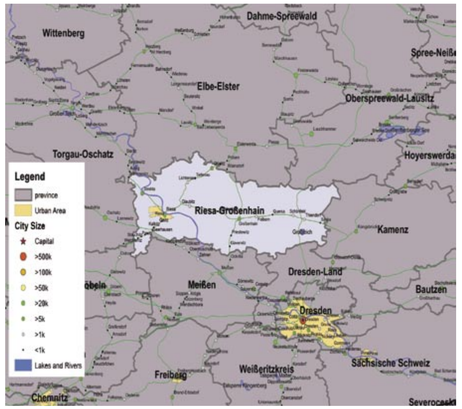
Der Wasserweg, Riesa - Groβenhain

The Place



Riesa-Großenhain - The Project Area
We will study and document the conditions of the River Elbe as it enters and leaves the area.
We will study and document the followingstreams; the Roder, the Jahna, and the Pulsnitz.

Above: The River Elbe

Right: The Roder,
The Jahna, and
The Pulsnitz

The Issues

Sources of Water Quality Impairment:

* high density urban development
* industrial estates and development
* high yield agri-business waste disposal
* open range grazing of herds
* erosion and sedimentation
* culverts and infrastructure
* lawns and hard edge canals

The Approach

Using the YSI - 556 Meter, provides quick and consistent water quality data, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity.

Sampling in the field with the YSI meter and a bridge - sample rod and a GPS unit.

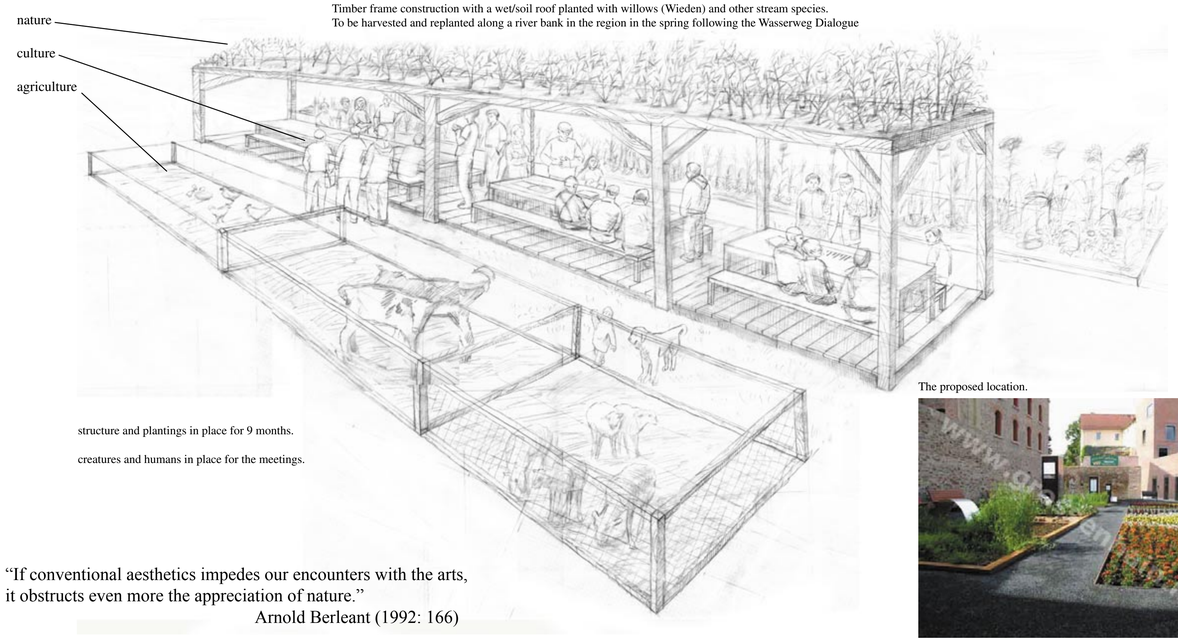
The IDEXX colilert system provides an inexpensive and easy method for monitoring sewage impacts from municipal and agricultural sources.

The stream protocol sets testing points based upon stream order and its relationship to land use.

WASSERSWEG STUDY
A METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING AND COMMUNICATING WATER QUALITY

PARTNERSHIPS:
GROβENHAIN FACHSCHHULE FUR LANDWIRTSCHAFT - PLANNING AND LABORATORY
GROβENHAIN YOUTH GROUP - FIELD TESTING AND COMPUTER GRAPHICS

A place for discussion



Timber frame construction with a wet/soil roof planted with willows (Wieden) and other stream species.
To be harvested and replanted along a river bank in the region in the spring following the Wasserweg Dialogue

structure and plantings in place for 9 months.

creatures and humans in place for the meetings.

The proposed location.

"If conventional aesthetics impedes our encounters with the arts,
it obstructs even more the appreciation of nature."
Arnold Berleant (1992: 166)

I. Project Introduction
Der WasserWeg - or The Water Way

Riesa-Großenhain is literally an agri-culture, a culture of the land. We came to this place from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania which was until recently an industrial culture. Upon arrival, we realized that we must have humility here; we must ask, not speak, we must give, not take. The people of Riesa-Großenhain know the land, their life has occurred on the land over centuries. We will come to your place once or twice again, but we do not have time to know the land. Working in Pittsburgh we have learned to know water and its plant life. In Groβenhain, we believe that we can learn about the land by looking at the water. We would like to meet people that use and care about water. We would like to walk and think with them. We would like to use the common languages of experience and science to go to the waters edge and ask the water to speak - to tell us a story.

The story of water in this place will be complicated. It will be a story of people that love this place, complicated by economies technologies and land politics. The water tells its story with honesty, it tells us what we do on the land when it is good and it also tells us when what we do on the land is not good. In more scientific terms, we are interested in aquatic ecological systems and what they reveal - the potential for life, the diversity of life, and impact upon life. By extension we are also interested in the attendant riparian systems and upland terrestrial systems and land uses that affect water.

We propose a two part program for Riesa-Großenhain; *The Wasserweg Study,* and *The Wasserweg Dialogues.*

To prepare for the Wasser Weg Study, Tim Collins, and Reiko Goto will need access to map data that illustrates streams, canals and land use in the region. They will work closely with local German planners to identify a water quality testing strategy. They will then arrive in Riesa-Großenhain with a research associate prepared to study the streams and train local youth groups to participate in field studies and the graphic representation of streams and data. One of the artists and the research associate will stay in Germany for 30 days to complete the study.

To prepare for the Wasser Weg Dialogues, we propose to work with the staff of the Groβenhain Kultur Zentrum to transform the lower area into a symbol and setting for ongoing discussions about water quality. This project extends the current agricultural planting scheme.

The Wasserweg study
The study of water will be based on a protocol developed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with artists, scientists and undergraduate students working in the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University. The program has a specific protocol consisting of map-based analysis using a GIS system (computer aided map design) to develop a strategy for field studies. The field studies use a camera, a GPS receiver (satellite position location) and a YSI-multi-meter, that senses and records temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. This will be complimented by specific laptop computer equipment and laboratory technique for examining e. Coli bacteria. We have this material available to us and with funding for supplies could bring the whole system to Germany. Alternatively, the project funders might consider buying the equipment, at which point we could help set up a permanent citizen-based water quality monitoring program in the region.

The Wasserweg Dialogues
We will create a meeting place to discuss water, the elements are people, nature and agriculture. All three components must be physically presented and politically represented in their fullest terms. See the drawing above, for an initial concpetualization of this idea and the location for its construction.

The second issue is the content for dialogue. Based on our water quality studies, and discussions with urban and agricultural experts we have the following initial thoughts to begin the dialogue. Based on known history and previous studies:
- is water quality getting worse or better?
- Where is water quality at its best in the region and why?
- Which farms have the best land management strategies, and
- Which towns have the best sewage management systems?
- What does water and nature mean in Riesa-Großenhain?

Draft Budget

Personnel	
Goto + Collins	$7,500
Research Associate	$2,000
Grossenhain Research Assoc.	$3,000
Site Construction Support	$3,000
Equipment	
IDEXX Supplies	$1500
Onsite Computer	$1500
Onsite Software	$1500
Dialogue Site Construction	$5000
Final Report/Display	$2,000
Subtotal	$27,000

Additional Costs
Travel, Hotel and Transport to be determined

PARTNERSHIPS:
GROβENHAIN DEPT. OF PLANNING - TEST ANALYSIS AND URBAN DISCUSSION
GROβENHAIN FACHSCHHULE FUR LANDWIRTSCHAFT - AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSION

WASSERWEG DIALOGUES
A SETTING AND PROCESS FOR THE DISCUSSION OF WATER QUALITY AND ITS IMPACT