

Potsdam City Centre



Guided Tour of the Historical City Centre – Alter Markt, Landtag and Alte Fahrt

Group tours by special arrangement, Price: 115 €/group (max. 30 participants), Duration: 1.5 hours, Booking and information: Group service of PMG Potsdam Marketing and Service GmbH, Humboldtstrasse 1-2, 14467 Potsdam, phone: +49 331 275585-0, E-mail: gruppen@potsdamtourismus.de, www.potsdamtourismus.de

Discovering the City's History, Painting and Photography

Are you curious about the history and stories of our city? Then visit the permanent exhibition "Potsdam. Eine Stadt macht Geschichte" ("Potsdam. A City Makes History") at Potsdam Museum, admission free. From March to June, you can admire works by the German Impressionist Karl Hagemeister, who lived near Potsdam. From September, the museum will show works by the Potsdam photographe Frank Gauditz with the title "OST. SÜD. Fotografien 1986-2019". Admission to special exhibitions: 5€, 3€ (red.) Potsdam Museum – Forum für Kunst und Geschichte, Am Alten Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam. Opening hours: Tue/Wed/Fri 10am-5pm, Thu 10am-7pm, Sat/Sun 10am-6pm, phone +49 331 28968-68, www.potsdam-museum.de, www.facebook.com/PotsdamMuseum

Panoramic View from St. Nicolas Church

From the colonnaded roof of St. Nicolas Church, you can see the Landtag, Museum Barberini, and the Alter Markt square and take in one of the most spectacular views in the capital city of Potsdam. The classicist church was built according to the plans of Karl Friedrich Schinkel and is a monument of national importance. Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm, longer opening hours in summer, Sun from 11:30am Admission to tower: 5€, phone +49 331 27086-02, E-mail: info@nikolaipotsdam.de

International Art and Potsdam History

At Museum Barberini, you can marvel not only at international art exhibitions but also enjoy guided tours about the history of the place. Special tours about the architecture and history of the building are available anytime upon request. A big Smart Wall in the museum presents historical background information. Museum Barberini, Humboldtstrasse 5-6, 14467 Potsdam. Opening hours: Mon and Wed-Sun 10am-7pm, every first Thursday of the month 10am-9pm, Admission: 14€, 10€ (red.), children and teens under 18 years free admission, phone: +49 331 2360144-99, www.museum-barberini.com

MuseumsKombikarte (Museum Combination Ticket)

10,000 exhibited objects, 4 museums, 1 ticket: available at Filmuseum Potsdam, the Museum of Natural Science, House of Brandenburg-Prussian History (HPG), Potsdam Museum as well as at the Potsdam Tourist Information Centres, 12€ for one adult and up to two children.



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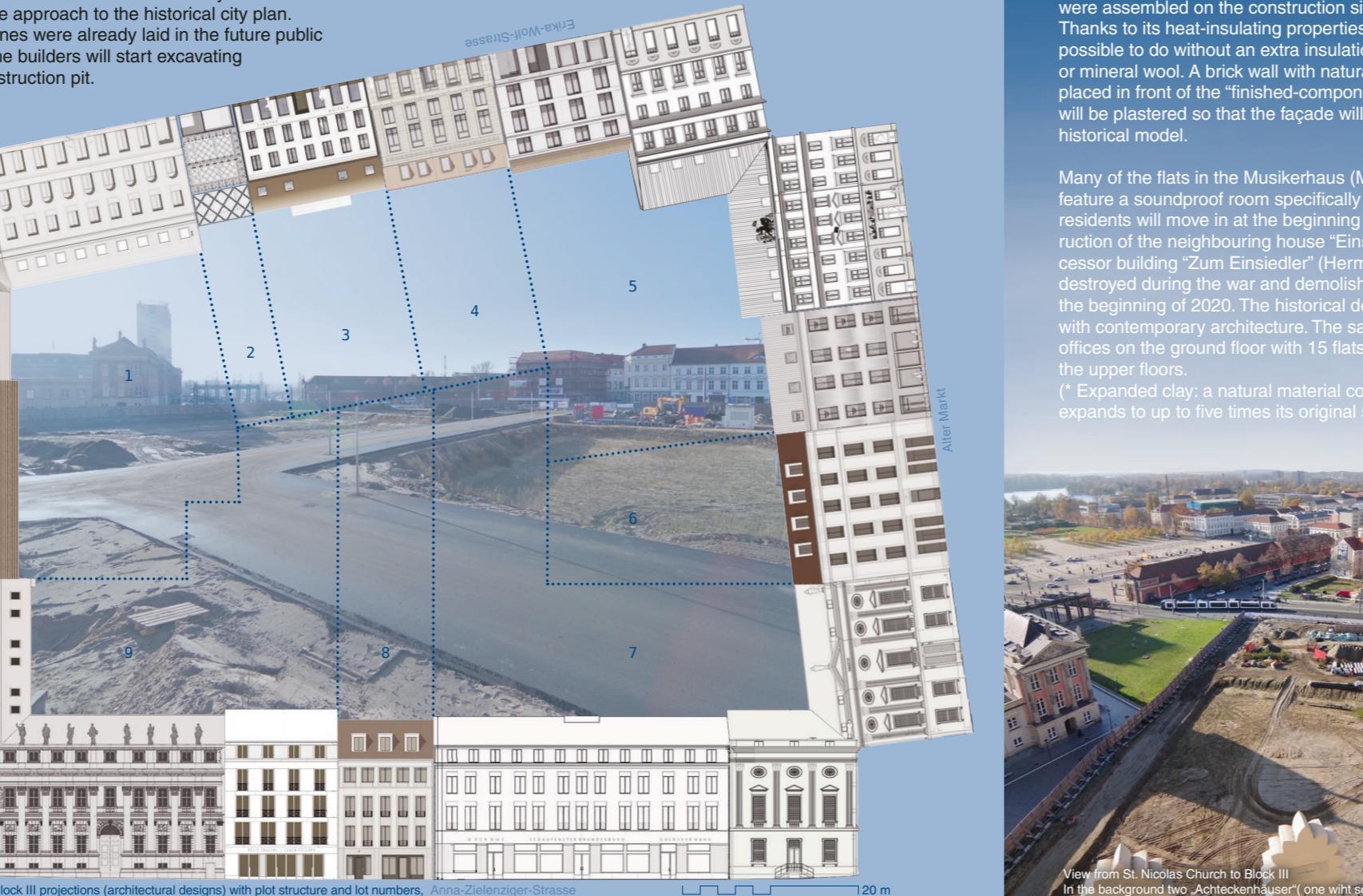
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Background photo: Standing wrestler, former colonnade between Royal Stables and City Palace (SPSG), Cover photo: View from St. Nicolas Church to construction site of block IV and "Bildungsforum", November 2019

Landmark Building Concept – Block III

The selection process for Block III began in spring 2017 and ended in March 2018. Since then, six building contractors have been planning 14 new houses and a jointly used underground car park. With so-called landmark façades, two special corner buildings will regain the "face" of the predecessor buildings destroyed in World War II. Two other corner buildings are reminiscent of their predecessor as an architectural reference. The remaining ten buildings follow a design concept integrating them into the overall ensemble of Potsdam's city centre. With its special design, the „Haus für Musik“ (House of Music) on further Erika-Wolf-Strasse will consciously draw attention to the break in the approach to the historical city plan. In 2019, supply lines were already laid in the future public roads. In 2020, the builders will start excavating the common construction pit.



In total, about 100 apartments are being built in Block III; many of them will be rent-controlled. In addition to apartments subsidized by the state of Brandenburg, there will be apartments that have to be offered below the rent index – a new approach in Potsdam to counteract price developments on the housing market. In addition to the high proportion of apartments, there is also space for studios, retail, service providers and other public facilities. Cafés and restaurants will complete the offer and make a visit to Potsdam's city centre more and more of an experience.



Many of the flats in the Musikerhaus (Musicians' House) will feature a soundproof room specifically for musicians. The first residents will move in at the beginning of 2021. The construction of the neighbouring house "Einsiedel", whose predecessor building "Zum Einsiedler" (Hermit's House) was also destroyed during the war and demolished in 1948, will start at the beginning of 2020. The historical design will be interpreted with contemporary architecture. The savings bank will have its offices on the ground floor with 15 flats currently planned for the upper floors.

(* Expanded clay: a natural material consisting of clay that expands to up to five times its original size when heated.)



Landmark Building Concept – Block II

The buildings Achteckenhaus and Einsiedel

The construction of a new synagogue on Schloßstrasse was already to begin in 2010. Not much has happened, however, since the demolition of the former "water management" building. The properties at Friedrich Ebert Strasse were to be developed at the same time as the properties at the Havel riverfront Alter Fahrt (Block I, see layout plan). Only the so-called "Achteckenhaus" (Octagonal House) has become visible so far. The walls consist of components manufactured in a factory and made of an expanded clay-concrete mixture* and were assembled on the construction site like a house of cards.

Thanks to its heat-insulating properties, this mixture makes it

possible to do without an extra insulation layer of polystyrene or mineral wool. A brick wall with natural stone elements will be placed in front of the "finished-components" wall; the brick wall will be plastered so that the façade will ultimately look like its historical model.

Before its start, the Potsdam city council must approve the procedure. The details have been discussed by political and administrative experts and representatives of the redevelopment agency since December 2019. After finalizing this process the award procedure can begin. It is currently possible to start construction in 2023.



Landmark Building Concept –

Block IV

In 2010, Potsdam's city council decided on the Landmark Buildings Concept. Based on this decision, the first buildings of Block I on the Havel River (see layout plan) were completed at Humboldtstrasse in 2016.

The shops, restaurants, and most notably Museum Barberini attract more and more people to visit Alter Markt. The adjacent buildings on Brauerstrasse will be finished with the first residents moving in in 2020.

In 2016, a basic decision was made about the joint development of Block IV and Block III (see adjacent text). The city of Potsdam, however, decided to develop the properties successively. This allowed for a review of the award procedure and to adjust such procedures for future projects. The alterations for Block IV will be based on the experience of previous award procedures taking into account current issues and needs of the growing city.

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Dear Citizens of Potsdam, Dear Guests and Visitors,

in many ways, the year 2020 will come with special challenges for Potsdam's city centre. After years of preparation and planning, important construction projects will become visible, others will be finalized and yet others will begin.

The building construction on Brauerstrasse will be completed, enabling the subsequent building of the street and pavement. The redesign of the square Versailler Platz adjacent to Brauerstrasse will follow in 2021.

Building construction will begin on Block III after warfare materials from World War II have been disposed of, archaeological excavations have been carried out, and the utility lines for the future houses have been laid. Block III will change the face of central Potsdam significantly. In 2020, the work near "Achteckenhaus" and "Haus Einsiedel" ("Octagonal House" and "Hermit's House") will also become visible for everybody.

Construction work in the centre of Potsdam was and is associated with special challenges. This has to do with the prominence, value and history of the place as well as the great expectations attached to its development.

The year 2020 will, however, also offer the opportunity to proudly present what has been achieved in the past years thanks to our joint efforts. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of German reunification, the Day of German Unity will be celebrated in Potsdam with many visitors. Potsdam's city centre is located in the middle of these festivities and, despite some construction sites, we can already be proud of it today.

I am looking forward to meeting you there.

Yours Mike Schubert
Mayor of Potsdam



Archaeological Excavations on Alter Markt

Cemetery, streets, town houses – these basic components of a medieval town were the focus of the archaeological excavations on Alter Markt square. Under the demolished buildings of Staudenhof, they not only found historic tram tracks of Kaiserstrasse but, two meters below, also remnants of the medieval town fortifications. In the 17th century, Potsdam was still so small that this area marked its outer borders. Further south there was a medieval street that led north past the church. It was once used to reach the western end of the town at the gate Kietztor.

Medieval streets were often unpaved which made them difficult to drive on in wet or dry weather. This is also what the archaeologists found at Alter Markt: deeply incised groove-shaped traces that the wheels of the heavy wagons left in the soft sand or dirt of the road.

It was particularly interesting to get an insight into the western part of the oldest urban cemetery from the late Middle Ages next to St. Nicolas Church. In addition to the regular burials, there were also some graves in which the deceased were buried lying on their stomach. This position clearly differs from the Christian funeral ritual. One reason could be the medieval population's fear that the dead might leave their graves to harm the living. There were also numerous graves of infants and of at least two victims of violence.

This area was apparently intended as a place for special burials. The cemetery was reduced in size in the 17th century. The excavation uncovered large boulders of the churchyard wall and the cellars of two residential buildings that had been built on the former grounds of the cemetery. They also found a lot of house inventory in the backfilling of the basement: colourful earthenware and stove tiles with ornamental relief embossing.



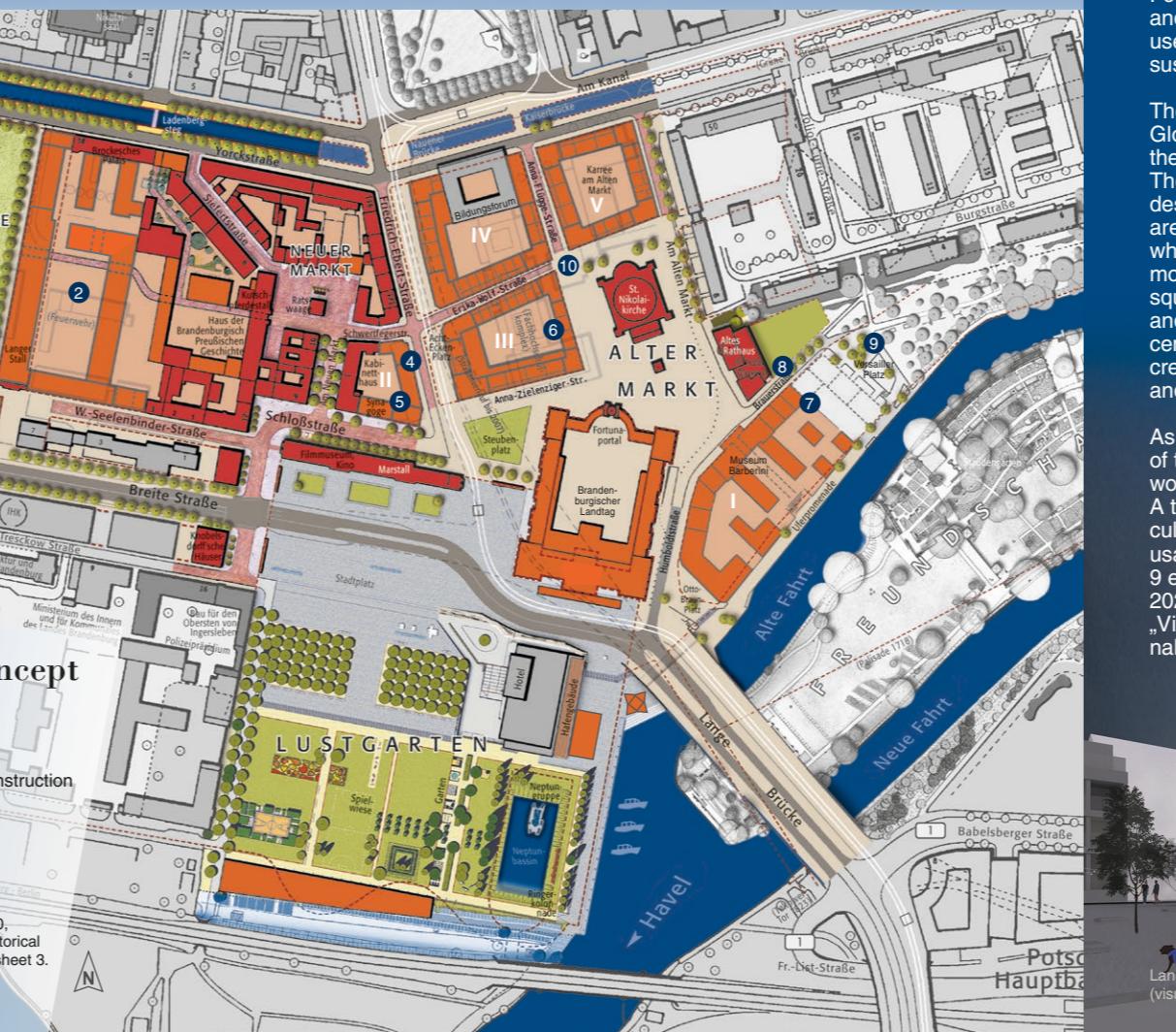
Construction Schedule 2020

starting 2021

- Start of construction work for the redesign of the southern part of the Plantation (2nd stage of construction) ①
- Site clearance of the complex of Feuerwache/ Langer Stall (Fire Station/ Big Stable) ②
- Construction on the Garrison Church tower ③
- Construction on Schwerterstrasse 9 (landmark facade of the "Achteckenhaus" - Octagonal House) ④
- Start of construction work on Friedrich Ebert Strasse 124/ Schloßstrasse ("Haus Einsiedel" - Hermit's House) ⑤
- Building of "Versailler Platz" ⑨

starting 2022

- Building of the Creative Quarter ②
- Completion of Block III ⑥
- Completion of the new streets with the final ground ⑩
- Completion of road work on Brauerstrasse ⑧

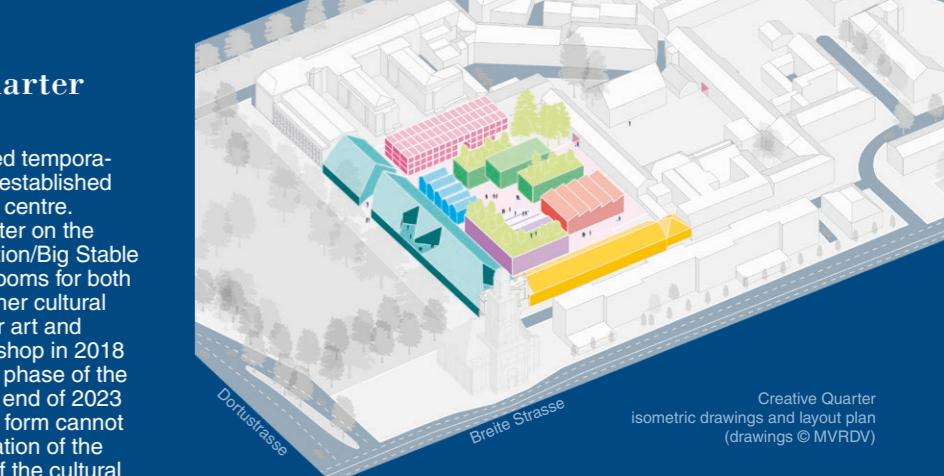


Development of a Creative Quarter

Since 2014, the former data centre has been used temporarily for the cultural and creative industry and has established itself as an important element in Potsdam's lively centre. The city council decided to build a Creative Quarter on the site of former Feuerwache/Langer Stall (Fire Station/Big Stable in May 2019). At the end of 2023, it will provide rooms for both the current users of the data centre as well as other cultural professionals. This creates a permanent place for art and culture in Potsdam's city centre. A scenario workshop in 2018 developed a joint project for the first construction phase of the Creative Quarter that will be implemented by the end of 2023 because, as of now, the data centre in its current form cannot be operated after December 31, 2023. The allocation of the sites was overseen by experts, representatives of the cultural and creative industry, the city council, the state capital of Potsdam and the redevelopment agency Potsdam 2019 and done according to conceptual ideas, focussing on the use and spatial concept but also on criteria such as sustainability and mobility.

The selection committee decided in favour of the company Glockenweiß GmbH with its "Village" concept, conceived by the Dutch architectural office MVRDV, as the best bidder. The "Village" impresses with its innovative room and building design. Various building types and shapes with different uses are planned for the courtyard in addition to the main building whose cubature and roof shape are based on the historical model of Langer Stall at the Plantation. The alleys and the square structures between the buildings form a varied network and are intended to integrate the listed mosaic of the data centre. The coordinated uses will promote community and creativity and at the same time create a high quality of living and liveliness of the quarter.

As a next step, the spatial concept and architectural design of the future Creative Quarter will be qualified in detail in a workshop and dialogue process in the first half of 2020. A total of 18,400 m² of floor space are to be created for the cultural and creative industry, of which almost 7,000 m² of usable space will be rent-controlled with an initial rent of 9 euros net cold. The first stage of construction will begin in 2021. From 2023, two other complexes will be started, the "Village" in the courtyard and residential buildings with additional space for public use on Werner Seelenbinder Strasse.



At the same time, there will be an expression of interest procedure for operating the areas used by the cultural and creative industries. In autumn 2020, the building application for the first construction phase is to be submitted in order to enable the first users to move in at the end of 2023. In preparation of the building process, the redevelopment agency will clear the construction site of the remaining buildings beginning in March 2020; the existing utility lines will be either dismantled or relocated.

