

# James Simon Galerie

Berlin, Germany 1999–2018

As a continuation of Friedrich August Stüler's forum architecture, the James Simon Galerie serves as the new entrance building for Museum Island, completing the ensemble between the Kupfergraben canal and the south-west façade of the Neues Museum. Together with the 'Archaeological Promenade', it forms the backbone of the masterplan that was developed in 1999 and adopted as the basis for all further planning on Museum Island. The building is sited on a narrow strip of land where Karl Friedrich Schinkel's 'Neuer Packhof' administration building stood until 1938.

As the new gateway to the Museum Island, the James Simon Galerie plays a significant role and is suitable for welcoming large numbers of visitors, housing all the facilities required by the contemporary museum-goer. The James Simon Galerie addresses itself to the Lustgarten, the Schlossbrücke (Palace Bridge), and the Kupfergraben canal. It forms a physical connection above ground with the Pergamon Museum and links the museum via the Archaeological Promenade at basement level with the Neues Museum, the Altes Museum and the Bode Museum.

A staggering of the building dimensions ensures that the view from the Schlossbrücke into the depths of the Museum Island and of the west façade of the Neues Museum is preserved. The high stone plinth of the building reinforces the bank of the Kupfergraben canal, above which a tall colonnade rises up, expressing a classical piano nobile. Large parts of this principal level will be accessible to the public outside opening hours, further extending the public realm of the Museum Island. Slender columns become a leitmotif, reminiscent of the famous sketch by Friedrich Wilhelm IV for his 'cultural acropolis'. They continue Stüler's colonnade that originally ended at Neues Museum, creating the new small colonnaded courtyard between the Neues Museum and the James Simon Galerie.

Three flights of wide steps, set between the elongated plinth and the lower colonnade, invite visitors into the building. Arriving at the upper level, visitors enter a generous foyer, with direct level access to the main exhibition floor of the Pergamon Museum. The foyer also encloses the cafeteria and opens out onto a grand terrace that runs the full length of the building. A mezzanine floor beneath the main entrance foyer accommodates the museum shop, a large cloakroom, toilet facilities and lockers, while the temporary exhibition spaces and an auditorium are situated in the basement level.

The architectural language of the James Simon Galerie adopts existing elements of the Museum Island, primarily from the external architecture, such as built topography, colonnades and outdoor staircases, making reference to Schinkel, Stüler and the other architects involved in the creation of Museum Island. The materiality of the building in reconstituted stone with natural stone aggregate blends in with the rich material palette of the Museum Island with its limestone, sandstone and rendered façades, while smooth in-situ concrete dominates the interior spaces. The entrance building is named after one of the city's most important patrons, James Simon, who bequeathed his art collections and excavation findings to the Berlin State Museums at the beginning of the twentieth century.

# David Chipperfield Architects

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Project start	1999 / 2007
Construction start	2009 (Foundation pit) 2014 (Shell and core)
Completion	2018
Opening	2019
Gross floor area	10,900 m <sup>2</sup>
Client	Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz represented by the Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung Project mangagement: Miriam Plünnecke
Project controlling	Ernst&Young Real Estate GmbH, Berlin Kemmermann Projektmanagement im Bauwesen GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin
Partners	David Chipperfield, Martin Reichert, Alexander Schwarz (Design lead)
Project architect	Urs Vogt (Preparation and brief to Technical design, Site design supervision)
Project team	Mathias Adler, Alexander Bellmann, Thomas Benk, Martin Benner, Alexander Corvinus, Maryla Duleba, Matthias Fiegl, Anke Fritzsich, Dirk Gschwind, Anne Hengst, Paul Hillerkus, Isabel Karig, Linda von Karstedt, Ludwig Kauffmann, Mikhail Kornev, Astrid Kühn, Thomas Kupke, Dalia Liksaite, Jonas Marx, Sebastian von Oppen, Torsten Richter, Elke Saleina, Antonia Schlegel, Thomas Schöpf, Eberhard Veit, Anja Wiedemann
Quantity surveyor	<i>In collaboration with</i> Christine Kappei, Stuttgart
Executive architect	Wenzel + Wenzel Freie Architekten, Berlin (Procurement, Construction supervision) Project mangagement: Christoph-Phillip Krinn
Structural engineer	IGB Ingenieurgruppe Bauen, Berlin
Services engineer	INNIUS DÖ GmbH, Berlin; Inros Lackner AG, Rostock
Building physics	Müller-BBM GmbH, Berlin
Fire consultant	Arge Brandschutz NEG, Berlin
Lighting consultant	matí AG, Adliswil
Lighting design	Conceptlicht GmbH, Traunreut (Outdoor lighting)
Landscape architect	Levin Monsigny Landschaftsarchitekten, Berlin