

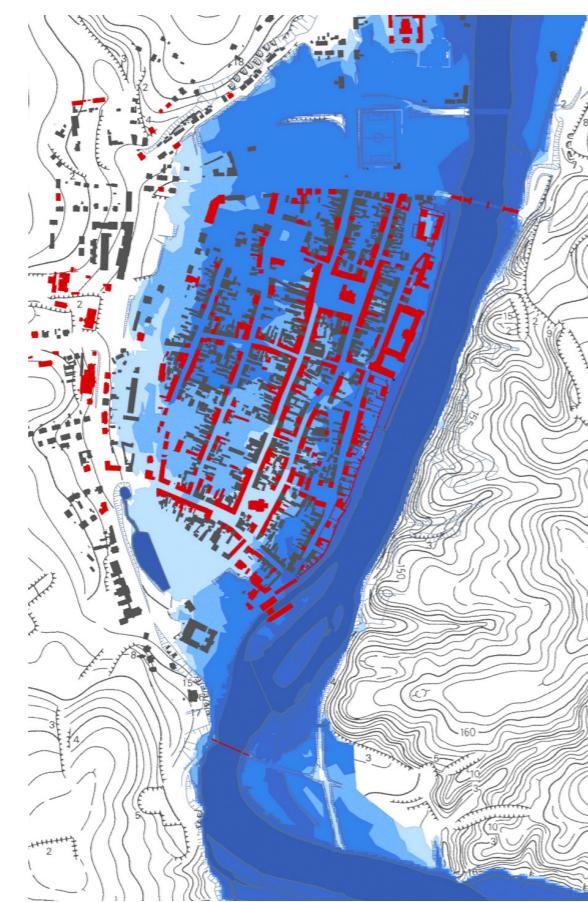
G R I M M A , S A X O N Y : Integrating Flood Protection Structures along the Historic Riverfront

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EAAHI 5 Category B: Outdoor Spaces



Historic centre with green belt



Flooding in 2002

Grimma was among the most severely affected towns in Saxony during the enormous 2002 flood. This prompted a decision to undertake comprehensive protective measures. The project generated particular interest because of the old town's special historic significance and urban character. Controversial discussions focused on the scale and appearance of the protective structures, on the architectural measures conceived along the river, and on reconstruction of the partially destroyed arched bridge. Our Working Group for Flood Protection and Historic Preservation from the Dresden Technische Universität was commissioned by the State Dam Authority with conceptual design and planning for the townscape, architecture, and preservation. This made it possible to carefully integrate technical engineering elements into the existing situation, while at the same time upgrading aspects of the townscape and landscape. Based on the engineer's hydro-mechanical model of the river current, a compatible alignment for the protective wall was developed. Structural solutions were individually designed for specific sites, while overall design guidelines provided continuity along the two-kilometer site, including numerous gates. Socles of the monumental buil-

dings were retrofitted so that they could assume the role of a protective wall. Together with the planners in charge of hydro-engineering, the architects were able to design and supervise the above-ground work, from the design of the protective structures and their urban alignment, through the plan-approval procedure to the work and detail planning. The large-scale construction, which is only partially visible, protects Grimma from a flood of the type that occurs every 100 years statistically. The sections in the old town respond to the riverbank areas characterized by the city wall and a chain of historic buildings. New connective pathways and recreation areas were created along the Mulde. Outside the old town the flood wall is more freely designed and curves through the newly created river park, where boating activities take place. A pedestrian path along one section of the wall leads directly from the stone bridge to a new promenade along the river.

