

Karl Plomin (1904-1986)



Karl Plomin 1963
(in private hands)

For Plomin plants in all their abundance and variety, colours and shapes were the main focus of garden design. His plant arrangements are clear evidence of his comprehensive botanical knowledge. Plomin's garden arrangements follow nature but also include cultivated plants or imports from foreign regions when, e.g. a special shape or colour was required to emphasize an arrangement.

Through his atmospheric plant compositions Plomin is in the same rank as the excellent German landscape architects Hermann Mattern, Wilhelm Hübotter, Hans Schiller or Gustav Lüttge. Having successfully completed his apprenticeship in Klein Flottbeck and at the State Technical College, he studied urban design at the Munich Technical University in 1926. After returning to the Hamburg Parks and Gardens Authority in 1930, he later went on to establish his own business. After 1945 he re-started his independent planning activities. His perennials garden at the first Federal German Garden Show in Hanover in 1951 attracted plenty of attention. For the first time, the exhibition of perennials was shown as a natural arrangement. Plomin was also responsible for planning the International Garden Shows in Hamburg in 1953 and 1963. Thus, the creator of "Planten un Blomen" in Hamburg already enjoyed an excellent reputation, when the town authorities of Malente commissioned him to develop the spa gardens. On his 80th birthday, he was awarded honorary membership of the Association of German Landscape Designers (BDLA) for his life's work.



Draft of a section of the Schwentine meadows (Sketch K. Plomin)

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Kurpark Malente, Bahnhofstraße 4, 23714 Bad Malente-Gremsmühlen

Information and guided tours:

Tourismus-Service Malente, Bahnhofstraße 3,
Tel 04523 - 95 90 130, www.bad-malente.de, www.kurpark-malente.de

Opening hours

The garden is open throughout the year from 9 am to 6 pm,
in summer until 8 pm.

Literature:

- Karl Plomin: Der vollendete Garten, Stuttgart 1977
- Gartendenkmalpflegerisches Gutachten zum Kurpark Malente, Büro Siller, Kiel 2014.



The Spa Gardens in Malente



Concert pavilion and open-air stage

The importance and history of the gardens

The spa gardens in Malente is the most important landmark of the 1960s in Schleswig-Holstein. During this period the focus was on using plants as the main element of design. The idea of combining the beauty of nature with glass, steel and exposed aggregate concrete created extravagant and colourful gardens.

In 1955 Malente applied for the status of a Kneipp health resort. Work began in 1962 on a 5 ha area, encompassing the wooded Brahmberg hill and the adjacent Schwentine water meadows now having a variety of features, such as an open-air stage, concert pavilion, view points, sheltered fireplaces, Kneipp basins, the house for spa visitors, as well as countless flowering perennials and shrubs. Peter Arp (1925-2007) a well-known architect in

Ostholstein designed the spa buildings which were sensitively integrated into the existing trees. The spa gardens have continued to fulfil their function for more than 50 years now whilst preserving much of the original substance. Since 1997 guests can visit the gardens free of charge. Since 2003 the spa gardens is a listed monument



Heath spotted-orchid
(*Dactylorhiza maculata*)



Editor:

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Abb.: Julia Freese, Friedhelm Schneider, LfD
Druck: Carius Druck 2017

Bramberg

The hill Walkenberg in Gremsmühlen first became known as Bramberg in 1866. The name derives from the Northern German word „Bram“ for the broom plants growing there. The hill Walkenberg in Gremsmühlen first became known as Brahmberg in 1866 and is derived from the Northern German word „Bram“ for the broom plants growing there. Plomin had over 2.500 rhododendrons, 5.000 woodland perennials and 33.000 bulbs planted beneath the 100-year old trees.

1 Main entrance

2 „Haus des Kurgastes“: This is the largest building – erected in 1968/69 and also home for the spa administration.

3 Open-air stage: A natural hollow was used to create an area for open-air performances providing seating for up to 600 guests.

4 Concert pavilion: Cleverly erected in 1965/66 in a corner position, performances can be followed from the main square and/or from the open-air stage.

5 Recreation lounge: Built in 1965/66, this allround glazed building, constructed on steel supports and overhanging the slope is of utmost transparency. Seen from the lower parts of the gardens, it seems to hover over the lower bushes and plants. The floor tiles of black terrazzo and insertions of carrara marble give to the lounge an elegant character.

6 Kneipp* basins: The treatment options in the spa gardens were enriched by Kneipp water-treatment basins for legs and arms.

7 Sheltered fireplaces: There are four fireplaces along the promenade, providing a special place to sit. A fire in the evening creates a lively, magical atmosphere as do the adjacent water fountains during the day.

8 Chess areas: These were added in 1976. Originally, card tables were also provided where contests were still being held in the 1980s.

9 Viewpoints: Numerous places to sit are provided to rest and enjoy the quiet and nature. From the benches of the Brahmberg slope guests can enjoy lovely views of the Dieksee and of the promenade of the spa gardens.

10 Luisenhöhe: The highest point in the spa gardens can be reached by steps from the main concert site and offers a marvellous view of the lake “Dieksee”.



* Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897) was a Bavarian priest. He propagated naturopathic medicine, specially his „Kneipp Cure“, a form of hydrotherapy.

Schwentine meadow

This garden part in the valley of the Schwentine river was first created between 1962-64. The particularity of this area is the combination of running and still waters, damp meadows of orchids and, especially in autumn, the striking colours of the marsh plants and trees, e.g. Swamp Cypresses, Swamp Spanish Oaks, Caucasian Wingnuts and Katsura trees. This area of the spa gardens where water and sun meet, offers recreation at its best.

11 Boules: Installed in 1976 next to the main promenade, this area is now used mainly for boules.

12 Sun terraces: The seating areas on the main promenade facing south-west are furnished with portable chairs inviting to relax and observe nature or to sunbathe. Light and dark aggregate exposed paving stones which gradually lead into the herbaceous beds, allow the visitor to experience the fragrances and beauty of the plants and flowers very closely.

13 Entrance Schwentine meadow: Here the visitor can enter the gardens through the original gate designed by Karl Plomin in 1966.

14 Resting place for water sports enthusiasts: Through the initiative of “Freunde des Kurparks” in 2014 a 300 m wooden jetty – after plans by Plomin - was built over the Schwentine meadow. This is an ideal place for paddlers and visitors to take a break and relax. Guests are kindly requested not to walk over the meadow to protect the rare orchids growing here.

15 Circular ponds: Like eyes in the landscape, reflecting the sky above, the 8 circular ponds in the Schwentine meadow are home to water-lilies, marsh plants, dragon flies as well as water birds and many other animals.

16 Café Voss

17 Train station Bad Malente-Gremsmühlen