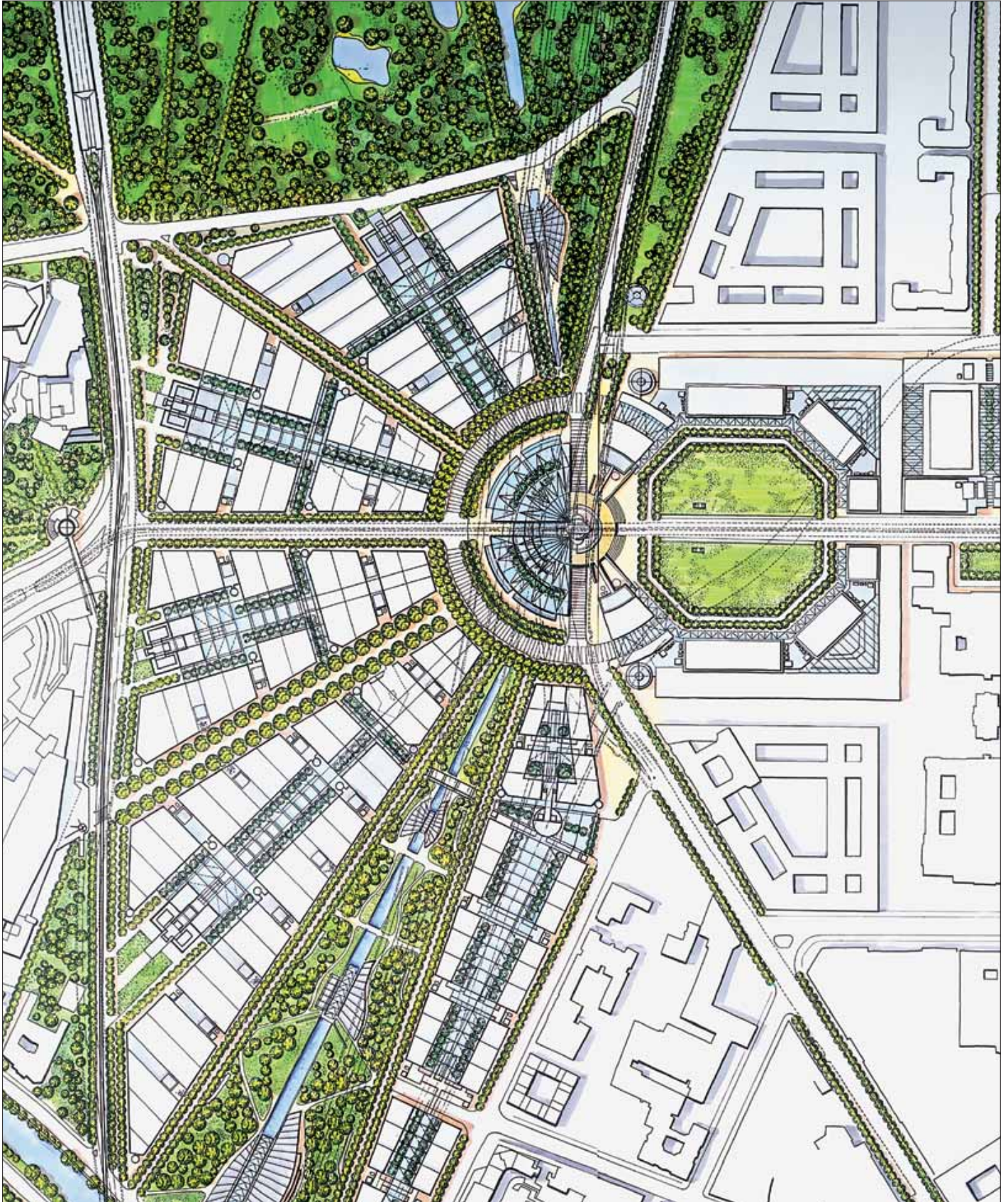


Potsdamer Platz



Place/Date
Berlin, Germany 1991

Client
**Daimler Benz AG, Sony AG, Hertie, ABB, Haus
Waterland**

Architect
Richard Rogers Partnership

Structural Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners
Services Engineer
Ove Arup & Partners



This historic 100-hectare site is situated at the heart of reunited Berlin between Alexander Platz and Kurfürstendamm. The brief's objective was to transform one million square metres of urban waste land into a dynamic mixed-use development that would re-establish Potsdamer Platz as a key destination at the centre of the re-united city.

The proposed masterplan places Potsdamer Platz as the focus of the historic radial street pattern, creating four zones of development each with their own balance of offices, residential, retail and cultural activities. The built form of the envelope rises from heights at Potsdamer Platz that respect the traditional building typology of the old centre, to taller buildings at the back of the site that can take advantage of views across the Tiergarten.

The site benefits from a major public transport interchange beneath Potsdamer Platz accommodating some 250,000 people per day. Analysis demonstrated that main traffic flows could be diverted away from Leipziger Platz and Potsdamer Platz, thus creating a people and pedestrian friendly environment.

The development zones are anchored in a clearly defined public realm, including major green spaces in the form of a series of linear parks that act as an ecological link passing right through the heart of the scheme, from the Landwehr Canal to the Tiergarten and all the way to the banks of the river Spree. By limiting vehicular traffic, defining the size and range of activities, opting for centralised heat and power production and imposing strict environmental parameters for future development, the practice's proposals for the Potsdamer Platz masterplan created the opportunity for an exemplary sustainable development in a city centre location.



This masterplan provides a suggested framework within which other architects and designers could contribute to a varied, rich and humane environment.

