

**Topography of Terror**

Between 1933 and 1945, the central institutions of Nazi persecution and terror were located on the grounds of the present-day *Topography of Terror*, next to the Martin-Gropius-Bau and not far from Potsdamer Platz. Gestapo headquarters were set up at Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8, as was the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*) in 1939, while the neighboring Hotel Prinz Albrecht housed the administrative leadership of the SS, and the Security Service (*SD*) of the SS moved in the Prinz-Albrecht-Palais at Wilhelmstraße 102.

The actual government district of the National Socialist SS and police state thus arose in a small area. It was here that the genocide of the European Jews and the systematic persecution and murder of other sections of the population were planned,

Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8, around 1947



Wolfgang Honey, Berlin, heute, morgen, Berlin 1950



Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8, around 1932  
Göring and Himmler in Berlin, 1932



Conference at Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8, 1938  
Fr. l.: Lorenz, Heydrich, Himmler, Wolff



Adam von Trott zu Solz before the "People's Court", 15 August 1944



Solitary cell in the Gestapo Prison at Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8, 1948

N. Leonhard/ Stiftung Topographie des Terrors

here that the persecution of political opponents in Germany and occupied Europe was organized and here that the "Special Units (*Einsatzgruppen*) of the Security Police and SD" sent reports of their mass murders in Poland and the Soviet Union. It was here, as well, that the Gestapo had its "house prison" for detainees who were interrogated at Gestapo headquarters and sometimes subjected to brutal torture.

The buildings, which were in part destroyed and in part severely damaged in the final phase of the Second World War, were

demolished so that nothing remained by 1956. The deviation of the city left the terrain on the periphery of West Berlin, and after 1961 it boarded the Berlin Wall. Its history was forgotten.

Only towards the end of the 1970s was this historical site gradually rediscovered. On the occasion of the city of Berlin's 750th anniversary celebration in 1987, the grounds and the excavated cellars of the buildings were made accessible to the public and the documentary exhibition *Topography of Terror. Gestapo, SS and*

*Reich Security Main Office on the "Prinz-Albrecht-Terrain"* opened in an exhibition pavilion. Since December 1997, the permanent exhibition can be viewed in the excavations along *Niederkirchnerstraße*.

The *Topography of Terror* Foundation was established in 1992, and, since 1994, has been funded jointly by the federal and state governments. The construction of a documentation center based on the winning design of the 1993 architectural competition was given up in 2004.

In April 2005 entries were invited for a new architectural competition. The winners were the architect Ursula Wilms (Heinle, Wischer and Partners, Berlin) and the landscape architect Heinz W. Hallmann (Aachen).

Remains of the prison cell floors, 1986 Exhibition pavilion on the grounds, 1987



Margret Nissen/ Stiftung Topographie des Terrors



Margret Nissen/ Stiftung Topographie des Terrors

Permanent exhibition "Topography of Terror", 2005



Hans D. Beyer/ Stiftung Topographie des Terrors

Award-winning design by Wilms/Hallmann, 2006



Heinle, Wischer and Partners

Open-air exhibition  
Niederkirchnerstraße 8, 10963 Berlin  
Admission free, open daily  
May – September 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Oct. – April 10 a.m. until dark, 6 p.m. at the latest  
Appointments for guided tours:  
Phone: 0049-30-254 509-50  
Fax: 0049-30-254 509-55  
ausstellung@topographie.de  
Public transport: Bus: M29, M41  
S-Bahn: S1 Anhalter Bahnhof, Potsdamer Platz  
U-Bahn: U2 Potsdamer Platz, U6 Kochstraße



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Date: May 2008

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Gestapo, SS and Reich Security Main Office on the "Prinz-Albrecht-Terrain"