

Because of the historical importance of the former camp facility Bergen-Belsen, both before and after April 15th 1945, various considerations must be taken into account. From an open-air camp for prisoners of war to its later use as a concentration camp facility, this area is witness to the atrocities committed during the Nazi reign of terror.

In its current condition, the former camp is impossible to see. To correct this, the remaining woods will be cut along the former camp fence, freeing the space of the camp area. The surrounding forest will be freed of its leaf-bearing trees so that the camp border of pine trees is again clearly readable. Wood remaining on the

area will be carefully thinned and freed from the under wood, so that the complete camp facility is clearly readable.

The next step will be to make the old system of paths and barracks, overlapped by the existing postwar infrastructure, visible again. A new access through the Documentation and Information Center will lead directly to the roll call square and form, for the entire facility, a new main area. The path to this area has been reserved as the only really new path in the material of the building (concrete) and will be slightly raised from the level of the facility. The current creation (building and path) lays, therefore, a new layer over the historical substance.

Documentation Centre Bergen-Belsen

client Foundation Niedersächsische Gedenkstätten

floor area 4,900m²
cubage 25,300m³

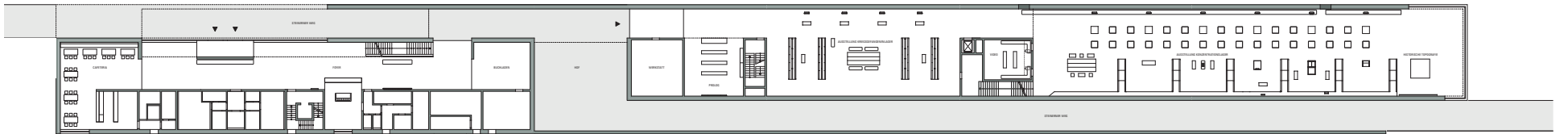
competition 02/2003, 1st prize
completion 10/2007

State of Lower Saxony Prize for Architecture 2008

"Beton" Architecture Prize 2008

BDA prize of Lower Saxony 2009





GRUNDRISS ERDGESCHOSS M 1:200

