

David Chipperfield speech

Laudation for Professor Hans Georg Näder,

Ferdinand-von-Quast-Medaille

Monday 9 December

Dear Klaus Lederer,

Dear Christoph Rauhut,

Dear Laureates,

I am delighted to speak on this occasion in tribute to Professor Hans Georg Näder, and I am particularly happy that his commitment to the city of Berlin is being recognised tonight.

Since we first began working with Professor Näder and his team in 2013 we have been impressed by his commitment not only to restoring these buildings with

care and respect, but also his commitment to considering this collection of buildings as a part of the city and to ensuring that, once again, they become reintegrated as part of its public space and a meaningful contribution to its reconstruction.

Over the recent years, Berlin has had to redefine itself and manage its complex physical identity – an identity which is a collage of aspiration and failure, of dreams and destruction. This process has involved a consideration of not only its historic, pre-war history but also its post-war condition, and indeed the post-reunification atmosphere that has inspired the new enthusiasm for this ‘new’ old city.

The buildings of the Bötzwow brewery enshrine this complex condition of the city. Ruined by the War, and

further compromised (and complicated) by its provisional treatment over the last sixty years, the campus nevertheless still holds traces of the commercial success and importance of the original complex. The collection of handsome industrial buildings, that together with the owner's villa and the popular beer garden, assumed a civic presence in the city. Although they had been reduced to a series of ruins and damaged buildings, they are a resilient record of this impressive commercial and public infrastructure.

The story of the Ottobock company is similarly a testament and record of this turbulent history. Founded exactly 100 years ago in Berlin in the unhappy consequences of the First World War and maimed soldiers returning from the front, it has developed as one of the most inventive global companies allyng

technology, research and innovation. A company truly dedicated to improving the quality of life of those hindered through disability, and to supporting the larger cause of helping the disabled.

The reuse of the Bötzwow complex as a campus is carefully respectful to its past without being trapped by its history. It is re-enlivened through its occupation by Ottobock, promoting research and activity that isn't confined to the predictable commodification of the city in favour of tourism and entertainment, or the efficiency of investment. Instead, it is balanced in its programme and purpose through a combination of working spaces located in the restored buildings, new residential buildings and the restoration of the public beer garden. This combination of activities and investment is directed

by a clear vision to make a real contribution to the community and to the city.

Such projects are not simple. They require a considered balance between commercial viability and the integrity of the restoration project. To find a sympathetic fit between physical and historic limitations of such buildings, and the operative and commercial requirements of possible users, requires a patient understanding of the inherent historic and social context of the project.

Under the leadership of Hans Georg Näder, the project has been carefully developed over the recent years. It demonstrates a sincere approach to commercial redevelopment and investment, alongside a genuine desire to protect history and encourage redevelopment. If the wider city of Berlin is to manage its development

and control the influence of the new investment that is finding its way here, we need the type of engagement and vision that Hans Georg Näder has established at the Bötzwow brewery campus. It is therefore highly appropriate that he is being recognised with this award this evening.

Thank you.