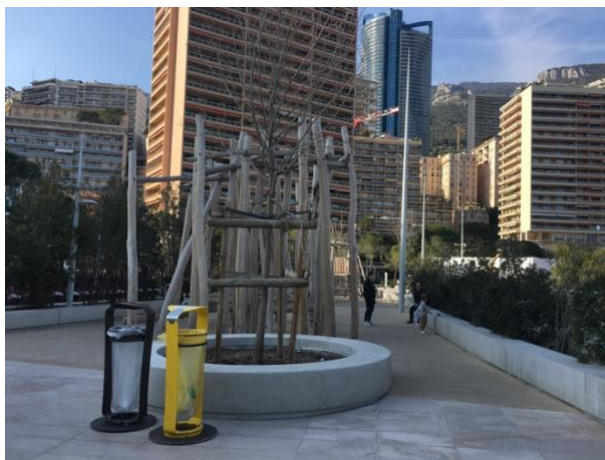


The most expensive refugee camp in the world – a short trip to Monaco

On a hike past Cap Martin, where Le Corbusier's 'Tiny House' stands, I recently passed through Monaco.

After hours with a view of flowers, rocks and sea, this was a shock. As at the harbour, there are certainly a few other beautiful corners, but Monaco is on the whole a satellite city. I would never have imagined it so ugly.

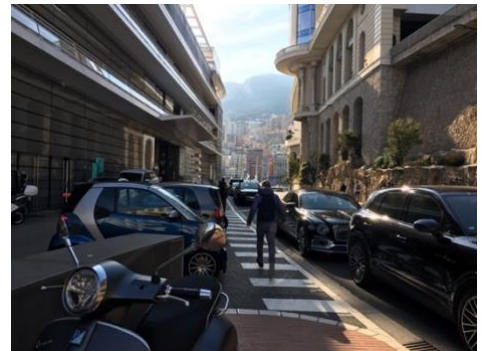


It's amazing that people do this to themselves, but they certainly don't do it voluntarily. And logically, there is a reason for this: *The principality is now a financial centre and sought after primarily by the rich of the world as a main residence, as it does not levy income and inheritance tax and does not prosecute tax offences committed abroad.* (from 1: Wikipedia, as of 28.03.2023)

left: playground in Monte Carlo: one child – two 'nannies' – two trash cans – 0.2 tons of wood – 20 tons of concrete (rough estimate)

Monaco is bursting at the seams. The principality, which is only 2.02 square kilometers in size, is the second smallest state after the Vatican. And with about 40,000 inhabitants, the most densely populated in the world. Of these, according to recent statistics, more than 27,000 are millionaires with a net worth of at least one million US dollars. Their number is expected to increase and reach around 39,168 people in 2026. Mareterra is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. (from 2)

A project for an expansion by a twelve-hectare peninsula was buried in 2008, among other things, because of the financial crisis. At that time, designs by star architects Norman Foster and Daniel Libeskind had reached the final round in a tender. (from 3) - right: noble narrowness in Monte Carlo



The narrowness of Monte Carlo is likely to increase with the increasing rise of anti-democratic rulers such as Putin, Erdogan or Xi. Also many of their longtime friends must leave their home in fear. Where to go now? The next concrete peninsula or other kind of concrete furniture is certainly being planned and the environmentally conscious government of Monaco is apparently happy about every penny, no matter whose blood is on it. Noblesse oblige, Albert?

2 : <https://www.rnd.de/promis/geburtstag-fuerst-albert-ii-von-monaco-wird-65-der-oekofuerst-und-sein-luxusbauprojekt-im-meer-QOVNO2OOJRYBMGHTBQVU6P6LQ.html>

3: <https://www.spiegel.de/reise/aktuell/bauprojekt-fuerstentum-monaco-will-sich-vergroessern-a-898439.html>