

revierBUNT

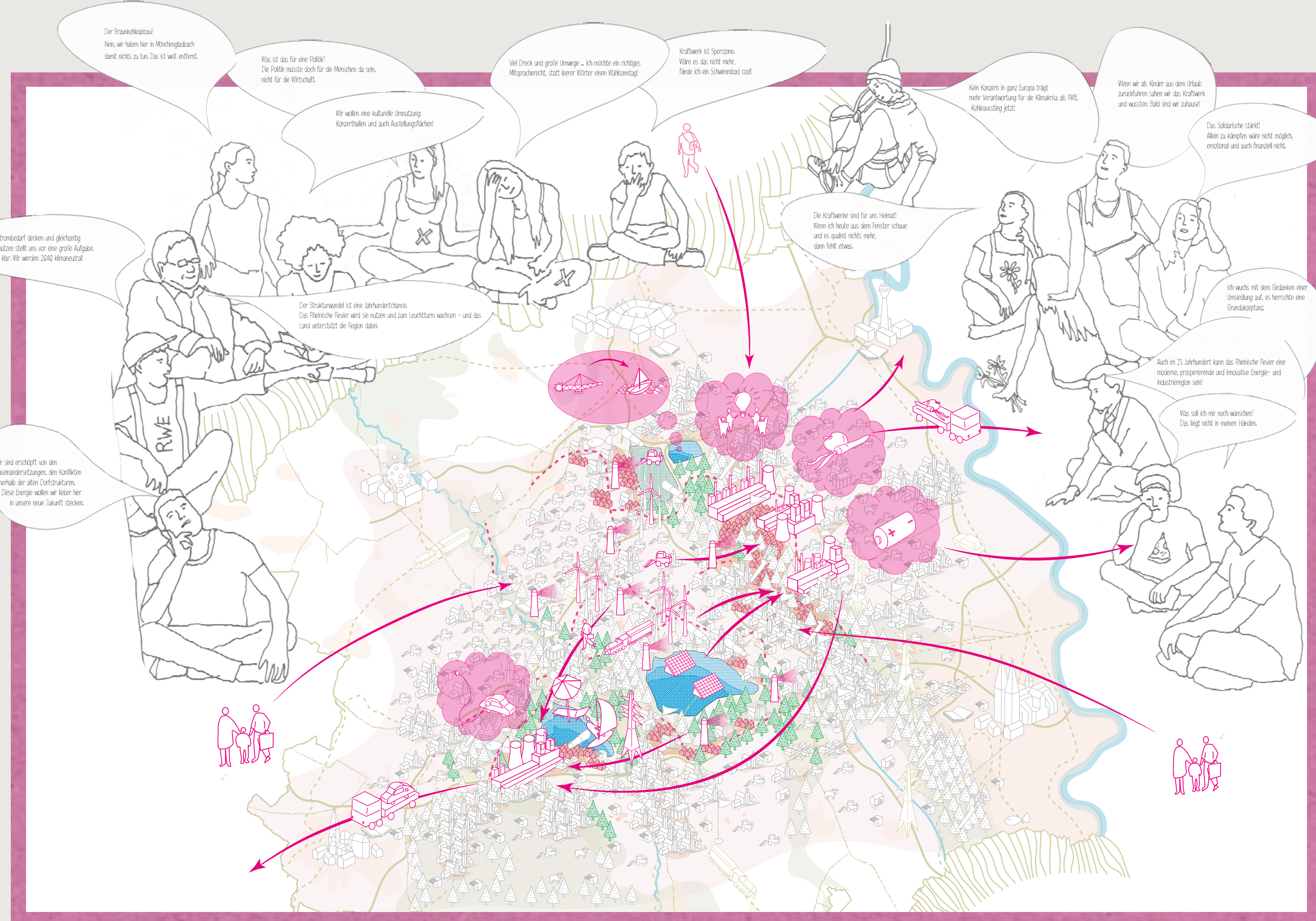
radical, regional and revolutionary transformation of the rhenish power plant sites

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We took on the role of hosts in a participatory planning process with players from the region to offer a vision of transformation close to the locals.



The coal phase-out in Germany is dated 2038. This means the beginning of a transformation for the politically charged *Rheinische Revier*, which is the largest open-cast mining region in Europe. The power plant in Frimmersdorf is deactivated already, to be followed by Weisweiler, then Niederaußem and finally Neuroth¹. But what will happen to the region and the sites when the power plants stop smoking after decades? Will regional identity get lost and something old or new reshape the area?

Recent spatial images discussed the future of the opencast mines already but disregarded the neighboring coal-fired power plants in planning process so far². Will they remain the main drivers of the region in the future despite of its change? What will become of the architectural megastructures? Can there be harmony between the giant construction dimensions and the prevailing village settlement structures? And what do new concepts of use look like?

We took on the role of hosts in a participatory planning process with players from the region in order to convert the power plants in a way that reactivates the sites.

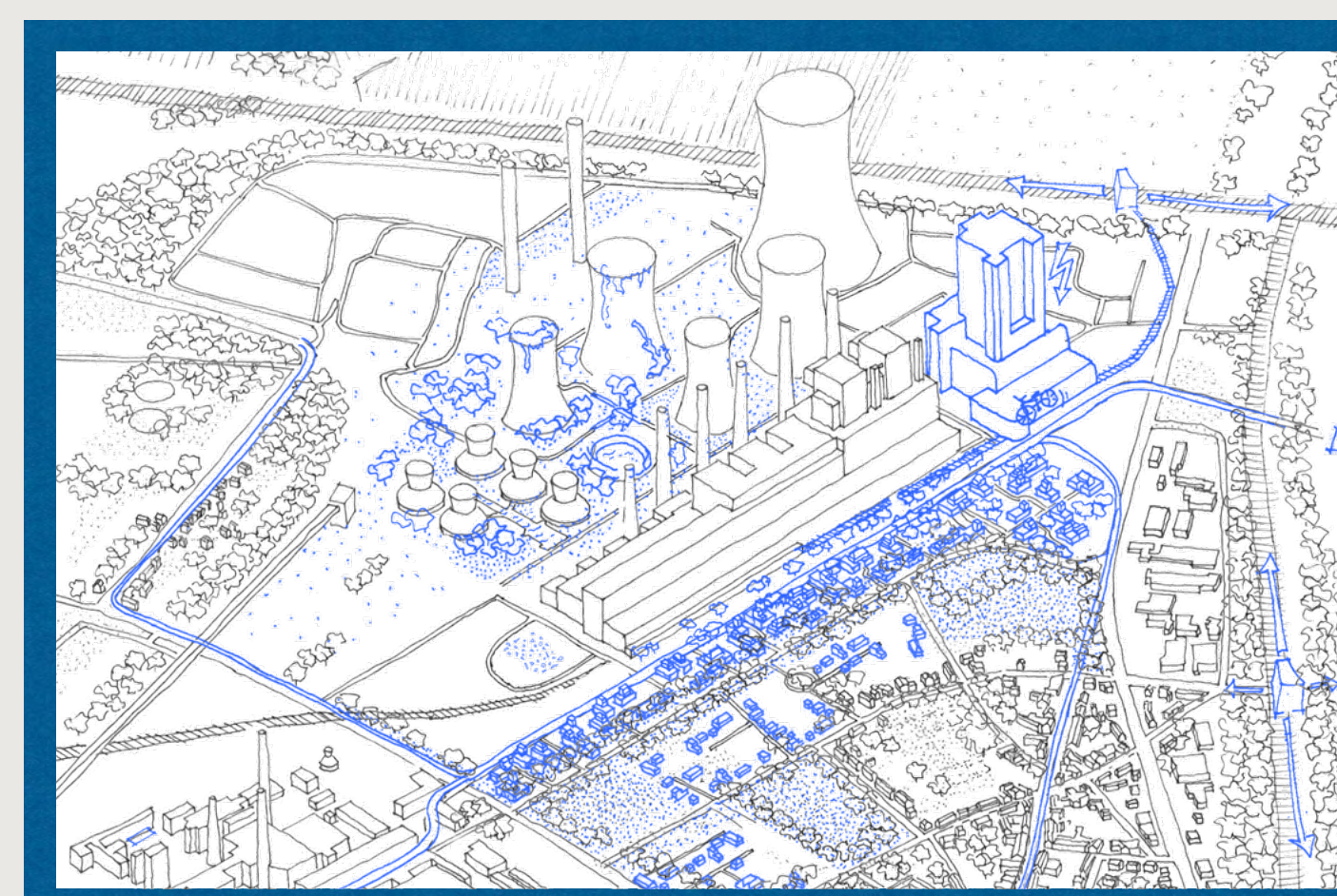
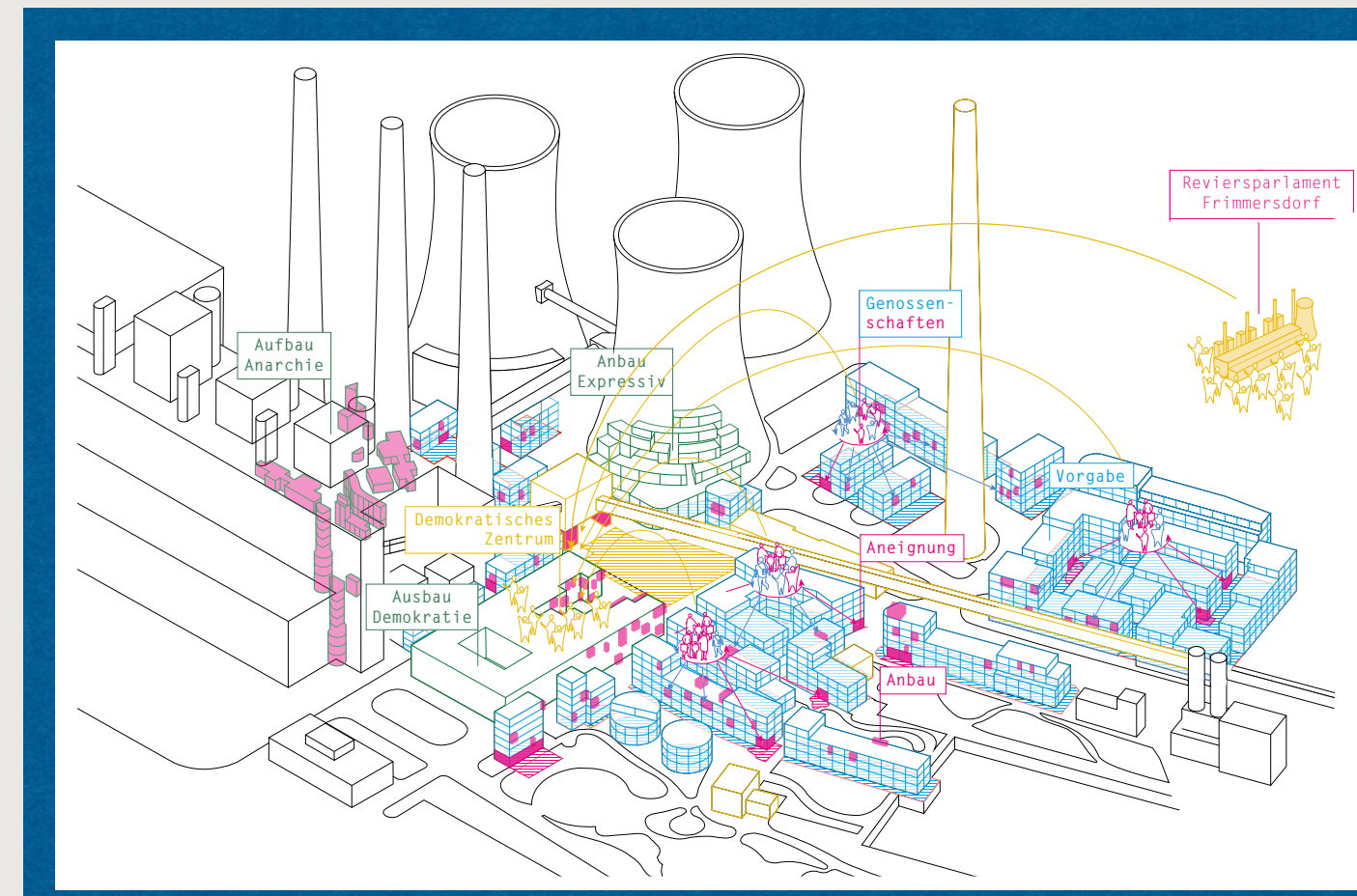
Interregional energy policy interests determined the *Rheinische Revier* previously, which strengthens the importance now to (re)shape a self-image of the region by planning close to the population. This is how the vision of a common identity and sphere of action with the title *revierBUNT* came into being, based on three guiding principles: *Radical Democracy*, *Regional Circular Economy* and *Revolutionary Ways of Life*.



The *revierBUNT* is socially and economically functional in itself and based on the 3 design-maxims. In on-site-workshops we reflected and developed the design proposals with the residents.



¹ Groß, Dagmar; Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf; Dezernat 32 – Regionalentwicklung (2021)
² cf.: Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier (2021)



In two in-depth design works, we transformed the Neuroth and Niederaußem power plant sites according to the 3 maxims of the *revierBUNT*: *Radical Democracy* stands for the establishment of regional and local instruments of participation such as a regional parliament, cooperative administrative structures or floor plans that promote encounters and permeability. *Regional Circular Economy* developed through the exclusive use of reused, recycled or dismantled existing material in an experimental manner. Use-related cycles can be found in the established uses that meet demand and regional trade. *Revolutionary Ways of Life* means an eclectic redefinition of living between city and country, between power plant towns and traditional village structures. Besides, the proposals include experimental dwelling concepts to address various players.