

LOOR

Living With Our and Others' Religions
Together in Diversity



New Synagogue/Jewish Community Centre Duisburg/ Germany

number:

Germany	RS am Jungbornpark	4
country	school	Serial number

photos



description

The synagogue in Duisburg was built in shape of a Star of David. The concrete walls represent the 5 Books of Mose and 5 fingers of an open hand. It symbolizes the open-mindedness of the Jews. The religious centre is located in the centre of the fingers. The centre marks the theoretical starting point of an imaginary line to the location of the former synagogue. It was located on the Junkernstreet until it was burnt down in the course of the Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) in 1938. The concrete pillars of the synagogue have not been plastered in order to illustrate that the Jewish history has not always been even and simple. Some of the stones used for the construction of the synagogue were imported from Jerusalem. The synagogue has not always been at its actual location but 300 meters away from the current location. The community centre of the Jewish community consists of the synagogue, the "Bet Haknesset", the "Bet Hamidrasch" a Jewish School. A large hall with a stage is located inside of a glass-atrium. In addition the community centre includes a library, offices, classrooms, 3 apartments as well as the rooms of the youth centre.

Position
object

The synagogue is located in the inner harbor which is fairly central in Duisburg.

size

1600m²

materials

Armored concrete, wood, glass

date of building/
epoch:

The synagogue and the community centre opened in 1999 after 3 years of construction.

architect
artist:

Zvi Hecker, an Israeli architect who nowadays works in Berlin, has sketched the synagogue. He devoted himself to a certain kind of architecture called "dekonstruktiv architecture". This branch of architecture is inspired by basic geometrical forms or models (cylinder, ashlar). The interior and details inside the synagogue were hand-made by Hecker himself. Certain spots look as if they had not been finished, however this effect is intended.

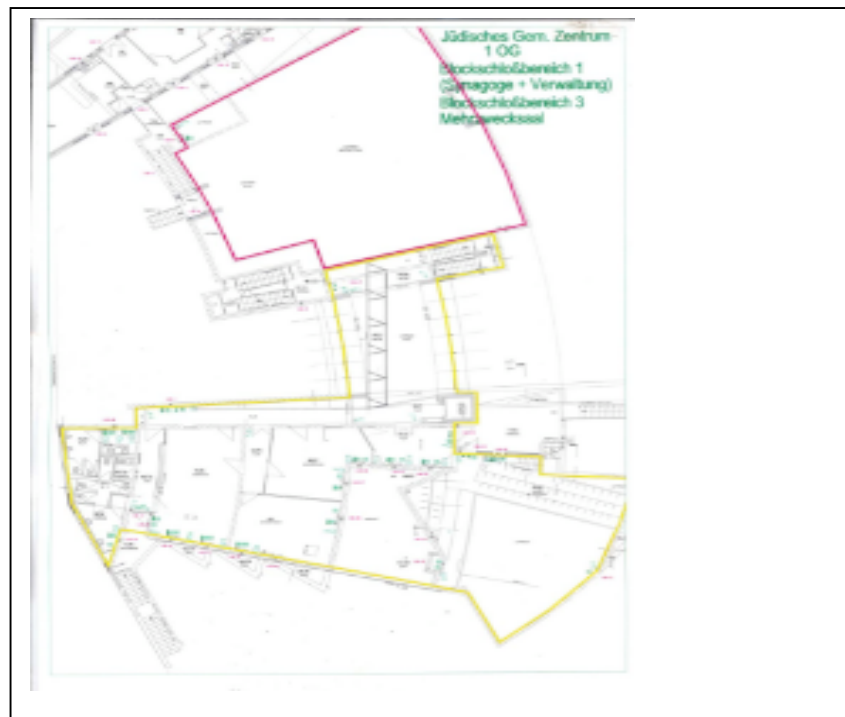
renovation,
restoration
(when, by whom,
who paid, why)

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Furthermore the Jewish community offers multiple choices in terms of youth- or adult education. The sports club, the so-called Makkabi, belongs to the community centre too.

The synagogue has not always been at its actual location but 300 meters away from the current location. The first synagogue was burnt down in 1938

Sketch outline:



Decor

Picture	title	function
 A photograph showing three individuals, two women and one man wearing a kippah, gathered around a wooden table. They are looking at a large, unrolled scroll of parchment (the Torah) which is held by wooden rollers. The setting appears to be a synagogue.	Thora	These are the Five Books of Moses. Every worship the rabbi reads the Thora to the participants.
 A photograph of a synagogue interior. In the foreground, a seven-branched menorah with lit candles stands on a table. In the background, a man wearing a kippah is seen from behind, looking down at a book on a table. To the left, there is an ark containing Torah scrolls.	Menorah	A seven-branched candelabrum which has been a symbol of Judaism for almost 3000 years. Every week all seven candles have to burn. For the Jewish holiday there is a special eight-branched candelabrum. Every day a further candle is lighted up.



Amud

While the Thora is read, it is placed on it. The reading is held in direction of the community. If the desk is placed in the middle it is held to the front.



Kippah

The kippah is a cap Jewish men traditionally wear. By wearing the kippah they show that they honour god. For men it's forbidden to enter a synagogue without covering the head.