

## David Chipperfield Architects

Museum Folkwang  
Essen, Germany 2007–2010

The Museum Folkwang, founded in Hagen by Karl Ernst Osthaus in 1902, was the first museum of contemporary art in Europe. The most significant works were transferred from Hagen to Essen in 1922, from which point on, aside from a period when the National Socialists temporarily divested the collection, the museum was able to pursue a high level of collecting activity. Today, it is one of the most high profile museums of the classic modern in Germany.

In 2007, David Chipperfield Architects won the international architecture competition for the museum extension, held by the city of Essen, one year before Prof. Dr. Berthold Beitz, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach Foundation, announced that the foundation would be the sole sponsor in providing the funding for the new building. The building was constructed by the Neubau Museum Folkwang Essen GmbH, a company of the Wolff Group. The opening of the museum is one of the most important cultural events to be held in Essen and the Ruhr region during their time as European Capital of Culture 2010.

The new building by David Chipperfield Architects complements the original building, continuing the architectural principle of an ensemble of six structures and four inner courtyards, gardens and galleries. The publicly accessible areas connect seamlessly with the existing exhibition areas. A generous open stairway leads from the Bismarckstraße into the new foyer, which takes the form of an open interior courtyard with a restaurant and a bookstore, and is protected from the street by a glass facade.

Visitors are welcomed into a succession of differing rooms - exhibition areas with ceiling heights of up to six metres, library and reading room, multi-functional hall, events space, depots and restoration areas. Sanded cement was used for the floors, which is similar in colour and texture to the cement stone used for the columns. The translucent, alabaster-like facade consists of large square recycled glass slabs. The colour of the facade shifts with the changing natural light. The integrated window openings sit flush with the facade. The extension is aligned towards Essen's downtown, and together with the neighbouring Cultural Studies Institute adds a new urban architectural accent.



Press contact David Chipperfield Architects, Maria Zedler  
E: maria.zedler@davidchipperfield.de, T: + 49 30 280 170 0  
www.davidchipperfieldarchitects.com

## David Chipperfield Architects

David Chipperfield Architects, founded in 1984, has its main offices in London, Berlin, and Milan, and a representative office in Shanghai. The practice works internationally on commercial, cultural and residential projects, providing full architecture, masterplanning, interior design and product and furniture design services for both the public and private sectors. The practice has approximately 30 current projects in Europe, the USA, and China. David Chipperfield Architects is multilingual and multicultural, employing over 150 staff from 15 countries - they are the practice's greatest resource and their diversity is crucial to the ongoing broadening of the design vision from within.

Major projects that have been recently completed include the Museum Folkwang in Essen, the rebuilding of the Neues Museum on Museum Island, Berlin, the gallery building Am Kupfergraben 10, also in Berlin, the City of Justice in Barcelona, the expansion of the Anchorage Museum in Alaska, the Empire Riverside Hotel in Hamburg and the Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach, Germany.

The practice's current projects include an extension to the San Michele Cemetery island in Venice, the James Simon Gallery – a new entrance building to Berlin's Museum Island, the Palace of Justice in Salerno, Italy, The Hepworth Wakefield, UK, the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate, UK, the expansion of the Saint Louis Art Museum, USA, the Ansaldo City of Cultures in Milan, the Aust-Agder Cultural Historic Centre in Arendal, Norway, and a new MBA building for the HEC Paris School of Management, France.

David Chipperfield Architects has won 50 national and international competitions and many international awards and citations for design excellence, including RIBA, RFAC and AIA awards. In 2007, the practice won the RIBA Stirling Prize for the Museum of Modern Literature.

In 1993 David Chipperfield was awarded the Andrea Palladio Prize and in 1999, the Heinrich Tessenow Gold Medal. In 2004 he was made an Honorary Member of the Florence Academy of Art and Design, and was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to architecture. In 2006 he was appointed Royal Designer for Industry (RDI), and in 2007 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and an Honorary Member of the Bund Deutscher Architekten (BDA). In 2008 he was elected a Royal Academician (RA) and awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Kingston University. In 2009 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany - the highest tribute that can be paid to individuals for service to the nation.

The work of the practice has been published and exhibited extensively.