

PRESS CONFERENCE
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Quotes

Hans-Dieter Hegner, Technical Director of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss:

“I’m pleased to announce that despite the restrictions placed on us by the coronavirus pandemic, we were still able to complete construction work in 2020. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our architect Franco Stella and his team, to everyone involved in the planning, to the Federal Office for Construction and Regional Planning for construction management, as well as the many businesses involved, who have all done their utmost to construct an exceptional building conforming to high quality standards, and finally to ensure a successful completion of all the complex building services testing required. Berlin has gained a new landmark and a magnificent urban space.”

Monika Grütters, Minister of State for Culture and Media:

“The Humboldt brothers’ legacy of observing the world with their own eyes, of encountering the unfamiliar face-to-face without repelling or disparaging it, is today more pertinent than ever. All the more reason to breathe new life into this legacy with the Humboldt Forum, set right at the heart of the German capital. In particular, the Humboldt Forum aims to be a benchmark and role model for all of Germany for the handling of cultural assets from colonial contexts.

And even though it may only currently be possible in a virtual space, we want to show the public what has been achieved over these past years. Because, just like Alexander von Humboldt’s expeditions, the path from the Bundestag’s 2002 resolution to reconstruct the Berlin Palace, all the way to its completion, has required stamina, tireless commitment and visionary strength, not to mention a touch of daring. So for that I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks, especially to the many trades who have created true masterpieces of craftsmanship and sculpture in this place.”

Michael Müller, governing mayor of Berlin:

“The Humboldt Forum is an impressive addition to the museum landscape here in the centre of Berlin, both for its architecture and its content. Its collections and exhibits aim to bring the world to our capital’s centre, while this building will stand as a symbol of cosmopolitan open-mindedness true to the spirit of the Humboldts and of Berlin. Thirty years after

reunification, the Humboldt Forum and the Palace façade carry huge symbolism for Berliners. The face of Berlin has received a new, yet simultaneously historical feature – a gift to the city. I particularly wish to thank the many donors who have made this possible.”

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director and Chair of the Board at the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss:

“I am very grateful for this new venue for culture and science, and the tremendous opportunities it offers. Our programme and content are well prepared and under starter’s orders. From today, the Humboldt Forum is one among many cultural institutions hoping to be able to greet their guests as soon as is possible and reasonable. Only when we are able to open our Portals permanently to our public without restriction will it be possible for us, together with all our partners, to be a vibrant venue filled with diverse voices and cultural encounters. For the present, we can offer a first impression of the building with our own exclusive artistic programme – livestreamed and online.”

Franco Stella, Architect:

“Thanks to its urban architecture, the Berlin Palace was like a theatrical director to the city, and Unter den Linden and the Museum Island were its stage. It is important to me that the reconstruction of its Baroque elements should enable the public to experience the relationships between the most prominent buildings and squares at the heart of Berlin: the former city director has returned as a teacher of the city’s history. Both the reconstructed and the modern structures – each with its own distinctive style – make reference to the site and its intriguing history. Together they join to form a unified building with four permanently open portals leading to two magnificent inner squares.”