

# RaumKulturDenkmal

## Focus

The aim of the non-profit association RaumKulturDenkmal is to promote nature conservation, art and culture, as well as the protection of cultural landscapes in the tri-border area of Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria. The association is involved in cross-border projects with international participation aimed at the collective preservation of endangered cultural and wild plants, the revival, conservation, and restoration of historical building structures, as well as artistic research through the conception and implementation of cross-border artist-in-residence programs and exhibitions. The decentralized participatory structure of RaumKulturDenkmal e.V. allows for direct influence on its content orientation: exhibitions, interventions, research projects, event series, and publications are developed by the members in interdisciplinary project groups from initial idea to realization. The decision regarding the program of RaumKulturDenkmal e.V. lies with its members. It is discussed and decided collectively each year. The focus is on themes such as cultural landscape, biodiversity, climate change, historical site conservation, sustainable architecture and landscape development related to the tri-border area of Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria. Art and knowledge production are understood as forms of action that comment on societal processes and have an impact on them. Active members pursue their themes with great personal commitment, shaping a program that continues the values and original idea of the founders of the association: cross-border collaborative exchange, collective knowledge production, and active creation of a sustainably exemplary archive of a responsible relationship with nature and cultural landscape.

## Location

### The Höpflgut

The Höpflgut was once the residence and workplace of the renowned Höpfl artist family, active in Breitenberg for over 100 years, with their artistic works adorning many churches in the Lower Bavaria region and beyond. The Höpflgut is a striking two-story building with a mansard roof and flared gables, perched on the summit of Höpfelberg and visible from afar. Its imposing appearance is characterized by the mansard roof with jerkinhead and the impressive gable wall on the village side. Due to its prominent location in the landscape, the Höpflgut is considered an outstanding example of urban architecture in rural areas, complete with vaults, garden, fire pond, and historical well. The building dates back to the late 18th century. The former annex with workshop north of the main building has been demolished down to the foundations.

### The Höpfklaus

The Höpfklaus houses the exhibition space of RaumKulturDenkmal e.V. in the chapel room. The Höpfklaus/Ermitage is a former hermitage with a deconsecrated chapel of the Franciscan monk Frater Elias Zorretmayer, a companion of the writer and natural philosopher Adalbert Stifter. The hermitage is an architectural representative of a hermitage/mountain hermitage in classical division with prayer and work room, and formerly a small farm with an associated garden, in an exposed location on the summit of Höpfelberg, visible from afar and shaping the landscape. Following the eremitic rules of the order, the Höpfelklaus was only allowed to be built in seclusion, thus at a distance from the buildings of the village of Breitenberg. It is therefore a testament and site of cultural-historical significance during the settlement of the "New World" in the Bavarian Forest lowlands. The hermitage was donated and built around 1833 at the request of the hermit by the Höpfels. The chapel room was furnished with intricately crafted items by the Höpfels. The items were later on where lent to the church in Lakenhäuser, where they still remain in storage.

## Culture

### Artist Residence Program

The concept of the Bauhaus Bavaria Residence Program emerged from the desire to open the space to artists and cultural creators, as well as the collaborative endeavors of the founding members with different transdisciplinary ecological trajectories and residencies around the world. The Residency program celebrates sustainable practices and inclusive spirit merged with the ethos of the Bauhaus Movement and the Black Mountain College. Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscape of lower Bavaria, the residency offers a unique opportunity for sustainable creative experimentations. Another aspect is the location itself: The Höpfelgut and the beautifully integrated former hermitage of the Franciscan monk Elias Zormeyer. This has always

served as a place for creative work and spiritual practice and still inspires passionate love for local biodiversity, landscape, and historical building culture. On the grounds of these factors representing the protected cultural landscape, beauty, and radiance of the Bavarian region of the GER/CZ/AU border the decision was made to name the project after Bavaria, the female symbol figure and secular patroness of Bavaria. During the Artist Residency Program, various artistic positions from the three border countries engage in cross-border exchange with international colleagues on the respective thematic focus of the residence year. The Artist Residence format is complemented by excursions and lectures. At the end of the residency, an exhibition with accompanying program takes place. The AIR format thus is a reactualization of local creative practices that have been in use for centuries, with a focus on enabling sustainable international cross-border exchange in cultural production and artistic research and contributing to transdisciplinary art discourse.

The focus for this year's Bauhaus Bavaria Residency is *Nature - Built Environment*.

### Landscape

#### The New World

The New World is the scenic treasure trove of the region and one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the district of Passau. At the end of the 17th century, under Bishop Wenzel, Count von Thun systematically developed this area in the previously uninhabited part of the southern Bavarian Forest on the Wegscheider Hochfläche after the end of the Thirty Years' War. The scattered settlements that emerged formed the structural basis of present-day villages such as Breitenberg (originally also known as Wenzelsreut), Thalberg, and Gollnerberg, which must be sustainably developed to preserve their outstanding cultural heritage value for future generations (Haversath 1994).

#### The Hochwald

Stifter himself left no doubt that his roots, which lay in the Dreisessel area in the Bavarian and Bohemian Forests, allowed him to become what transcended the confines of a location-bound writer. "My whole soul is attached to this region. If I completely recover anywhere, it is there."

Adalbert Stifter, pseudonym Ostade, (\* October 23, 1805, in Oberplan, Bohemia, as Albert Stifter; † January 28, 1868, in Linz) was an Austrian writer, painter, and educator. He is one of the most important authors of the Biedermeier period. His works include short stories and novellas as well as longer novels such as "Der Nachsommer" and "Witiko".

On the midnight side of the Austrian region, a forest extends about thirty miles westward from the sources of the Thaya River, to that border knot where the Bohemian land meets Austria and Bavaria. There, as often happens with needles in crystal formations, a swarm of mighty ridges and backs thrust against each other, pushing up a sturdy mountain mass that now displays its forest blue to three lands and sends them rolling hills and streaming brooks on all sides. Like its counterparts, it bends the course of the mountain line, and then, heading northward, continues for many day's journey. The location of this forest pivot, comparable to a secluded bay, is where what we intend to narrate thrives. (Introduction to the High Forest).

### Habitat

#### Biotope Network

The areas around the Höpflgut host various biotopes with a high diversity of endangered animals, plants, and insect species. The protection of these organisms and the optimization of their living conditions are realized in cooperation with the local nature conservation authority and experts.

#### Permaculture Garden

The RaumKulturDenkmal e.V. is developing an experimental permaculture garden where various old varieties are cultivated to convey permaculture knowledge about the synergies between plant communities, insects, and location.

#### Old Fruit Varieties

The orchards around the Höpflgut host over 40 old, endangered core and stone fruit varieties. The stock is expanded annually.

### Contact

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