# Arnulfpost

DECEMBER 2021

# HELLO, MUNICH

What began in 2008 with a small team has grown into a site of international significance for Google. Today, around 1,500 people work at our Arnulfpark campus and other offices in Munich. Our teams here are working to improve privacy and security on the internet, further develop the open web, and create new solutions for the future of work and mobility, among other things.

We're excited to expand our activities in Munich, and create a new engineering center in the historic Arnulfpost building. In doing so, we're breathing new life into an iconic structure and creating space for around 1,500 additional Google employees. Up until the planned opening in 2024, we'll stay in close communication with the local community and all interested citizens – including via this newsletter, which will be published twice a year.

The focus of the first issue is sustainability. Google has been a carbon-neutral company for more than ten years. By 2030, we will run entirely on carbon-free energy – everywhere, 24/7. Sustainability is also central to the planning, restoration, expansion, and operation of Arnulfpost. We will develop the historic fabric of the building and design the new structures and open areas in a way that creates a healthy and sustainable site – with green spaces that can be enjoyed by local residents and wildlife. In this newsletter, you'll find details on what we're doing to achieve this.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding Arnulfpost, our team welcomes your ideas. You can reach my colleagues at arnulfpost@google.com.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wieland Holfelder
Site Lead Google Munich

## SUSTAINABLY REVITALIZING A LANDMARK

**The historic Arnulfpost is a place of progress.**

Built in the 1920s, the building complex is based on designs by Robert Vorhoelzer, Franz Holzhammer, and Walther Schmidt, who are considered pioneers of Bavarian Modernism and set architectural standards with this and other buildings. From the 1930s onwards, mail for the entire Munich area arrived here and was sorted in the iconic rotunda of the “Postpalast”. E-mobility also played an important role at the time: electric tugs carried letters and parcels from the delivery area to the sorting facility, before large electric trucks then transported the mail to its recipients.

Google is drawing on the Arnulfpost’s history of innovation as we build the new engineering center. The historic elements of the complex are being preserved and carefully developed into future-ready workspaces in close coordination with Munich’s historic monument protection authority. The focus with this work, and with all new construction activities on the approximately 50,000 m2 site, is sustainability.

“We’re embedding sustainability into every aspect of the design and construction process to ensure that Arnulfpost helps Google reach its ambitious goals regarding carbon, circularity, water, health and ecology,” says Andreas Gyr, who is responsible for the sustainability of Google’s European real estate portfolio. In 2020, his work earned him the Living Future Hero Award for green building. In Munich, Andreas and his team are focused  on preserving existing buildings wherever possible, while improving energy efficiency and user comfort and experience. As a result, only a few new buildings are needed – essentially a connecting building between the historic side wings – which will be built to the most rigorous sustainability standards.

The Arnulfpost campus will meet strict LEED Platinum certification criteria thanks to state-of-the-art energy-saving systems for heating and cooling, as well as the use of renewable energies to cover its electricity needs – some of which will be met by on-site solar panels. In addition, from the construction phase onwards, Arnulfpost will generate less waste than other similar projects, use less water and promote local biodiversity.

This not only makes Arnulfpost a greener part of Munich’s central Maxvorstadt borough in a literal sense, but also ties in with the city of Munich’s guiding ecology policy.

# LESS ENERGY CONSUMPTION, MORE REGENERATIVE SOURCES

**The goal is for Arnulfpost to consume as little energy as possible.**

We want to obtain the majority of the site's energy needs from renewable sources. Considerable carbon savings will initially result from the preservation and optimization of existing buildings for energy efficiency, helping us to avoid emissions generated by the production of new building materials.

With the new buildings, the focus is on efficiency: Computer-aided analyses have shown that energy requirements can be reduced by 26 percent through intelligent ventilation and cooling/heating systems, as well as through low-consumption LED lighting and other energy-efficient appliances. Significant energy savings can also be achieved with the design of façades, including automated elements for solar shading.

The site is connected to the highly efficient district heating and cooling system, while energy recycling helps to reduce overall demand. Waste heat from server cooling systems, for example, is used to heat water and air.

Wherever possible, the remaining demand is met by carbon-free energy. Rooftop photovoltaic systems covering approximately 450 m2 generate green electricity directly on the Arnulfpost campus.

## SAVING WATER AND REDUCING WASTE

**Drinking water is a scarce resource, and waste pollutes the environment –** which is why we're very conscious of both at Arnulfpost. As rainwater is ideal for the irrigation of green areas, we collect it in underground tanks that hold 340,000 litres. Highly efficient, water-saving fixtures – in the sanitary facilities for example – reduce overall consumption, while smart water meters and sensors installed throughout the building automatically detect any leaks and prevent water wastage.

Waste reduction has been a major focus at the new Arnulfpost since construction began. Many original features are being salvaged and recycled – such as old doors and railings or reclaimed bricks and structural components from the former customs building. 90 percent of the construction waste is intended to be recycled.

And once the Google engineering center is up and running, employees will continue to keep waste production to a minimum and correctly separate any waste materials.

## FOCUS ON GREEN MOBILITY

**We’re encouraging employees and guests to use public transport** and other low-carbon ways of getting around so that Arnulfpost will not increase traffic and environmental pollution on surrounding roads. Only very limited car parking spaces are available – e.g., for visitors with accessibility needs and pregnant women. Instead, there are more than 300 mostly sheltered parking spaces for bicycles at various locations around the site – including some 50 spaces for public use. On-site changing rooms and repair stations make commuting on two wheels even more attractive. In addition, more than 20 charging points for electric cars will be provided on the Arnulfpost campus.

# FOSTERING NATIVE SPECIES

Prof. Thomas E. Hauck is co-founder of Studio Animal-Aided Design, a planning office for the promotion of urban biodiversity. In an interview, he explains which animal species the new Arnulfpost site will provide a habitat for – and why.

**Prof. Hauck, you're advising Google on how to increase urban biodiversity using the Arnulfpost site. Which species do you have in mind?**

We looked into which animals are native to the area and found 17 species* that could find good living conditions at Arnulfpost and enhance the experience of being in a natural environment: seven bird species, three bat species, five butterfly species, and one bee and one grasshopper species

**Will you release these animals onto the Arnulfpost campus in the hopes that they'll remain?**

No, that wouldn't be best practice. We're planting and designing the site so that it meets species-specific requirements for food, shelter, breeding, and roosting. The animals will then, hopefully, come of their own accord.

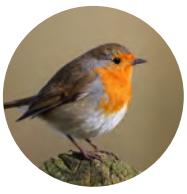
**Who benefits from an increase in biodiversity around the Arnulfpost site?**

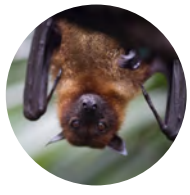
Animals and humans alike. Species native to Munich with declining populations – such as the house sparrow – are fostered, while others are provided with more habitable space. The Arnulfpost's green roof acts as a kind of stepping stone and, together with other green spaces, forms a network of habitats between the Isar River and Nymphenburg Palace Park.

**And the people?**

People benefit from getting to experience nature in an urban environment. This applies both to the people who work here and to those living in the immediate vicinity. They'll see animals more often and could, for example, get to see butterflies on the roof garden during their lunch break or hear a blackbird singing in the morning.

*Seventeen animal species are to become native to Arnulfpost: seven birds (robin, wagtail, great tit, chaffinch, redstart, house sparrow, and blackbird); three bats (brown long-eared bat, common noctule, and common pipistrelle); five butterflies (peacock butterfly, brimstone, painted lady, red admiral, and small tortoiseshell); as well as the ashy mining bee and the southern oak bush cricket.

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