

Museum Folkwang

Essen, Germany 2007–2009

The Museum Folkwang, founded in Hagen by Karl Ernst Osthaus in 1902, was the first museum of contemporary art in Europe. The most significant works were transferred from Hagen to Essen in 1922, from which point on, aside from a period when the National Socialists temporarily divested the collection, the museum was able to pursue a high level of collecting activity. Today, it is one of the most high profile museums of Classic Modernism in Germany.

The new museum extension by David Chipperfield Architects Berlin complements the original listed building, preserving its integrity while perpetuating the architectural principle with an ensemble of six volumes and four inner courtyards, gardens and covered walkways. The publicly accessible areas connect seamlessly with the existing exhibition areas. A generous open stairway leads from Bismarckstraße into the new foyer, which takes the form of an open interior courtyard with a restaurant and a bookstore, and is protected from the street by a glass façade.

Visitors are welcomed into a succession of differing rooms – exhibition areas with ceiling heights of up to six metres, a library and reading room, a multifunctional room, an events space, storage and restoration workshops. The extension, which is oriented towards Essen's city centre, provides a new urban focus together with the neighbouring Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities. The translucent, alabaster-like façade consists of large rectangular recycled glass slabs. The colour of the façade shifts with the changing natural light and the integrated window openings sit flush with the façade. Polished screed was used for the floors, which is similar in colour and texture to the concrete elements used for the plinth.

Competition	2007
Project start	2007
Completion	2009
Gross floor area	24,800 m ²
Client	Neubau Museum Folkwang Essen GmbH on behalf of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach-Stiftung
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin



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Project controlling	W+P Gesellschaft für Projektabwicklung mbH, Essen
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin
Partner / Directors	David Chipperfield, Harald Müller, Alexander Schwarz (Design lead)
Project architects	Peter von Matuschka (Competition), Ulrike Eberhardt (Preparation and brief to Developed design), Eberhard Veit (Developed design, Technical design, Design intent details, Site design supervision)
Project team	Wolfgang Baumeister, Gesche Gerber, Ilona Priwitzer, Mariska Rohde, Franziska Rusch, Thomas Schöpf, Manuel Seebass
Competition team	Markus Bauer, Florian Dierschedl, Ulrike Eberhardt, Annette Flohrschütz, Christian Helfrich, Barbara Koller, Nicolas Kulemeyer, Dalia Liksaite, Marcus Matthias, Sebastian von Oppen, Antonia Schlegel, Marika Schmidt, Gunda Schulz, Robert Westphal <i>In collaboration with</i>
Executive architect	Plan Forward GmbH, Stuttgart (Technical design) WBP Planungsgesellschaft mbH, Essen (Procurement, Construction supervision)
Structural engineer	Ingenieurberatung Pühl und Becker VBI, Essen Seroneit und Schneider GmbH, Essen
Services engineer	Giesen-Gillhoff-Loomans GbR, Krefeld BBT Ingenieure, Düsseldorf
Building physics, Acoustics	ISRW, Dr. Ing. Klapdor GmbH, Düsseldorf
Fire consultant	Dipl. Ing. Bernhard Spitthöver GmbH, Essen
Façade consultant	KonTec Fassadenberatung, Dormagen
Lighting consultant	Arup Deutschland GmbH, Berlin and Arup Ltd., London
Landscape architect	Planungsbüro Meinhof Hasse, Mühlheim a.d. Ruhr