

ARCHITEKTURPREIS DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT 2025/2026

Teilnahmeberechtigt sind von der Universität nominierte Masterabschlussarbeiten in Einzelarbeit aus dem **Sommersemester 2025** oder dem **Wintersemester 2025/26**. Die Masterabschlussarbeiten müssen eine gesellschaftlich relevante Fragestellung bearbeiten und hierfür zukunftsgerichtete Lösungen vorschlagen.

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Kulturkreis
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Titel der Arbeit:

Relatum - cultivating Discontinuity -

Name der Verfasserin / des Verfassers:

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Kurzbeschreibung:

This thesis explores the meaning of “irrationality” in post-industrial urban transformation through the former Nippon Steel plant in Kure, Japan, which closed in 2023 after 84 years of operation. The site is now planned for redevelopment as part of an expanded multifunctional defense facility, justified by military reinforcement, economic recovery, job creation, and national subsidies. While this may appear to be a rational solution for a shrinking post-industrial city, the thesis questions what is lost when redevelopment is driven primarily by efficiency, security, and economic compensation.

The project argues that the industrial remains are not obsolete obstacles, but carriers of collective memory, visual identity, and emotional attachment to place. Using the concept of Kintsugi, the Japanese practice of repairing broken ceramics by emphasizing rather than concealing fractures, the thesis translates industrial traces into spatial seams, thresholds, and orientation devices. These elements structure new relationships between secured institutional space and public open space.

Rather than rejecting rationality, the thesis defines irrationality as the preservation of values that efficiency cannot measure: memory, ambiguity, sensory experience, and toponymia. Named Relatum, the project proposes landscape architecture as a relational practice connecting people, place, and environment.