

Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Hirschelgasse 9-11
90403 Nürnberg
www.museen.nuernberg.de

**Dokumentationszentrum
Reichsparteitagsgelände**

Telefon: 0911-231-5666
Telefax: 0911-231-8410
E-mail: dokumentationszentrum@stadt.nuernberg.de

01 The Documentation Centre 2001 - 2008

Position on the German Memorial Landscape

Since the Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds was opened in 2001, it has been unique among German memorials. In contrast to the memorials connected with former concentration camps or prisons, this institution looks at the Nazi regime itself, which, here more than anywhere else, attempted to win over the entire German people by means of gigantic construction projects and staged events.

Development of Visitor Numbers

Based on experience of a previous smaller exhibition in the Zeppelin Grandstand, the Documentation Centre was expected to attract about 100,000 visitors per year. After the "run" during the first year (230,000), annual visitor numbers levelled off at 165,000 in 2003 and 2004. Since 2005, the centre has seen a steady increase in visitors, with **186,000 in 2008**. About 40 per cent of these visitors come from abroad. On 15 May, 2007, the millionth visitor was admitted.

Number of Groups Catered For

The number of school classes and other groups (police, German army) taking advantage of the educational programme rose from 960 (in 2002) to just under 1400 in 2009. The educational programme offered was continually adapted and extended to adult groups.

Exhibitions

The Documentation Centre continually develops the topics addressed in the permanent exhibition "Fascination & Terror", with lectures, symposiums and temporary exhibitions. Some exhibitions were created by outside institutions, some were in-house productions. The two exhibitions organised by the Documentation Centre - "Seduced, abused, and sacrificed: the short life of Nuremberg Hitler Youth Member Paul B." and "Racist Mania – The Nuremberg Laws of 1935" – proved to be very successful. The first exhibition toured to numerous German cities, and French and English versions went to France and the USA. A Polish version of The "Racist Mania" exhibition will be shown in the Auschwitz Memorial.

The first major exhibition organised by the Documentation Centre opened in April 2008 – "Burden of Images – Franconia during National Socialism". It presented a wealth of images in an unusual way, literally as a panorama of the state of mind of an entire region.

Awards

In 2000, the City of Nuremberg was honoured with the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education 2000. The city's efforts in establishing the Documentation Centre on the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds were explicitly recognised by the award.

In 2002, the Documentation Centre was awarded the Silver Otter by the British Guild of Travel Writers, as best non-British museum. After 24 years, this was the first time the annual award had been given to a German institution.

Co-operations

There is increasing co-operation between the staff of European memorials and documentation centres both nationally and internationally. The Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds has established contact – with co-operation and several exchanges of temporary exhibitions – with the Centre de la Mémoire Oradour and the Panstwowe Muzeum Auschwitz, as well as with the information centres in Vogelsang and Prora, to name but a few.

Area Information System

With its permanent exhibition "Fascination & Terror", the Documentation Centre provides a key to understanding the surrounding former Nazi Party Rally Grounds. In order to give all those entering the freely accessible grounds an opportunity to get an idea of their topography and historical context, an area information system was installed in 2006. 23 panels, located in prominent positions all over the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds, give information about the function of this particular location in words (English/German) and images.

Court Room 600

Nuremberg possesses a location of world historical importance in Court Room 600 in the Palace of Justice in Fürther Straße. Since May 2000, staff from the Documentation Centre have provided limited guided tours of the Court Room at weekends. Visitor numbers started at 3000 per year, and in the past ten years, have increased tenfold. In 2007, *Nuremberg Municipal Museums* initiated the development of a permanent exhibition in empty rooms at the Palace of Justice above Court Room 600. The Documentation Centre is leading work to develop the concept for this **Memorial Nuremberg Trials**. Its opening is scheduled for 2010, and from then, this venue will be added to the municipal museums' portfolio.

This folder also includes the following information texts on the Documentation Centre:

01 Heading for Success: The First Seven Years

02 The Former Nazi Party Rally Grounds

03 A Brief History of the Documentation Centre

04 The Architecture

05 The Permanent Exhibition "Fascination & Terror"

06 Educational Programme

07 General Information

