

Alpe-Adria-Meeting Servas; 6-8.10.2023

Walk through Linz, 8.10.2023

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Place in front of New Townhall

Memorial for Active Nonviolence

On 2 October 2017, Europe's first "Memorial for Active Nonviolence" by Linz artist Karl-Heinz Klopff was officially opened to the public in the City of Peace Linz between the Nibelungen Bridge and the New Town Hall.

The memorial for active non-violence consists of two differently shaped blocks to sit on. These represent people with strongly opposing opinions and views of life, but they turn towards each other: ready for appreciative dialogue.

Active non-violence is an inner attitude towards other people, which means respecting human life and recognising the dignity, freedom and personality of the other person. This also applies when the other person does wrong or holds different values and opinions.

Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt and many others were successful with this attitude. Active non-violence" is thus a basic attitude that is active and organised at every social and political level in order to work on non-violent solutions to conflicts that arise.

At the same time, this memorial is intended to be a visible sign of Linz as a city of peace that will also attract attention beyond the city's borders. The memorial reflects the Nazi past of the city of Linz and at the same time stands for peaceful and non-violent coexistence in this city in the present and in the future.

<https://www.linz.at/kultur/99452.php>

Peacedove, Jerusalemway

Linz, the capital of Upper Austria, has been a City of Peace since 1986. It has a unique position on the "Jerusalem Way" because it lies at the intersection of the three "Jerusalem Way feeder routes" coming from Germany and the main route coming from Spain. The dove of peace is only erected at special points along the pilgrimage route, points towards Jerusalem and, as a visible sign along the way, is intended to be a symbol of peace and international understanding.

As the world's longest peace and pilgrimage route, the Jerusalem Way (8,5000km) is also an international cultural route. It leads from the end of Europe in Finisterre (Spain) to Jerusalem and connects the continents of Europe and Asia with Israel and Palestine over a distance of about 8,500 km. <https://www.jerusalemway.org>

Nibelungenbridge

Monumental structure of the National Socialist era with two masonry stream piers and two arched passages on each bank. The Nibelungen Bridge is constructed as a deck bridge and has a high crown. Due to the crowning, it has large bridgeheads, which are shaped like squares and extend far into the Linz and Urfahr sides. Since 2003, the bridge girder of the Nibelungen Bridge has been illuminated in white at night as part of Chris Laska's art installation "Lichtblicke".

The Nibelungen Bridge is one of the few structures of the monumental National Socialist urban planning that was implemented. It replaced the older iron bridge that ran almost on the same spot, which no longer met the traffic requirements due to its narrow carriageway width. In July 1938, planning began for the construction, which was then carried out from 1939 to 1940. The designs were by Friedrich Tamms and Karl Schaechterle, and the construction was supervised by the Linz Bridge Office. In order to maintain the connection with the Urfahr district, the new bridge was built slightly offset from the iron bridge. In Urfahr the former market square was devalued by the necessary relocation of the bridgehead. In Linz's Hauptplatz, the old buildings on the Danube side were partially demolished for the construction of the mighty bridgehead. Today, the two bridgehead buildings and the Heinrich Gleißner House stand in their place.

Mainsquare

Trinitystatue

In 1713, the city of Linz and its inhabitants vowed to erect a large stone column in honour of the Trinity and the Immaculate Virgin Mary in gratitude for deliverance from the plague in 1679 and 1713, salvation from dangers of war in 1683 and 1703/1704, and protection from a major fire in 1712.

From a granite plinth with twelve balusters connected by iron chains, a two-step platform leads to a splendidly decorated six-sided stone balustrade, on whose corner pillars six putti are grouped. The column base on the basis of an equilateral triangle tapers upwards. On the upper edge of the base is a cornice supporting three volutes on which the plague saint Sebastian, the fire patron Florian and Archbishop Charles Borromeo are depicted as figures. The latter was also a plague saint and also the patron saint of the emperor who was currently reigning (Charles VI). Each of the sides bears a coat of arms ornament with the coats of arms of the city of Linz, the Land ob der Enns (= Upper Austria) and the Empire (double-headed imperial eagle). The column drum forms a cloud obelisk with jubilant putti and the Maria Immaculata, making the Trinity Column also a Marian Column. The top of the column is crowned by the Trinity: God the Father with the sceptre and God the Son with the cross, seated next to the globe and in the centre above them the dove of the Holy Spirit in a halo.

General renovations were carried out in 1983/84 and 2019/20.

Old Townhall

The balcony over the main entrance was used for different speeches to the public. About 200 years ago Pope Pius VI blessed the people of Linz from this balcony. Since the speech in March 1938, a day after German troops entered Austria, when 60.000 – 80.000 of Austrians cheered A.H., it is not used anymore. Actual there are ideas for healing transformation to a "Balcony of peace".

Fountain "Neptun"

The "Elephant" Inn, Hauptplatz 21

The varied late Baroque façade from around 1740 has as a special feature the two larger-than-life "wild men" in stucco relief above the portal with the house sign of the elephant "Solimann", who came to Linz in 1552 in the entourage of Emperor Maximilian II and caused a tremendous stir.

The house was first mentioned in 1595, since 1677 it has housed an inn, 1771 inn "Zum Elephanten", 1800 "Wilde Männer". In the town fire of 1800, the roof and part of the first floor were destroyed.

Feichtinger House with clarion / chimes of bells, Hauptplatz 18

In the middle of the attic is a carillon, which gave the coffee house its name.

Bells circumference, in front of Hauptplatz 15

In front of the house at Hauptplatz 15 is an iron ring, inscribed "1693", to commemorate the presentation of one of the bells cast by Melchior Schorrer for the town parish church, the so-called Empress.

Freihaus Weissenwolff (department store Kraus&Schober, aryanised)

The house at the end of the main square, Hauptplatz 27, had special guests. In a flat of the house, Napoleon's former Minister of Police, Joseph Fouché, Duke of Otranto, lived in exile with his wife and daughter from April 1818 to the end of 1819.

Since 1853 the house was used for commercial enterprises, and in 1909 a department store was built at the central address under the name "Vereinigte Firmen Franz Hofmann and Kraus & Schober", but only the last two names were used by customers. This was the first department stores' in Linz. In 1930 the business was taken over by a group around the three brothers Walter, Paul and Max Schwarz. The Jewish family from Salzburg had a functioning business network of department stores throughout Austria.

Walter Schwarz (1884-1938) can be regarded as the far-sighted planner in the entrepreneurial family, he was responsible for the company design. Together with his two brothers, he owned shares in the house at Domgasse 5 in Linz and had a flat there which contained a valuable collection of pictures. On the weekend of 12/13 March 1938, the SA and SS forced their way into this flat, took the art collection, arrested Paul and Max Schwarz and transferred them to the Dachau concentration camp. Walter Schwarz was arrested in Vienna, released, but then arrested again. He died in the Gestapo prison in Munich on 1 September 1938, and his assets were confiscated by the Gestapo headquarters in Linz. The expropriation had great symbolic significance for the National Socialists: at the time, the main square was known as "Adolf Hitler Platz" and was the central parade ground of the "Führer's city" Linz, situated directly in front of the department stores' Kraus & Schober. For months, "Jews not wanted" notices were stuck on the department stores' windows, National Socialist partisans always lined the windows at Nazi festivals, the "de-Jewed" department stores' served as a sign of National Socialist dominance.

Old Marketsquare

Medieval Synagogue and Trinity Chapel

The "Old Market", already settled in Roman times, has borne its name since 1960. It was the centre of the old Viking settlement formed at the foot of the castle in the 11th century, followed the Frankish settlement near St. Martin's Church and also formed the centre of the oldest Babenberg Linz. Its development at the end of the 13th century was made possible by Duke Leopold V's expansion of the city before 1230 with the mighty main square. The old town area was acquired by Jews who had sought the protection of the sovereign castle. The centre of their settlement was the synagogue, which was built on the square and documented in 1335. After the expulsion of the Jews in 1420, Mert Raminger donated the Holy Trinity Chapel in its place. It was secularised in 1789 in the course of the Josephine reforms, and the building was converted into a residential house. The entire building stock fell victim to American bombs in 1945. The destroyed building was completely demolished.

In the course of the repaving of the Old Market Square in 1978, the outlines of the synagogue and the Trinity Chapel were made recognisable in the paving of the square.

Landhaus – Provincial Parliament

Former Minor Friars Church and Monastery

The complex of the former Church and the Monastery of the Minor Friars lies along Klosterstraße and Landhausplatz. It was thus located in the south-western corner of the former city wall.

The Protestant Landschaftsschule was housed in the Landhaus from 1574 to 1629, where Johannes Kepler taught from 1612 to 1626. He also lived in the south wing of the Landhaus for some time.

After the revival of the Minorite monastery (1665) and its renewed dissolution in 1785, the building on today's Klosterstraße was designated the seat of government of the Land ob der Enns. In the course of time, all the state provincial offices moved in there. In the course of Emperor Joseph II's monastic reform, the monastery was dissolved and the building was used for government purposes.

Fountain "Planetenbrunnen" in courtyard with Renaissance arcades.

A bronze cylinder is set on the central granite column, around which six people are grouped, representing the planets (Luna, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Sol, Saturn). Jupiter rises as the crowning figure on a cylindrical pedestal, which sits on a large sphere. The seven planetary figures represent the Ptolemaic system. The sphere is decorated with four winged water-spouting dolphins on which putti ride. Between these are four winged putti heads crowned with empty heraldic cartouches.

In 1579, the estates had a water pipe laid in the Landhaus for the first time, the wooden pipes of which were soon exchanged for those made of lead. In 1581, the Peuerbach master stonemason Peter Guet was commissioned to make a fountain carcass of red marble.

In 1650 Hans Petz was commissioned to make a new well carcass, and in the same year Johann Baptist Spatz carried out sculptural work on it. The lion's heads and the eight coats of arms remained from the original fountain. The fountain was restored in 1775 and 1858.

Circumference of the bell “Pummerin”

The bell ring set into the floor in front of the southern Landhaus gate shows the circumference of the “Pummerin”, Austria's largest bell in Vienna's St. Stephen's Cathedral. It is said to be the second largest in Western Europe and the fifth largest bell in the world. It was destroyed in the fire of the cathedral on 12 April 1945 (first cast from the metal of Turkish cannons in Vienna in 1711). As a contribution of the province of Upper Austria to the reconstruction of the cathedral, it was completed from scrap metal in the bell foundry of St. Florian on 5 September 1951, after a first casting had failed. The plaque marks the spot where it waited - festively decorated - to be transported to Vienna.

Medieval Bridge in front of the Landhaus / Provincial Parliament

Three-arched, simple bridge of quarry stone masonry, uncovered and conserved during the construction of the underground car park at the Promenade.

In the concept of the 16th-century country house, a southern portal and bridge was planned opposite the Herrenstrasse. For security reasons, such a gate in the city wall running along the Landhaus did not meet with approval. It was only after the construction of the southern gate in the 1630s that a simple wooden bridge could be erected, which could easily be removed in the event of a threat.

In 1769, when the city wall and the moat had lost their fortificatory significance, the construction of a fixed bridge could be started. At the same time, a new portal was built at the Landhaus and a baroque gate at the end of the bridge. This gateway was erected in front of the Francisco-Carolinum State Museum in 1899. On the bridge were two statues of St. Nepomuk and Maria Immakulata, which were taken to Einsiedeln near Enns in 1803. After the town fire of 1800, the moat was filled in and the promenade was built. The bridge served as filling material anyway. The bridge, which was celebrated as an "archaeological sensation" when it was rediscovered, was in use for a total of 30 years.

Promenade

Monument for Adalbert Stifter

The life-size figure of the poet is seated on a granite rock brought from the Bohemian Forest, his right hand resting in his lap, his left arm resting on the rock seat, with his coat and hat beside him. Inscription plate: ADALBERT STIFTER 1805-1868. Signature HR (in a circle) on the rock.

The monument was suggested by the Bohemian Forest Association in 1894 and was to find its place on the Danube embankment. As the donations received were too low for a full figure, the Ministry of Education agreed to bear the remaining costs, for which it wished to award the contract itself. Instead of the busy Donaulände, the quieter promenade was chosen, which Stifter had looked at from the office room in the Statthaltereige building. The Monument Committee chose the 2nd prize by Hans Rathausky. The bronze figure was cast in 1902 and unveiled on 24 May 1902.

Café Traxlmayr

Free-standing three-storey building on three sides with two five-axis fronts. The ground-level coffee house pavilion was added to the west front.

Plain town house from the end of the Biedermeier period.

Built between 1800 and 1803 after the moat was levelled to form the promenade. In 1846, the master mason Friedrich Sighartner, who owned the house until 1848, built an annexe. In 1867, a coffee house annex was built for the café owner Josef Hartl. In 1905, a new coffee pavilion was built for Wilhelm Traxlmayr by Mauriz Balzarek. This was destroyed again in 1925 when the Café Traxlmayr was rebuilt. Today the building houses one of the last traditional coffee houses still in operation in Linz.

Landstraße

Freihaus Weißenwolff (Medical office of Dr. Eduard Bloch)

Landstraße 12

On the plot stood two narrow suburban houses of a ropemaker and a distiller, which are first mentioned in 1595 and 1640. In 1714, Franz Anton Count Weißenwolff acquired the two houses and a garden plot, had the houses demolished and built the existing palace from 1715. According to the stylistic findings, the master builder was Johann Michael Prunner, and the sculptures were most likely created by Leonhard Sattler. In 1771 the palace came into the possession of the Fürstenberg family, in 1794 it was bought by Otto Karl Graf von Hohenfeld, in 1799 by Michael Haßelmayer von Fernstein and from 1830 it was owned by the Saxinger family. In 1971 the palace was sold to the Allgemeine Sparkasse, which subsequently had the courtyard building demolished and built the Taubenmarkt arcade, whose country road entrance leads through the Palais Weißenwolff.

The physician Dr. Eduard Bloch had a practice in this house from 1901 and was the family doctor of Adolf Hitler's mother, Klara Hitler, who died of breast cancer in 1907. After fleeing to the United States with his wife Emilie Bloch in November 1940, he died there five years later. "This Eduard Bloch is an interesting man because he was actually a very simple and very humble, very pious man who went to the temple every day to pray for his patients," Brigitte Hamann tells us in her biography. "Any kind of egocentrism was alien to him, he always focused on the people and on how to help them. He sometimes donated the last of his money when destitute patients asked him for it. That means they got additional money from him, even though they didn't have to pay anything for the treatment.

Memorial steles

The commemorative signs are permanent stelae erected by the City of Linz that enable personalised commemoration of victims of National Socialism in the urban space - especially as a reminder of persecuted and murdered Linz Jews. Each stele is made of brass. The name and year of birth of the victims of National Socialism are engraved on it, as well as details of their deportation, murder or flight. The stelae are placed free-standing near the streets where these people had their last, freely chosen home address in Linz.

Directly next to the names, mechanical doorbells are attached to the stele which, when pressed, produce a soft ringing tone. The Upper Austrian artist Andreas Strauss places the doorbell at the centre of his design as an ambiguous metaphor of remembrance that evokes associations of being at home as well as describing the moment of being forcibly picked up. The act of "ringing the bell"

establishes an emotional contact with the displaced and murdered and allows the boundaries between past and present to fade.

<https://www.linzerinnert.at>

Stele Hauptplatz 27, Close to Domgasse

Stele Landstraße/Spittelwiese

Dr. Eduard Bloch, Jg. 1872, Flucht 1940 in die USA

Emilie Bloch, geb. Kafka, Jg. 1875, Flucht 1940 in die USA

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduard_Bloch_\(Mediziner\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduard_Bloch_(Mediziner))

Stele Bischofstraße 7

Bischofstraße 3

In 1914, Maria Eichmann moved with her children from Solingen in North Rhine-Westphalia to Linz, where her husband, Adolf Karl Eichmann, was already living. Here Adolf Eichmann, born in 1906, grew up, attended the Kaiser Franz Josef-Oberrealschule and joined the youth association "Wandervogel".

Influenced by the strong German nationalist movement in Linz, he joined the NSDAP on 1 April 1932 and the SS a short time later. After the NSDAP was banned in Austria in 1933, Eichmann fled to Germany and was responsible for "Jewish affairs" at the SD Security Service. In 1938 he returned to Austria and, together with his deputy Alois Brunner, set up the Central Office for Jewish Emigration in Vienna, which served the rapid expulsion and prior robbery of Jews.

Eichmann, who claimed never to have been anti-Semitic, became head of the department of the Reich Security Main Office responsible for organising the expulsion and deportation of Jews in 1940. As a typical "desk jockey", he was thus centrally responsible for the murder of approximately 6 million Jews in the countries occupied by the Nazis. Eichmann took the minutes at the Wannsee Conference in 1942, where the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" was decided.

In 1960, Eichmann was arrested in Buenos Aires and brought to Israel. There he was tried in 1961 and sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out in 1962.

Mariae Empfängisdom – New Cathedral Linz

North Entrance - Engelbert Dollfuß Memorial Plaque

In October 2006, the Catholic Church added an additional plaque to the commemorative plaque for Engelbert Dollfuß at the new cathedral, which caused a great stir in the ÖVP. In the additional plaque, the Church distances itself from Dollfuß's politics according to the decision of the Austrian Bishops' Conference and declares the Church's future abstention from party politics. As Federal Chancellor, Dollfuß had used the so-called "self-exclusion of parliament" to prevent the threatened electoral victory of the National Socialists through a corporative dictatorship, which led to a civil war in 1934. The plaque of honour had been erected in 1934 after his assassination by National Socialists

Building

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has the address Domplatz 1 and is the largest (by capacity) but not the highest church in Austria. According to a widespread but unsubstantiated legend, the originally planned height was not approved because no building in Austria-Hungary was allowed to be higher than the south tower of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. At 134.8 m (remeasured in 2018: 134.69 m from the top of the ground, or 133.53 m from the top of the floor), the tower of the Cathedral of the Assumption in Linz is about two metres lower than that of St Stephen's Cathedral. The outer structure is 130 m long, the main ridge height outside is 44 metres, the width of the nave is 27.5 m, that of the central nave 13.5 m and that of the transept 60 m. The floor area is 5,170 m², the total of the covered roof areas 7,120 m². Sandstone from Altlenzbach in Lower Austria, granite from Upper Austria for columns and cornices and conglomerate from Kremsmünster for the crypt were used. In total, the cathedral (including the crypt) has 142 windows, 54 columns and 17 altars.

The painted windows are remarkable. The most famous is probably the so-called Linz window, which shows depictions from Linz's history.

Architecture

The strong population growth of the industrial city in the 19th century made a new church building necessary. The papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, published in 1854 to declare the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, provided the external occasion. The plans of the Cologne diocesan master builder Vincenz Statz were available in April 1859. The laying of the foundation stone on 1 May 1862 was solemnly celebrated with Anton Bruckner's festive cantata. The consecration of the first construction phase, the votive chapel, took place on 29 September 1869 with Bruckner's Mass in E minor, whereby strings and soloists were dispensed with due to the still half-open space, so that only wind instruments and choir were used.

Rudigier Organ

The main organ is a work of the Danish organ-building workshop Marcussen & Son, inaugurated on 8 December 1968. The characteristics of two organs previously built by Marcussen, as well as those of the Müller organ (1738) in the Grote of Sint-Bavokerk in Haarlem, were incorporated in the conception of the instrument, which was designed and arranged in its basic features by Sybrand Zachariassen. It has 70 stops (5890 pipes, of which relatively few are made of wood due to Denmark's lack of forests), slider chests, mechanical action and stop action, and electric stop action with three free combinations in the pedal. Disconnectable Barker couplers facilitate playing with coupled manuals.

After lengthy pros and cons, it was decided to sacrifice the view from the nave of the window rose window in the tower to the organ. The Grote of Sint-Bavokerk, where the large window was covered by the Müller organ, served as a model. To enable the new organ to fill the Linz Cathedral with sound without restriction, at least as far as the transept, a sound-reflecting wall, glass in the upper part, was installed behind it. This created the "Rudigier Hall", a space of about 10 m × 10 m floor plan and about 20 m high, between the organ and the rosette. The two largest pipes of the 32' Principal could not be placed in the prospect for reasons of space; a planned second, labial 16' in the Hauptwerk, as well as a second, labial 32' in the Pedal were also omitted for this reason.

Stained glass windows - Vitrail

Particularly noteworthy are the cathedral's stained glass windows. The most famous is the Linz Window, which depicts the history of Linz. The windows also contain portraits of the various sponsors of the church's construction. Other windows show the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with photo-like images in shades of brown of various places in the Holy Land.

During the Second World War some windows, particularly in the southern part of the cathedral, were damaged. Instead of restoring the original windows, they have been replaced with windows displaying modern art (Creation of the world).

Memorial stele for Franz and Franziska Jägerstätter

The stele designed by Herbert Fried is located in the chapel "Maria - Queen of Martyrs". A glass cylinder is incorporated into the steel stele, which contains a relic and an autograph of Jägerstätter from January 1938.

The stele was erected on the occasion of the beatification of Franz Jägerstätter on 1 November 2007.

Franz Jägerstätter, a farmer from St. Radegund, refused to be called up to Enns in February 1943 after he had completed his basic training in the German Wehrmacht in 1940 and could have returned to his farm in 1941 after being classified as "indispensable". After his arrest in March 1943, he was imprisoned in the Wehrmacht investigation prison in Linz, and from May 1943 in Berlin-Tegel. On 6 July 1943, the Reich War Court in Berlin-Charlottenburg sentenced Jägerstätter to death for "Wehrkraftzersetzung". The execution took place on 9 August of the same year in the Brandenburg penitentiary. The Nazi sentence was overturned by the Berlin Regional Court in 1997.

After 1945, the person of Franz Jägerstätter, like other conscientious objectors, was controversial; an appreciation of his actions was rejected by the majority until the 1980s.

Today there is also a photo of Franziska Jägerstätter, the widow of Franz, who died a few days after her 100. birthday.

Tower Hermit" Project

During the Second World War, a turret room was built into the tower of the Mariendom at a height of 68 metres and presumably used as an observation post. As part of Linz 2009 - European Capital of Culture, the Diocese of Linz made this turret room available for the first time to people who - regardless of their religious denomination - wanted to withdraw into silence as hermits for a week each. Pastoral guidance was available to them. Because of the great acceptance of this measure, this offer has been continued since 2010.

Synagoge

The entire building complex stands on a raised level paved with granite stones and bordered by a curved retaining wall. Windowless exterior walls, above which, on six concrete columns, is the widely projecting, strongly upwardly curved roof shell, which also forms the ceiling of the prayer room. Outbuilding with strongly rounded outer edges.

In 1876, the foundation stone was laid for the first synagogue on Bethlehemstrasse, which was completely destroyed by fire on the night of the Reich Pogroms in 1938 (9 November), as fire-fighting efforts were also prevented.

The new synagogue was planned by architect Fritz Goffitzer in 1967 and built under the supervision of master builder B. Eisserer, Traun.

The entire planning of the building was based on a module. Architect Goffitzer: "All building elements, from the largest part to the smallest detail, are designed in proportions resulting from this modular dimension, whereby all building elements are dimensionally related to each other." The frescoes by the painter Fritz Fröhlich inside the synagogue are also remarkable.

Stele Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, Bethlehemstraße 26

Adolf Kurrein; born 1920, fled to England in 1938

Felix Kurrein; born 1918, fled to England in 1938

Stella Kurrein; née Lewin, born 1893, fled to England in 1938

Viktor Kurrein; born 1881, fled to England in 1938

Peter Stein; born 1933, deported 1942 to Maly Trostinec, murdered 18.09.1942