



The project **Space for Teens** is part of the ExWost programme IFAS (innovation for families and age-based district quarters). Improving the city as a living and working place for families is an important aim in German urban development policies. The IFAS programme shows that, as a group, teenagers specifically have fewer places to use in the urban area. Here the focus is the usability for teens, which could be safeguarded if amenity values are secured.

In Steilshoop, a district of Hamburg, there is a large proportion of teenagers, however their interests are underrepresented. There is only limited availability of commercial youth facilities. Many teenagers grow up in difficult family and economic situations, and have difficulties in school. They spend much of their free time outside, but there are only a few legitimate teens' spaces in Steilshoop.

The project leader of Space for Teens is the Johann Daniel Lawaetz-Stiftung in cooperation with Hamburger Forum Spielräume für urbane Bewegungskultur e.V., Haus der Jugend. Among the methods used in this project are teens_open_space, video documentation, interviews and model making.

The project space for teens involved an area- and tangle-webs concept. Firstly, the teens' spaces for example habitations, meeting places and ways are discovered. Secondly, places are selected to be developed further with the teens. Finally, the results from the space exploration and planning workshops will be converted in a concrete realisation. This should transpire structurally, spatially and also through culture acquisition, events and space experiments.



This process has led to three events. The opening function took place in a special room the "Küchenmonument" in September 2009. The Küchenmonument was placed on a high frequency place (Mittelachse). The topic of this first event was evaluation of the situation. The workshop in the Küchenmonument was designed with different planets. Each planet had different task, questions and was moderated by an adult person. The different planets, task and questions were:

1. **Planet body styling:** What embodies Steilshoop? The task for the teens was to bring their bodies in connection with the area Steilshoop. This involved the teens lying down on unrolled paper and painting their own body. Afterwards they wrote down what they had in mind in combination with this chain of association.
2. **Planet of horror:** the question was: "every teen is leaving Steilshoop – why?" The teens described variety of scenarios with white colour on black pasteboard.
3. **Picture planet:** A city map with icons. On this planet the teens could visualised what the area has to offer in the moment.
4. **Power planet:** Which skills does Steilshoop have today? In 2010? In 2029? The teens shape their ideas of Steilshoop today and in twenty years.
5. **Digital planet:** On this planet laptops and screens were used. The teens showed there favourite pages (Youtube, music groups etc.). Part of the discussion was the question: "What should an internet page from Steilshoop offer teens?"





30 teens were involved in the workshop. Afterwards three different groups remained involved in the process. They were:

- Basketballer (15 members between 16-22 years);
- Girls group (Verein für Jugendpflege 5 members between 12-14 years);
- Tuesday Group (15 members between 12-14 years).

The second event took place in the community office in December 2009, to conduct research and interviews with teens in Steilshoop. The focus in this meeting was the idea of a new and modern basketball court in Steilshoop.



The third meeting, also in December, further discussions took place about the public spaces in Steilshoop with the Basketballer and Girls groups.

The planning project basketball court is almost finalised. Specific locations for the basketball court have been selected together with the basketball group. The planning process with the teens has been started, for example: to request the different owner, finalising the court and equipment and the utilisation concept. The basketball group has offered to act as a steward for the maintenance of the new court.

The ideas for the public space from the other groups will be finalised in the following meetings and events in 2010.