



Under the reorganization of Kassel museum landscape the renovation works of Herkules statue and octagon certainly hold the highest symbolic value. Its completion marks an important milestone. The basic renovation works of "Hessisches Landesmuseum" are fully under way.

I would be very pleased if you soon paid a visit to the then fully refurbished "Neue Galerie" under its meaningful address "Schöne Aussicht". You'll be surprised – the place is definitely worth a visit!

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More detailed information:

- Ein Haus für die Moderne. 25 Jahre Neue Galerie 1976–2006. Catalogue edited by Marianne Heinz, Kassel 2001
- documenta-Erwerbungen für die Neue Galerie. Malerei – Skulptur – Graphik – Installation. Collection and exhibition catalogue edited by Marianne Heinz, Kassel 2002

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Hessen State Ministry
of Higher Education, Research
and the Arts



Dear readers,

The art gallery "Neue Galerie", home of the "state and municipal art collections", already indicates by its name the successful cooperation between the city of Kassel and the State of Hessen. Its renovation and its refurbishment, which are to be completed by 2011, are an important and central project under the reorganization works of Kassel museum landscape funded by the State of Hessen with a total of 200 million euros.

The exhibition house erected – between 1871 and 1877 following the example of "Alte Pinakothek" in Munich, and reconstructed after having suffered from severe war damage – is going to be refurbished according to the design of Staab Architects (Berlin). This includes preserving works as well as setting up a completely new technical infrastructure. Generous architecture will be combined with unique pieces of art and open up special perspectives for presentation techniques.

The architectural upgrading of "Neue Galerie" will confirm that Kassel is a cultural venue of international significance. At the same time, the tourist and economic attractiveness of the city and the region will strengthen.



Information on Hessen Kassel museum landscape No. 3.1



Past and Present – the History of “Neue Galerie”

The new “Alte Galerie”

Since “Alte Galerie” constructed by Francois de Cuvilliés the Elder under Jérôme Bonaparte, ridiculed as “König Lustik” (the Jolly King), had been converted into a city residence and could no longer be used as a museum, at the location “Schöne Aussicht” a new picture gallery building (“Gemäldegaleriegebäude”) was erected in the 19th century.

Between 1871 and 1877 the architect Heinrich von Dehn-Rotfelfer accounted for planning and construction of the new “Alte Galerie” with its characteristic and at the time modern skylight halls. Its design comes after the art gallery “Alte Pinakothek” in Munich constructed by Leo von Klenze. The ground floor presents objects of the classical antiquities and applied arts collections, the upper floor and the skylight halls paintings of the Old Masters.

In 1943 during the Second World War the building had been severely damaged and remained unused for a long period of time after the war.



August von der Embde, portrait of the Countess Louise Bose as a child, 1820

“Alte Galerie” becomes “Neue Galerie”

As late as 1962 first makeshift reconstruction works began to which fell victim the almost completely preserved historicizing interior design. In 1976 the house eventually re-opened with a new utilization concept, and consequently was renamed “Neue Galerie”. Since that time, it presents paintings and sculptures from 1750 to the present from state and city archives.



Ernst Wilhelm Nay, Symphony, 1958

“Neue Galerie” and documenta

Since the sixties – and last in 2007– the house has time and again been exhibition venue for contemporary art during documenta. This nearness to contemporary art unique to Kassel was cause and inspiration to consequently extend the contemporary art collections.

For this purpose the city of Kassel and the State of Hessen have provided funds to acquire documenta objects since 1982. After the reorganization and renovation works will have come to an end, the latest acquisition, a focal work of documenta 12, can be presented: the spectacular installation “Dream” by Romuald Hazoumé. With the end of documenta 12, “Neue Galerie” closed its doors. This symbolic date, the 23rd September 2007, marked a further phase in the history of “Neue Galerie”.



Romuald Hazoumé, Dream, 2007

“Neue Galerie” House of Modern Art

Departure for a New Era

Under the reorganization project of Kassel museum landscape, “Neue Galerie” is being modernised consuming 19 million euros. With a total of 200 million euros, this reorganization represents one of the largest cultural investment projects in Germany.

Renovation works cover the architectural and technical installations, providing wheelchair access for people with special needs, reconstructing the skylight rooftop, redesigning the entrance area and stairwells, restructuring the exhibition rooms and creating space for revolving exhibitions.

According to the thematic reorientation of the house, it is the aim to provide best conditions for the presentation of artworks of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

The ground floor will accommodate Kassel Academy artworks as well as 19th-century art; the halls designed by Joseph Beuys and Ulrike Grossarth will be maintained. In future, the courtly

paintings from 1750 to 1800, which include artworks by the artist family Tischbein, will be presented in Schloss Wilhelmshöhe. The skylight halls on the upper storey will be reserved for the art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Focal points like Classic Modernism reflected in the Corinth collection or the German “Informel” style will be highlighted just as well as large formats and the extensive collection of documenta works.

As house of modern art, “Neue Galerie” will not only be a central collection venue for contemporary art in Kassel in the intervals between documenta years. It will give shelter to modern art in Kassel and so underline its significance in and for Kassel.



Gerhard Richter, portrait of Arnold Bode, 1964



Per Kirkeby, untitled, 1980

NEW

Online collection catalogue of 19th-century paintings:
www.malerei19Jh.museum-kassel.de