

PRESS RELEASE

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CHEMNITZ INSIDE: UPGRADE + CONNECT – New visions and ideas for the area behind the “Parteifalte”

The Saxony Chamber of Architects, with support from the City of Chemnitz and the association Baukultur für Chemnitz e. V., is launching a European architecture competition for students.

Submission of works by 31 July 2025 at the latest | Award ceremony on 27 September 2025, alongside the Light Art Festival "Light our Vision" (LOV), with Public Prize

As part of the European Capital of Culture 2025, ideas are being sought to revitalize a central location in Chemnitz’s city center—the currently underutilized area behind the Karl Marx Monument and the administrative complex on Brückenstraße. National and international students are invited to submit their diverse and creative proposals for upgrading and revitalizing this space. In mid-March, a student architecture competition was launched, giving participants the opportunity not only to make a lasting contribution to the Capital of Culture but also to showcase their skills to a broad audience.

Bringing More Life to Chemnitz’s City Center

Right now, the area behind the “Parteifalte” is mostly just a kind of parking lot. Previous plans to turn it into an administrative district never came to life—and even if they had, they wouldn’t have done much to make the city center more vibrant. The goal is clear: this space needs to be brought to life and turned into a dynamic connection between Brühl, Theaterplatz, and the city center! Residents of Chemnitz should benefit from this transformation, gaining an attractive new place for cultural and sports activities. A key highlight could be a new multi-purpose hall, which might even become the future home of the Niners basketball team.

Fresh Wind – New Visions

For this year’s European Capital of Culture, the topics of "architecture", "landscape architecture" and "urban planning" cannot be overlooked now and in the future. In Chemnitz, there are still many vacant areas and abandoned buildings that can be developed or revitalized by professionals. Despite this potential, there is little new talent in these fields in the region, as the Technical University of Chemnitz unfortunately does not offer degree programs in architecture, landscape architecture or urban planning. However, for students and graduates in these fields, it remains highly attractive to engage with the city.

For this reason, the student competition in the summer semester of 2025 invites European students from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning to share their visions for the area behind the “Parteifalte.”. The works can be developed either as part of a semester project or alongside studies.

Around 100 Days to make it happen

Starting in mid-March, students will have the opportunity to work on their ideas. After submitting their works by July 31, 2025, the entries will be presented to a jury and subsequently evaluated.

Award documents: www.baukultur-chemnitz.de/studentenwettbewerb/

The awards ceremony will take place on September 27, 2025, alongside the Light Art Festival "Light our Vision" (LOV), which will once again light up downtown Chemnitz from September 24 to 27, 2025, for the third time. Participants in the competition can look forward to attractive prize money and recognition. Additionally, the works can be discovered as light art by visitors at the competition site during the LOV event.

Public Prize: The Citizens of Chemnitz are asked to Participate

The competition site has the potential to develop into a public "sports and cultural campus" in the city center after the European Capital of Culture year 2025. For this reason, the opinion of the citizens of Chemnitz plays an important role, as they will be the ones using the area in the future. In the week leading up to the awards ceremony, interested individuals will have the opportunity to view all the submitted works and vote for their favorite. The work that is most popular with the people of Chemnitz will be awarded a public prize.

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