attainment of the industrial recycling and plotted design speak for themselves (depicted in Figure 03.8.) as the office receives major post-industrial renewals worldwide following the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord´s result.

03. d. 01. layers of culture & nature

Firstly, the cultural utilisation of the 230 ha brownfield area with the former ironworks of Meidericher Hütte opens up space for potential top-down or bottom-up organised events. Culture and art thus arise as the vital elements of Ruhr´s regional identity. The leitmotif of cultural reintegration certainly portrays provided accessibility even of the former hardly accessible points. The new regional public space suddenly renders a coherent site open to various leisure activities for both locals and visitors. An opportunity for playing

with heights allows for incredible lookouts from the machines and technical tracks never previously sighted, adding a fresh perspective to the area´s lure (Figure 03.7.). New cycle paths result from the formerly abandoned railways. The promenades on different levels connect former railways, steelworks, shafts and other places of industrial heritage value and interest. They pick up the threads of historically existing routes which naturally divide the area into smaller comprehensive sections. The middle part of the former steel mill now holds a significant meeting point and gathering place – the so-called Piazza Metallica.

Without a doubt, an idealisation of industry and nostalgia happen to be present during the whole revitalisation process. Furthermore, maximal reuse and adaptation of retained materials and structures assume a partial contribution to cultural and ecological recycling. Again, their decay is not suppressed but rather celebrated to initiate natural processes with the passing of time. The support of workplace and machinery identities in Duisburg-Nord begins with a choice to preserve the necessity for such initiative. With its blast furnace plant ensemble, the Meidericher Hütte ironworks create a contemporary landmark as "the park´s topographic and cultural focal point" (Zlonicky 2004, 56). The area subtext comprises "a complicated history of war, contaminated ground, and a partly lost industrial identity, along with difficulties of long-term hope for the future once the initial enthusiasm for the spectacular changes has faded" (Storm 2014, 15). It is precisely the presence of the blast furnace that conduces to Ruhr´s regional identity and forms its substantial element. On the other hand, striving for desired preservation does not negatively affect the design´s creativity. Latz+ Partner introduces an anticipated symbiosis even at that matter.

03. d. 02. layers of culture & nature

Secondly, the office opts for allowing a layer of nature to penetrate the park by itself, each time alternating its aesthetics and appearance. Thus, in every moment when visiting the complex, a person notices slight or apparent changes in the character between the "nature and industry" balance. Their interconnection becomes obvious. During the 1990s transitions, one resident from the close vicinity of the ironworks described the area as "… a sort of paradise garden; it is an enormous, gorgeous variety" (Keil, Wetterau and Ruhr 2013, 125). Seasonality also partakes in the changing identity. As such, the action delivers a nostalgic historical connotation of nature practically retracting its one-time territory. It is a dynamic natural process of succession so widely propagated in the CHD heritage sentiment. Again, a historical link with the British 18th-century gardens full of ruins contrasting nature emerges. Thus, various kinds of trees, herbs, mosses and shrubs receive enough space to operate under the newly coined concept of *industrial nature* (*Industrienatur)*. Latz (2000) summarises the

process as "the result [being] the metamorphosis of a landscape without destroying existing features, an archetypal dialogue between the tame and the wild… The artefacts symbolise ecology of both natural and technical systems" (96).

On top of that, vegetation massively contributes to the aesthetics of the heavily contaminated sections, which are still inaccessible to the public. For instance, the so-called "roof gardens," small and intimate with a random plant selection, cover the sealed toxic materials up to now. The planners utilise a cost-effective plant-based technology of *phytoremediation*, with nature itself (living plants) cleaning up the contaminated soil, water and air (Kirkwood 2001). Ecologically wise, this step certainly exacts extensive soil replacement with a new layer of uncontaminated dirt. The process of cultural, economic and environmental recycling is utilised in its every potential. Hence, the Landscaft spark, with its biodiversity and spontaneous vegetation, becomes one of the eight green corridors essential for the IBA Emscher Park programme via the "Landscape Park" initiative. However, some opponents argue that the layer of nature might cover the cultural layer to an extreme extent while hiding and camouflaging the workers´ everyday struggles and intangible legacy in general. Therefore, as does Anna Storm (2014), they ask for more critical engagement, according to the CHD. Here, we can again see the significant element of any post-industrial reclamation seeking an ideal balance within the nature-culture relationship.

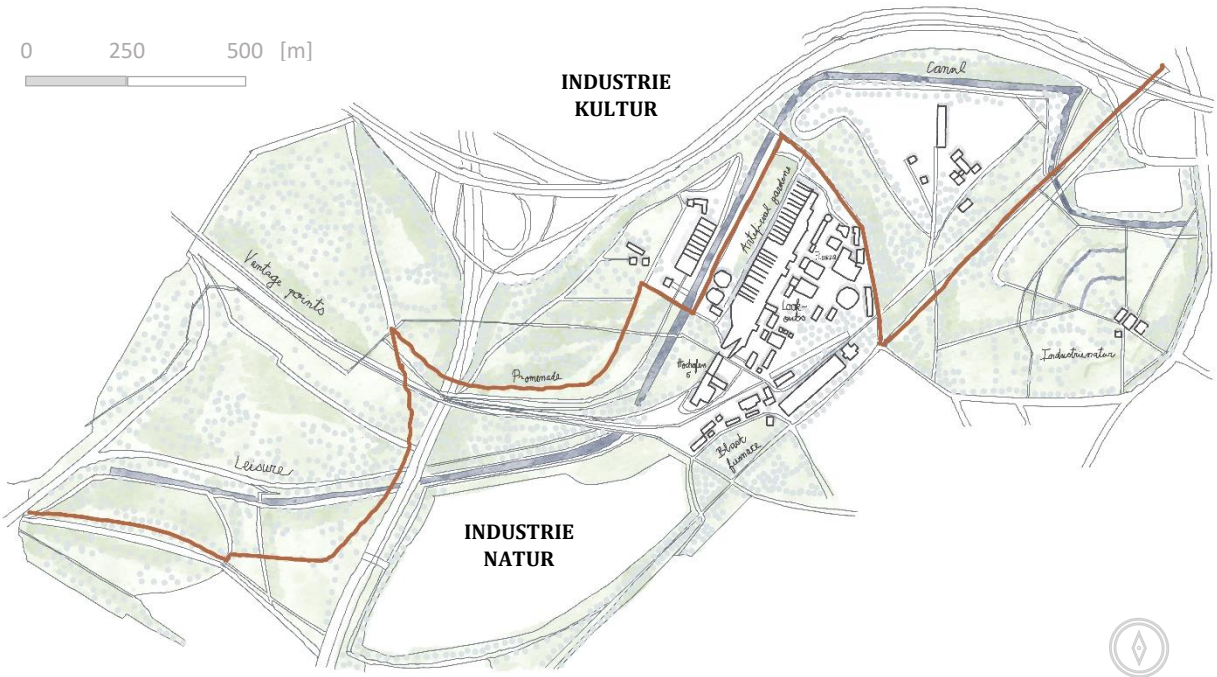

Figure 03.8. *Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord 1991 Master Plan by Latz+ Partner.* The industriekultur and identity are surrounded by the dynamic natural setting. Drawing by the author.

Adapted from Latz+ Partner, 1991, "Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, DE," accessed April 5, 2023, https://www.latzundpartner.de/de/projekte/postindustrielle-landschaften/landschaftspark-duisburg-nord-de/.

03. d. 03. layers of time

Thirdly, another prominent layer of acceptance portrays the time alone. Naturally, corrosion, weathering and patina cover most of the industrial leftovers. A major part of the land area is still left for latter spontaneous growth, following the Biegel theory and its temporal link between present and future. The planners are confident in the area´s change and definite dynamism. The processes of decay, dismantling, repair, and construction always remain active on the site, contributing to the factor of regional identity at every possible moment. New lives of the built environment and landscape overlay the existing structures while celebrating the history and place identity. We regard the park to be alive; thus, its creation is ongoing. Continuity is welcomed rather than suppressed. Professionals use historical preservation and remediation technologies and their interconnection to re-establish cultural values with the 19th- and 20th-century industrial heritage. Moreover, they do so with deep respect for the integrity of existing layers in the landscape palimpsest (Kirkwood 2001). Memory serves as a central theme to non-violently provide the initial workers with a space to reconnect and the present generations to understand. On that account, Latz (2000) explains that various site interrelations are designed as concrete and visible to a viewer for him to create his own picture and identity of the place. The implementation thus suppresses a designer´s strict imprint.

Besides, the project often uses a practice of difference in contrasting the old and new, obliquely following the 1964 Venice Charter (Braae 2015). Its essence presents acceptance rather than forceable blending in the original elements. The past and present layers and fragments in the landscape matrix communicate, and Landschaftspark literally embodies the area where “new meets old.” This is particularly visible in the components of accessibility through the step of architectural production. Newly accessible lines of pathways, ramps, terraces and routes emanate in bright colours (yellow, blue, red) to contrast the industry´s bland (grey and brown) colour scheme. On top of that, the office´s approach pursues testing new methods. The methodology during the preliminary stages, using personal on-site analysis, variation of sketches and in-depth historical, environmental and social research, proves sufficient in the post-industrial landscape theory. “The task of dealing with run-down industrial areas and open cast mines requires a new method that accepts their physical qualities, but also their destroyed nature and topography… it should not be one of “recultivation,” for this approach negates the qualities … and destroys that for the second time” (Latz 1998, 8).

All of the approaches mentioned above give rise to the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord design, serving as an exemplary reference even after three decades when dealing with inactive post-industrial landscapes. The design results in blending human intervention with natural processes. Their coexistence and mingling become apparent to be crucial in any post-industrial reclamation. The past is never hidden, and human use and misuse are still very legible. “The primary motive for a visit to the park is the unique atmosphere” (Kirkwood 2001, 159). Following the CHD notions, the project´s function secures a place of commemoration and identity (on the national, regional and local levels) rather than aesthetically pleasing scenery or a “mere” natural park. It becomes Ruhr´s landmark (as depicted in Figure 03.9.), with designers recognising and using the industrial heritage value while trying not to misuse it.

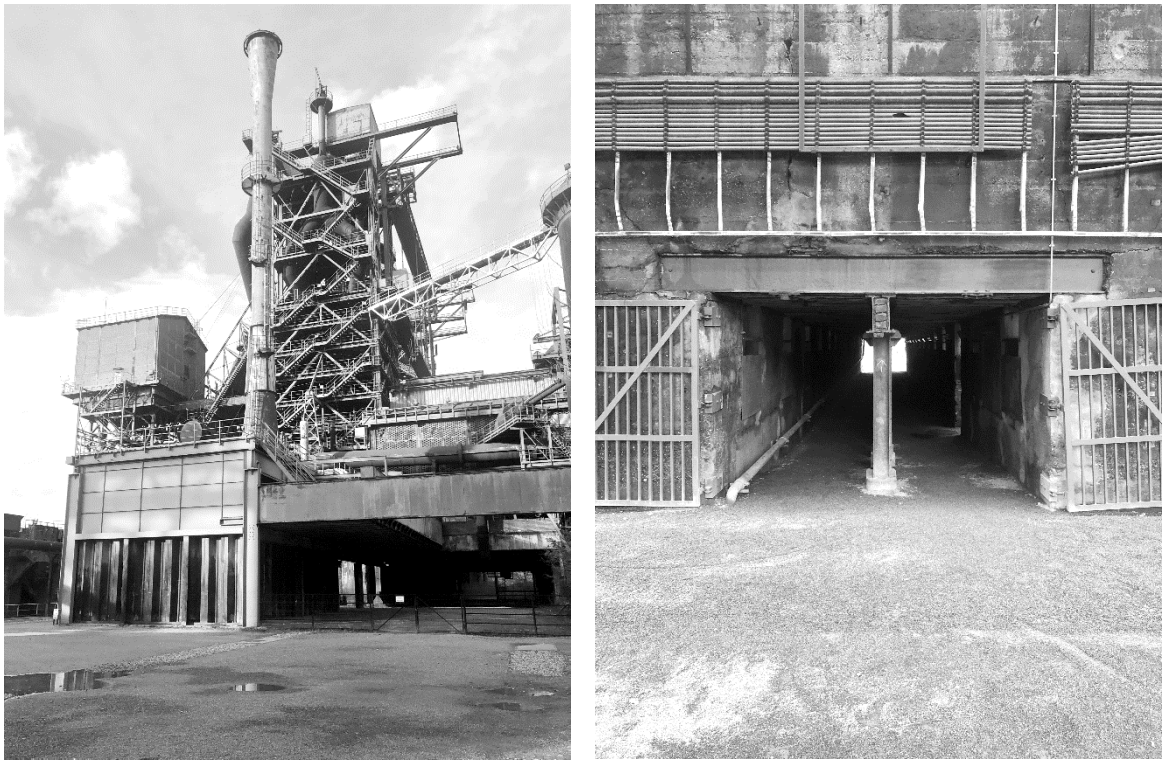

Figure 03.9. *Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord.* In the contemporary re-evaluation process, industrial heritage transitions through culture from the industrial land (a place of work and home, *Altindustriestandorte*) into the post-industrial landscape (heritage, *postindustrielle Landschaften*). Photographs by the author.

Figure 03.10. *Zeche Zollverein Coal Mining Complex in Essen, Shaft XII.* The pit headframe gives rise to the complex being known as the "cathedral of labour." Photograph by the author.

03. e. zooming on: zeche zollverein

Another successful icon in Ruhr´s post-industrial landscape revitalisation within the IBA Emscher Park introduced a former complex of coal production in Essen. Bauhaus architects Fritz Schupp (1896-1974) and Martin Kremmer (1894-1945) designed the Zeche Zollverein building ensemble at the turn of the 1930s to be the largest extraction and processing plant of that time (Dorstewitz 2014). They used the *New Objectivity* style with the first traces of industrial production. Thanks to its characteristic appearance (also captured in Figure 03.10.), the coal mining complex happened to be universally known as the "cathedral of labour" or the "Eiffel Tower of Ruhrgebiet" (LaBelle 2001, 225). It arose as a symbol of *Industriekultur.* Following the 1980s de-industrialisation and extensive closures all over the region, the residues of industrial operation in Essen last saw the light in December 1986. However, its closure marked social and economic changes in the whole Ruhr valley as Zollverein became one of the last areas with industrial production.

03. e. 01. layers of value shift

The initial ideas esteemed the Zollverein site to be suitable for the creation of waste discharge or demolition, presumably followed by new construction with low-selling costs via private investors. Nonetheless, not only the area´s monumental and heritage values have immediately after been recognised. The bottom-up initiatives grew even more prominently and came to be one the loudest in the entire IBA restructuring. Hence, former Zollverein workers began to fight for the monument´s significance and place identity immediately after its closure, even without any clear concept of its potential future (Shaw 2002, 87). Subsequently, locals started to utilise the up-to-now closed-off territory for recreation purposes in no time, which helped to encourage a possible reuse determination. As a consequence, a construction cooperation manager opted for not only the feasible preservation of the building complex but also its surrounding open spaces. The actions met their purpose as a vital discussion followed whether the value of open spaces was perhaps comparable to that of the built environment (Dammers, et al. 2004).

What started with bottom-up attention soon led to top-down governance through culture and heritage-led regeneration under the regional umbrella of the IBA Emscher Park. Zollverein´s gradual transformation officially proceeded in 1994, with the German office Planergruppe Oberhausen as the leading designer. After the IBA´s termination, the Dutch studio OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture, led by Rem Koolhaas) completed a rather

dynamic masterplan with open-ended resolutions in 2002 (Figure 03.11.). It merely served as a framework for short-term and long-term urban development surrounding the former mining site (Dammers, et al. 2004). Visions and goals continuously developed thanks to the open environment of citizen participation with experimental exploration. Here, we borrowed the term coined by researcher Philipp Dorstewitz (2014), who referred to the whole planning process as an *urban laboratory*. Its idea resembled the mentioned Biegel´s theory of temporality. It was exactly this fact of open space for new and creative incentives with a strong respect for its historical legacy that suggested Zollverein´s general success in the post-industrial transformation (Figure 03.12.). Again, the process of spontaneous vegetation growth and nature reclamation found its role in the revitalisation. In addition, regarding the culture-nature relationship and its subsequent impulse, German sculptor Ulrich Rückriem received a chance to complement the landscape (or wasteland) with a number of monolithic granite sculptures. Interestingly, the choice of granite material resembled a kind of resilience. This was also attributed to the dialogue of temporality, when with time, the present became the past, and the initial past deepened into an even further past.

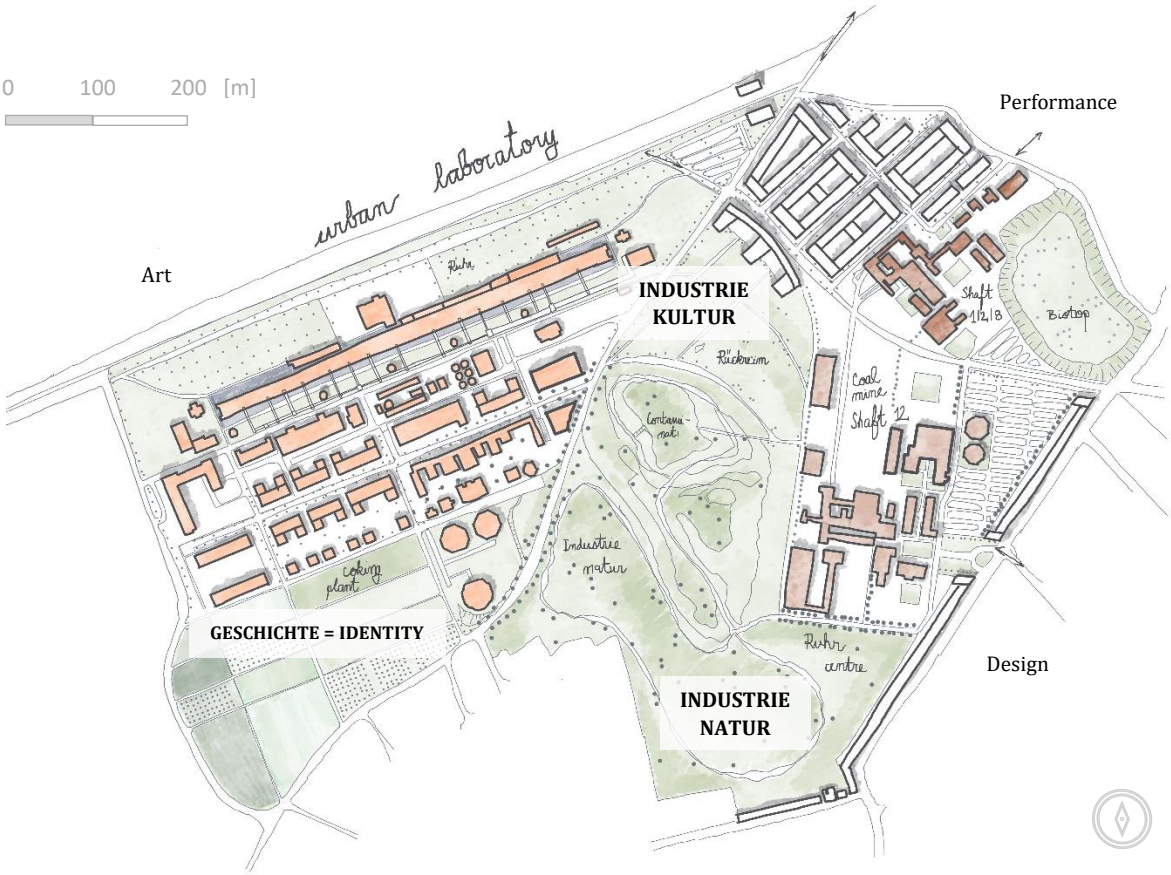

Figure 03.11. *Zollverein´s 2002 Dynamic Master Plan by OMA.* The employment and interconnection of culture (industriekultur) and nature (industrienatur) are highly visible. The plan works predominantly with existing structures and the environment. Drawing by the author.

Adapted from Office for Metropolitan Architecture, 2002, "Zollverein Masterplan," accessed April 5, 2023, https://www.oma.com/projects/zollverein-masterplan.

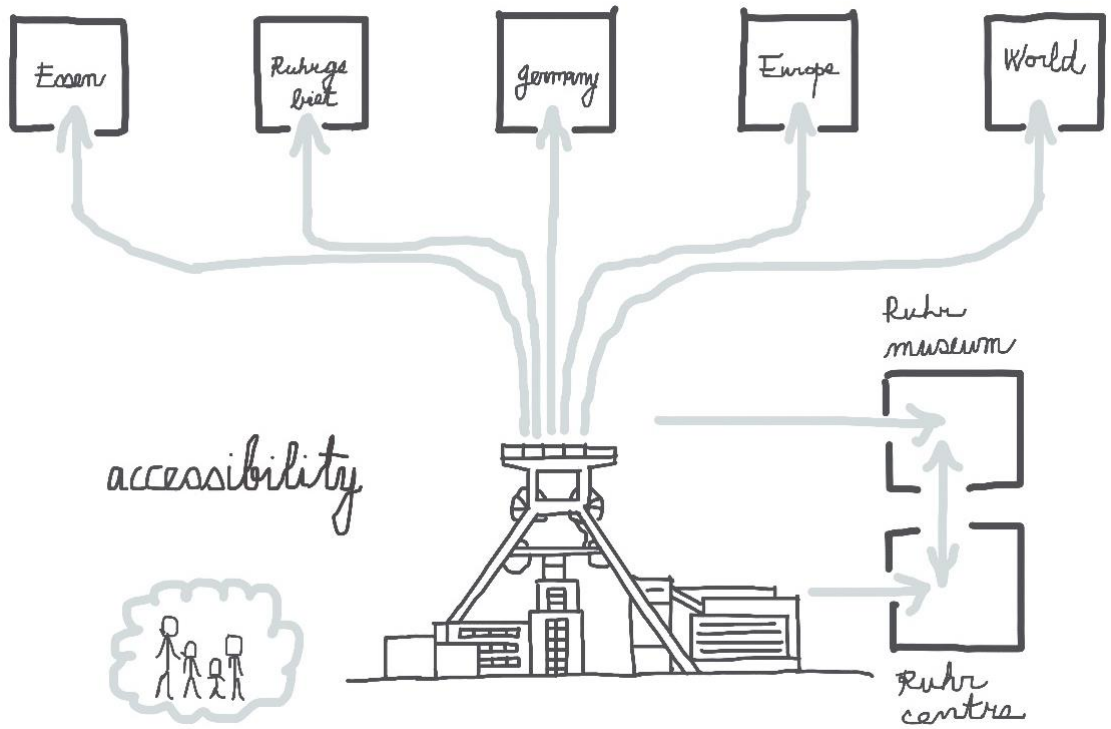

Figure 03.12. *The Idea of Zollverein´s Accessibility by OMA.* The diagram´s substance lies in making industrial heritage and Ruhr´s identity accessible to anyone and manageable by anyone. It highlights not only local or regional significance (mutual reliance with Germany, Europe and the whole world itself). Drawing by the author.

Adapted from Office for Metropolitan Architecture, 2002, "Zollverein Masterplan," accessed April 5, 2023, https://www.oma.com/projects/zollverein-masterplan.

03. e. 02. layers of the AHD?

Originally, the industrial leftovers evinced feelings of unaffordable protection and obsolescence with no real value. Interestingly, its value has immensely shifted after the twenty-year-long process. Zollverein became the first officially protected industrial complex/building in West Germany in 1986, immediately following its shutdown. The experiments elicited historical and social meanings, heritage significance and creativity stimulation. Subsequently, the Zollverein Mining Complex was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001 for its "remarkable material evidence of the evolution and decline of an essential industry over the past 150 years" (Dammers et al. 2004, 114). Its heritage values have thus suddenly come to attention even on a broader scale. Furthermore, the Zollverein´s rising international recognition was even engaged on the first general Industrial Archaeology list by TICCIH along with five other European recorded sites (for

instance, the pumping stations in Kinderdijk-Elshout in the Netherlands or the Canal du Centre in Belgium) (Douet 2012, 176). These actions do not necessarily contribute to the AHD conception; however, a certain risk comes with the potential heritage overprotection. A following issue with Zollverein´s industrial heritage is the constant polarisation echoing since the 1980s, even after the listing, regarding the aesthetics appreciation or the question of contested connotations towards the industrial past (Dorstewitz 2014). It still comes as a difficult part of recent history, and its appropriate valorisation is thus questioned nowadays. We can apply this dissonance to the entire post-industrial environment, in Ruhrgebiet or elsewhere. Nevertheless, it is the Zeche Zollverein site that screams for balance the loudest due to the official acknowledgement on higher levels and the listing procedure.

The immediate effort of ex-miners to regard the environment as something valuable suggests a strong identity and history establishment since the 1980s decline. Thus, the industrial remnants undeniably possess intense intangible reflection (memories, emotions, feelings) and powerfully state the identity even on a higher (regional) level (Figure 03.13.). This fact is later sufficiently acknowledged by the IBA initiatives. Nevertheless, the revitalisation process implements a more open-minded negotiation regarding various meanings of heritage and identity (accordingly to the CHD, as dynamic processes). Consequently, Zollverein substantiates an important tribute in shaping Ruhr´s fresh regional identity based on industrial history. However, a certain aspect of the Authorised Heritage Discourse portrays the process of intense touristification and musealisation (Figure 03.14.). As such, the built environment itself houses cultural and art uses – a visitor centre, museums, cultural organisations and dining (Egberts 2017, 177). To promote (or to commemorate?) the Ruhr´s regional identity and industrial value, the Ruhr Museum in the former powerhouse presents various collections and representations of the region´s complex industrial narrative from 2007. Such an activation enhances the cultural aspect of heritage valorisation by a certain amount, and the site becomes the IBA´s representative of the experimental testing. Nonetheless, Zollverein´s character has the potential to unknowingly become a marketing tool in an extensive manner. Furthermore, following its once more established significance through the listing, the site incorporates diverse projects from internationally renowned architectural and urban planning studios – British Foster+ Partners, German Böll Architekten or Japanese SANAA.

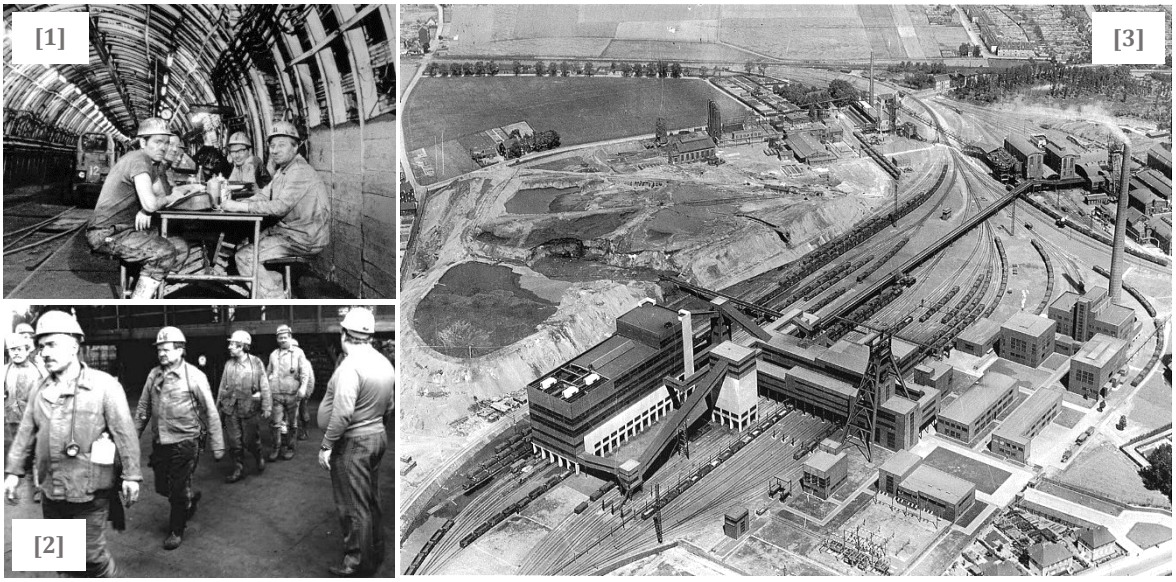

Figure 03.13. *Zollverein´s 20th-century Value and Identity as a Working Place.* The archival photos capture Ruhr´s industries and land in their 20th-century heyday (from the 1930s to the 80s). At that time, the whole region of Ruhrgebiet and Zollverein as its prime exponent, substantiated Europe´s industrial heartland and society largely depended upon its thriving. "Glück auf!"

Source [1]: Unknown. 1970s. Ruhr Museum Photo Archive. Source [2]: Vollmer, Manfred. 1986. Ruhr Museum Photo Archive. Source [3]: Meinholz, Anton. 1932. Ruhr Museum Photo Archive.

Figure 03.14. *Zollverein´s 21st-century Value and Identity as a Post-Industrial Landscape.* The current atmosphere emanates a strong culture-nature relationship. Photographs by the author.

chapter 04

results

04

"How are industrial heritage value and regional identity manifested in the 10-year post-industrial restructuring process of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park in the Ruhr region from 1989 to today?"

The Ruhr region still embodies an area of post-industrial transition while fighting ongoing economic decline. It should not be forgotten that the constant state of restructuring is present. Ruhrgebiet is not the only example of industrial archaeology characterising its environment´s substance; however, it comes as a unique European region with the largest number of industrial leftovers and a former European industrial heartland. Consequently, its 10-year programme of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park from 1989 to 1999 builds on several criteria: industrial heritage comes as tangible evidence of the transition from an industrial to a post-industrial landscape, and its preservation enhances the local identities. On that account, the strong industrial narrative fuels consumption-driven development. Its propagation as the "Workshop for the Future of Old Industrial Areas" gives an explicit direction since its beginnings. Moreover, the research shows that, in the case of the IBA Emscher Park, it is exactly the bottom-up activism towards tangible and intangible heritage-led reclamation that saves many elements of industrial culture and what is now considered heritage and monuments. Greater use of public participation and dynamic actor cooperation and communication prove to boost the regional identity. Without it, a successful transition between the industry as a workplace and industrial heritage hardly happens. Furthermore, the IBA´s regular information flow between various stakeholders ensures the effectiveness of public engagement according to the Critical Heritage Discourse, balancing the expert approach.

Although sometimes competing between the cities, we observe that Ruhr´s regional identity and connection to history, in this sense, emerge and exist. The issue of disappearing regional identity is repeatedly linked to industrial heritage sites to promote at least some kind of its sense. Over and above, the identity transitions from "looking down upon the industrial past" towards "cherishing it" throughout and after the whole IBA process. Protection and self-esteem replace feelings of rejection and obsolescence. Propagation of industrial heritage helps to set a coherent picture of Ruhr to the outside world. Particularly the delicate attitude of former coal miners and industrial workers, and their understanding of post-industrial sites gradually change. The research results (not only via personal interviews) reveal that citizens are now proud of their industrial heritage, which is the prime segment of their identity and sense of belonging. Although, it must be noted that this appears to be true for the older than younger generation, which does not associate itself with the

heritage of coal and steel as much as society anticipates. The term *industrial heritage* or *industriekultur* itself gains greater subconsciousness in public minds. In this matter, the IBA programme vehemently contributes to the boosting shift.

Another point would be the environmental endeavour for change and ecological re-structurisation since the IBA´s starting initiatives. The bottom-up activities cushion the inevitable consequences of de-industrialisation. Industrial heritage as a self-evident symbol constitutes Ruhr as a coherent region aiming towards social and economic progress. Suddenly, new accessibility of the initially closed-off land becomes one major contribution to the region´s identity shift. It highlights an important change in the post-industrial restructuring towards the interconnected landscape-park area along the culture-nature relationship (primarily observed through the flagship projects of Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord and Zeche Zollverein). Hence, the IBA contributes to a new understanding of de-industrialisation redevelopment, primarily through history appreciation. It helps to define a new meaning of cultural heritage, industrial legacy and sense of belonging within the Ruhr region itself. The research substantiates that, perhaps, without the IBA Emscher Park, there would be hardly any heritage value or regional identity to investigate. As such, the programme successfully sets these contemporary elements of Ruhr´s intangible legacy and is not afraid to address its sensitive past. The new meanings and definitions enhance new opportunities in the region´s sustainable and prospering transformation.

However, the findings question the regional restructuring and initiatives when considering primarily a national level of interest in the region. The state itself always elicits the first steps in Ruhr´s transformation process, as particularly seen in the case of the IBA programme. This tackles a conjecture that the manifested regional identity needs a "hint" from the upper levels of governance to address the regional issues. It implies that the regional network system lacks any form of collective regional vision and self-preservation despite the early signs of deterioration during the 1960s and 70s denial of industrial decline. Additionally, the regional character was not strong enough on its own to withstand the ongoing economic, social and environmental crisis before the IBA implementation, not even through local activism. The personal interviews (see Appendix for the transcript) and observations reveal that Ruhr´s character still struggles with a negative image and historical links in the national context. Undeniably, the process of changing image from other points of view proves to last longer than pursuing the change in own identity. In this respect, the IBA appears to push Ruhr´s conception to a more positive outset, at least a little. Today, the region´s constant engagement in cultural events supports the bolstering on national and international levels. Another counter perspective to addressing industrial legacy to a large

extent through monocentric identity arises. The research argues that Ruhr´s omnipresent connection with industry causes and predetermines restructuring actions to stagnate or not critically search for innovative alterations. In theory, the stagnation and passive reliance on established perceptions go against the New Heritage or CHD concepts while inclining closer to the nowadays "feared" AHD. It can also lead to greater industrial heritage marketing, monumentalisation and unintentional conservation with aesthetic inaccuracy. For instance, we can perceive such an action of unintentional heritage dilution through the Industrial Heritage Route, created partly for marketing purposes and tourism.

The thesis analyses subsequent questions to understand and build the research´s theoretical framework within regional post-industrial transformations:

"What does regional identity indicate along the transformation processes of the derelict post-industrial landscapes?"

In this matter, the research shows that any well-done transformation of a post-industrial environment begins with acceptance. An identity enhancement followed by a sense of belonging builds on acceptance of industrial heritage in any form and its tangled past in the concrete context. Above all, this comes as a pivotal criterion in social and cultural cohesion and greater participation through inclusion. The place identity serves as a starting point to allow the reclamation actions (the future) to build on various links with the present (through the past). Constant establishment and bolstering of regional identity improve an area´s cohesion through all possible levels and facilitates unifying and legitimising policies and policy feedback in practice. The reinforcement proves to be important primarily from the "inside" to help connect locals to their intangible legacy. While prioritising the perspective from the "outside" (on larger scales without local binding), we endanger heritage by stripping it of context, over-touristification, artificial aestheticisation or passive musealisation.

Lastly, focusing on a region as a territorial category rather than a nation proves to satisfy the historical industrial development, as a strong industrial narrative is commonly embedded in smaller parts of the nation itself. Thus, it better corresponds to the studying and critical understanding of industrial heritage within a context and local community, according to the contemporary CHD. It activates greater heritage valorisation and democratisation from the "bottom" through more intense bonds towards a place and its character.

"What contemporary heritage challenges do the regeneration and revitalisation processes of the neglected industrial environment bring?"

Firstly, all of the concepts discussed in the research - heritage, landscape, regional identity, obsolescence and value form a fluid framework. None is static, and their dynamism depends on many inputs and factors. They appeal to the setting in a particular context. This collides with long-term strategic planning, sometimes resulting in unforeseeable and unpredictable changes during the process. It can inevitably lead to loss in economic, ecological and cultural terms. Thus, strategies are often bound to a certain time and place, and their implementation somewhere else needs to be revised. In reality, any post-industrial transformation practically copes with starting from a beginning through a trial-and-error method, lacking any form of guidance or reliance on preceding examples. As a consequence, strong vision or leadership may not be present, and disintegration, abandonment or frustration can occur.

Secondly, extensive building on legacies can sometimes suppress the creative initiatives towards finding the best solution for reclamation. On the other hand, industrialisation can sometimes (un-) intentionally overshadow other parts of history. The processes of *touristification* and *musealisation*, building rather on aesthetic and economic values, ultimately support the direction of industrial heritage towards authorisation rather than taking its stance in the CHD/CDA. Another potential difficulty recognises misuse or over-commercialisation for a pure strategy towards economic recovery, albeit it can apply to all kinds of heritage. Additionally, this can result in exclusive or elitist top-down narratives which are not, in their essence, desirable in any transformation process while distancing from the AHD. Hence, the research stresses the undeniable importance of a multivocal environment through inclusion and participation towards industrial heritage democratisation. Ruhr´s IBA Emscher Park comes as one example of this matter.

On the contrary, the present challenges of post-industrial landscapes include abandonment and disinterest in industrial heritage, especially in countries where industrial heritage becomes addressed only recently. The worldwide acknowledgement interferes while prioritising other heritage and historical groups over the industrial one. Consequently, there is a need for the industrial heritage narrative to broaden itself as soon as possible to address not only the Western world. The process of de-industrialisation with similar issues while determining its legacy is currently happening in other locations throughout Asia, South America or Australia. Moreover, its stance in the New Heritage milieu is undeniable and strong; however, the CHD still suppresses its propagation as one of the most important parts of human history. Some look upon the industrial environment being an “ugly duckling” and a blameable factor of diverse crises rather than praising evolution.

chapter 05

discussion

05

The research shows that the interconnection of creative industries (design, urban planning, architecture) and the use of heritage within the regeneration processes proves to implement better results through spontaneous and incremental initiatives than via a large redevelopment master plan. It shows an easier way to communicate and navigate the equilibrium between three subcategories introduced by researchers Oevermann and Mieg (2015): heritage conservation, urban development and architectural production in the reclamation of post-industrial landscapes. Such an integrated approach in urban planning leads to sustainable development. Simultaneously, industrial heritage asks for an interpretation as cultural heritage in the sense of *New Heritage* (CHD/CDA) strategies than as a mere building restoration. Nowadays, not only industrial heritage becomes a tool to promote a specific area, for instance, a region, and a tool to bring people of the area together through place identity and a sense of belonging. Besides, heritage and its appropriation often reveal the reality of tpolitical and economic environment – social hierarchy, exclusion vs inclusion of communities and the concept of democracy. As such, it heavily depends on the context. Generally, any heritage value (the past) proves to support any urban redevelopment and helps to integrate its present and future strategy.

When putting the positive aspects of industrial heritage value and regional identity together within a local community, Dutch researcher Karst Berkenbosch et al. (2022) summarise:

> *"Industrial heritage narratives can be socially significant to communities by providing an understanding of the current post-industrial society, advancing residents´ psychological processing of the often distressing period of de-industrialisation, or helping to fill in the identification gap after industrial closure."*
>
> (Berkenbosch, Groote and Stoffelen 2022, 330)

Therefore, an invitation for overall participation and inclusion within any transformation strategies is one of the crucial steps towards a successful revitalisation of the post-industrial landscapes. This adequately correlates with the critical rethinking of the whole industrial heritage concept and its appropriation by today´s (present) society through the CHD and AHD compromise. Context, dynamism and temporality navigate the process of the past democratisation to the present and future. Human beings set personal and collective (local, regional) identities and a sense of belonging through heritage and its valorisation. Thus, the relationship between heritage value and regional identity, although slightly understudied, is naturally combined and jointly applied. As such, it still embodies an intangible legacy, and its research in qualitative and quantitative matters can be biased and less objective. Moreover,

the interdependence and substance of industrial heritage (as the past) in creating one´s identity should refrain from curtailing any creativity and technical progress of the present decision-making.

In reference to the thesis findings, certain disclaimers apply. Due to time and spatial constraints, the research focuses solely on one case study as a strategic example and primarily analyses Western phenomena. The literature, individual perceptions and concepts within the heritage discipline reflect particularly "Western" culture, ideas and thinking of a person born, studying and living in Europe. This is foremost the main limitation. Secondly, predominantly German language tracks and passes the information and framework of the German case study with less background in English. The personal language barrier of not mastering the German language might possess or reveal some obstacles, although the aim is towards its most possible elimination. Among the limitations, one particularly stands out. That is the lack of documentation on the intangible heritage of Ruhr within any sources in comparison to other post-industrial regions. Especially considering the crucial relevance of industrial workers´ identity and immaterial legacy for the findings. Methods used in the thesis, such as the interviews with locals, reveal that an understanding of something abstract (intangible character and past) may be limited and sometimes inexpressible. Mainly the IBA Emscher Park programme lacks proper legacy evaluation and retrospective feedback; therefore, it complicates further examination. However, any research regarding industrial heritage as a "modern concept" alerts us to such an issue. Nevertheless, general observations and deductions can be applied in this respect, even when working on personal experience and observations.

chapter 06

conclusion

06

And so the sky above Ruhr becomes blue again. The research uses a multi-perspective examination of the heritage concept within the Critical Heritage Discourse while studying industrial heritage value and regional identity and their combination. It does so based on one representative case study – Ruhrgebiet in Western Germany and its post-industrial restructuring through the 10-year programme of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park from 1989 until today. It analyses the construction of collective space (a region) based on collective pasts (industrial heritage and identity). The critical rethinking of coined concepts and methods and the contemporary perspective of the heritage studies discipline followed in Chapter 02 renders significant inputs into any post-industrial transformation. The case study presents that industrial heritage, post-industrial landscape and regional identity as subjective dynamic processes considerably require local participation from the "bottom" and the "inside," corresponding to the Critical Heritage Discourse within the contemporary heritage studies.

Even though Ruhr´s regional identity has experienced many somersaults since the late 18th century, it has always built on its heritage and the past from industrialisation. Chapter 03 examines Ruhr´s historical setting as the European industrial heartland and the region´s extensive restructuring in the current times of de-industrialisation since the 1980s following the industrial withdrawal. The image of "obsolete and non-functional" brownfields with a focus on labour (the past) transitions into the post-industrial landscape regarding *heritage* and *identity* (the present and future). Shifts in local perspectives, primarily from the workers, accompany the process while moving from shame and despair to pride. The 1989-1999 IBA Emscher Park introduces one of the initiatives to strengthen the region´s overall bond and value reinforcement as the "Workshop for the Future of Industrial Regions." The representatives build on active creativity and transparency and follow the bottom-up starting initiatives in consonance with the CHD´s theory. As the region´s added value, the IBA reveals that intangible legacy has a tremendous impact on Ruhr´s community even after forty years. Nonetheless, Ruhr´s omnipresent disunity regarding polycentric urbanism and rivalry complicates the efforts to reinforce itself as a cohesive region, not only for the inside structure but also for the outside world. Albeit the forty-year-long process of active engagement, the identity is still sometimes more prominent in perceptions from the outside rather than its inhabitants, in both negative and positive connotations. Moreover, Ruhr´s industrial environment somewhat dwindles in importance for local younger generations. In this matter, history and heritage (the past) serve as the main agents of gluing the individual pieces together to create a present and future sustainable environment.

To conclude, the thesis findings in Chapter 04 and 05 indicate that the IBA´s lack of retrospective feedback via personal experiences and identifications within Ruhrgebiet´s de-industrialisation period allow for further research. As a follow-up on this work, greater inclusion of systematic surveys and interviews with locals could be included. Present-day strategies to nurture Ruhr´s industrial past following the IBA agenda are less analysed and, therefore, less known to the residents and the public. Considering the substantial significance of inclusion in today´s heritage concept, a greater flow of information in reference to Ruhr´s industrial identity and its nurturing is welcomed. Furthermore, it invites a substantial contemporary study concerning the industrial heritage concept and its valorisation in terms of the CHD and present heritage studies in general. Since the younger generation recalls lesser association of Ruhrgebiet with its industrial past and workers, it indicates interesting further examination in some ten to even twenty years from now. As such, society could observe the developing direction of industrial heritage value and regional identity and accordingly react on that matter. Finally, such research could expand the intangible legacy and its critical understanding within post-industrial landscape recycling. A further examination could better inform future regional transformations and their policies since de-industrialisation continues to be present both inside and outside the Western world. Nonetheless, a specific historical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of a place always plays a significant role in any decision-making process. As such, the thesis highlights this matter. In addition, it manifests that industrial heritage and regional identity as two contemporary theoretical concepts can become the foremost element of a territory's essence and its people.

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appendix

interview transcript

The master thesis presents personal one-on-one semi-structured interviews with local inhabitants of the Ruhr region to address and question the intangible phenomena of regional identity and industrial heritage. The prime division follows these two concepts, however, is respectful of their interconnection. The interviews serve as a primary method to help examine the main research question regarding Ruhr and the IBA Emscher Park programme. Due to the language barrier, interviews were conducted in English during April 2023. The final number of participants adds up to six, with several minor and partial contributions from four other individuals.

Initiation & Introduction

01. Could you please introduce yourself? How long have you been living in Ruhrgebiet? What is your personal story about the region? What brought you here?

Regional Identity

I am interested in the regional identity of Ruhrgebiet. However, it is nowadays reckoned that its regional identity gradually declines due to the individualistic rivalry and tendencies of single urban centres in the area, such as Duisburg, Dortmund, Essen, Oberhausen or Bochum.

02. Do you actually regard any regional identity of Ruhr in the present day? Do you consider yourself to be more part of Ruhrgebiet or the city alone?
03. Have you ever personally felt the rising distinction and rivalry between the individual cities of the Ruhr region in terms of identities, cultures, social living or sports (Dortmund, Bochum, Duisburg, Essen…)?
04. Would you regard people as being proud of living in Ruhrgebiet, or is it more a "coincidental circumstance"?
05. Have you ever come upon, or have you ever been referred to, the terms *Ruhrdeutsch* (the Ruhr dialect) or *Ruhris* (the Ruhr inhabitant)? Are they widely connotated among the German population?

06. How is Ruhrgebiet generally perceived among Germans? Is it presently deemed "negative and ugly" as it was, for instance, in the 1970s?
07. If Ruhr´s image is still embodied negatively, would you reckon that the environment indeed somehow supports the "ugly neglected industries"? Or does the reality nowadays build on greener areas, sustainability and future (economic, social, cultural) growth towards a "better image"?

Industrial Heritage & Landscape

Another part of my research focuses on industrial heritage and post-industrial landscape reclamation. Ruhr and the IBA Emscher Park programme offer a lot of transdisciplinary material in that sphere.

08. Do you reckon the industrial identity is still embedded in the Ruhr region?
09. From your point of view, how do you think that local inhabitants perceive the industrial history? Are there any positive or negative connotations, or is it more or less a neutral perception?
10. Have you ever personally felt any conflicting matters coming from Ruhr´s identity building on its industrial heritage?
11. Have you ever discussed the difficult past of Ruhr´s industrial rise and fall with someone from older generations? Perhaps someone who vividly remembers the episodes or is tightly connected with the industry?
12. Have you ever heard of the IBA Emscher Park programme? If so, do you visit the sites often? Do you regard it as a recreational area?
13. Are the IBA initiative and its consequences more internationally recognised, or do locals perceive it as their legacy?
14. Is it more professionally recognised by experts, academics, architects, and urban planners, or do people from different social classes utilise and know about the sites?
15. What do you think are the biggest challenges in terms of Ruhr´s revitalisation? This could be socially, culturally, economically, ecologically, appearance-wise...

the 2003 nizhny tagil charter

The Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH)

17 July, 2003

TICCIH is the world organisation representing industrial heritage and is special adviser to ICOMOS on industrial heritage. The text of this charter was passed by the assembled delegates at the triennial National Assembly of TICCIH held in Moscow on 17 July, 2003.

Preamble

The earliest periods of human history are defined by the archaeological evidence for fundamental changes in the ways in which people made objects, and the importance of conserving and studying the evidence of these changes is universally accepted.

From the Middle Ages, innovations in Europe in the use of energy and in trade and commerce led to a change towards the end of the 18th century just as profound as that between the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, with developments in the social, technical and economic circumstances of manufacturing sufficiently rapid and profound to be called a revolution. The Industrial Revolution was the beginning of a historical phenomenon that has affected an ever-greater part of the human population, as well as all the other forms of life on our planet, and that continues to the present day.

The material evidence of these profound changes is of universal human value, and the importance of the study and conservation of this evidence must be recognised.

The delegates assembled for the 2003 TICCIH Congress in Russia wish therefore to assert that the buildings and structures built for industrial activities, the processes and tools used within them and the towns and landscapes in which they are located, along with all their other tangible and intangible manifestations, are of fundamental importance. They should be studied, their history should be taught, their meaning and significance should be probed and made clear for everyone, and the most significant and characteristic examples should be identified, protected and maintained, in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter[1], for the use and benefit of today and of the future.

[1] The ICOMOS 'Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites', 1964.

1. Definition of industrial heritage

Industrial heritage consists of the remains of industrial culture which are of historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific value. These remains consist of buildings and machinery, workshops, mills and factories, mines and sites for processing and refining, warehouses and stores, places where energy is generated, transmitted and used, transport and all its infrastructure, as well as places used for social activities related to industry such as housing, religious worship or education.

Industrial archaeology is an interdisciplinary method of studying all the evidence, material and immaterial, of documents, artefacts, stratigraphy and structures, human settlements and natural and urban landscapes[2], created for or by industrial processes. It makes use of those methods of investigation that are most suitable to increase understanding of the industrial past and present.

The *historical period* of principal interest extends forward from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the eighteenth century up to and including the present day, while also examining its earlier pre-industrial and proto-industrial roots. In addition it draws on the study of work and working techniques encompassed by the history of technology.

2. Values of industrial heritage

i. The industrial heritage is the evidence of activities which had and continue to have profound historical consequences. The motives for protecting the industrial heritage are based on the universal value of this evidence, rather than on the singularity of unique sites.

ii. The industrial heritage is of social value as part of the record of the lives of ordinary men and women, and as such it provides an important sense of identity. It is of technological and scientific value in the history of manufacturing, engineering, construction, and it may have considerable aesthetic value for the quality of its architecture, design or planning.

iii. These values are intrinsic to the site itself, its fabric, components, machinery and setting, in the industrial landscape, in written documentation, and also in the intangible records of industry contained in human memories and customs.

iv. Rarity, in terms of the survival of particular processes, site typologies or landscapes, adds particular value and should be carefully assessed. Early or pioneering examples are of especial value.

[2] For convenience, 'sites' will be taken to mean landscapes, complexes, buildings, structures and machines unless these terms are used in a more specific way.

3. The importance of identification, recording and research

i. Every territory should identify, record and protect the industrial remains that it wants to preserve for future generations.

ii. Surveys of areas and of different industrial typologies should identify the extent of the industrial heritage. Using this information, inventories should be created of all the sites that have been identified. They should be devised to be easily searchable and should be freely accessible to the public. Computerisation and on-line access are valuable objectives.

iii. Recording is a fundamental part of the study of industrial heritage. A full record of the physical features and condition of a site should be made and placed in a public archive before any interventions are made. Much information can be gained if recording is carried out before a process or site has ceased operation. Records should include descriptions, drawings, photographs and video film of moving objects, with references to supporting documentation. Peoples' memories are a unique and irreplaceable resource which should also be recorded when they are available.

iv. Archaeological investigation of historic industrial sites is a fundamental technique for their study. It should be carried out to the same high standards as that of sites from other historical or cultural periods.

v. Programmes of historical research are needed to support policies for the protection of the industrial heritage. Because of the interdependency of many industrial activities, international studies can help identify sites and types of sites of world importance.

vi. The criteria for assessing industrial buildings should be defined and published so as to achieve general public acceptance of rational and consistent standards. On the basis of appropriate research, these criteria should be used to identify the most important surviving landscapes, settlements, sites, typologies, buildings, structures, machines and processes.

vii. Those sites and structures that are identified as important should be protected by legal measures that are sufficiently strong to ensure the conservation of their significance. The World Heritage List of UNESCO should give due recognition to the tremendous impact that industrialisation has had on human culture.

viii. The value of significant sites should be defined and guidelines for future interventions established. Any legal, administrative and financial measures that are necessary to maintain their value should be put in place.

ix. Sites that are at risk should be identified so that appropriate measures can be taken to reduce that risk and facilitate suitable schemes for repairing or re-using them.

x. International co-operation is a particularly appropriate approach to the conservation of the industrial heritage through co-ordinated initiatives and sharing resources. Compatible criteria should be developed to compile international inventories and databases.

4. Legal protection

I. The industrial heritage should be seen as an integral part of the cultural heritage in general. Nevertheless, its legal protection should take into account the special nature of the industrial heritage. It should be capable of protecting plant and machinery, below-ground elements, standing structures, complexes and ensembles of buildings, and industrial landscapes. Areas of industrial waste should be considered for their potential archaeological as well as ecological value.

II. Programmes for the conservation of the industrial heritage should be integrated into policies for economic development and into regional and national planning.

III. The most important sites should be fully protected and no interventions allowed that compromise their historical integrity or the authenticity of their fabric. Sympathetic adaptation and re-use may be an appropriate and a cost-effective way of ensuring the survival of industrial buildings, and should be encouraged by appropriate legal controls, technical advice, tax incentives and grants.

IV. Industrial communities which are threatened by rapid structural change should be supported by central and local government authorities. Potential threats to the industrial heritage from such changes should be anticipated and plans prepared to avoid the need for emergency actions.

V. Procedures should be established for responding quickly to the closure of important industrial sites to prevent the removal or destruction of significant elements. The competent authorities should have statutory powers to intervene when necessary to protect important threatened sites.

VI. Government should have specialist advisory bodies that can give independent advice on questions relating to the protection and conservation of industrial heritage, and their opinions should be sought on all important cases.

the 2003 nizhny tagil charter

VII. Every effort should be made to ensure the consultation and participation of local communities in the protection and conservation of their local industrial heritage.

VIII. Associations and societies of volunteers have an important role in identifying sites, promoting public participation in industrial conservation and disseminating information and research, and as such are indispensable actors in the theatre of industrial heritage.

5. Maintenance and conservation

I. Conservation of the industrial heritage depends on preserving functional integrity, and interventions to an industrial site should therefore aim to maintain this as far as possible. The value and authenticity of an industrial site may be greatly reduced if machinery or components are removed, or if subsidiary elements which form part of a whole site are destroyed.

II. The conservation of industrial sites requires a thorough knowledge of the purpose or purposes to which they were put, and of the various industrial processes which may have taken place there. These may have changed over time, but all former uses should be examined and assessed.

III. Preservation *in situ* should always be given priority consideration. Dismantling and relocating a building or structure are only acceptable when the destruction of the site is required by overwhelming economic or social needs.

IV. The adaptation of an industrial site to a new use to ensure its conservation is usually acceptable except in the case of sites of especial historical significance. New uses should respect the significant material and maintain original patterns of circulation and activity, and should be compatible as much as possible with the original or principal use. An area that interprets the former use is recommended.

V. Continuing to adapt and use industrial buildings avoids wasting energy and contributes to sustainable development. Industrial heritage can have an important role in the economic regeneration of decayed or declining areas. The continuity that re-use implies may provide psychological stability for communities facing the sudden end a long-standing sources of employment.

VI. Interventions should be reversible and have a minimal impact. Any unavoidable changes should be documented and significant elements that are removed should be recorded and stored safely. Many industrial processes confer a patina that is integral to the integrity and interest of the site.

VII. Reconstruction, or returning to a previous known state, should be considered an exceptional intervention and one which is only appropriate if

it benefits the integrity of the whole site, or in the case of the destruction of a major site by violence.

VIII. The human skills involved in many old or obsolete industrial processes are a critically important resource whose loss may be irreplaceable. They need to be carefully recorded and transmitted to younger generations.

IX. Preservation of documentary records, company archives, building plans, as well as sample specimens of industrial products should be encouraged.

6. Education and training

I. Specialist professional training in the methodological, theoretical and historical aspects of industrial heritage should be taught at technical and university levels.

II. Specific educational material about the industrial past and its heritage should be produced by and for students at primary and secondary level.

7. Presentation and interpretation

I. Public interest and affection for the industrial heritage and appreciation of its values are the surest ways to conserve it. Public authorities should actively explain the meaning and value of industrial sites through publications, exhibitions, television, the Internet and other media, by providing sustainable access to important sites and by promoting tourism in industrial areas.

II. Specialist industrial and technical museums and conserved industrial sites are both important means of protecting and interpreting the industrial heritage.

III. Regional and international routes of industrial heritage can highlight the continual transfer of industrial technology and the large-scale movement of people that can be caused by it.

Eusebi Casanelles
President TICCIH

Eugene Logunov
TICCIH XII International Congress

Nizhny Tagil, 2003

The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage. 2003. “The Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage, July 2003.” Accessed April 22, 2023. https://ticcih.org/about/charter/.