European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards (2025)
1228-Heritage Champions 5. Heritage Champions

Prof. em. Peter Latz: The father of industrial heritage

LPXoDzEn

Entry details

General information

Main country of application	Germany
Name of nominated individual, group of people or organisation.	Prof. em. Peter Latz
Nominator	Claudia Kalinowski
Is the nominee an individual, group of people or an organisation?	Individual
Website(s) of the project/nominee	www.landschaftspark.de, www.latzundpartner.de

Brief description of the nominee

> Peter Latz has shaped landscape architecture like few others and laid the foundation for the global communication of industrial heritage. Latz is known for the conversion of disused industrial sites. His most famous project is the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, a former steel mill. The garden monument is considered a model for the reuse of industrial wastelands. Latz has conducted seminars and workshops worldwide and has been a guest professor at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. He received the Sckell Ehrenring, the highest German award for landscape architects. His work remains reference point for the global communication of industrial heritage.

Any other relevant social media	https://www.instagram.com/latzundpartner/
Facebook page of the nominee, if any	https://www.facebook.com/landschaftspark/
Twitter page of the nominee, if any	https://x.com/Landschaftspark
Instagram page of the nominee, if any	https://www.instagram.com/landschaftsparkduisburgnord/

Contact details - Heritage Champions

Name of the nominee (or contact person for the nominee in case the nominee is an organisation)	Prof. em. Peter Latz
Nominee's position	Practice Founder & Senior Director
Organisation of the nominee	Latz + Partner Landschaftsarchitektur Stadtplanung Architektur Partnerschaft mbB

Address of the nominee

> Latz + Partner Landschaftsarchitektur Stadtplanung Architektur Partnerschaft mbB
> Ampertshausen 6
> 85402 Kranzberg
> Germany

Email address of the nominee	post@latzundpartner.de
Confirm email address of the nominee	post@latzundpartner.de

Additional email addresses

> a.latz@latzundpartner.de
>
> This ist the email adress of Anneliese Latz, his wife. Peter Latz is not in the best of health.

Telephone of the nominee (fixed line)	+49816667850
Telephone of the nominee (mobile number)	+498166678540
Name of the nominator	Claudia Kalinowski
Nominator's position	Referee to the director
Organisation of the nominator	Duisburg Kontor Hallenmanagement GmbH, Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord
Email of the nominator	claudia.kalinowski@landschaftspark.de
Confirm email address of the nominator	claudia.kalinowski@landschaftspark.de

Concise summary - Heritage Champions

Concise Summary

Prof. em. Peter Latz can be called the father to indutrial heritage. With his significant contributions to landscape architecture he does not only preserve history but also meets modern needs. Latz is known for the conversion of disused industrial sites. His most famous project is the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, which was created on the site of a former steel mill. The multifunctional park is considered the epitome of successful post-industrial landscapes, a garden monument, and welcomes 1.2 million visitors a year. This project has received international recognition and is considered a model for the reuse of industrial wastelands. Another well-known project by Peter Latz is the Parco Dora in Turin, Italy. This project transformed a former industrial site into a vibrant public park, incorporating water features, green spaces, and recreational areas. Furhermore, the Harbour Island Saarbrücken has to be named. This project involved transforming a brownfield site incorporating various layers of design to create a multifunctional space. These places contribute to the cultural identity of a region and provide a connection to the past, preserving knowledge about the industrial revolution and its major impact on society and the economy. At the same time, repurposing old industrial sites for new uses contributes to sustainable development by reusing resources and revitalizing landscapes. Industrial monuments and parks attract tourists and serve as educational sites for schools and universities. Such projects create public spaces that promote recreation, culture, and nature in urban environments. Additionally, Latz has conducted seminars and workshops worldwide and has been a guest professor at Technical University of Munich, Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. In 2014, he received the Sckell Ehrenring, the highest German award for landscape architects and the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award in 2016. Peter Latz has demonstrated through his projects how industrial sites can be transformed into ecologically and socially compatible spaces and his work has been recognized worldwide, influencing landscape architects and urban planners in the field of industrial heritage and post-industrial landscapes. It remains reference point in the discussion about the reuse of industrial wastelands and the global communication of industrial heritage. With his work, Peter Latz laid the foundation for the global communication of industrial heritage and continues to influence and inspire.

Detailed description - Heritage Champions

History and description of the nominee's dedication and civic engagement in favour of the safeguard and enhancement of cultural heritage in Europe

Peter Latz has been a staunch advocate for the preservation and revitalization of industrial heritage. Retired today, he was passionate educator. He has conducted numerous workshops and seminars globally, inspiring landscape architects and urban planners to see the potential in industrial sites. His role as a guest professor at prestigious institutions such as Harvard University has further amplified his influence. One of his earliest and most iconic projects is the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, which was transformed from the initial planning stages in the late 1980s to its completion in 1999. The project was part of the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park (IBA), which aimed to revitalize the Ruhr region by transforming old industrial sites into sustainable and usable spaces. His work not only preserves historical structures but also fosters community engagement and education. By leading seminars, workshops, and serving as a guest professor, Latz has shared his vision globally, inspiring others to see the potential in industrial landscapes. His publications highlight his extensive contributions to the field and his dedication to preserving and transforming industrial heritage. Notable publications by Peter Latz are "Rustred", which details the creation and development of the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord project, "The Landscape Architecture of Peter Latz and Partners", which provides an extensive overview of his work and projects. "250 Things a Landscape Architect Should Know", sharing insights and knowledge about landscape architecture. Additionally, Latz has authored numerous articles and essays on topics related to industrial heritage, landscape architecture, and urban planning. Peter Latz's work continues to inspire and guide future generations of landscape architects, demonstrating that industrial sites can be transformed into ecologically and socially beneficial spaces. His legacy remains a cornerstone in the dialogue on sustainable urban development and the preservation of industrial heritage for future generations.

Time span of nominee's dedicated service to heritage.

Peter Latz (born 1939) studied landscape architecture at the Technical University of Munich. In 1968, Peter Latz, along with his wife Anneliese, founded the office for landscape architecture. From 1977 to 2008 he worked on numerous

projects. One of his earliest and most iconic projects is the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, which was transfomed in the late 1980s to 1999. Peter Latz began his teaching career in 1968 as a lecturer at the Limburg Academy of Architecture in Maastricht. In the 1990s, Peter Latz was a visiting professor at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. Today, Peter Latz is retired.

Results and impact achieved

Peter Latz has had a profound impact on landscape architecture and the conservation of industrial heritage, pioneering Industrial Site Conversion. Latz's work, particularly with the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, has set a benchmark for the innovative reuse of industrial sites. His designs integrate historical industrial elements with natural landscapes, creating multifunctional public spaces that serve as global models for post-industrial transformation. As a professor and guest lecturer at renowned institutions such as the Technical University of Munich, Harvard University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Latz has influenced countless students and professionals in landscape architecture. His teachings have emphasized sustainability and the importance of preserving historical contexts in design. Latz's work has been internationally acclaimed, earning prestigious awards like the Sckell-Ehrenring and the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award. These honors reflect his significant contributions to the field and underscore his role as a pioneer in landscape architecture. Through his projects and educational efforts, Latz has highlighted the importance of sustainability in landscape architecture. His approach to integrating ecological considerations with historical preservation has inspired a new generation of landscape architects to consider the environmental impact of their designs. Latz's designs and methodologies have been adopted and adapted worldwide, influencing urban planners and landscape architects. His visionary work has demonstrated how industrial sites can be transformed into vibrant, ecologically and socially beneficial spaces, fostering a broader appreciation for industrial heritage.

Official recognitions received, if any

2014 Friedrich-Ludwig-von-Sckell-Ring awarded by The Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts
2013 TOPOS Landscape Award – The International Review of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design honours Peter Latz „for his internationally recognised life's work“
2010 Green Good Design Award for being “a leader, pioneer, and innovator in Green Design”
2005 Place Planning Award of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) in Edmond, USA
2001 Grande Médaille d’Urbanisme by the Académie royale d’architecture in Paris
2000 First European Prize for Landscape Architecture Rosa Barba in Barcelona for the design of Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord

Difficulties encountered and how these obstacles were overcome

Peter Latz's legacy is characterized by his innovative vision to conserve industrial history by transforming brownfield sites into usable spaces. Many brownfield sites were contaminated with hazardous substances from previous industrial activities, requiring extensive and costly cleanup efforts. Also, the team was constatly faced with legal and regulatory issues navigating the complex web of requirements, often involving multiple stakeholders and authorities. Peter Latz managed to reach consensus among various stakeholders, coordinating redevelopment efforts but also including the local communites, overcoming resistance to redevelopment projects. By revitalizing urban areas, he was also able to create new economic opportunities.

Measures taken to ensure the sustainability or viability of the nominee's work.

Peter Latz is renowned for his sustainable approach: Latz transformed redundant industrial areas into public spaces, he focused on rehabilitating these areas, integrating ecological and social concerns into his designs. Latz emphasized the cultural use of these spaces, preserving historical elements while creating new, functional landscapes. His designs are open to change and development, rather than being static parks, e.g. Plateau de Kirchberg, Luxembourg includes green roofs, rainwater harvesting systems, and native vegetation to promote biodiversity. The park also incorporates recycled materials in its construction. In Parco Dora, Turin, Italy Latz used ecological restoration techniques, such as creating wetlands and planting native species, to improve the site's environmental quality. In 1973, Peter Latz built his first own house, linking it to a long-term research project on passive solar energy and self-sufficiency. In

> Ampertshausen, he transformed a 100-year-old agricultural estate into a horticultural experimental field and an ecological demonstration object.

Contribution of the nominee towards sustainability (environmental, social, cultural and economic) and any climate action related activities.

> Peter Latz's work is filled with examples of sustainability, showcasing his innovative approach to landscape architecture: With the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord he transformed a former steel mill into a public park, preserving the industrial structures and integrating them into the new design. The park features sustainable elements like rainwater management systems and green roofs, promoting ecological balance. At the Harbour Island Saarbrücken Latz converted a brownfield site into a vibrant public space, incorporating sustainable practices such as the use of recycled materials and the creation of green spaces that enhance biodiversity. The design of the Parco Dora in Turin, Italy includes sustainable elements like passive solar energy utilization and rainwater harvesting. Throughout his career, Latz has focused on researching and implementing alternative environmental technologies, such as passive solar energy, green roofs, and rainwater management. These technologies are integrated into his projects to create sustainable and ecologically sound landscapes.

Innovative aspects (economic, social, technological, environmental or legal) of the nominee's activities.

> Peter Latz was a pioneer for landscape architecture and industrial heritage for several groundbreaking reasons: He was among the first to recognize the potential of transforming abandoned industrial sites into multifunctional public spaces. Also, Latz integrated sustainable practices and ecological considerations into his designs long before these became mainstream in landscape architecture. He championed the use of green technologies, such as rainwater harvesting, passive solar energy, and green roofs, to enhance the environmental impact of his projects. Through his teaching, Latz influenced a generation of landscape architects. He emphasized the importance of historical and cultural context, ecological balance, and innovative design. Latz's work was characterized by a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, blending landscape architecture with urban planning, ecology, and engineering. Latz's visionary approach set new standards in landscape architecture, influencing the field's direction, inspiring future generations to see the potential in reclaiming and revitalizing industrial landscapes to preserve industrial heritage.

Nominee's interaction with the community and the urban or landscape context.

> Peter Latz's interaction with the heritage community has been profound. In his work, he actively engaged with various stakeholders, including local communities, historians, and environmentalists, to ensure that his projects honor the historical significance of industrial sites while promoting sustainable development. Also, Latz always prioritized community involvement in his projects. For instance, during the development of the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, he worked closely with local residents to understand their needs and aspirations, ensuring that the park would serve as a valuable public space for recreation and social interaction. Latz has collaborated with historians and conservationists to ensure that his projects respect the historical context of industrial sites. His work often involves environmental advocacy, promoting the use of sustainable technologies and practices. His book "Rustred" has become a reference for landscape architects worldwide. Furthermore, his educational efforts have helped raise awareness about the importance of preserving industrial heritage.

Knowledge gained by the nominee and how it has been shared and disseminated with both the heritage community and non-traditional audiences.

> Latz has been a strong advocate for sustainable design in his teaching and workshops. He has shared his knowledge on sustainable practices and ecological urban renewal with students and professionals worldwide, promoting a culture of sustainability in landscape architecture. In 1973, Peter Latz was appointed as a professor at the Gesamthochschule Kassel. In 1983, he accepted a professorship at the Technical University of Munich-Weihenstephan. In the 1990s, Peter Latz has been a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and is an adjunct professor at the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. Notable publications by Peter Latz are "Rustred", which details the creation of the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord project, "The Landscape Architecture of Peter Latz and Partners", which provides an extensive overview of his projects. "250 Things a Landscape Architect Should Know", sharing insights

and knowledge about landscape architecture. Additionally, Latz has authored numerous articles and essays on topics related to industrial heritage, landscape architecture, and urban planning.

European and international dimension

European significance of the project/initiative/nominee.

Born and raised in Germany, Latz has made significant contributions to landscape architecture within the country. Latz has actively participated in European urban renewal initiatives, such as the International Building Exhibition (IBA) Emscher Park, which aimed to revitalize the Ruhr region. His most renowned project, the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord, has become a benchmark for industrial site transformation. The park is anchor point on the Industrial Heritage Trail and the European Route of Industrial Heritage and member at The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH). Beyond Germany, Latz has undertaken notable projects in various European countries, such as the Netherlands, France and other European nations. For example, the Parco Dora in Turin, Italy, is a prominent example. His teaching has influenced a generation of landscape architects, fostering a culture of sustainable and innovative design not only across the European continent.

Additional information

How would winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award benefit you, your project and/or your organisation?

Recognizing Prof. Peter Latz would not only celebrate an extraordinary career but also honor a lifetime dedicated to landscape architectutre and industrial heritage. Latz has consistently pushed the boundaries of the discipline, pioneering the revitalization of industrial landscapes, integrating sustainable practices long before they became mainstream. His innovative projects set global standards and inspired generations of landscape architects. This award would serve as a tribute to his commitment, acknowledging his influence on the field.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, what will the monetary award be used for?

If awarded, Prof. Peter Latz intends to further channel the funds into preservation and revitalization of industrial heritage sites across Europe. This funding will enable Prof. Latz and his team to undertake ongoing research and development of innovative landscape architecture solutions that balance historical preservation with modern ecological practices.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, who will be the recipient of the monetary award?

Peter Latz

As Peter Latz is not in the best of health, his wife Anneliese Latz and son Tilman Latz might be substituting in physically receiving.

How did you find out about the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Word of mouth
Is this the first time that this entry has been submitted to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Yes

On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you with this online submission form?	✓ 10
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Peter Latz_03 -... 1.4 MiB



Peter Latz_02.jpg 1.1 MiB



Peter and Annel... 1.2 MiB



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Attachment name
Hearing Prof. Peter Latz...

https://www.youtube.co...

Attachment name
Landscape architect Pro...

https://www.youtube.co...