



# Informationstafeln für die Gartenstadt Frohnau - Frohnau Information Boards

*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frohnauer Vereine und Organisationen – Projektgruppe Infotafeln*

## Panel 3 - Ludolfingerplatz

Ludolfingerplatz (Ludolfinger Square, formerly Bahnhofsplatz) forms the gateway to the west of Frohnau. It is composed of an oval ornamental square and a small fountain in front of it. Five streets branch off from the square. The Sigismundkorso forms the central visual axis, which begins with a central promenade and leads via the chestnut tree on the terrace and the fountain to Frohnauer Brücke and on to Johanneskirche on the Zeltinger Square.

### The development

Formative parts of the square, including the train station, casino and casino tower, had already been completed by 1910, when the Garden City opened. Paul Poser's Villa Wuttke followed in 1924/25. The Capitol cinema, built in 1938, was demolished again in the 1970s for a supermarket building. In contrast to Zeltinger Platz, Ludolfinger Platz today is characterized by buildings with plastered or stone-faced facades and a moving roofscape.

### The green design

Historical photographs show a symmetrical design with different garden spaces: manicured lawns with decorative borders and strictly trimmed hedges, sharp lawn edges and a quiet water basin. Small fences protect the landscaped areas, and four putti on raised pedestals in rose beds decorate the grounds. The climb from the station forecourt to the higher bridge over the railroad tracks is deftly managed by a monumental terraced structure with side steps flanked by columnar poplars. An avenue of red flowering chestnut trees frames the entire square. A particularly beautiful specimen shades the observation terrace. The basic structure of the square has remained unchanged since its creation. Many decorative elements have been lost and the structure of the paths has changed. Today, the unfenced lawns are used intensively for playing, picnicking and relaxing - a challenge for preservation and maintenance.



## Ludwig Lesser (1869–1957)

Ludwig Lesser was born in Berlin in 1869. He is considered the first freelance garden architect in Germany and was responsible for numerous private and public garden designs in the Berlin region. At the end of 1908, the Berlin Terrain-Centrale appointed him garden director. In Frohnau, Lesser designed all the squares and parks as well as the planting of the streets, the cemetery and numerous private gardens. To this day, the garden architect's design characterizes the entire settlement area. In the Reinickendorf district, he designed the green spaces of the "White City" starting in 1928. In addition, Lesser worked as a lecturer and made garden art known through books, magazine articles, lectures and radio broadcasts. Because of his Jewish origins, the National Socialists gradually banned his professional activities from 1933 onwards. In 1939 he and his wife managed to emigrate to Sweden, where he died in 1957 at the age of 88. Lesser never returned to Germany. After the war, he was initially forgotten, including during the rebuilding of the „Deutschen-Gartenbau-Gesellschaft“ (German Horticultural Society), of which he had been president before 1933. Since 1958, a park in Frohnau bears his name. Today, Lesser's outstanding achievements, especially for socially committed horticulture and the creation of people's parks, are generally appreciated.