

Village fig.7/ +- Guided Tours

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On a screen a multiple slide projection shows images of a village somewhere on the periphery of Leipzig. The voice of a female narrator, obviously quite young, is giving information about the place. Neither the images, nor the text specifies exactly which community.

The spoken narrative consist of accurate information to what has been added and what has disappeared in this place within the recent years, of statistics and facts concerning building, working, public transport, infrastructure, demographic movements etc. It counts and lists the things that have actually been changed, developed, and with what is planned for the next period of time. The narrative deals, through the numbers and facts, with the process of parallel shrinkage and expansion, which can be found in communities in the periphery of East German cities.



the voice of a child or a young girl speaks (excerpt):

A large number of parking lots have been built in these new residential areas. They are next to the hotel, in front of the shopping mall and along the main street.

Trees, mainly linden trees and a few chestnut trees, have been planted within the village green, along the main street and around the new squares.

Some of the older benches on the main street and along the river were removed. Some were renovated and put back while many new ones were put up in the village centre, in the new neighbourhoods, and along the walking paths. After some time several of the benches were removed again to avoid vandalism and loitering.



The wall around the church has been renovated.

The majority of the shops on the main street have closed. A grocery store, two bakeries, a post-office, a gardening store, a hairdresser, a butcher and a fabric store have disappeared.

A small shopping mall with a number of new shops opened next to the bridge across the highway. A pharmacy, a lamp shop, a hairdresser, a children's clothing shop, a jeans shop, a discount fashion shop, a supermarket, a drug store, a post-office, an ice-cream shop, a bistro, a pizzeria, a florist, a locksmith and cobbler shop, a jeweller and two cash machines opened in the mall. A mobile kebab stand was placed at the entrance of the mall. Later on, the bistro, the supermarket, the pizzeria and the jeweller closed down and a discount supermarket opened up instead. A number of shops have remained empty.

