

# ROYAL RURAL MOVE - MALBERG CC

Commoning Circles, Creative Castle, Commons Care - Connection Complete

## ***idealism***

This concept is aiming to save the world. It tries to draw a vision with a different way of life. Therefore it adheres to the Paris Agreement of 2016 seriously, translates "Das Haus der Erde" (BDA 2019) into an existing location and retains the main thoughts behind the "Nine Theses for strengthening the Periphery" (Gion Caminada 2004). It is about a realistic Utopia with a focus on the use of available resources, quality of life before standard of living and the promotion of social affiliation and personal responsibility.

## ***situation***

Southern Eifel. Malberg with 500 inhabitants - declining trend - and high vacancy rate. Located between Cologne, Luxemburg and beautiful wooded hills, it is far from the prosperous pulse of time. Malberg Castle stands enthroned above the village. After the increasing decay of Malberg Castle, the commune Bitburg and the "friends' association Schloss Malberg" took charge of the property more than 30 years ago. Public funds and individual commitment led to the appearance, which today has only been restored externally, and partial use. The permanent aim is the sale to private investors, which so far could not be achieved for reasons of profitability. This aim is being questioned.

## ***motivated approach***

In contrast to the rural exodus, a perspective is outlined in which the castle and the village unite and create a "new" rural lifestyle. The starting point of this transformation is a superordinate institute in which the friends' association and the previous Malberg Castle Foundation are integrated. As an independent institute, it establishes collaborations with universities, raises funds from the federal and state governments, and offers positions for voluntary services. The newly defined goal is to develop and implement a variable **catalog of measures** for Malberg, which has its headquarter in the castle itself.

## ***detailed measures***

As a sign of an intended unity, new connections for pedestrians are being created. A new staircase through the fortifications allows the village center and castle to grow into one again. Furthermore, a careful reprogramming of the buildings creates a regional bakery, living quarters, workshops and a day care center. With the experience of the friends' association for cultural events, rentable workspaces in the area co-working and handicraft, but also self-managed free spaces for young people are resulting in a sustainable „village life of the shortest ways“. The castle opens its gates and offers with the institute a framework **without value extraction** - while also retaining the identity of the castle:

- New House: *Representative, lively, and varied character with an invitation for culture, café and communal planning*
- Old House: *Strong walls protect the castle bakery and the living areas of the volunteers*
- Former Brewery: *As a guardian at the entrance, it gives the youth responsibility for identity*
- Arcade Building: *Long, open floor plan with high rooms enables multilayered co-working space for the region*

Another part of this concept is devoted to the northern breach of the arcade building for which an addition is suggested. The design picks up the calm identity of Malberg. Three different rooms for recreation on three levels allow an active, sociable or contemplative time. The cubic form sets itself gently over the existing walls, echoing the early motif of a castle. Nevertheless, as a timber construction, the building does justice to a "new ingredient" with clear openings. In addition, a new front to the Iron Garden is created with a playful exit. The pilaster strips of the self-supporting façade mediate between the plastered arcade structure and the natural stone wall; in between, large-format shingles contribute to an ornamental, reddish appearance. Overall, the extension does not seem intrusive, retains the **identity of Malberg** and completes the invitation to a new royal village life.

## ***again idealism***

In the end, our world is not yet saved by this. Rather, the design is an attempt to answer the question of how we want to live. The more precise this vision turns out to be, the more likely we are to escape Mark Twain's well-known phrase: „Having lost sight of our goals, we redouble our efforts“. What a wonderful world this would be...

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