



The Synagogue Project

On the Reconstruction of Synagogues in Germany

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- The reconstruction of German synagogues destroyed under Nazi rule in the 1930s is the subject of intense public debate
- The book features designs for new synagogue buildings in Berlin and Hamburg by students from four German universities
- Conversations with representatives of Jewish communities, organisations, and institutions, Hamburg's city government, a rabbi, and an architect explore key aspects of the history and future of Jewish life and religious architecture in Germany

Germany is currently experiencing an intense debate about the reconstruction of synagogues that were destroyed under Nazi rule in the 1930s, and the related search for an appropriate architectural expression of Jewish life and culture in the country's major cities today. This book, which results from a collaboration between the Technical Universities of Darmstadt and Dresden, Hamburg's HafenCity University, and the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, vividly contributes to this discussion.

The Synagogue Project features designs for new synagogues replacing the lost buildings on Berlin's Fraenkelufer and on Joseph-Carlebach-Platz and Poolstrasse in Hamburg by students at the participating universities. They illustrate the search for a structural expression that can provide space for Jewish life and worship in the future. In conversation, members of Jewish communities and Franz-Josef Höing, representing the City of Hamburg's department of urban development and housing, explain their views on the past and future of synagogues in Hamburg and Berlin. Mirjam Wenzel, director of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, Salomon Korn, former vice-president of Germany's Central Council of Jews, Rabbi Edward van Voolen, and Swiss architect Roger Diener also contribute to the discussion on the history and significance of spaces for Jewish life, culture, and religion in German cities.

Text in English and German.

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