

## Hackesche Höfe

Martyna Hepner

Hackesche Höfe are Germany's biggest courtyard area.

You can find an interesting mixture of art, life, trade and catering trade.

On every street, in every edge you meet many street artists and little works of art.

For everyone who likes to go shopping there are quite a lot of shops with nice things and accessories. In each alley you find second-hand shops with usual clothes, too.

The first time in the many courtyards and alleys is very exciting, because you discover tiny restaurants, studios, boutiques and some sweet shops.

The stairways in the houses are decorated with graffiti, stickers and other art works, so you do not know where to look first. It is really beautiful there.

Many courtyards are connected and you can go from one courtyard to the next. At the same time you can marvel at the wonderful facades of the houses. The architecture we owe the art nouveau.

I think it is a very great experience to visit the Hackesche Höfe. No matter how often you are there, each time you find new art or you discover something you haven't seen during your first visit.

Everyone who is interested in unusual things should have been there at least once.

## Hotel Adlon Kempinski

Paula Prull

In Berlin there are many hotels, but one of the most famous hotels is the "Hotel Adlon Kempinski". In the following text you can read the main facts about this popular hotel.

It is one of the most luxurious and most popular hotels in Germany. The hotel has its place in Berlin Mitte at the "Pariser Platz", right in front of the "Brandenburger Tor".

Originally the "Hotel Adlon" was opened in October 1907 by its founder Lorenz Adlon, but in 1945 it burned out and was demolished except for a side wing. That side wing has been standing there since 1984. After the fall of the wall the hotel was rebuilt in 1995 to 1997.

It was reopened as a historical redesign by the "Kempinski AG" on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1997. Since this day people from all over the world have resided in this hotel. One part of it was issued to the British Embassy.

By its tradition, its myth and its history the "Hotel Adlon" will never fall into oblivion and it is still a popular place to spend beautiful days in Berlin. It is so famous that even five movies have been made about the "Hotel Adlon".

## Jewish museum: Middle Ages

Melanie Simon

At the Jewish museum in Berlin you have the opportunity to attend various tours and learn about the history of Jewry. I joined the tour about Jewry in the Middle Ages.

The tour started with a crash course in Jewish tradition. We stopped at two female statues that represent Christianity as wealthy and high above a blindfolded and ordinary dressed statue that represents Jewry. The blindfolds indicate that Jews are blind to the truth of the bible and God, because they claimed that Jesus was a simple human being and not the son of God. We also saw a series of pictures and learned that Jews preferred to live among other Jews and were forced to fight

for their survival in the Dark Ages, because they were accused of causing Black Death by poisoning wells. In some regions of Europe at that particular time Jewish communities nearly became extinct. Even though this Pest-Pandemic was carried over by rats or infected clothes, Jews were murdered all over Europe. Rulers and spiritual leaders could not stop them.

I recommend this tour to everyone who is interested in the history of Jewry beyond the well known facts of Jewish history.

## **Mustafa´s Gemüse Kebap**

**Nele Dreßen**

“Mustafa´s GemüseKebap“is one of the most famous DonerKebap stalls in Berlin, which is in the district Kreuzberg right next to the metro station Mehringsdamm.

Very often the first you see when you come to this place is a very long line of people, sometimes up to 40m long of mostly young people and tourists. Most of these tourists found “Mustafa´s Gemüse Kebap” on the internet. There you can read that this Doner Kebap is one the best of whole Berlin. The owner Tarik Kara has probably named his booth “Mustafa´s Gemüse Kebap” as a mind catching phrase, so that you can easily remember him and his location. The concept and the menu are also easy, Doner Kebap with fresh vegetables, feta cheese, sauce, bread, with or without chicken meat, also many other vegetarian dishes.

If you have succeeded in reaching the counter, you will be rewarded because the meal is very delicious. You will additionally enjoy the meal because you have hardly worked for it. Last but not least the owner and his employees are very friendly and jokey.

My recommendation: If you need an entertainment combined with tasty food and you can spend some free time, then visit “Mustafa´s GemüseKebap”!

## **Potsdamer Platz**

**Carolin Jordan**

The “Potsdamer Platz” is an important public square and traffic intersection in the centre of Berlin. The Potsdamer Platz is one of the most exciting and multifaceted corners of the German capital. It is about one km south of the Brandenburger gate and the German Parliament Building and close to the southeast corner of the Tiergarten park.

The area today consists of three developments, known as Daimler City or the Daimler Chrysler Areal, the Sony Centre and the Beisheim Centre.

The Potsdamer Platz embodies the “new Berlin”. It represents the development from the divided city with the wall to an open metropolis in the middle of Europe. Leaving behind war destructions and the construction of the wall, there grew out a huge modern city center.

When you are there, you have a mixture of the American plaza feeling at the Sony Center and a tree-lined European down town around the Marlene Dietrich Platz, producing a lively, buzzing atmosphere.

If you are at the Potsdamer Platz, you should definitely visit the Sony Centre and Cinema Complex, Film Museum and the Arkaden Shopping Mall.

The Sony Center is one of the strongest attractions for Berlin´s youth. There is a cinema, there are offices, restaurants and multimedia terminals.

The Potsdamer Platz is a highlight for everyone who visits Berlin, and very interesting, especially for young people.

# The Berliner Dom ( Berlin Cathedral)

by Yvette Honekamp

The Berliner Dom is one of the biggest and most important protestant churches in Germany, and the biggest cathedral in Berlin.

The Dom is located in Berlin, district Mitte, it is in the northern part of the Museum Island.

The Berliner Dom was built by Julius Raschdorff from 1894 to 1905, it was inspired by the High Renaissance and the Baroque.

The cathedral consists of two main parts, the „Predigtkirche“ and the „Trau-und Taufkirche“. The Predigtkirche is the central part of the cathedral, placed under the dome. This is the part where the preacher preaches.

The Tauf-und Traukirche is only used for weddings and christenings.

The crypt of the Berliner Dom contains the remainings of many members of the Hohenzollern family.

In the year 2007, the dome construction was nominated as „Historisches Wahrzeichen der Ingenieurkunst in Deutschland“. This is an achievement for very special buildings.

Today the overall height is about 116m on a ground of 73 x 93m, it used to be 73 x 114m before the demolition of the „Denkmalskirche“. The dome is about 74,8m high, with a diameter of 33m.

The cathedral has about 1650 seats.

Nowadays the cathedral is mainly used for regular church service, but also for special occasions like political events of the Federal Republic of Germany.