

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press release Lecture in German

Urban Nature

A lecture by Günther Vogt / Vogt Landschaftsarchitekten AG, Zurich, on 4 February 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via livestream

Unlike the wilderness, landscapes are shaped by humans. In essence a cultural good, discourse is at the heart of working with landscapes. Concepts and typologies such as gardens, parks, courts, squares and promenades lend landscapes a signature. They provide a matrix for the layout of the urban landscape and help distinguish its many facets from private to public spaces and their uses, scales, functionalities and ambiances. The rise in global temperatures induced by climate change not least creates the need for customised solutions addressing local conditions and a discourse about large-scale developments. Viable, future-proof cities must be conceived from a landscape perspective.

Urban landscaping is the core business of VOGT Landschaftsarchitekten. The international team has designed, planned and implemented national and international projects at diverse scales for 20 years, ranging from small-scale town squares to metropolitan parks, collaborating with renowned architectural firms and artists. Projects such as the Tate Modern in London, the Allianz Arena in Munich and the Masoala Rain Forest Hall at the Zurich Zoo earned the firm international recognition.

The business partnership with Dieter Kienast led to the formation of VOGT Landschaftsarchitekten in 2000, with branch offices established in Berlin (2010), London (2009) and Paris (2018). The affiliated Case Studio VOGT provides an interface between practical operations and theoretical studies and research activities of Günther Vogt's institute at the ETH Zurich. Case Studio is both an exhibition and debating platform and an instrument for staff training, a key element of VOGT's corporate culture.

About

Günther Vogt's horticultural training at Gartenbauschule Oeschberg formed the practical foundation for his profound interest in landscape. Expertise in vegetation and skills in its cultivation have always been cornerstones of his work. His academic education with Peter Erni, Jürg Altherr and Dieter Kienast at the Interkantonaales Technikum in Rapperswil combined the disciplines of culture, design and science, which are essential to landscape architecture.

As head of the Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies of the ETH Zurich, Günther Vogt has been pursuing a combined approach to teaching, practical work and research since 2005. A passionate collector and curious traveller, he is always on the lookout for possibilities to read, interpret and describe landscapes and finds answers to questions of future forms of urban cohabitation. Günther Vogt received the Prix Meret Oppenheim in 2012.