

CATEGORY 1: MUNICIPAL GREEN AREAS – ECOLOGICALLY DESIGNED AND CULTIVATED



RAINER HÄFFNER/PATER-ALOIS-GRIMM-SCHOOL, CITY COUNCIL KÜLSHEIM (DE, 2014) HORTUS PAGSIS

A castle with a moat and orchards is located on the outskirts of Kulsheim. The comprehensive school named Pater-Alois-Grimm School and its garden, "Hortus Pagsis", are located right next to it – a mosaic consisting of 14 projects. The pupils' dream has been designed according to their wishes: Various living spaces provide the foundation for a diversity of plants, which attract various animals. This garden was intended to be a place of silence, of calm, of research and observation, but also a place of community and celebration. Structured according to the 3-zone-garden by Markus Gastl, the buffer zone surrounds the inner area: indigenous trees and shrubs, nesting boxes and upright deadwood pyramids serve the fauna. In the yield zone, fruit trees can be found for feasting and processing together with children. Raised beds made from stones from the region offer them great opportunities for working and explorative learning. The hotspot zone hosts a flower meadow in different low-nutrient zones. Stone gardens, column and farm gardens as well as a garden space offer room for diversity. Nothing is brought into the garden and nothing is taken out from it. Thanks to its diversified useful-creature-hotels and a pond, the garden was awarded one of the 10 most beautiful schoolyards in Germany. In the so-called "Garden-Theme-Interests-Project", pupils take care of construction and cultivation twice a week. Autumn is celebrated by the school with the Potato Festival, while information evenings are being held in winter.

