

Press Information

MARTa Herford

Art and Design - New Contexts in One Place

Museum MARTa Herford is a forum for young and contemporary art that primarily explores the close, complex relationships between art, design and architecture.

The various exhibitions are geared towards an exchange between the traditionally separate realms of art and design. As far as the curators are concerned, design is not purely functional and commercial, but rather a field of creative, processual experimentation. Moreover, the character of art today has also changed. Previously autonomous and self-referential, the boundaries are now dissolving and art is steadily absorbing non-artistic disciplines.

The MARTa is a kind of laboratory where current issues of art are questioned. By means of prospective exhibitions inside but also outside the museum, MARTa examines important concepts such as autonomy and function, the unique and the multiple, modern mobility and the muséification of the object, and the decorative and the narrative.

The architecture by Frank Gehry

On an 8,000 square metre site near Herford's Main Station, between Goebenstraße and the curve of the river Aa, a building project for MARTa Herford is being realised by American star architect Frank Gehry.

The MARTa complex, which has a wavy steel roof, is being built with bricks that are typical of the region. It has four different building components: a Museum, a Forum, a Centre and a Café, all of which are expressions of the architect's particular sculptural idiom.

The centre building dates from the 1950s and was designed by the Herford architect Werner Lippold as a production plant for the Ahlers Goldress company. The listed building has been integrated into the overall complex by means of the Lobby. On the first floor, arrived at by a curved stairway designed by Frank Gehry, there is also a classical exhibition room for the MARTa Herford Museum, in the form of a "white cube".

The Museum itself is in front of this Centre. It consists of a 22-metre-high dome and five smaller galleries which are flooded with light from the lofty skylights. All these galleries will have one floor only, so that visitors will have an unimpeded view not only the artworks, but also of the sky. A total of 2,500 square metres exhibition space is available both for alternating exhibitions and for the collection.

Opposite the Museum is the Forum, which covers almost 380 square meters and can seat 199. It is to be used for presentations and events related to the themes of architecture, design, art and furniture.



MARTa Herford
Goebenstraße 4-10
32052 Herford

Press contact:
Karin Barth
Tel.: 05221 99 44 30 27
Fax.: 05221 99 44 30 23
Karin.barth@marta-herford.de

www.martaherford.de

The Café-Restaurant, with its copper-clad bar and glazed front looking onto the river bank, opened in November. It has two floors, and serves breakfast, lunch, evening meals and late-night drinks; the terrace can be used in fine weather.