



Designing landscapes and open spaces with passion

Established in 1962, the firm BHF Landscape Architects, based in northern Germany, has had a long history of designing landscapes and public spaces. Throughout this time, the team has left its signature on a great range of projects including concepts for port promenades, recreational spaces, and new city quarters.

TEXT: NADINE CARSTENS | PHOTOS: BHF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

“Our goal is to design landscapes that are appealing to many people,” says Jens Bendfeldt, who manages the firm with Uwe Herrmann and Ulrich Franke – therefore the abbreviation BHF stands for today’s three partners. “When doing so, we trust in classic design principles such as clarity, proportion, rhythm, symmetry,

and the way different parts correlate with each other to form a unit.” Furthermore, the BHF team aims to create public spaces that perfectly blend into the local environment. Offering aesthetic and environmental solutions is as important to the experts as considering the needs of residents and the environment as a whole.



Top: Moderating information meetings is one of the services of BHF Landscape Architects. Illustration: © www.neopop.de

Below: From left to right: Jens Bendfeldt, Uwe Herrmann, Ulrich Franke. Photo: © www.foto-schoen.de

Bottom: The whole team of BHF Landscape Architects. Photo: © www.foto-schoen.de

55 years ago, Klaus-Dieter Bendfeldt, the father of Jens, launched the landscape architecture firm. Back then, some of his first projects were planning the surrounding landscape of the airport in Hamburg-Kaltenkirchen, creating public sports



facilities, as well as the structure and development of the island of Sylt. Since then, the two founders and their successors have realised more than 1,200 projects. With 40 employees and two offices in Kiel and in Schwerin today, BHF Landscape Architects have focused on projects in the north of Germany. Public clients, as for example towns and municipalities, construction groups, project developers, and companies in the energy industry are among the clients who regularly work with BHF Landscape Architects.

Prestigious projects

One of the landscape architects’ most recent projects was to design the outdoor facilities of the new Telekom building in Hamburg business park City Nord. When it is finished, about 1,500 employees are going to work in the modern office complex of the telecommunications company.

Currently, the three landscape architects are also responsible for various energy transition projects. The most prominent one is probably the electricity highway ‘Ostküstenleitung’ in Schleswig-Holstein, which will have a total length of about 120 kilometres. The pilot project was included in the German Energy Act (EnWG), whose purpose is to secure an environmentally sound energy supply for society as a whole, based increasingly on renewable sources. Therefore, it has been allowed to use cables as an operating medium under certain conditions. “In this project, we have accompanied the difficult process of finding power lines and defining cable sections by offering environmental advice and encouraging a dialogue between the public and authorities,” Herrmann explains. “Furthermore, we developed the necessary environmental contributions that are required for the approval of the procedure.”

Nevertheless, moderating information meetings is one of BHF Landscape Architects’ services. “At public participation procedures, we explain all of our planning steps to the residents who are affected by the plans,” Herrmann states. “This way, we want to help them understand these complex interactions.” Residents, therefore, have the chance to ask questions

about a certain project and to express their concern or criticism as well, while the authorities ensure more transparency.

Planning eco-friendly landscapes

“Due to a functioning communication between us and our clients, we significantly contribute to a successful realisation of large-scale projects,” Herrmann continues. This also applies to environmental planning tasks, which are part of BHF’s major services, too. “We create spacious landscapes which achieve acknowledged solutions in well-established planning processes.” According to Franke, planning landscapes as a precaution for nature conservation continuously requires new approaches. These, in turn, have to be verified by the landscape architects to ensure that they conform to the nature conservation law. “For this reason, we now focus on solutions which include energy landscapes such as wind turbines, power lines and biogas plants, as well as solar plants,” says Franke. Some of the experts’ environmental planning projects last year include extending a federal motorway in Neumünster, and developing a landscape plan for Heligoland, which is Germany’s only deep-sea island. Furthermore, they counselled the municipality of Bad Bramstedt about establishing new residential areas that ensure a co-existence with nature.

The expertise of the BHF Landscape Architects is in high demand, as publications in magazines for the landscape architecture profession and requests for teaching activities show – no matter whether clients require assistance in urban land-use planning or in transport tasks. BHF Landscape Architects are also known for being a reliable partner because they have a forward-looking schedule. Hence, they are able to guarantee that projects will be finished in time.

Bendfeldt, Herrmann and Franke hope that their success story will continue in future. “We would like to further expand our firm,” says Bendfeldt. If you want to learn more about their work, just visit their website.

www.bhf-ki.de

