Press release

26.10.2016



City of Nuremberg Municipal Museums

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Museum for Industrial Culture

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museen der stadt nürnberg

Museum for Industrial Culture

Long ago industrialization proved to be a historic force, and it still influences people's lives today. Industrialization divided people's time into work and leisure, which alternated as they punched the time clock. Craft work lost its importance, and factories came to embody the era. The Museum for Industrial Culture highlights the influential era of industrialization and takes visitors on an entertaining trip through time from 1835 to the present.

Founded in 1988, the Museum is located in the former Julius Tafel iron works in the eastern part of Nuremberg. Entrepreneur Julius Tafel established his iron works here in 1875 next door to Cramer-Klett, which later became MAN, the largest industrial company in Nuremberg in 1900. Tafel developed a process for recycling scrap iron and became one of the largest suppliers in the Nuremberg iron processing industry. The hall of the screw factory dates back to the 1920s and is all that remains of the vast industrial complex: In the early 1970s, the entire German iron and steel industry suffered a crisis, and the company was unable to survive, in spite of costly modernization work. Production was shut down in 1975. The Tafel iron works was therefore the first major company in Nuremberg to fall victim to the incipient structural change.

Today, the two-story hall of the screw factory is home to the Museum for Industrial Culture (including the Motorcycle Museum and the School Museum), which occupies almost 6,000 square meters. The Museum presents the history of industrialization based on the example of Nuremberg, once the "industrial heartland" of Bavaria. The exhibition focuses on three main elements: the development and transformation of industry in Nuremberg, the history of schools and education, and the changes in living conditions over the course of the last two centuries.

The Museum for Industrial Culture places the lives of people from all social classes at the center of an expanded concept of culture: their everyday activities; their living and working conditions; how they celebrated, educated themselves, and relaxed; their arts and culture; and the connections between private and public life. Various museum elements that illustrate the connections between technological, cultural, and social history are displayed along a street-like central corridor – among them a pencil workshop, a gypsum mill, an MAN steam engine, a grocery store, a dentist's office, a hair salon and many more. Here, history is not seen merely as a thing of the past; viewing it in this format offers visitors an opportunity to understand the present as rooted in the past.

26.10.2016

The Museum for Industrial Culture is complemented by the Motorcycle Museum and the School Museum, that showcase the development of the early 20th century motorcycle industry in Nuremberg and the history of education, respectively.

Motorcycle Museum

Bicycle-makers were the first to develop a motorized two-wheeler in 1901. Motorcycles experienced a boom starting in the 1920s, becoming the primary means of individual transportation in Germany. Along with many small manufacturers, names such as Ardie, Hercules, Mars, Triumph, Victoria, and Zündapp were responsible for Nuremberg's reputation as a major center of motorcycle manufacturing. The "legends in chrome and steel" continued to roll off the production lines until the mid-1950s. The declining popularity of motorcycles then caused the fame of the "Green Elephant," the "Bosse," and the "Bergmeister" to fade: the automobile age had begun. The Museum has some 130 vintage motorcycles on display – all of them made in Nuremberg.

School Museum

Nuremberg is located in a region with very few natural resources. That made education vitally important for the city's development as a center of European trade, then as the "industrial heartland" of Bavaria, and finally as a European metropolitan region. The concept of education as a "resource" permeates both the School Museum and the Museum for Industrial Culture. The School Museum covers many subjects, but of course it recounts the history of school as an institution along with all facets of education. Thanks to a close collaboration with the School Museum, the Museum for Industrial Culture has become a popular location for learning outside of school.



Seite 2 von 3

26.10.2016

INFORMATION



Seite 3 von 3

Entrance Fees

Adults:	5 Euro
Concessions:	3 Euro

Contact

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Opening Hours

Tuesday-Friday	9 a.m 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday	10 a.m 6 p.m.

Transportation

Tram line 8: Station Tafelhalle Parking: There is limited parking near the building. Unfortunately, there are no reservations. Additional parking is available along Äussere Sulzbacher Strasse.

For further information, please contact the public relations department of the Municipal Museums of the City of Nuremberg, telephone number +49 (09)11 231 - 54 20.