

HISTORY OF THE SITE

A political hotspot for 800 years.

The Humboldt Forum is a new building on a historic site. Time after time, princes and politicians have built, redesigned, demolished and re-planned on this site to advertise their political claims. Around this building there are many opportunities to learn more about this often controversial site.

Making history! A 27m-wide video installation provides a stunning overview of the eventful history of this site. The panorama comprises illustrations of original objects, historical photographs and films and offers the opportunity to explore the context of the site and to develop new perspectives. Travel through 800 years in just 14 minutes!



Image 1

VIDEO PANORAMA



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6

Original or copy? The sculptures in the Schlüter Courtyard at the Humboldt Forum are copies. The originals, which were taken from the Berlin Palace before its demolition in 1950/1951, are now in the Sculpture Hall. Some are themselves copies modelled on ancient examples. Others were 19th-century replacements for damaged statues from the Baroque era. This exhibition offers insights into the fascinating origins of both the historical sculptures and the newly created copies.



Image 10



Image 12

SCULPTURE HALL

Making sure upstairs life runs smoothly! Down in the cellar was where you'd find monks storing their barrels, kitchen maids plucking poultry for the queen's cooks, and the Palace Guard taking a break. Now it's where you can see the original walls, as well as artefacts from medieval times right through to the present day, demonstrating just how much work was needed from so many people to ensure everyday life ran smoothly up in the monastery or the Royal Palace.

PALACE CELLAR



Image 11



Image 8



Image 13



Image 7



Image 14

FLASHBACK 16



Image 16

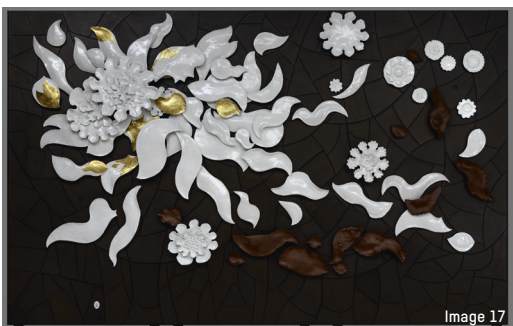


Image 17

A new building that's full of history. Dispersed throughout the building you'll find 35 flashbacks offering a glimpse into important events and aspects of the site's past. Memorabilia from the Royal Palace, and from the Palace of the Republic, bring to life both unusual and everyday moments from its long history. The unexpected locations of these objects create surprising connections and open up new perspectives.

FLASHBACKS



Image 15

FLASHBACK 4

Did you once work in the Palace of the Republic? Or were you there as a visitor and have private photos? Whether it's your old uniform, a souvenir, an award or a photo album, we'd like to exhibit items that were reminders of your former everyday working life. Please speak to us, or contact us at: erinnerungen@humboldtforum.org

WANTED: MEMORABILIA!

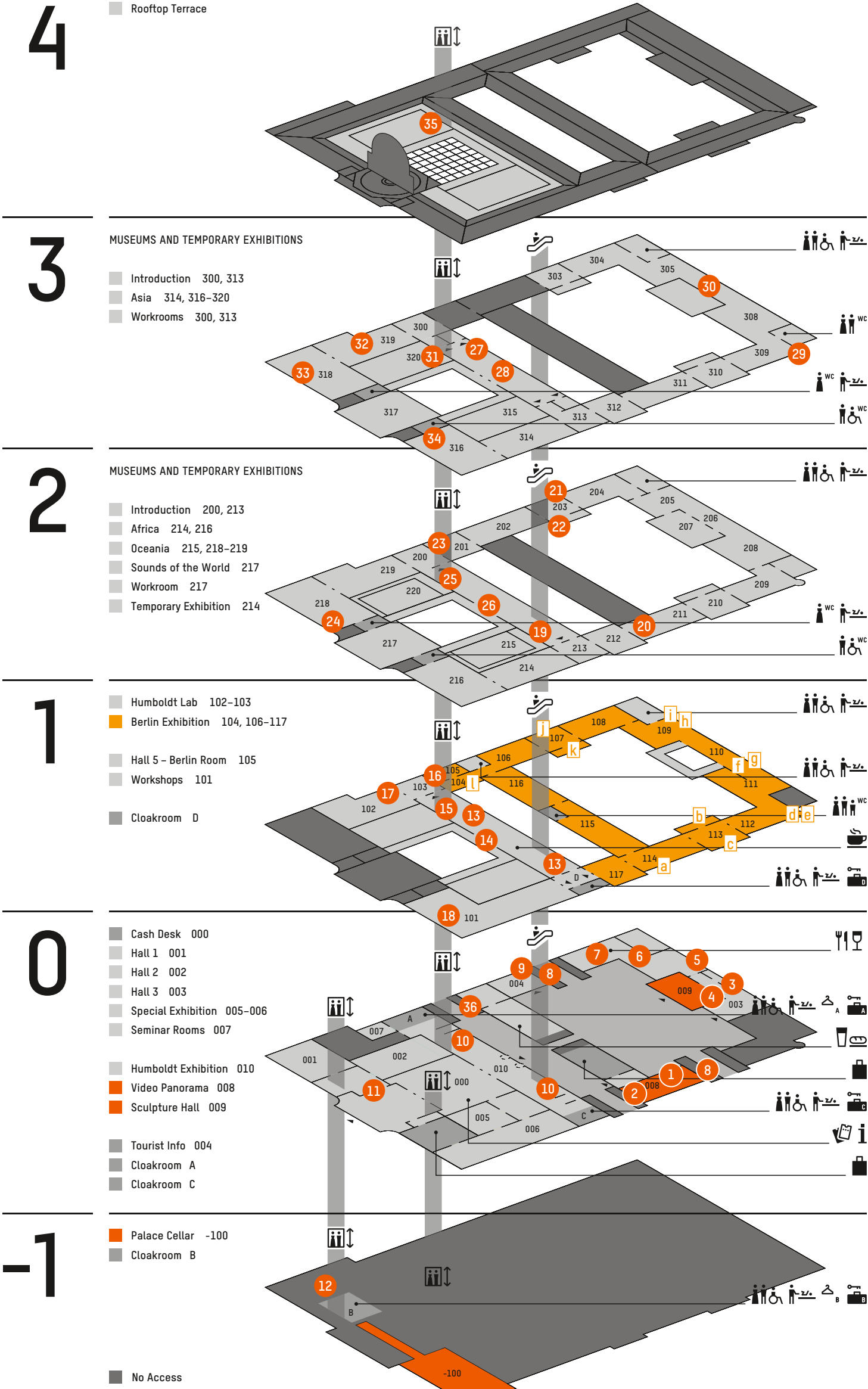
A blog on the Palace of the Republic provides an insight into the programmatic work at pdr.humboldtforum.org



Image 18

FLASHBACK 1

| around 1150 | 1300 | 1451 | 1540 | 1718 | 1853 | 1945 | 1951 | 1976 | 2008 | 2020 |
|---------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Medieval city | Dominican monastery | Palace of the prince elector of Brandenburg | Renaissance palace | Baroque palace of the king in Prussia | Palace cupola and chapel | Palace ruins | Parade ground with spectator stands | Palace of the Republic | Open meadow and excavation area | Humboldt Forum |



FLASHBACKS

- 1 Wristwatch for the builders of the Palace of the Republic
- 2 Model ship made of silver belonging to Kaiser Wilhelm II
- 3 Tarpaulin from the Palace building wrap, 1993
- 4 Glass ballot box of the Volkskammer
- 5 Porcelain relief from the Palast-Restaurant
- 6 Plates from across five centuries
- 7 Kitchen utensils from the Palace kitchen
- 8 The revolutions of 1848, 1918 and 1989
- 9 Parade ground
- 10 Cobblestones from the Eosanderhof courtyard
- 11 Events at the Palace of the Republic
- 12 Imperial-era bathroom
- 13 Signage system from the Palace of the Republic
- 14 Sculptural fragment of a genie on Portal 3
- 15 Interim cultural uses at the Palace of the Republic
- 16 Fish specimens from the Cabinet of Curiosities
- 17 Alpine model from the Cabinet of Curiosities
- 18 Institute of Psychology in the Berlin Palace
- 19 Bronze relief from the Volkskammer foyer
- 20 Cabinet from the Secret State Archives of the Berlin Palace
- 21 Quill belonging to Kaiser Wilhelm II
- 22 Court apothecary's mortar
- 23 Proclamation of the Socialist Republic, 1918
- 24 Exhibitions in the Palace ruins, 1946–1948
- 25 Painting from the Palast-Galerie
- 26 Surveillance monitor from the Palace of the Republic
- 27 Art shipments during Wilhelm II's exile
- 28 Statues of prince electors from the Berlin Palace
- 29 Headpiece from a horse's jousting armour
- 30 Sport museum in the Berlin Palace
- 31 Backcloth from Queen Elisabeth Christine's throne
- 32 Chinese printing types from the Prince Electors' library
- 33 Unter den Linden boulevard through the years
- 34 'Lalla Rûkh' plate from the Berlin Palace
- 35 Iced coffee cup from the Milchbar café in the Palace of the Republic
- 36 Wicket gate at Portal 4 of the Berlin Palace

BERLIN GLOBAL

The Berlin exhibition on the first floor takes you through the history of the site through numerous texts, pictures and original exhibits.

The Berlin Palace and the Palace of the Republic both functioned as stages for revolutions and acts of state. Here, in the centre of Berlin, borders were drawn and wars declared. Visitors from all corners of the world were drawn to these semi-public areas because they provided and defined open spaces, as well as served as centres for recreation. The fashion worn in these historical spaces is also a key feature of the exhibition.



HISTORICAL MEMENTOS

- a, c, d, g, h, j

Stereoscopes containing historical images showing changes since the 19th century.
- f

Globe lamps and a large seating area in front of a film installation are evocative of the Palace of the Republic.
- b

Photos, objects and films from the revolutions of 1848, 1918 and 1989.
- i

Aerial photograph of the destruction from 1945.
- e

Historical images of the former tea salon of Friedrich Wilhelm IV and of the living room of Queen Elisabeth.
- k

Parts of Prussian army uniforms as well as of workers' uniforms from the Palace of the Republic.
- l

Porcelain group portrait of the crown princess Luise of Prussia and her sister Friederike.

MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE SITE



Audio tours and more
Discover the history of the site with our Media Guide
guide.humboldtforum.org



Collections Online
The objects on the history of the site online
sammlungenonline.humboldtforum.org/en



The History of the Site
Exhibition Guide
Prestel Verlag
184 pages, € 15



Vom Kloster zum Humboldt Forum
700 Jahre Geschichte und Architektur
Ein Buch zum Tasten, Sehen und Hören
64 pages, € 24,90
Available in the Museum Shop at the Humboldt Forum (German only)

Address
Schloßplatz, 10178 Berlin

Opening hours
Wed–Mon 10:30am–6:30pm
Closed Tuesdays

Tickets for all exhibitions, events and for the roof terrace are available in the foyer or online.

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