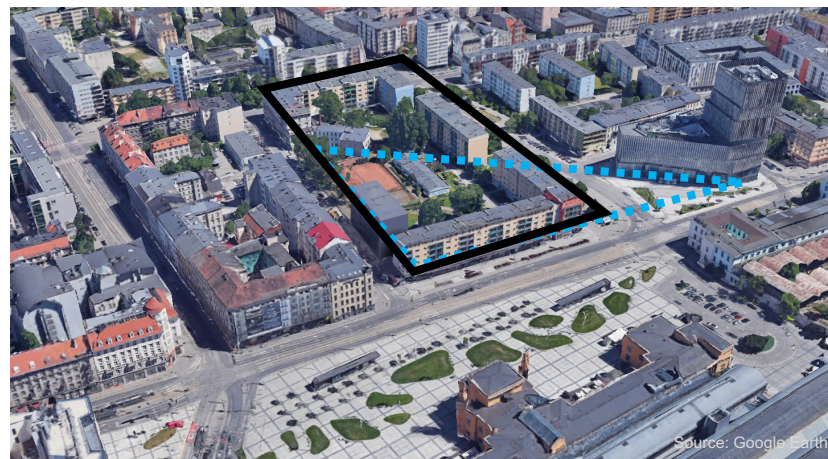
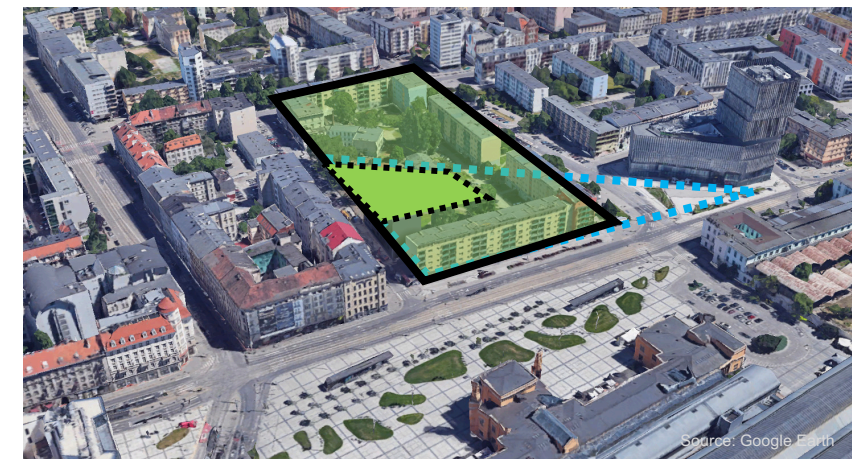


Source: Google Earth



Source: Google Earth



Source: Google Earth

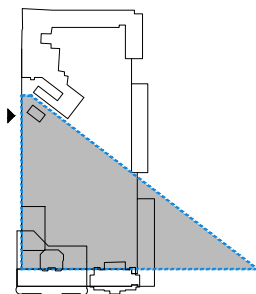
past.



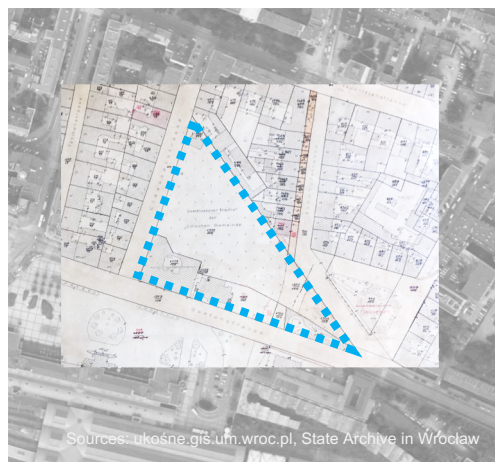
Above: human remains found on-site in 2017 during hotel construction followed by archaeological research.

From the mid-18th century till WWII the site served as the first modern period and biggest Jewish cemetery in Wrocław (then German city of Breslau). The characteristic triangular shape of the cemetery was covered with plants and trees, as it is visible on the above image incorporating 1930s aerial photo in the current city view. That was a truly unique function located in the very middle of the city of Breslau, just in front of the main Railway Station.

Due to the pre- and post-WWII dramatic transformations, the triangular shape of the plot was changed into a rectangular, semi-open urban living quarter. Former burial function was ignored and forgotten and other facilities were built over the cemetery.



Above: scheme of the original triangular shape of the cemetery site.



Sources: ukošne.gis.um.wroc.pl, State Archive in Wrocław

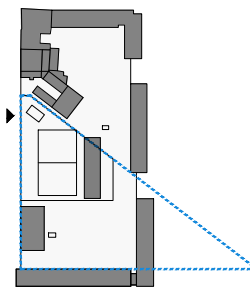
Right: historic outline of the cemetery; historic map 1907.

present.



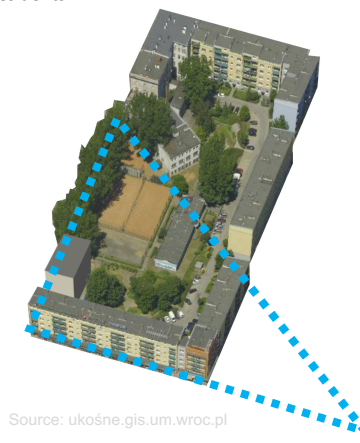
Above: locked not-in-use neglected tennis courts located on the top of the Jewish cemetery site.

The memory of the Jewish cemetery on *Claassenstrasse*, today *Gwarna Street* in the Polish city of Wrocław, faded away and was neglected in the post-war period becoming an example of a difficult heritage site where Jewish, Polish, German and European history intertwined. Even though the site still bore the cemetery's traces - including human remains and artifacts buried in the soil - a tennis court and adjacent sport facility pavilion were constructed in the 1960s directly on the graveyard. Parts of the interior of the plot have since been used also as parking, location for garbage cans and other facilities serving local residents. The "Green Gwarna" project is about restoring dignity and memory of the Jewish cemetery, and at the same time improving the quality of the quarter for local community and residents.



Above: scheme of the current quarter layout, sport facilities on graves in the middle of the quarter.

Right: site today.



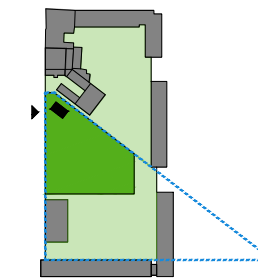
Source: ukošne.gis.um.wroc.pl

future.



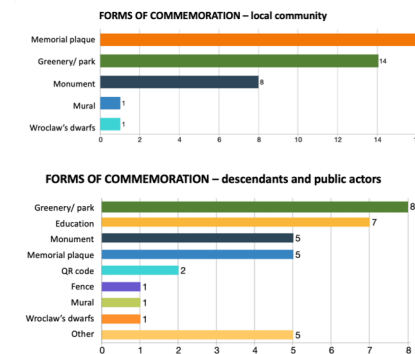
Above: meeting with local community organized on-site as part of the study and social activity mapping local needs.

A functional, social and visual transformation of this heritage site is needed. This can be achieved through an inclusive multidisciplinary approach to revitalization and dialog-oriented actions. Some have already been implemented. The future reshaping of the quarter's interior as well as restoring balance of its functions and forms is possible only through civic participative decision-making. The site is a complex and sensitive example of the lost sense of belonging - in metaphorical, historical and literal meanings. "Green Gwarna" project proposes the path to restoring that connection and shaping it anew. Once achieved, the cooperation model can serve other locations, and future generations, providing educational, sustainable and beautifully simple solutions serving all groups of stakeholders and citizens.



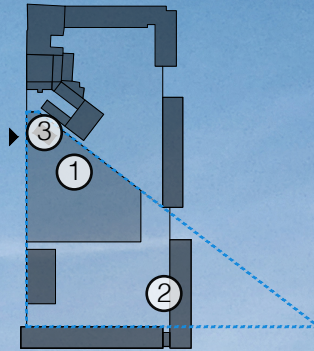
Above: scheme of refurbished commemoration area (vivid green) and surrounding areas (light green).

Right: charts with research results showing preferred forms of commemoration. Green area/ park, memorial plaque/ memorial and education are leading the results.



Source: UMF's report, 2023





1. Commemorative and educational spaces, planned as green, sustainable, high-quality areas filling most part of the quarter's interior.

Cemetery memorial, commemoration plaque or other new commemorative form - selected through a competition - incorporated with greenery of diverse scale and form provides suitable landscape quality, both for memorial visitors and for residents of surrounding housing buildings.

Simple, durable and relatively low-budget solution designed for decades and next generations, feasible and easy to maintain. Application of greenery reduces city global warming effects.



2. Direct, sensitive neighborhood - cemetery memorial located just outside the home window-view calls for a sensitive and inclusive approach. The project seeks for best possible spatial and functional solutions based on deepened research methodology, interviews with all stakeholders: local residents, local businesses, Jewish community and descendants, municipality representatives and other public actors, architects and artists etc.

The final form and function of the refurbished quarter's interior is planned as a result of negotiations and participatory decision-making process. A commonly accepted vision for "Green Gwarna" is indispensable for the project to be successful and sustainable.



3. Education and learning pavilion - a compact, modern and light education pavilion located next to the entrance area. Refurbishment of the quarter's interior and creation of green commemoration/ memorial space is a way to connect with the past and the place, to educate present and future generations about the city's difficult history, and at the same time about the vibrant life and contributions to the city's growth of the Jewish citizens of pre-war Breslau, including families buried at the Gwarna/ Claassesntrasse cemetery.

Small pavilion in the memorial area may serve for smart, multidisciplinary or virtual expositions and would fulfill the educational program of commemoration space.



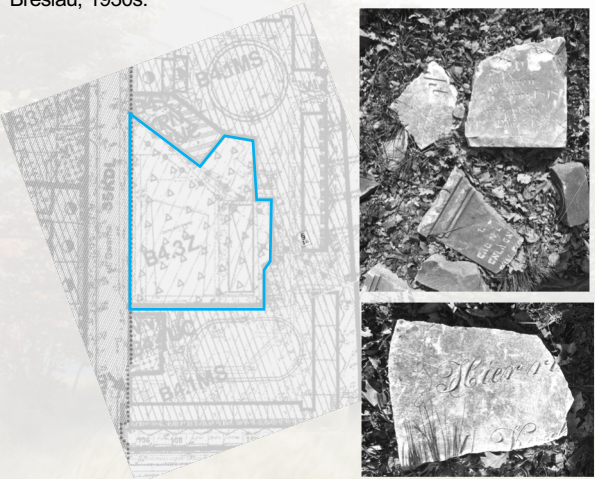


Work in progress. Above view is a conceptual visualisation of anticipated quality of function and landscape design compromise, agreed in an inclusive decision making process. Copyrights: ch+ architekci



4. Sustainable, green interventions around the quarter

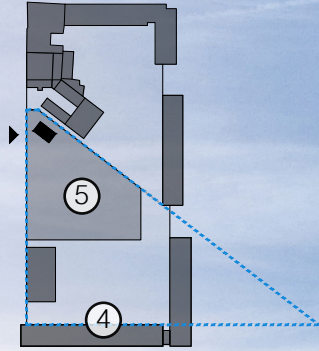
Planting new trees and nursing the existing ones would provide an environment-friendly solution reducing climate change effects. It would offer shelter for birds and create shade and relief spaces for commemoration areas and living/ housing spaces around. Refilling the quarter's interior with trees and greenery would also refer to the historical unique form of the place before WWII. Above: photo of the site/ cemetery quarter, Breslau, 1930s.

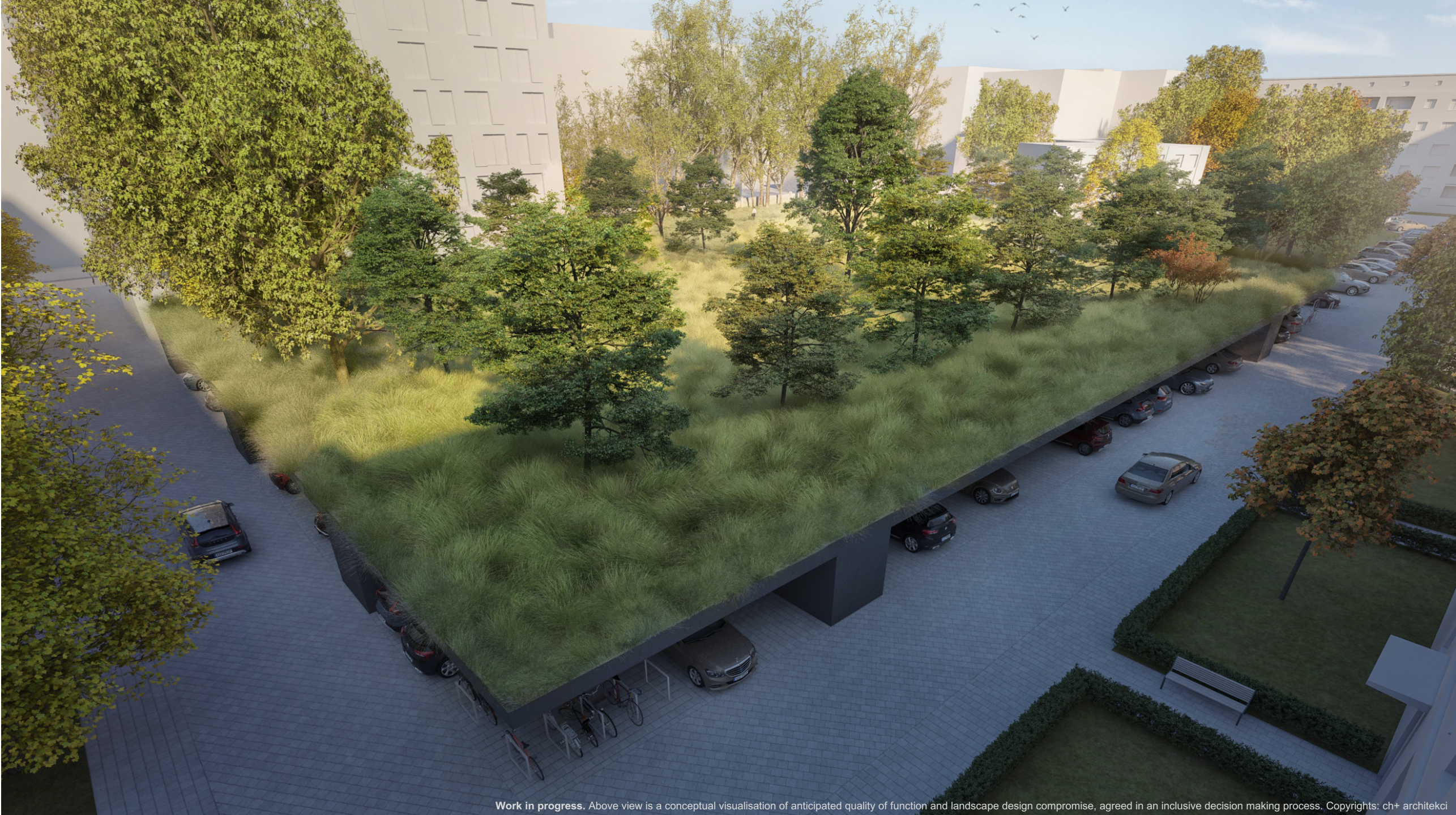


5. Green commemoration of the Jewish cemetery – cultural, religious and administrative requirements

Hard investment of refurbishing of the existing quarter fulfills the local spatial development plan requirements. Actions planned in the project are thus legitimate and realistic. The quarter would experience dramatic positive change, **regaining a sense of belonging** in physical, social and cultural aspects. Also, using greenery and non-invasive treatment of the site corresponds with the Jewish law. Currently there are still human remains in the ground.

Above left: drawing indicating anticipated commemoration area on the local spatial development plan.
 Above right: parts of gravestones found on-site in 2017.





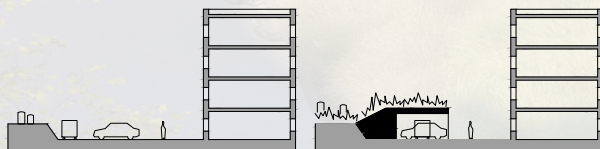
Work in progress. Above view is a conceptual visualisation of anticipated quality of function and landscape design compromise, agreed in an inclusive decision making process. Copyrights: ch+ architekci

6. Commemoration artistic form - a need for discussion and multi-disciplinary contest

Cemetery commemoration in the middle of a housing quarter is not an easy task. In addition, there is also the aspect of double otherness of the site as the cemetery was/is a Jewish-German heritage pointing to the German pre-war past of the today Polish city of Wrocław. It is crucial to reach final solutions in the spirit of dialog and understanding of various cultures and stakeholders.

The form of commemoration should come as a result of a multi-disciplinary competition involving architectural, landscape and urban designers as well as visual artists. The competition jury should include representatives of all stakeholders – experts, local community, Jewish community and descendants, municipality. The final form of the commemoration may result in bigger or smaller ideas but it is critical to make the decision process as inclusive as possible.

Next to dialogue, **education and educational function** of the site are the key to create a meaningful future for this specific place where people would be able to rest, reflect and learn.



7. Smart design - defining spaces at the border and beyond commemoration area

As the quarter's interior has to support living needs of its residents, such as car and bike parking places and garbage facilities, it is vital to find smart solutions serving both, the service/ technical part of the quarter and as the cemetery commemoration space (*sacrum– profanum* situation).

Creation of a folded ground at the critical border line inside the quarter where the two functions of the site will meet is an example of a sustainable green-roof answer to the issue of delimiting borders that the architects working on the project proposed for "Green Gwarna". This "invisible" passive green border provides a safe and functional boundary between two areas, serving both the best possible way. The folding of ground level allows for hiding of all technical facilities and creates a smooth poetic border from within the memorial site.

Visible above: comparison scheme, showing border line folding of the ground level.

