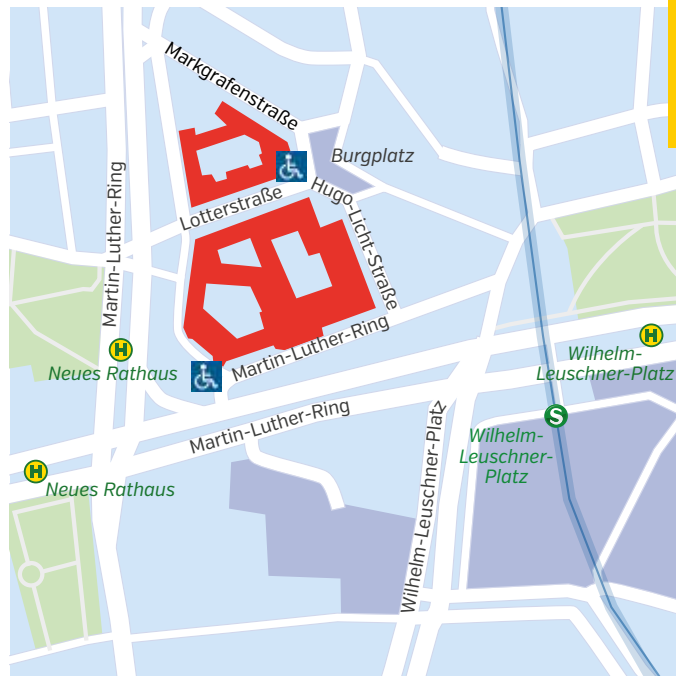


The Leipzig New Town Hall (Neues Rathaus)



Memorial for Carl Friedrich Goerdeler (1884 – 1945)

Since 1999, a memorial in front of the southwest side of the New Town Hall has commemorated the former Lord Mayor of Leipzig, Carl Friedrich Goerdeler (term of office 1930 – 1937). After the demolition of the Mendelssohn monument in front of the Gewandhaus in Beethovenstraße by the National Socialists in November 1936, Goerdeler submitted his resignation. He subsequently became the centre of civil resistance circles and liaison to the military resistance of July 20, 1944. Goerdeler was executed on 2 February 1945 in Berlin-Plötzensee.

The monument, conceived by the New York artist couple Jenny Holzer and Michael Glier, consists of a bell shaft 5 meters deep and 2.75 meters in diameter, in which a bronze bell hangs. On the circular stone steps, there are selected quotations from Carl Friedrich Goerdeler's letters, speeches and texts, in chronological order from the outside to the inside.



Quote on the Goerdeler monument: "The biggest problem is restoring basic human decency." (1936)

Tower ascent

Time:	Mon – Fri: 2:00 pm
Meeting place:	Information bureau, Lower Foyer
Price:	Euro 3.00 for adults, Euro 1.50 for children, schoolchildren, students, Leipzig-Pass holders
Contact person:	Office for Building Management Event Services Department Telephone: 0341 123-2324

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Goerdeler Monument, inaugurated in 1999

The bronze bell tolls daily at

5:55 hrs | 11:55 hrs | 17:55 hrs | 23:55 hrs


On the following days it tolls on the hour
(always starting five minutes before the hour)

January 27	Memorial Day for the Victims of National Socialism
February 2	Anniversary of Goerdeler's death, 1945
May 8	End of the war, 1945
July 20	Assassination attempt on Hitler, 1944
July 31	Goerdeler's birthday, 1884
September 8	Day of Goerdeler's sentencing to death, 1944

Short architectural history
of the Leipzig New Town Hall

- 1895

Leipzig acquires the Pleißenburg building from the Kingdom of Saxony in order to create space for a new town hall
- 1897



Hugo Licht is awarded 1st Prize in the architectural competition to build the New Town hall

Hugo Licht, Construction Site of the New Town Hall, 1902
- 1899

September 19: Laying of the foundation stone by the first Lord Mayor of Leipzig, Otto Georgi
- 1903

Completion of the town hall tower on the base of the Pleißenburg tower
- 1904

Opening of the Ratskeller
- 1905

October 7: Opening of the New Town Hall by the Lord Mayor, Bruno Tröndlin
- 1911

Inauguration of the "Town House" annexe to the town hall following a three-year construction period
- 1943

The New Town Hall and the Town House are heavily damaged in the bombing raid on December 4
- 1949

Inauguration of the restored council chamber
- 1967–68

Conversion of the destroyed banqueting room into the council chamber and the former council chamber into the banqueting hall
- Since 1990

gradual renovation of the building complex

The New Town Hall dominates the skyline on the south-western edge of Leipzig’s city centre. The building that many out-of-town visitors imagine to be an historic fortress was inaugurated in 1905 as one of the most expensive and elaborate new town halls in the German Empire. The Old Town Hall on the market square had become too small for the demands of the rapidly growing city. In fact, an old fortification had to make way for the imposing construction project under the motto “Arx nova surgit – A new fortress arises”: On the base of the old Pleißenburg tower now stands the highest town hall tower in Germany, at 114.7 metres.

Noble grey and a highly ornamented façade

The New Town Hall, built in the style of historicism, was designed and built by Hugo Licht, the Leipzig municipal architect, as were the plans for the Town House, which would soon be needed as an extension. The young architect Fritz Schumacher played a decisive role in the design of the interiors, especially by introducing elements of Art Nouveau.

The design of the outer façade in silver-grey shell limestone echoes elements from the Renaissance, Baroque and Art Nouveau periods. Particularly richly decorated sections of the façade bear witness to the significance of the interiors: the working rooms of the Lord Mayor behind the southwest façade, the historic council chamber behind the central avant-corps of the south façade with the head of the city goddess Lipsia on the gable, the former banqueting hall behind the southeast corner of the building and the former council chamber on the eastern side.

Sculptural works by numerous artists

On the balustrade of what is known as the Lord Mayor’s Wing are larger-than-life sculptures of the cultural forces to which Leipzig owes its importance, including the book trade, the judiciary, science, music and handicrafts. Hugo Licht engaged a Leipzig sculptor for each of these works. The Leipzig heraldic animal, a monumental lion, crowns the gable above this section of the façade.

The most famous Leipzig clock with the inscription “Mors certa, hora incerta” – “Death is certain, the hour uncertain” can be found on the south façade. On the gable above, a female figure symbolises Truth.

Above the high round-arched windows on the east side stands the inscription “Fortiter in re, suaviter in modo, constanter in se” – “Strict in matter, gentle in manner, true to oneself”.

Between them are medallions depicting portraits of Otto Georgi, Bruno Tröndlin, Gustav Goetz and Otto Schill, local parliamentary leaders. They are the only portraits of contemporaries of the town hall building on the outer façades.

The majority of the façade ornamentation and the figurative elements inside the New Town Hall were designed by the Munich sculptor Georg Wrba, who was still unknown at the time. In addition to the lion as the heraldic animal, the architectural sculptures show allegories from ancient and Christian mythology, figures from the German fairytale world as well as countless masks, mythical creatures and depictions of animals.

Sumptuous ceiling paintings in the council chambers

Together with the Town House, the New Town Hall has more than 1,000 offices and consulting rooms. From the barrel-vaulted lower foyer, a staircase based on baroque designs leads to the upper foyer. The ceiling above the main staircase depicts a sun motif with the zodiac in Art Nouveau style. With its elegant and festive architecture, the higher and brighter upper foyer forms an effective transition to the historic plenary council hall, the council chamber and the banqueting hall.

The plenary council hall is one of the most beautiful rooms of the New Town Hall. The walls are divided by noble wood panelling and lined with sumptuous fabrics. The coffered ceiling is richly painted and gilded with the inscription “Viribus unitis” – “With United Forces”. The ceiling banner of the hall bears the name of Leipzig’s mayor from the 16th to the early 20th century.



Main staircase



Patron of the city, the goddess Lipsia



Council chamber



Detail of door handle, main entrance



Town Hall clock