



Media Information
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A Building Steeped in History: The PalaisPopulaire in the Prinzessinnenpalais

From the residence of Prussian princesses to an innovative platform for art, culture, and sports: For the PalaisPopulaire the rooms of the historic Prinzessinnenpalais were completely redesigned by the renowned Berlin-based architectural office **Kuehn Malvezzi**. Today, state-of-the-art technology and contemporary, minimalist, clear architecture can be found behind the baroque façade. The eventful history of Berlin is reflected inside the building.

The Prinzessinnenpalais, built at the beginning of the 18th century, belonged to the Hohenzollern dynasty until 1918. It served as the residence of the daughters of Prussian King William II, three princesses, one of whom married the Russian czar. Until the end of the German Empire, members of the family lived in the Prinzessinnenpalais. A few days after the November Revolution in 1918, the state seized the assets of the Hohenzollern.

The building, which for a spell had housed the Schinkel Museum, was severely damaged in World War II and had to be razed in the early 1960s because it was in danger of collapsing. Like the State Opera, the Prinzessinnenpalais was rebuilt according to the plans of Richard Paulick (1903-1979), for new usage as an “opera café.” Paulick, a former assistant of Walter Gropius at the Bauhaus in Dessau, combined, as desired by the East German state leadership, the classicistic façade with a modern, industrial, concrete design inside.

The Opera Café, which opened in 1963, boasted a modern midcentury design. With an opera bar, wine tavern, and grill restaurant, it became one of the most popular meeting places for Berliners and tourists alike. It served as a shooting location for one of the most successful DEFA film productions, *The Legend of Paul and Paula* (1973). In the 1980s, legendary disco evenings there attracted the East Berlin scene.

After German reunification, the palace was transferred to the Treuhand, whereupon the café was reopened under the name Opernpalais (opera palace). Richard Paulick’s modern design yielded to rococo-style furnishings. The house again became a visitor magnet and drew many celebrities, including actors Alain Delon and Sophia Loren. The café closed in 2012 as it was in disrepair had to be completely refurbished.



In 2017, Deutsche Bank became the new tenant and had the interior of the building completely refurbished by the renowned Berlin architectural office Kuehn Malvezzi as a new platform for art, culture, and sports. To this end, the concrete construction in the interior was exposed and transformed into an exciting stage for contemporary culture.

Press photos can be found at:
<http://www.photo-files.de/db-palaispopulaire/>

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About Deutsche Bank's Art, Culture & Sports

The Art, Culture & Sports unit bundles Deutsche Bank's funding programs and develops them further conceptually. Together with the divisions, the unit provides the bank's customers with new access to the art, culture, and sports world. With its commitment to contemporary art, Deutsche Bank has set standards worldwide, whether with its art collection, one of the world's most important collections of contemporary works on paper and photographs, or with its international exhibition program. For many years, the bank has had a presence at selected art fairs such as Frieze London and New York and, starting in 2019, it will also have a presence at Frieze Los Angeles.

About Deutsche Bank

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