

An Art Walk Through the Park

The **history of the artworks** in this park began in the late 1970s. In 1979, the Rostock Office of Urban Planning approved the design concept for the Dierkow-Neu development area. This concept included guidelines for the design of open spaces, parks, and facades, for the naming of streets and squares, and for the installation of works of art in the neighbourhood.

An overarching theme had been established for the neighbourhood's design: honouring those who shape the built environment. Thus, the streets and squares were named after architects and urban planners, and the art in this park also followed this guideline. The invited artists were asked to depict so-called **basic elements of architecture** and combine them with artistic details.

The Rostock-based sculptor Wolfgang Friedrich had contributed to the design concept for the neighbourhood. He decided to depict a woman's head. A **column** was to support this head. The sculptor Reinhard Buch developed a contribution to the design of the small hill in the centre of the green space. He designed a bronze figure that was to stride through a **gate**. The figure depicts a girl with an apple in her hand.

Sculptor Rolf Biebl was commissioned to create a work of art for the southeast entrance. He chose a bronze sculpture of a young woman, which was to be placed in front of a **wall**. For each side of the wall, he designed a relief: a man wearing a motorcycle helmet on one side, a still life featuring a television set on the other side.

By 1992, however, only the three basic elements of the structure had been completed. For three decades, the park featured a column, a gate (*Image 1*), and a concrete wall with reliefs (*Image 2*). The **accompanying sculptures** were stored in the artists' studios or were installed at other locations throughout the city.

The park was renovated using funds from urban development grants in 2022. The head created by Wolfgang Friedrich was given a coloured finish (*Image 3*), the matching name **Tag und Nacht** (Day and Night), and a new concrete column. The bronze figure by Rolf Biebl, titled **Andrea**, was placed in front of the concrete wall. Only the basic architectural element, the gate, is still waiting to be complemented by an artistic detail.

Image 1: "Tor" (concept 1987, fabrication and installation 1992) by Reinhard Buch, photo: 1998 © Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Rostock

Image 2: Narrow side of the "Reliefwand" (concept 1987, fabrication and installation 1992) by Rolf Biebl, photo: 1997 © Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Rostock

Image 3: "Großer Frauenkopf" (concept 1985, fabrication 1991, installation 2022) by Wolfgang Friedrich, hand-coloured copy of a design: before 2022 © Wolfgang Friedrich