

Grafenwöhr's Netzaberg Village:

Once complete in 2008, this housing complex will include a child development center, a chapel complex, a kindergarten, elementary and middle school, and a youth services center.

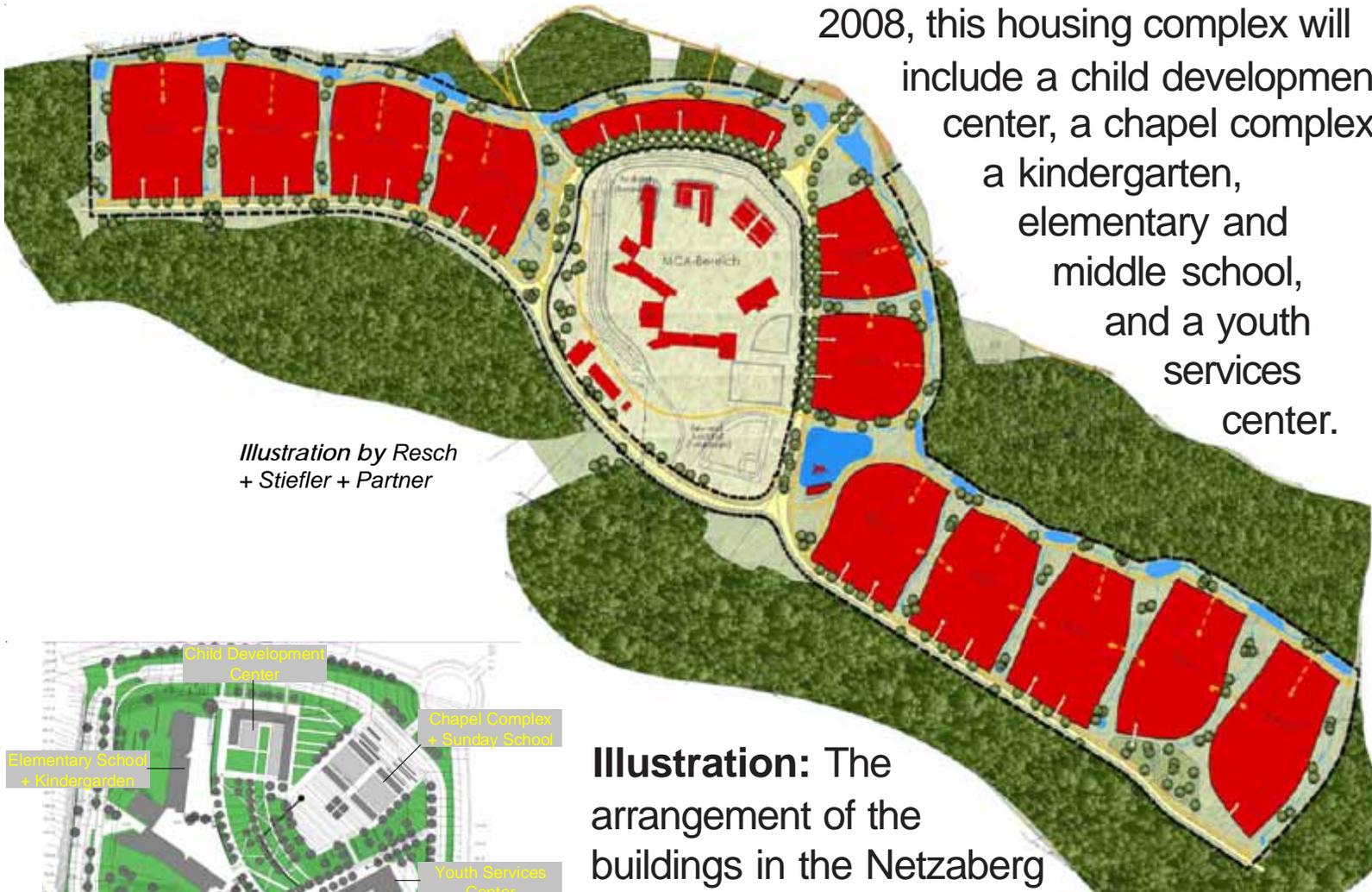


Illustration by Resch + Stiefler + Partner



Illustration by Baur Consult

Illustration: The arrangement of the buildings in the Netzaberg Village complex was based on convenience and proximity.

Aerial Shot: As seen from above, the school complex on Netzaberg as well as part of the youth services center and the chapel complex, are already under construction.

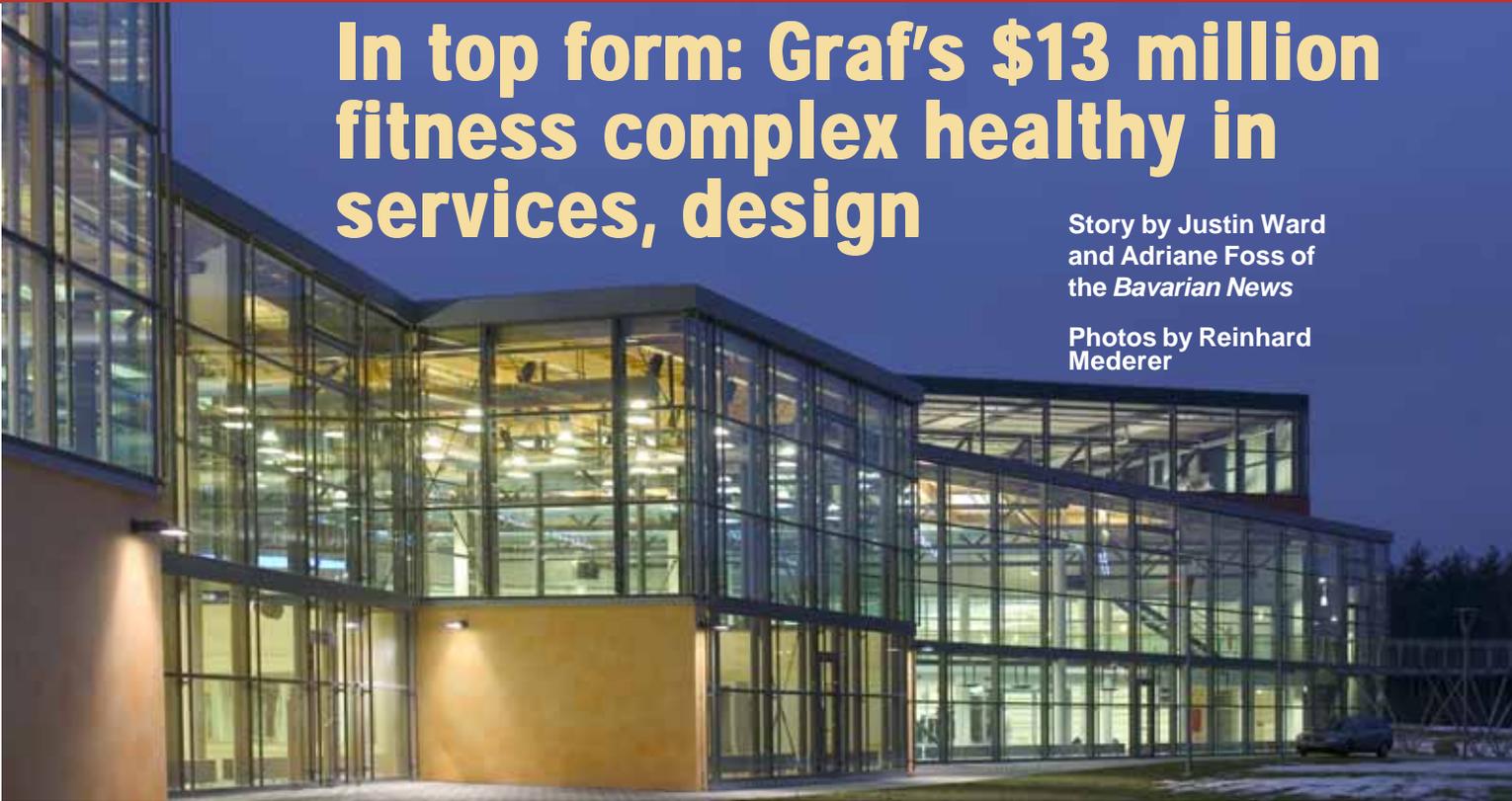


Photo by Justin Ward

In top form: Graf's \$13 million fitness complex healthy in services, design

Story by Justin Ward and Adriane Foss of the *Bavarian News*

Photos by Reinhard Mederer



Grafenwöhr's \$13 million physical fitness center that opened March 22 symbolizes to the Soldiers and civilians who will use the facility the importance Army leadership places on quality of life.

"Quality-of-life initiatives are incredibly important to retaining the cream of the crop," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, who welcomed guests to the grand opening. "We always say we enlist a Soldier, but we reenlist a family."

But the facility can also symbolize the expertise that the Corps of Engineers Europe District brings to its projects.

From the construction side, the structure had to be designed to have a low impact on off-post residents, said Walter Bogdanow, deputy area engineer for the project. These constraints involved accounting for both sound and light pollution and eventually called for adjustments to how the building was oriented and how sound absorbing berms were incorporated.

From the technical side, the

designers as well as the customer wanted a facility that was both technologically modern and relatively simple to operate, said Peter Barth, a project manager at Grafenwöhr. To carry out this mission, Barth said a bus system was put into place that connects each electrical component to a centralized computer that manages and executes all of these tasks. "One person can control the entire facility – the temperature, lighting, [public address] system, monitoring, lighting for the sports field," said Barth. In essence, it's to use technology in lieu of manpower, and it has helped make the facility competitive with those in the States.

The commander of the U.S. Army Garrison, Grafenwöhr, Col. Brian Boyle, compared the facility to modern commercial fitness clubs in the States, saying, "There are very few facilities anywhere in the U.S. or overseas that can match the variety of equipment, skill of our fitness trainers, or the size of the new physical fitness center at Grafenwoehr," said Boyle.

"A quick Internet check of high-end stateside commercial gyms and fitness clubs will quickly reveal how much money Soldiers and family members will save on monthly fees by using the new center at Graf," he said.

Graf's new fitness center was designed with the environment and the local community in mind; its large windows allow natural light in, thereby lowering lighting costs.

