

Planning permission secured: New space for art in Duisburg MKM extension designed by Herzog & de Meuron

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Planning approval has now been granted by the city of Duisburg and work on the new extension of the MKM can finally commence. Initial preparations of the building site are already underway, with actual construction work scheduled to begin in early September. The laying of the foundation stone, together with a detailed presentation of the project, is planned for spring 2017.

Commissioned to design the extension for the MKM Museum Küppersmühle are the Basel-based team of architects Herzog & de Meuron, whose plans envisage the creation of a further 2500 sq.m. of exhibition space for one of the world's most important collections of post-war German art. Currently the MKM is only able to exhibit some 25% of its holdings, and the new wing will facilitate a far more comprehensive presentation. *"The new extension will enable the MKM to consolidate its role as a beacon of German art in North Rhine-Westphalia and beyond"*, enthused Director Walter Smerling.

As was the case in the original conversion of this historic grain silo into a museum, the architects have oriented their designs for the new wing on MKM's holdings and on the historically evolved architecture of the inner-harbour area. *"To any passer-by, the new extension will appear to have always stood there. Both in terms of its scale and material"*, explain the architects, *"the extension fits into the chain of the impressive historical brick edifices flanking the harbour basin, and thus complements the existing museum and harbour basin complex."*

Extending the MKM in the direction of the Autobahn, the new wing is to be connected with the main MKM building via the historic silos which are to be receive a viewing platform, and which will be made accessible to visitors for the first time. *"The raw, original materiality of the silos will be retained as they form an integral sculptural element within the Küppersmühle industrial monument."* (Herzog & de Meuron)

This project has been made possible by the commitment of the private-sector MKM Foundation, which was established by the collectors Sylvia and Ulrich Ströher. The inauguration is scheduled for 2019. A description of the project and illustrated material can be downloaded at the press section of our homepage www.museum-kueppersmuehle.de. We will gladly answer any enquiries.

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