

Knowledge transfer through Atmosphere - How is Atmosphere constructed in the BGBM?

CUD

Vegetation

The most important elements in the garden are the plants. Their size ranges from mosses measuring just a few millimeters to mighty redwood trees. Size and requirements on the environment shape the space around the plants. Trees in particular play a space-shaping role here. Decades old trees form dense forests in which the visitor often finds clearings that create a special atmosphere of tranquility and seclusion.

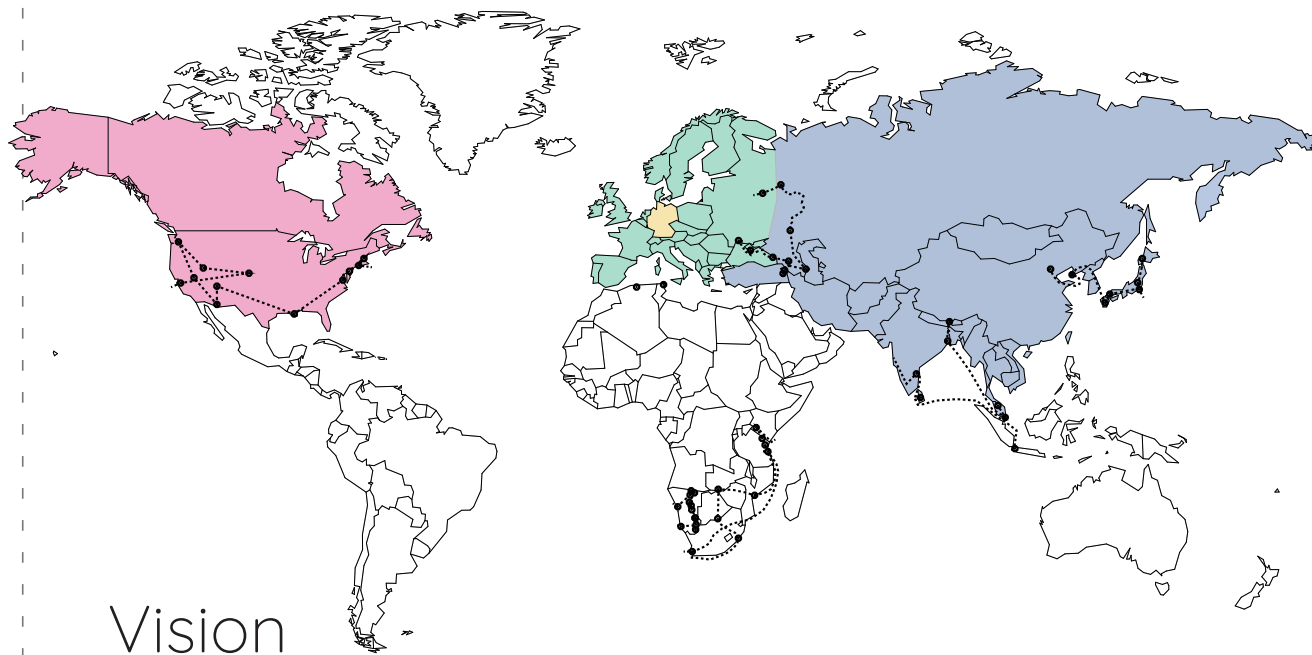
Organisation

The garden consists of nine sections. Each section has its own logic of organisation and communicates knowledge in different ways. While the plant geography tries to imitate nature, there are also places in the garden that are less atmospheric and more functional, such as the system of herbaceous plants.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arboretum | Water plant garden |
| Plant Geography | Medecinal plant garden |
| Moss garden | Ornamental garden |
| Scent and touch garden | System of herbaceous plants |
| Italian garden | |

Topography

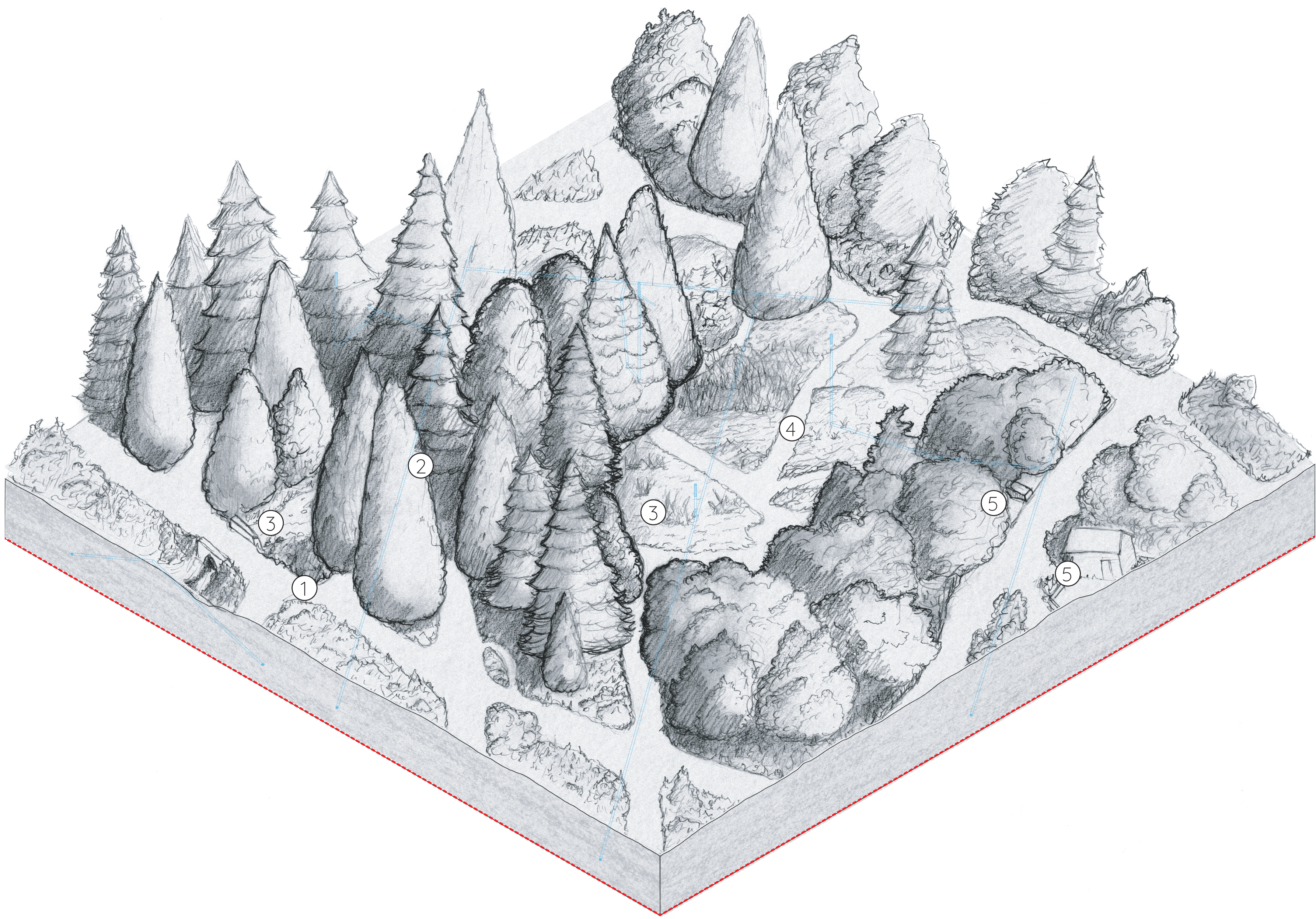
In order to represent mountains and different landscapes, topography was used. The excavated material from the artificial ponds was piled up, creating small mountains that form, for example, the Rocky Mountains or the Alps. During the visit you get the feeling of a hike through the Alps.



Vision

"The whole world in one garden", this was Adolf Engler's vision when he developed the garden of the BGBM. Even today, the garden is shaped according to his view of the world, which can be seen most clearly in the plant geography. The visitor's journey begins in Germany, takes them eastward through Europe, Asia and finally North America. The same journey Engler took between 1900 and 1913.

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Germany | North America |
| Europe | Irrigation System |
| Asia | |



Case Study in the North American Section

Subjective Perception

1. On the way to the pond "Amerikasee" we discover a small path that leads into the dense forest, it leads us to our case study area. Right next to the entrance is a huge conifer. We wonder how the trees are preserved here:

Interview Exerpts with the Head Gardener
"... we got a so called Gartenpflgewerk it's about heritage protection, about heritage management and in case of cutting and falling this tree here (we have far more than 200 trees) we have to plant the same tree species again."

2. In the shade of the forest we find protection from the heat. There is a smell of conifer trees. We see plants that we have already seen in other parts of the garden and understand that they probably need shade to grow. How are plants arranged in the garden:

"... the gardeners can mostly arrange the areas on their own, for their own reasons, their own ideas. But if a plant is here in the shadow or in the sun, it depends on the conditions the plant needs. A lot of plants, need full shade or a sunny side. So the gardeners have to plant it in this condition."

3. We hear water in a small creek, it leads us further into our case study area and it feels like being in nature. We only hear the water and a few birds, the city noise is faded out. But every now and then we are reminded by the water sprinkler that this is an artificial landscape:

"the irrigation system is 120 years old and it's in work, since 120 years. And it's good. It's quite good. It's a good idea. Good engineering, very good engineering ... better than today."

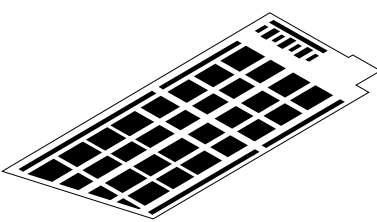
4. In the clearing we also find the only cacti in the plant geography. We are surprised that the cactus field of the "Kakteenfreunde" is much larger. The cacti here look rather triste. And the potted Aloe Vera plants take the imitation of nature immediately away.

"... there is a small cactus garden. It's like a public private partnership of a Bavarian gardener. There was this fundraising but he financed most of it and build a cactus garden outside. Now there is a sign "Kakteen Oettinger" for the visitors. Cause it's a reference for his marketing..."

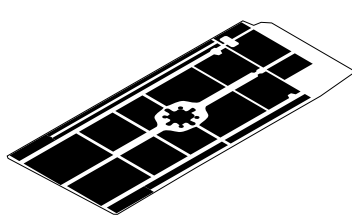
5. Small tool sheds for the gardeners, trash bins, green containers and piles of plant waste. Everywhere in the garden we are reminded of how much work it takes to maintain the contained nature here. Where does the compost go?

"The most is still here and we make our own compost, we make our own terra preta. But there is a lot of cubic meters going outside which we can't make a good compost from. It's just stuff. It would hinder the compost process. So it's going outside to a factory, wich makes fertilizer products out of it."

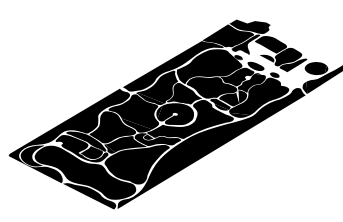
Development of Garden Typology of the BGBM



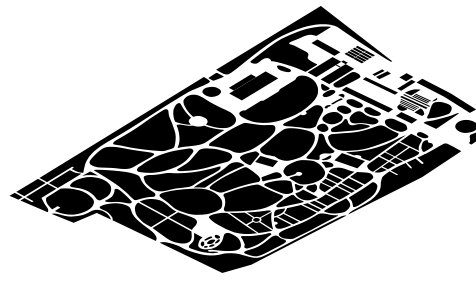
1679
First botanic garden in Berlin
Schöneberg



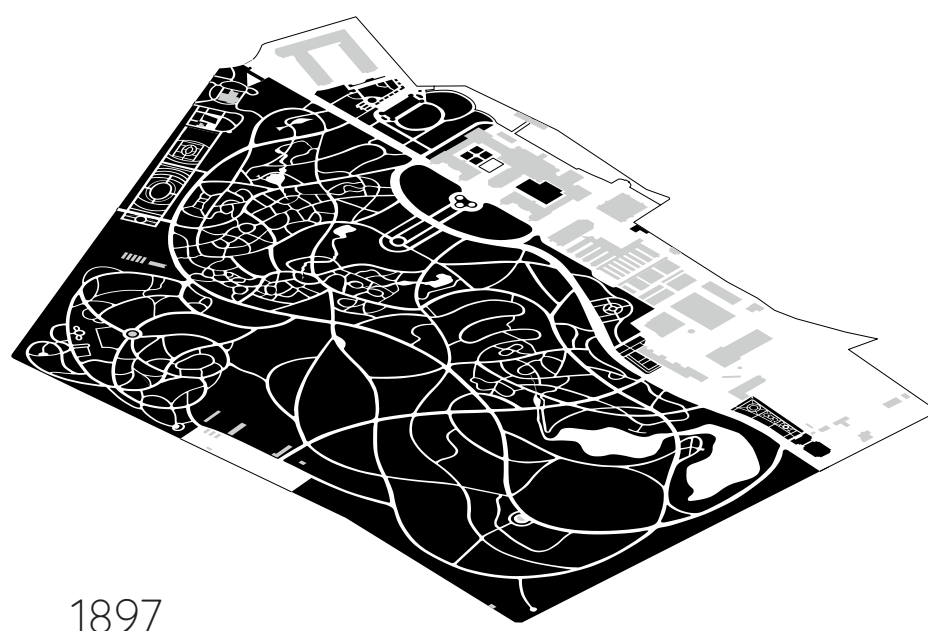
1700 - 1800
The garden is characterised by
simple geometric shapes



1801
Redesign by Wildenow in style of an
English Garden



1857
Expansion of the garden area in
Schöneberg



1897
Relocation to Berlin Dahlem and
new design by Adolf Engler