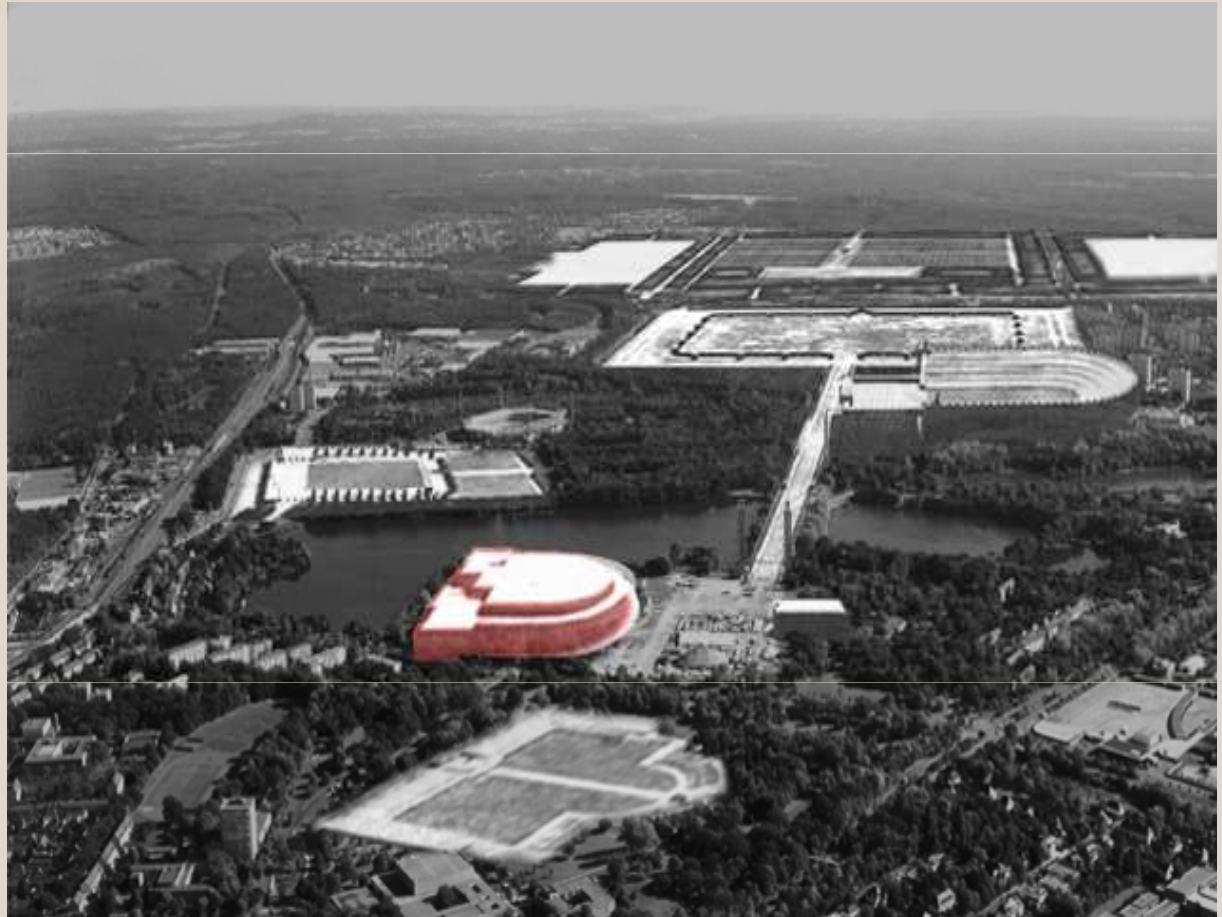


The Didactic Potential of Historic Locations of Nazi History in Nuremberg

Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds
Memorium Nuremberg Trials

The Nazi Party Rally Grounds as a National Historical Landmark

- Legacy of National Importance: largest ensemble of National Socialist state and party architecture in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Historical Relevance: testimony of a totalitarian regime – location of megalomania and failure of the Nazi regime – location of a "second history" after 1945
- European Historical Context: from the rise of Fascism to the birth of international criminal law



Representations of the National Socialist Regime

- “The Visible Side”: claim of the “Third Reich” to power and “eternal” rule, promise of salvation for the “people’s community”, mobilisation for the war
- Propaganda Function: contrast between “show” and “reality”, limited bonding within National Socialist society, critical reception abroad
- Iconography: suggestive effect of images in the present, editing out the violence and the crimes of the Nazi regime



Location of historical learning

- Setting an example: proactive and visible approach to the built remains of the National Socialist state
- Maintaining: the historical building as a learning object
- Deconstructing: modern architecture as a means for coping with National Socialist aesthetics



Dimensions of Historical and Political Education

- Reflection: place of National Socialist perpetrators and followers – ambivalence between fascination and violence of the Nazi state – radicalisation of German society between 1919 and 1945
- Complementarity: cognitive information presented in the Documentation Centre – exploring the “testimony in stone” in the “grounds”
- Diversity: differentiated programme of youth and adult education – self-guided (information system) and guided programmes



The “Grounds” as a Space for Experiences

- Multiple Functions: place of learning – art location – leisure area
- Multiple Perspectives: integration of diverse experiences and interests



Court Room 600 – Venue of the “Nuremberg Trials”

- Historical Importance: International Military Tribunal of the “main war criminals” and 11 subsequent trials of National Socialist perpetrators between 1945 and 1949
- Birth Place of International Law: first international criminal trials, wording of the “Nuremberg Principles”
- Pointing the Way: point of reference for the development of current international criminal law system (ad hoc trials, International Criminal Court)



From Nuremberg to The Hague

- Pretext: development of international law since the 19th century, turning point of World War II – German crimes
- Event: organisation and course of the trial of the “main war criminals” 1945-1946
- Aftermaths: Dealing with Nazi crimes in Germany, “Lessons learned” (civilian society, human rights education)



Location Moulded by History

- Exhibit: no original objects – furniture and setting from 1961
- Restrictions: ongoing trials still held here until 2018
- Potential: Change of attitudes between 1945 and today – increased acceptance of international law



Work in Progress: Future Perspectives

- Perspective for 2018: extension of exhibition, permanent access to Court Room 600
- Enhancement: preserving current state – using modern media
- Application: inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List?



Thank you for your attention