

ANNETTE GIGON / MIKE GUYER DIPL.ARCHITEKTEN ETH/BSA/SIA AG TEL +41 (0) 44 257 11 11
CARMENSTRASSE 28 CH-8032 ZÜRICH E-MAIL INFO@GIGON-GUYER.CH FAX +41 (0) 44 257 11 10

Project

Archaeological Museum and Park Kalkriese, Osnabrück, Germany

Due to numerous archeological finds, the site in the northwestern part of Germany near Kalkriese is considered to be the location of the famous Battle of the Teutoburg Forest / Varus Battle between the Romans and Germanic tribes in the year 9 AD.

The interventions, the architectural means employed and the landscape design, are minimal and primarily abstract. A few measures spark the visitor's imagination of the events that took place in this landscape: the visualization of the former rampart with iron poles, trees cleared away and reforestation, a partial "reconstruction" of the former, lower terrain, three pavilions as well as three path systems on the grounds. Irregularly placed large iron slabs retrace the possible route of the Roman Legions and form a path for visitors to access the former battlefield. A net-like pattern of wood-chip paths symbolizes the positions of the Germanic warriors, their camouflage, their silent attack. Contemporary agricultural gravel paths allow visitors to "switch sides". Proceeding from one iron slab to the next on the so called "Roman path", visitors collect pieces of information from the ground, not unlike archeological work. Step by step, an image of the historical battle forms in their minds.

GG 08/2012

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Credits

Project:	Archeological Museum and Park Kalkriese, Osnabrück, Germany
Address:	Varusschlacht im Osnabrücker Land gGmbH Museum and Park Kalkriese Venner Strasse 69 49565 Bramsche-Kalkriese, Germany
Spatial Programme:	20 hectares former agricultural parcel "marked" as location of the famous "Battle of the Teutoburg Forest" with few interventions: 3 path systems of paths, visualization of presumed course of ramparts, forest clearance/ reforestation, partial "reconstruction" of former landscape; construction of a new museum building with viewing platform 40 m in height; construction of 3 pavilions: "Seeing", "Hearing", "Questioning"; conversion of former farmstead into visitor center with restaurant, shop, children's museum and offices.
Competition:	July 1998, 1st Prize in collaboration with Zulauf Seippel Schweingruber, Landschaftsarchitekten, Baden
Planning/Construction:	1999 – 2002
Client:	Varusschlacht im Osnabrücker Land GmbH Museum and Park Kalkriese, Germany
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborators: Competition: Markus Lüscher Planning/Construction: Volker Mencke (Project Manager), Caspar Bresch, Christian Brunner, Massimo Wüthrich
Construction Management/ Cost Planning:	pbr Planungsbüro Rohling AG, Osnabrück, Germany
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	2'290 m2 (Museum and Pavilions)
Landscape Architecture:	Planning/Execution: Seippel Schweingruber, Landschaftsarchitekten, Baden Construction Manager: Heimer + Herbstreit, Hildesheim, Germany
Exhibition Concept Museum and Pavilions:	Integral Concept, Ruedi Baur, Lars Müller, Paris/Baden
Structural Engineer:	Gantert + Wiemeler Ingenieurplanung, Münster, Germany
Photography:	Heinrich Helfenstein, Zurich Klemens Ortmeier, Braunschweig, Germany