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Rhine-Ruhr Metropole 2012



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**Frankfurt
Rhine-Ruhr Metropole 2012**



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MUSEUM FÜR ARCHITEKTUR UND INGENIEURKUNST
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN

North Rhine-Westphalia

- Thoughts on the federal state

Cologne and the Rhineland

on September 5, 2012

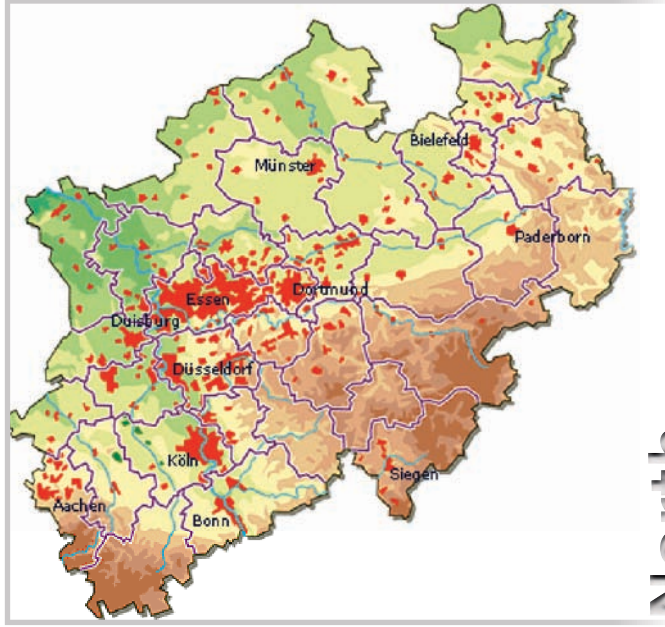
- Map Cologne
- Stations on the tour
- Interim Archive of the destroyed Historical Archive of the City of Cologne
- Ungers Archiv für Architekturwissenschaften, Cologne
- Museum Insel Hombroich and Raketenstation, Neuss

Ruhr Area

on September 6, 2012

- Map Ruhr area and short portrait
- Ruhr Area
- Stations on the tour
- Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen
- World Heritage Site Zollverein, Essen
- Forststation Rheinelbe, Gelsenkirchen

Tour Itinerary



North Rhine-Westphalia

Thoughts on the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia



The establishment of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia goes back to a decision taken by the British military government in 1946 following the end of the Second World War. It envisioned the merging of the Prussian Rhine province, the province of Westphalia and the Lippe region. This produced an area that today counts approximately 18 million inhabitants. As such, in this form North Rhine-Westphalia is a very young region.

In addition to the agricultural areas in the north and southeast, today two significant metropolitan regions – the Rhine region and the Ruhr Area – shape the state's character and economic backbone.

Along the Rhine lies the historical region named after the great river with its in part very old settlements, steeped in history: Bonn was the capital of West Germany from 1949 until 1991, Cologne is the largest city in North Rhine-Westphalia and one of Germany's oldest cities, Düsseldorf is the present-day state capital and Duisburg has a huge, international inland port. These cities form the axis points from south to north. The Rhine itself seems to link them and serve as a trade and transport route all the way to Rotterdam. In this way it connects North Rhine-Westphalia very closely with the global markets and neighboring European countries of the Netherlands, Belgium and France. Next to this centuries-old economic area, in the early 19th century Industrialization began shaping the second economic region in North Rhine-Westphalia, namely the Ruhr Area.

Duisburg in the west and Dortmund in the east frame, along the rivers Ruhr and Emscher, one of Europe's regions of particularly intense development. This development was based on the establishment of the coal, iron and steel industries.

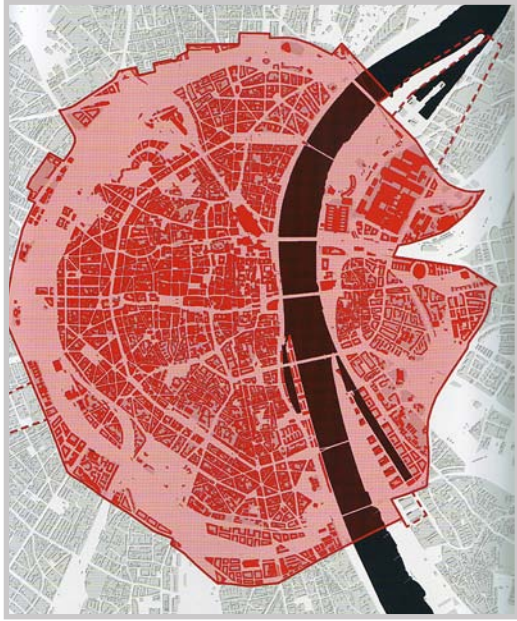
In just two centuries an agglomeration of over 50 towns and districts for-

med, whose main tasks were on the one hand to guarantee and intensify coal mining and iron and steel production and on the other to supply up to six million people. Development always focused on guaranteeing sufficient workers for the industrial activities. Today the Ruhr Area is the fifth largest agglomeration in Europe and has a particularly high population density.

Over the past 60 years, it is economic clout that has characterized North Rhine-Westphalia. 34 of the 100 strongest German companies are based here. In fact, in particular major energy, chemicals and pharmaceuticals companies are headquartered in the Rhine and Ruhr regions.

NRW statistics

- Area 34,500 square kilometers
- Fourth largest German federal state
- 18 million inhabitants
- 18 universities
- 119 academies and universities of applied sciences
- approx. 700 museums
- State capital: Düsseldorf
- Largest city: Cologne with 1 million inhabitants



Cologne

Cologne

With a good one million inhabitants, today Cologne is the largest city in North Rhine-Westphalia and the fourth largest in Germany. Its prime location on the Rhine and on key east-west trade routes lent the city outstanding political, economic and cultural significance.

The layout of the city evolved from its Roman beginnings in the 1st century BC, the street system of which is still identifiable today. Its present-day name Köln (Coellen in the Middle Ages) is derived from Colonia Agrippinensis. Around 800 AD Charlemagne elevated the episcopal seat of Cologne to an archbishopric, which to this day is one of the most important archbishoprics in the Catholic Church. The archbishop of Cologne, also a prince-elect, had both religious and political power and was in constant dispute with the city's influential citizens and merchants, who traded throughout Europe. In the High Middle Ages Cologne became the largest city in Germany with the construction of over a hundred significant churches and cloisters and a great many important secular buildings. It became known as "Holy Cologne".

In 1801 the city became part of the French Republic; there are still many French terms in the Cologne dialect from this period. From 1815 Cologne belonged to the Prussian Rhine province. In 1917 Konrad Adenauer, who would later become the first federal chancellor, became lord mayor of Cologne and started planning, with Hamburg urban planner Fritz Schumacher, a fundamental expansion of the city with an inner and outer greenbelt. This urban structure is still visible to this day and was further developed by Frankfurt-based urban planning studio Albert Speer in a current plan from 2009. 95 percent of the historic center was destroyed in the Second World War. Reconstruction was directed by Rudolf Schwarz and encompassed the rebuilding (partly in simplified form) of the city's most important historical buildings.

Today Cologne is a significant economic and cultural hub with numerous museums and galleries, diverse cultural events, including the famous Cologne Carnival, and home to publishing houses and media groups in the television and music industries.



Cologne

Stationen auf der Tour



UAA

UAA Ungers Archiv für Architekturwissenschaften, Cologne

The UAA is housed in the listed Haus Belvederestrasse in Cologne, which O.M. Ungers built in 1957 for his family to live in. With this house, O.M. Ungers achieved international renown. A library cube was added to the building in 1989. The building complex, created over a period of more than 30 years, visualizes O.M. Ungers' work from his beginnings in the 1950s to his radical architectural reduction in the final stages of his career.

A key element of the UAA's work is organizing and holding exhibitions and symposiums on architecture and its associated disciplines. The UAA continues O.M. Ungers' work: he understood architecture as a holistic enterprise and built on it through his work and by collecting artworks, models, literature and design. In addition to O.M. Ungers' estate, the foundation's basic capital is a unique architectural library. From the 1950s O.M. Ungers and Liselotte Ungers bought and archived books on architecture from all over the world. Over the decades this produced one of the most valuable private architectural libraries. From incunabula by Vitruvius, Palladio and Alberti to extremely rare Bauhaus editions and works on the Russian avant-garde, the library spans a period of 600 years of architectural history.



Interim archive

Interim Archive of the destroyed Historical Archive of the City of Cologne

In March 2009 the storeroom building of the Historical Archive of the City of Cologne collapsed together with the reading room as a result of building work for the Cologne subway being improperly carried out. 90 percent of the archive's inventory was buried and became wet. Six months later a good 85 percent had been retrieved with slight to significant damage, and thanks to numerous partnerships with international archives and museums 30 kilometers of shelving was able to be housed at 19 temporary sites.

The Interim Archive is currently located on Cologne's Heumarkt square and the restoration workshops in a former furniture warehouse near the city center. The Historical Archive is scheduled to move into a new building in the south of the city near the university together with the Art and Museum Library in 2014.



Hombroich

Hombroich Museum Insel

In 1982 Düsseldorf art collector and patron Karl-Heinrich Müller (1936-2007) bought Island Hombroich, an overgrown park and meadow landscape on the small Erft River just outside Düsseldorf. In line with Paul Cézanne's motto "art parallel to nature", together with sculptor Erwin Heerich and landscape architect Bernhard Korte, Müller began integrating "walk-through sculptural constructions" in the landscape. Müller's extensive art collection was presented in the various pavilions according to a concept by Düsseldorf painter Gotthard Graubner in such a way that traditional Asian and Modern European art enter into dialog.

In 1994 the former NATO missile base, the Raketenstation, was incorporated into the Insel Hombroich complex, as was the Kirkeby-Feld located in-between on which Danish artist Per Kirkeby realized five sculptural exhibition pavilions.

The halls, hangars, earth ramparts and observation tower on the approximately 13-hectare missile base were renovated and redesigned. Today internationally renowned artists and scientists live and work here. Moreover, Karl-Heinrich Müller wanted to give architects the opportunity to build structures in accordance with their own architectural understanding —



Hombroich

miniature manifestos of contemporary architecture. The buildings constructed to date include the Langen Foundation's art and exhibition building by Tadao Ando and Katsuhito Nishikawa's walk-through sculpture resembling an amphitheater. In 2009 Alvaro Siza completed his "Forum for Spatial Thinking" and Raimund Abraham designed the Musicians' House, the shell of which has been completed.

Initiated in 2002, the project "Hombroich spaceplacelab" explores alternative modes of communal living. 14 international artists and architects have drawn up different residential schemes that deal with the inclusion of agricultural aspects, the creation of an environmentally-sound energy, supply and disposal concept and a landscape preservation plan.

Today Museum Insel Hombroich, Kirkeby-Feld and Raketenstation Hombroich are a cultural space where art, culture, science and nature are at home and can continually and openly evolve.



Ruhr area

Ruhr area

The immense need for coal, iron and steel in the 19th and 20th centuries was the reason that, in just 200 years, a barren landscape of heath and marshes developed into a leading European coal and steel region: the Ruhr Area. Technical progress offered the tools, the prevailing capitalism the means to functionalize an entire region. Companies such as Krupp, Thyssen and Gutehoffnungshütte turned landscapes into production sites, attracted workers to the region from all over Europe and in so doing saw the towns with their production facilities explode. Production was the highest priority, more important than human or spatial considerations.

On an area of 4,435 square kilometers, a region developed whose inhabitants identified themselves more by their pride in their company than an affinity to their urban environment. "The Ruhr is workers' country" was the slogan, which disappeared with the end of the Industrial Age. What remained was an absolutely exhausted urban landscape with huge tracts of contaminated industrial wasteland in the city centers. The demise of industry led to particularly high unemployment and accelerated all the characteristic problems of urban development. The resulting image was highly negative and still persists in many outsiders' perception of the area today.








Ruhr area

In the 1980s and 1990s people sought to solve the problems by dismantling the mono-structural industrial landscape, promoting the presence of academies and other educational institutions and launching structural development programs, the most important of which was probably the Internationale Bauausstellung Emscher Park. Today the Ruhr Area is considered worldwide a positive example of successful structural change in an urban region.

Society in the region has rediscovered its connection to its industrial past; the architectural witnesses of the coal and steel era have lost their potency as symbols of industrial decline and have been accorded new value. Former wasteland in the city centers has mutated into parks and areas with recreational value. Yet despite all these positive developments the population is continuing to fall at an above-average rate and unemployment remains high. This is accompanied by asymmetrical processes of growth and shrinkage in individual areas. This is where society's future tasks are linked to efforts to perceive the Ruhr Area more strongly as a metropolitan region both on the inside and the outside: the Ruhr metropolis or metropolitan region. Its designation as 2010 European Capital of Culture rendered a significant contribution to this goal.

Hotels and meeting-point



-  **Hotel Essener Hof**
Am Handelshof 5
-  **Mövenpick Hotel**
Hachestraße 10
-  **Intercity Hotel**
Hachestraße 10
-  **Sheraton Hotel Essen**
Huysenallee 55
-  **Meeting-point**
Willy-Brandt-Platz

Stations on the tour

Essen (location of the hotels)

The history of the city of Essen goes back to the founding, in 852, of Essen Abbey, which together with nearby Werden Abbey was an important center of late-ancient and early-Christian written records. With the onset of Industrialization the city developed into one of the key centers of the coal and steel industries and became the home and base of numerous major manufacturers, in particular the Krupp family. Villa Hügel, the ostentatious residence Alfred Krupp had built in 1873, still attests to this today. In the course of the structural transformation Essen developed into a service center and seat of major international energy suppliers and the global group ThyssenKrupp. Museum Folkwang is one of the most renowned art museums. In 2010, the year the city was European Capital of Culture, an extension designed by David Chipperfield was added to the 1960s museum building. Other significant buildings in Essen include the opera house designed by Alvar Alto, the RWE Tower by Christoph Ingenhoven and the new Krupp Quartier by JSWD Architekten in collaboration with Chaix & Morel et Associés. The Musikhochschule Folkwang likewise enjoys great international renown.



Musictheatre

Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen

The theater, which opened in 1959, counts among the major post-War theater buildings in Germany. "An open society needs open forms of theater", claimed architect Werner Ruhnau (born 1922). Ruhnau designed the theater as a total artwork where architecture, art and technology enter into a creative dialog. Numerous artists such as Norbert Kricke, Jean Tinguely, Paul Dierkes and Robert Adams contributed to the building in the sense of a medieval lodge. With his wall art in the foyer, Yves Klein (1928-1962) created what are probably his largest works, namely monochrome blue reliefs measuring 7 x 20 meters.



Zollverein

World Heritage Site Zollverein, Essen

The story begins in 1847 when coal was first produced north of the city of Essen. Four collieries were then established that were all named Zollverein after the "Zollverein deutscher Staaten" (German Customs Union), 1831, an economic achievement and precursor to the German Empire. In 1925 streamlining measures, cost reductions and production increases led to all the Zollverein collieries being linked underground and formed into a new, central mining complex. Architects Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer were awarded the contract to upgrade and expand the infrastructure. The result was the most productive coal mine complex in the world: Zollverein XII. The clear architectural language of the site, the functionally-oriented buildings, whose main task was to protect the machines, in addition to the representative character of the overall ensemble, symbolized Zollverein's status as "the most modern coal mine complex" at its opening in 1932. Daily coal production of 12,000 tons put the colliery workers at the top of the worker hierarchy in the Ruhr Area.

When the last Zollverein coal mine discontinued production on December 23, 1986, Essen had to accept that its last coal mine had been shut down.



The complex now seemed a worthless, problem-ridden architectural ruin, a symbol of the region's industrial decline. Yet the architecture of Zollverein is an outstanding symbol, its history exemplary of the rise and demise of the Industrial Age both in economic and social terms. As a workplace, Zollverein led to the establishment of six working-class districts and was thus an important factor driving urban development in Essen and the surrounding towns. Following its closure, neither the City nor its residents recognized the significance of the architectural witnesses and the fate of the site hung in the balance. The first documents approving its demolition had already been signed; a development those responsible would rather forget.

Today Zollverein is a World Heritage Site and a lively cultural and creative venue. Around 1,000 people work at the former coal mine, which sees 900,000 visitors a year looking to experience industrial history and structural change. Rem Koolhaas conceived a master plan for the complex in 2001/02 and architecture studio SANAA designed a new building (2006) for the Zollverein School. In 2010 the Ruhrmuseum moved into the former coal washing plant, converted by Floris Alkemade/OMA and Böll Architekten, Essen (2003-2006). The Design Zentrum NRW, remodeled by Lord Norman Foster, presents product design in the former boiler house. The open spaces on the site were redesigned into a public park according to plans by agencere.



Forststation

Forststation Rheinelbe, Gelsenkirchen

Until 1930, Rheinelbe was one of the Ruhr's major coal mines on the southern edge of the city of Gelsenkirchen. Following its closure the above-ground structures were gradually demolished; only the machine hall, canteen and telephone exchange (where the M:AI is located) remained and were put to new use. Over the last 70 years a wild industrial forest has gradually taken root on the site. The art-in-nature artist Herman Prigann created a sculpture park here without intervening in nature. This is also the site of the country's most unusual forestry station, the Forststation Rheinelbe, housed in the former power distribution center. A forester based here manages this and similar disused colliery complexes.

Tour Itinerary

Wednesday, September 5

9.20 – 13.20:

Cologne: Visit to the UAA Ungers Archiv für Architekturwissenschaften and Interim Archive of the destroyed Historical Archive of the City of Cologne

13.40 – 14.40:

Lunch at Triangle Tower on the right bank of the Rhine with a view of the Cathedral and historic city center

15.10 - 21.30:

Neuss: Visit to Hombroich Museum Island and Raketenstation (former missile base) followed by Session 4 and dinner

Tuesday, September 6

9.00 - 12.10:

Gelsenkirchen: Visit to Musiktheater im Revier with architect Werner Ruhnau followed by Session 5

13.10 - 17.00:

Essen: Lunch at SANAA Cube followed by guided tours to the World Heritage Site Zollverein and the general assembly at SANAA Cube.

19.30:

Gelsenkirchen: Closing ceremony and dinner at Forststation in the industrial forest at Rheinelbe.

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