

New district created in the center of Essen

230 hectares of development land in the heart of the city: Probably no other city in Europe currently has so much available space so close to the city center as Essen. The Krupp belt is a historic opportunity to build an attractive new district in the middle of the city.

The Krupp belt project will take years to complete and poses a real challenge for urban planners. But the conditions for creating a new urban district with a positive impact on the entire city are excellent. The first and most important step has been taken. The focus of the project, the ThyssenKrupp Quarter with its high-quality architecture, campus layout and around 2,000 jobs, is open for business. The Krupp Park will offer 23 hectares of space for rest and recreation after completion of the south section, and the first section of Berthold-Beitz-Boulevard is now complete. The Boulevard is the central transportation artery in the Krupp belt and forms part of the outer ring road around the center of Essen. The site is connected to the public transport network by four tram lines with seven stops in the Krupp belt.

Modern living and working

For the development of the Krupp belt ThyssenKrupp Real Estate GmbH and the Essen municipal authority held an urban development competition back in 1999. The entries were assessed by a panel of judges including independent experts, local government officials, and land owners, and based on the results an urban master plan was developed in 2000. The development of the Krupp belt is being managed by a steering committee composed of representatives of the Essen municipal authority, Essener Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft (the Essen economic development agency) and ThyssenKrupp Real Estate. The belt is to offer space for living, working, leisure, culture and recreation.

As regards working, the Krupp belt's credentials as a location for services and technology are exceptional. The area is at the center of Europe's third largest conurbation with a population of five million. It has first-class links to the national road and rail network and two airports. A diverse school and university landscape provides access to highly qualified human resources. With its economic power, the region is also

a lucrative sales market. Proximity to the ThyssenKrupp Quarter, the Krupp Park and Berthold-Beitz-Boulevard makes the Krupp belt a number-one business address.

Attractive living environment

The Krupp belt will provide an attractive, high-quality living environment for many hundreds of people. At the center of the pulsating city of Essen with the expansive Krupp Park and wide-ranging retail and leisure facilities, the Krupp belt offers outstanding quality of life. Under the master plan, residential properties will be built here ranging from private family homes and town villas to rented and owner-occupied apartments.

A project like the Krupp belt needs not only attractive places to live and work but also areas for leisure and recreation. In this respect the Krupp belt's large inner-city park sets new standards. In the future, the park will be framed by a number of key cultural, sport and leisure developments. Space for these has already been allocated in the Krupp belt master plan.

The plan focuses not only on the successful development of the Krupp belt but also on the needs and potential of existing neighborhoods. Wherever possible – such as with the linking of the Krupp Park to Essen's existing public space development plan – connections and interfaces will be created to ensure the surrounding districts are strengthened by the qualities of the Krupp belt.

This means that the neighboring district of Altendorf, which was included in the planning from the outset, will benefit directly from the development project. The area that previously separated the district from the city center will now become a link. The Krupp Park will enhance the district's recreational facilities. The new transport links will ease traffic congestion, while the business opportunities created will provide new jobs and additional customers for retail and the housing market.