Campus Rutheneum

GERA



Oh, I love the town of Gera! Those old, prefabricated concrete apartment blocks and the historic market place with the fragments of the city wall – it makes me sentimental, makes me feel like home …

And the feeling of solidarity, amazing: parents in the city joining forces to raise funds for a new school!

And now they actually did build that new secondary school, right by the Rutheneum, the oldest grammar school in the town, and the Reuss government building from 1722, at the very spot where an old East German prefabricated building stood.

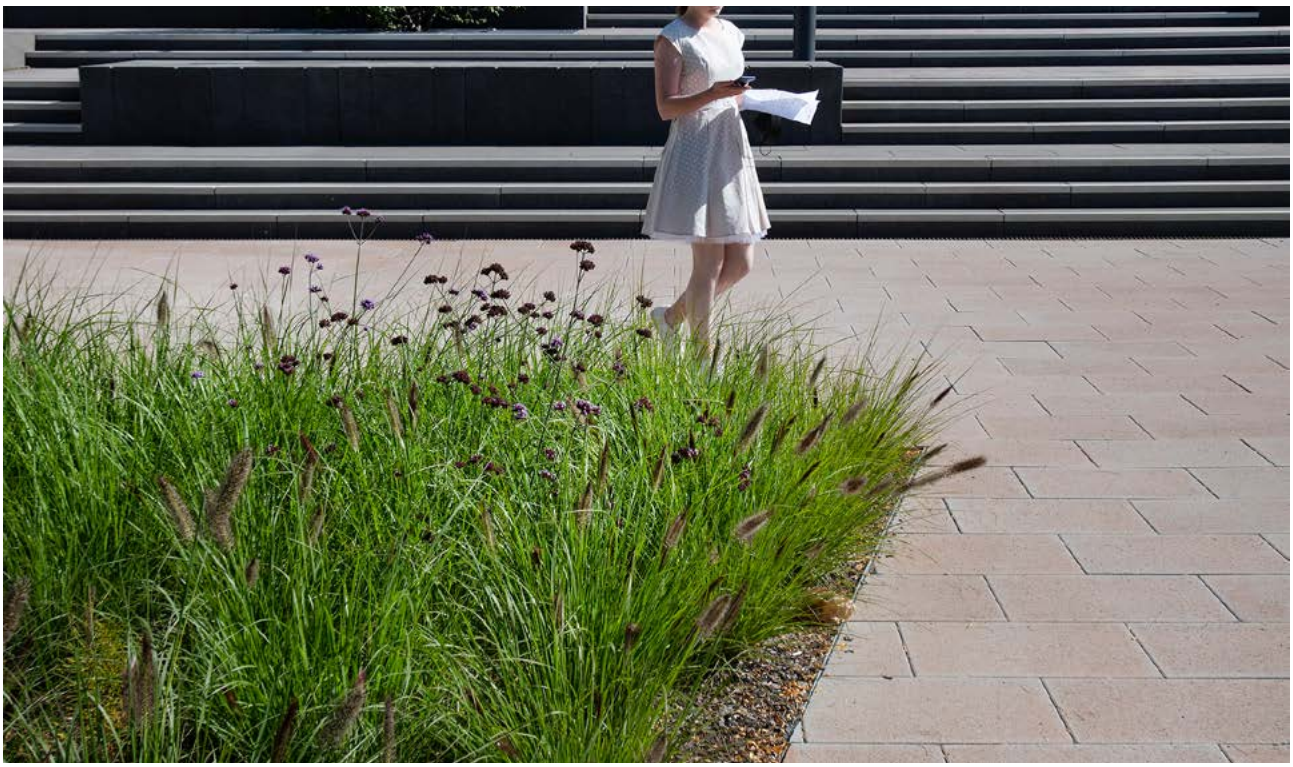
What was created isn't only a new building but a whole new campus with leafy terraces and comfortable seating steps, and a new city wall where the old one used to be. A schoolyard that protects the pupils with its lush greenery. A campus that connects buildings and times, and the school with the town, with public access. And this campus doesn't only connect, it's also a symbol for what resolute parents can achieve for their children when they challenge the city council.

Plans were made in the town of Gera to establish a new, central location for the Goethe-Gymnasium Rutheneum, secondary school with a long tradition which had been spread over several sites for decades. The municipality held a competition, soliciting architectural and open-space design proposals for the creation of a campus in the city centre. Two buildings already existed at the designated location: the historic school building – being used as such – and the listed former Reuss government building dating from 1720–22, which was to be renovated and expanded and incorporated into the new complex. The construction of a complementary new building and a gymnasium as well as the design of the outside area were also part of the competition.

The basic principle of the winning proposal is to highlight the typological and topographic characteristics of the Campus Rutheneum using the instruments of urban and landscape design. The proposed new building is a gentle extension of the government building, continued at an angle to create two schoolyards which are separated but visually connected thanks to the spacious foyer located between them. Aided by the new interpretation of the historic city wall facing the Reichsstrasse, a sequence of squares and yards at different levels is created whose spatial proportions correspond to those of the old town: the Johannisplatz, the government building schoolyard, the campus square schoolyard and the „city balcony" by the government building, all of them also open to the public.

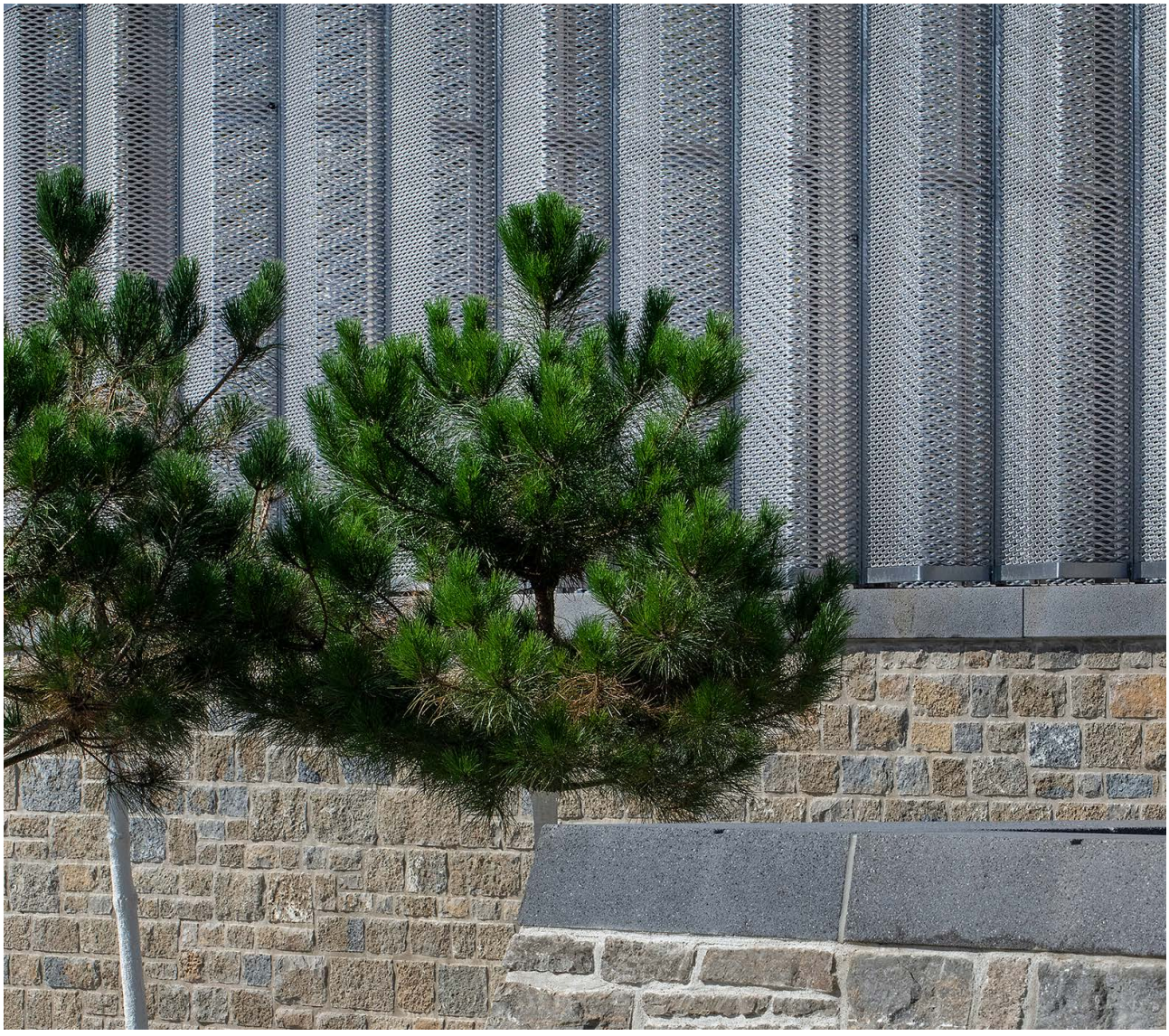
All in all the proposal succeeds in enriching the city centre due to the harmonic, unobtrusive connection of the old and the new, consistent with the Rutheneum's concept of carrying traditions and values over into contemporary education.





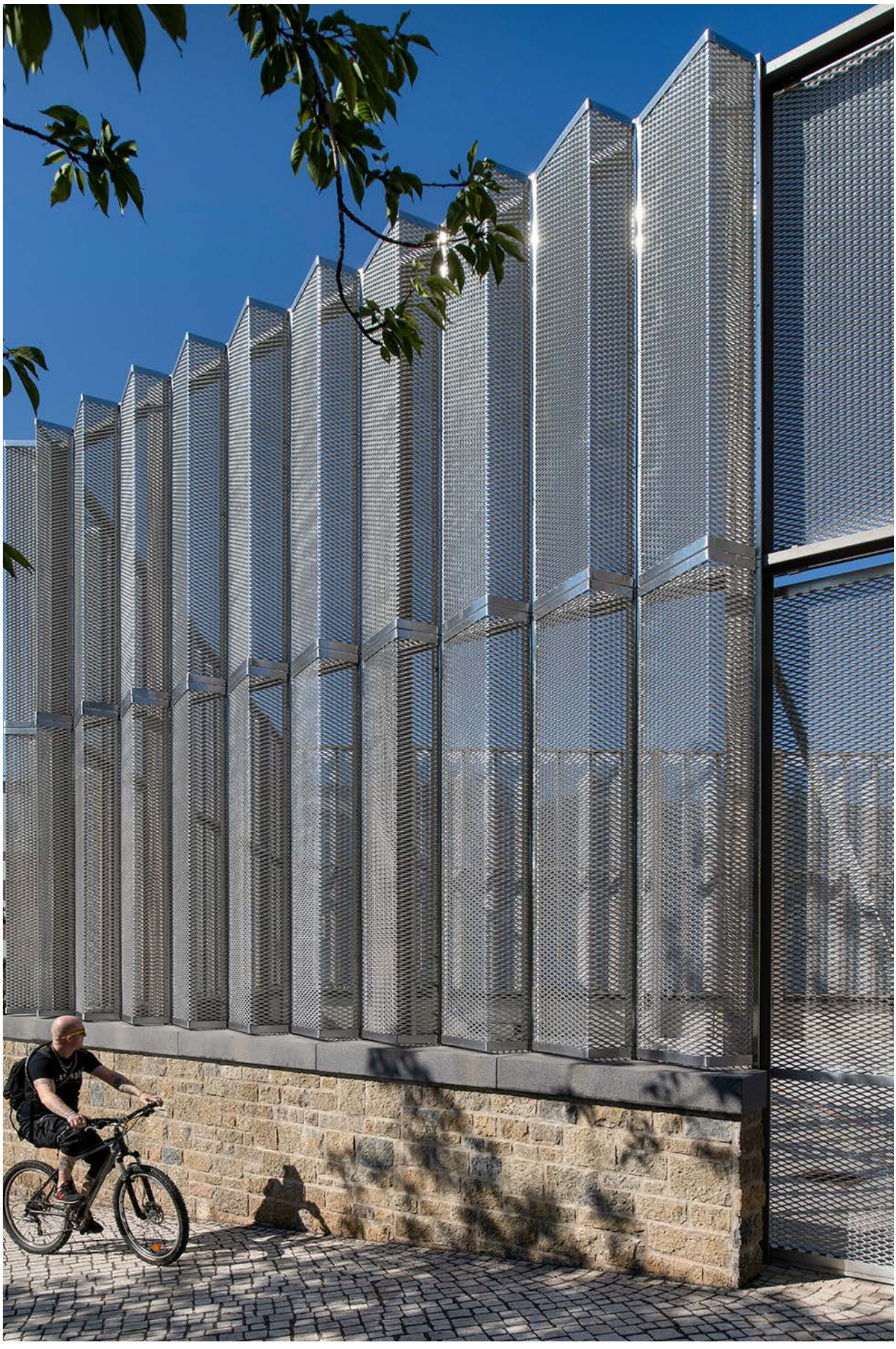










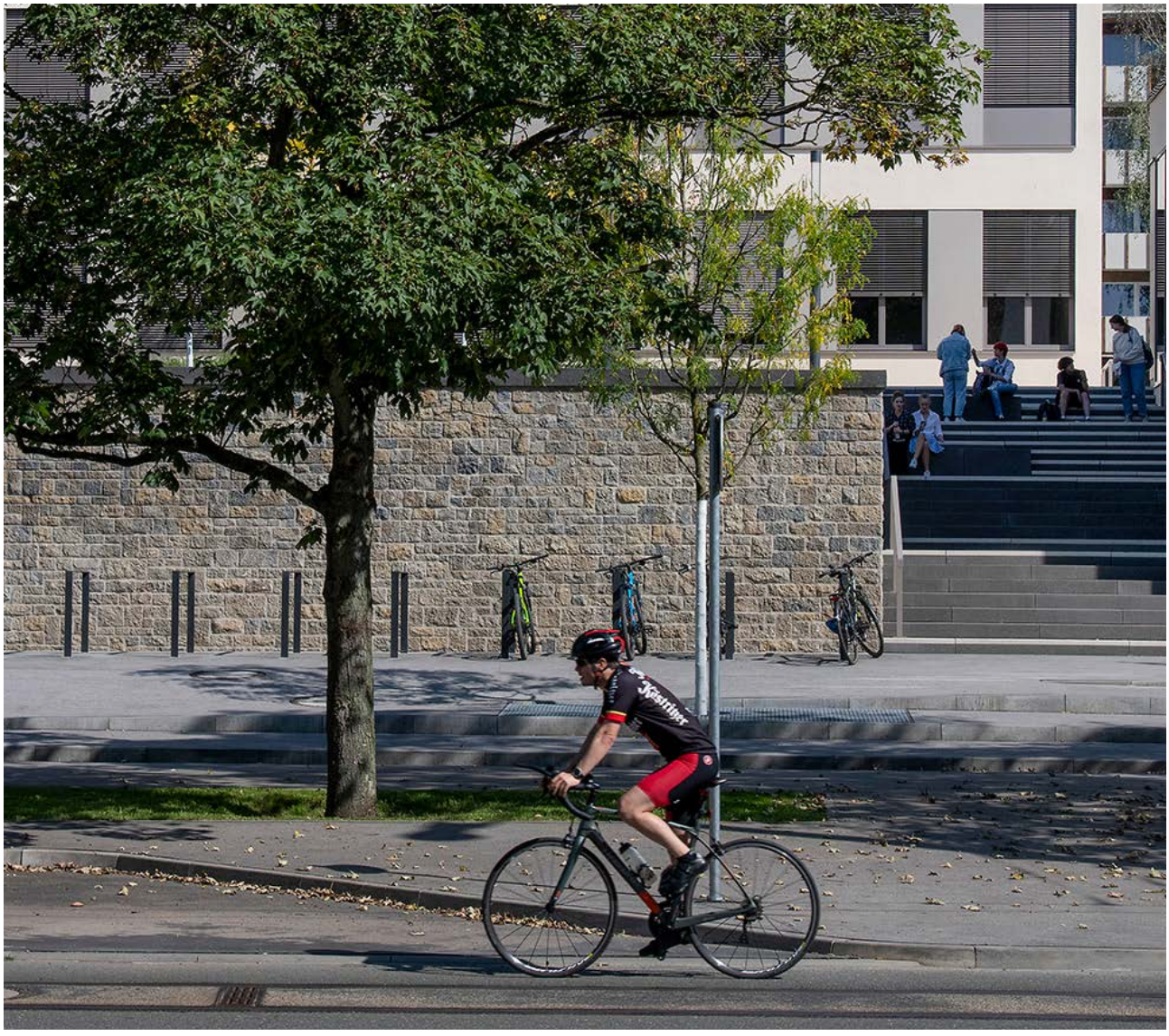


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Project data

Project Campus Goethe Gymnasium Rutheneum

Location Gera, Thuringia, GER

Client City of Gera

Partner Schulz & Schulz Architects

Planning period 2016-2019

Construction period 2020-2021

Completion 2021

Services Planning and construction management (phases 1–9)

Size 10.200 m²

Costs 2.5 million € net

Competition 1st prize, 2011

Images Hanns Joosten

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