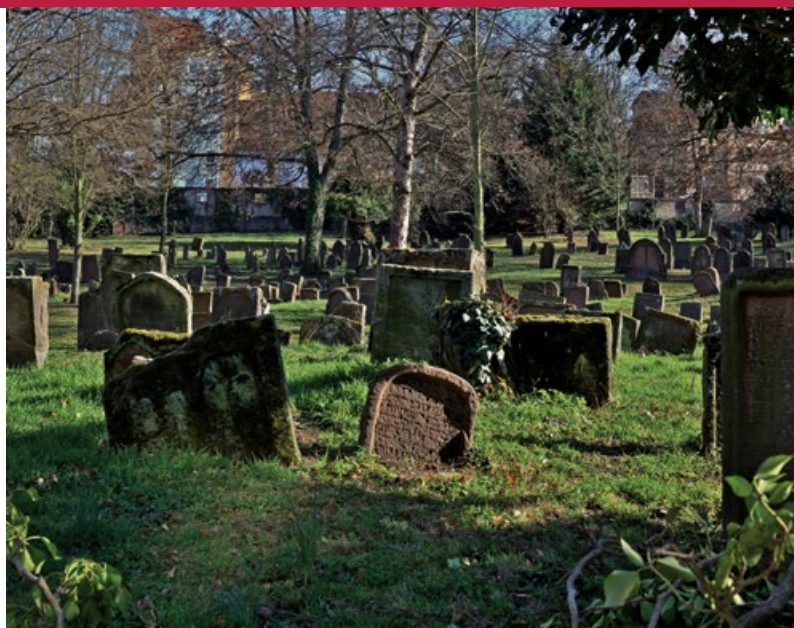




ShUM SITES OF SPEYER, WORMS AND MAINZ

Nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage List



Additional Information

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Additional Information *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz (Germany)*

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Additional Information *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz (Germany)*

Answers to the additional information requested on the nomination of *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz (Germany)* to the World Heritage List received from ICOMOS on the 22 September 2020

Please find below the responses to the points of clarification requested.

Authenticity

The nomination dossier explains that the nominated component parts of the ShUM sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz have undergone extensive restoration and reconstruction interventions, following the damages and destructions suffered by the monuments immediately before and during World War II. The nomination dossier provides an account of the scope of the works carried out and of the overall approach to the recovery works. However, it would be useful if additional information, in the form of technical, graphic and photographic documentation of the works carried out after WWII at the component sites, could be made available in order to have a more detailed focus on the way these interventions were conceived and carried out. This additional information will be very important to assist ICOMOS in understanding more precisely what are the authentic/ original tangible attributes of the nominated serial property which support its proposed Outstanding Universal Value and to what extent the reconstruction works fulfil the internationally recognized principles for conservation/ restoration.

All over Germany, on the night of 9-10 November 1938, more than 1,400 synagogues were set on fire. Among other reasons, the intention was to destroy sites that commemorated the long history and vibrant culture of Jews in Germany. Of all the medieval *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz*, *Worms Synagogue Compound* was affected the most.

Speyer Jewry Court (ID 001), which had not served as a religious centre since the 16th century, did

not suffer any substantial losses on the night of 9-10 November 1938 nor during the Second World War from 1939 to 1945.

The synagogue complex in *Worms Synagogue Compound* (ID 002) was set on fire during the pogrom of 1938. Roof trusses and interior decorations were destroyed in the process. The November pogrom in Worms is very well documented in the 18-part photo series of the Worms-based photographer *Friedrich Arnold* [→Appendix A.5] and in the interview by the contemporary witness Rabbi *Helmut Frank*.

A letter from the city archivist *Friedrich M. Illert* to the mayor of the City of Worms, *Prof. Dr. Christian Eckert*, in August 1947 attests that the synagogue was further subject to a wanton partial act of demolition in late 1939. Pressure applied by hydraulic presses caused the walls of the synagogue to crumble inwards. Huge pieces of the wall fell to the ground in large blocks with smooth break edges. Large parts of the masonry bond, individual cuboids, jamb stones and jamb structures from the arched windows remained intact. The existing walls were also conserved in the rubble and thereby as much as 2.3 meters were preserved in situ. The high medieval mikveh has largely been preserved in its original state.

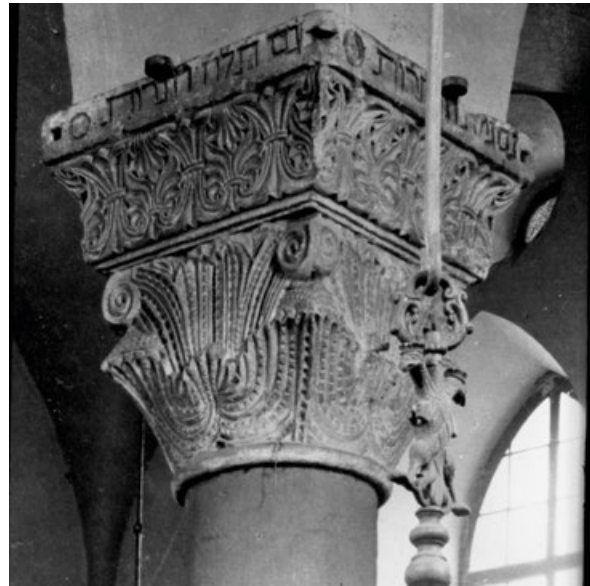
Worms Synagogue Compound was gradually recovered and reconstructed between 1949 and 1961 [→Appendix A]. During the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound*, it was ensured that as much original material as possible was used and that later additions were made visible.

The work began as a local initiative, and was accompanied by researchers from the very start and involved close collaboration with the State Conservation Office. A large effort was made to systematically sort the remains before beginning with the reconstruction and recovery [→Appendix A.6].

During the reconstruction process, it was ensured that original materials were preserved and used to the greatest possible extent and that structural elements which had been damaged but were still stable were reintegrated into their original places. Elements significant to the history of the *Worms Synagogue Compound* and the identity of the community were carefully reworked according to the available documentation. These include, for example, the capitals of the typological columns in the interior of the synagogue in. The capitals were reworked using a plaster model of original fragments and pictures. The inscription on the impost slab of the eastern column capital was also recovered using copies and photographs. The baroque *Torah Ark (Aron)* and the lectern created in the 19th century from parts of the Renaissance *Torah Ark* were restored using numerous fragments and original parts.

Whenever it was necessary to use completely new parts – as was the case with the visible masonry of the *women's shul* – these were marked as later additions using contemporary forms. Characteristic for the conservation of post-war architecture is the dark grey *pietra-rasa* plaster of the recovered areas of the *women's shul* that was applied in a pasty fashion.

Therefore, the recovery after a deliberate and systematic destruction of cultural heritage – within a reasonable timeframe – is fundamental for the protection of the tangible values as well as the intangible practices and beliefs connected to them. Based on the conservation guidelines that are still valid today, the recovery and reconstruction was completed in 1961 – three years before the Venice Charter was adopted, yet the work already followed its basic principles.



The recovery process of *Worms Synagogue Compound* is documented by impressive and extensive source materials. Apart from printed literature, the *City Archive Worms* has stored extensive and fully indexed archive material on the recovery of the synagogue, especially from the years 1956 to 1961. The documents cover three main fields:

1. In the maps and plans collection (Dpt. 218, no. 173-202), there are approx. 200 plans on the *Synagogue recovery and reconstruction*. The pieces transmitted by the municipal building construction office were recorded in the Augias archive database until September

2020; an excerpt of the finding aid is available as an Excel spreadsheet.

2. In the *Photo Archives Worms*, there are 858 negatives on the recovery and reconstruction in three different departments, mainly created by the city archive's photo department; all photo rights are reserved by the City of Worms. In the course of an indexing project implemented in 2019/2020, these negatives were recorded in detail in three Excel spreadsheets (fields: number of negative, specification of object, description, remark, contracting authority, photographer, format, negative material, date, photographic method). Printouts of the files are included in the Judaica collection, Dpt. 203, no. 320. With these Excel tables, the relevant photographic sources can be used for detailed research. Digitisation of most of the negatives is still pending. Furthermore, there are photographic documents of the ground-breaking celebrations in 1959 and the re-inauguration in 1961, which is also documented by audio-visual sources (audio tapes, film footage mostly by the SWF).
3. Written sources: Files, collection material and documentation records from various inventories of approx. 90 directory units, in particular from the years of the actual reconstruction, deal with a multitude of questions regarding the recovery – constructional aspects, correspondence, issues of representation, organisation, funding, conservation, etc.

The main provenance of the files is the city administration files after 1945 (building, representation, etc.), conservation (Dpt. 22) and municipal cultural institutes (Dpt. 20, here mainly correspondence between *Dr. Friedrich Illert* and, among others, Jewish survivors, complemented by documents from his estate, Dpt. 170/46).

The collection material is mainly from the Dpt. 203, which is the Judaica collection. Included

here is the practically complete copy of the State Conservation Office's correspondence regarding the synagogue's recovery and reconstruction from 1947 to 1961 (Dpt. 203, no. 29), which the State Conservation Office made available to the *City Archive Worms* for research purposes prior to the 40th anniversary celebration in 2001, and which will be very helpful for future research as well. The estate from *Prof. Dr. Otto Böcher* (Dpt. 170/44), which had already been partially acquired and indexed while he was still alive, mainly contains documents linked to his dissertation on the building history of the synagogue from the years 1957 until 1960. An excerpt of the finding aid from these written sources is also available as an Excel spreadsheet.

An extensive bibliography on the synagogue in Worms is provided in the nomination dossier → ND 7.e.3.5.

In 2018, the Institute for *European Art History at Heidelberg University* investigated the fabric of the synagogue and its adjacent buildings. The numerous photographs from the time before the war, from the time of the *Shoah* and the time of recovery were compared with the current fabric on site. Design elements such as window jambs and inscriptions were compared with the historical photos. The results of the investigation of the masonry, but also the height of the masonry as it could be reconstructed from various photographs from different periods, were recorded in the plans. In so doing, it was possible to get an extensive picture of the current fabric of the monuments in *Worms Synagogue Compound* → Appendix A.9.

On the *Old Jewish Cemetery Worms* (ID 003), the roof truss of the *Tahara House* (ID 003.3) was set on fire in 1983. The rest of the area was largely spared any devastations. Impacts of high-explosive bombs in 1944 and 1945, however, incurred damages that destroyed the warden's house. The *Tahara House* was recovered in its original forms in 1955. The warden's house was

reconstructed in contemporary forms after the Second World War.

The recovery of the *Tahara House* as well as the reconstruction of the warden's house on *Old Jewish Cemetery Worms* are documented by extensive source material [→ ND 2.b.2.3].

Buffer Zone

Overall the rationale for the delineation of the boundaries of the nominated component parts and of their buffer zone are understandable and justified, but it appears less clear for the following:

- a) *The choice of points 1 and 2 determining the direction of one segment of the buffer zone boundary for the component part ID001 – Speyer Jewry Court;*
 - b) *the rationale and choices for the delineation of the proposed buffer zone for component part ID003 Old Jewish Cemetery Worms.*
- A) The Buffer Zone around the component part *Speyer Jewry Court* (ID 001) comprises the zones of the former Jewish settlement area which have a historic link to the component part. The area is indispensable for understanding the original location and expansion of the community centre in the medieval Jewish settlement area, which developed in the direct vicinity of the cathedral district. Points 1 and 2 of the proposed Buffer Zone coincide with the boundaries of the cathedral district and have been chosen to emphasise this proximity. The chosen boundary underlines the historically significant integration of the community into the episcopal city district as well as

Old Jewish Cemetery Mainz (ID 004) was not subject to any deliberate destructions. In the “new section” of the Cemetery, bullet holes caused in combat during the Second World War are still visible in some headstones.

highlights the characteristic development of the ensemble in the context of high medieval urban development.

- B) The Buffer Zone of the component part *Old Jewish Cemetery Worms* (ID 003) takes into account the historically developed expansion of the cemetery as well as its location outside of the city. The Buffer Zone integrates the former moat to the west and the course of the former medieval city wall to the east. North of the enclosing wall, the *Andreasstraße* forms the boundary of the Buffer Zone; to the southwest, the nominated area borders the railway line which runs within the former moat. The boundaries have a historic connection to the nominated component part, which was established outside the medieval city wall. The “new section” of the Cemetery (ID 003.4) is located on the baroque rampart; a moat runs behind this rampart. The moat is still visible where the lower railway line is situated. The *Willy-Brandt-Ring* to the east runs parallel to the former city wall and illustrates the former, characteristic location of *Old Jewish Cemetery* outside of the city even today. Thereby, the proposed Buffer Zone emphasises the religious requirements of permanent burial grounds being situated outside of the city.

Protection

The nomination dossier and the management plan provide a comprehensive account of the protection in place via legal and planning frameworks and

instruments. However, some further clarifications on the provisions included or envisaged for the Local Building Construction Plans (LBCP) covering

the nominated component parts and their buffer zones would be useful. In particular, it would be important to understand better:

- why the perimeter of the LBCP O102A in Worms cuts through the nominated component part instead of including it in its entirety,

- why buffer zones are not covered in their entirety by LBCP and

- what provisions are in place that ensure, at the planning level, that the nominated component parts are adequately protected.

In the course of the nomination process, the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz have reviewed their urban development planning and updated it where necessary [→ ND 5.d.2] in order to protect the attributes and values of the nominated component part as well as the proposed Buffer Zones.

In order to entirely protect the nominated component part *Worms Synagogue Compound* (ID 003) and its Buffer Zone through a local building and construction plan, on 7 November 2018, the decision was made to draft a new local building and construction plan called O 128 "Buffer Zone World Heritage Site Jewish Quarter" [→ ND 5.d.2.2]. The new local building and construction plan O 128 will replace the existing local building and construction plan O 102 A. The scope of the latter, which came into effect in 1993 with retroactive action from 6 July 1989, divided the nominated component part. Now, in the new local building and construction plan, the component part *Worms Synagogue Compound* is included in its entirety.

The Buffer Zone of the component part *Old Jewish Cemetery Mainz* (ID 004) is fully protected by the existing urban development planning. For areas that are not included in the scope of the local building and construction plan, the legal admissibility of development projects is assessed on the basis of Article 34 of the Federal Building

Code (permissibility of development projects within built-up parts of localities). This article stipulates that a development project is only permissible if it blends with the characteristic features of its immediate environment in terms of the type and scale of the building use, the construction design and the plot area to be built on. With this legal basis, any development projects in the surrounding area of the nominated component part that could endanger the visual integrity can be ruled out.

The urban development planning and the Monuments Protection Act are the key foundation for the protection and conservation of the nominated *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz*.

The Federal Building Code (*BauGB*) is the most important building planning law in the Federal Republic of Germany and also the legal basis for the urban development planning of the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz. The task of urban development planning is to prepare and manage constructional and other uses of land plots in the municipality in accordance with the Federal Building Code. In drawing up urban development plans, the matters pertaining to building culture, the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, the parts of localities which are worthy of preservation, streets and urban spaces of historical, artistic, or urban development significance must be given particular attention as well as the churches and religious associations under public law in respect to religious services and spiritual welfare (Article 1, Paragraph 5, Number 6 *BauGB*).

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the respective federal states are responsible for the protection of cultural heritage. The most important protective instrument for *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz* is the Monuments Protection Act of Rhineland-Palatinate (*DSchG*). It contains provisions that determine the goals, principles, institutional structures and responsibilities of the Monuments Protection Authorities and other

authorities entrusted with the protection as well as the general instruments and procedures for protection and preservation. [→ ND 5.c.3.2]. Article 2 of the *DSchG* describes the obligation of preservation and conservation of cultural heritage the owners have to fulfil. According to Article 13 of *DSchG*, all measures (alterations, renovations, redesign, removal and demolition) of listed cultural monuments, monument zones and protected excavation areas are subject to approval. This means that all interventions to cultural monuments, monument zones and protected excavation areas must be authorised by the Monument Protection Authorities and that owners of cultural monuments must not implement such measures without permission by the Monuments Protection Authorities. According to Article 4 *DSchG*, the surrounding area of an immovable cultural monument is also subject to the Monuments Protection Act.

Besides the protection measures defined in the Monument Protection Act of Rhineland-

Speyer

In spring 2018, the City of Speyer presented a "Technical Paper on Urban Planning to Secure the World Heritage and the Buffer Zone" (*Stadtplanerischer Fachbeitrag zur Sicherung des Welterbegebietes und der Pufferzone*). In preparation for the paper, existing plans and programmes on urban planning and urban development were examined and assessed

Worms

In spring 2019, the City of Worms presented the "Urban Framework Plan of the City of Worms for the World Heritage Application of the ShUM Cities" (*Städtebaulicher Fachbeitrag der Stadt Worms zum Welterbeantrag der SchUM Städte*), which was agreed on by the Planning and Building Committee on 14 March 2019. The urban framework plan covers a multi-dimensional package of measures that not only specifies the general requirements for formally securing the

Palatinate, there are binding planning systems at the level of the federal states and the municipalities which are also relevant for the protection and conservation of the nominated *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz*. Long before the nomination procedure began, the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz adopted programmes, statutes and ordinances contributing to the protection of the nominated *ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz*. These design statutes also regulate the preservation of cultural monuments and the implementation of construction measures in the vicinity of monuments.

Apart from that, the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz have developed urban frameworks for the component parts, for which they have the planning autonomy, in order to safeguard their protection and preservation as well as to anchor the nominated property in the municipal management structures and to give it an appropriate public function.

with regard to their functions in terms of the sustainable protection of the nominated property and the Buffer Zone for the component part *Speyer Jewry-Court* (ID 001). An analysis was also carried out to identify opportunities and risks, which were then used as a basis for the development of action and implementation strategies → MP 7.1.1.

component part *Worms Synagogue Compound* (ID 002), its Buffer Zone (*Jewish Quarter*), the component part *Old Jewish Cemetery Worms* (ID 003), its Buffer Zone and parts of the surrounding area with a relevant visual connection thanks to local building and construction plans, but it also proposes additional constructional and spatial measures for improving the integration of the areas into the urban context → MP 7.1.2.

Mainz

In summer 2018, the City of Mainz presented its Framework Plan "Judensand Cemetery" (*Rahmenplan Friedhof Judensand*), which was passed on 13 February 2019. This plan not only specifies the basic general requirements

for planning but also considers traditional management and presents future development and preservation options → MP 7.1.3.

Development projects

The management plan and the additional information submitted by the State Party give an account of a variety of project proposals and interventions insisting on the buffer zones of the component parts. A description is provided for these proposals, but no visual documentation accompany the textual description is presented. It would be useful if the State Party could provide additional documentation – namely visual and technical - on these projects. ICOMOS in this regard wishes to clarify that the evaluation process cannot focus on assessing impacts of development proposals, therefore the only considerations that

can be expressed by ICOMOS at this stage concern whether these development proposals might require additional examination as part of an ad-hoc process. However, in case possible negative impacts can be already flagged up in the evaluation process, these will be brought to the attention of the State Party.

Below is a list of all ongoing, planned and completed development projects within the nominated component parts and their Buffer Zones. The requested visualisations can be found in → Appendix B Development Projects.

Buffer Zone of the *Component Part Speyer Jewry-Court (ID 001)*

A) Flachsgasse 1

Measure: Partial demolition, façade preservation and reconstruction of the residential building
Status: Ongoing
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application

Measure: New building of a round staircase tower at the entrance; construction of an external emergency staircase on the archives building; new construction of parking spaces in the courtyard
Status: Ongoing
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application
Photo of the current state

B) Maximilianstraße 12, Kleine Pfaffengasse 9

Measure: Enclosure of the air conditioning unit in the form of a dormer on the stage house of the *Kinder- und Jugendtheater Speyer*; Construction of an external lift as well as energy-oriented refurbishment of the *Kinder- und Jugendtheater Speyer*
Status: Completed
Appendix B: Photo of the current state

D) Kleine Pfaffengasse 20/21, Judenbadgasse Junction

Measure: Construction of a new steel access gate in the Judenbadgasse
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application

C) Kleine Pfaffengasse 18

E) Große Pfaffengasse 13

Measure: Fire protection improvements
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application

Buffer Zone of the *Component Part Worms Synagogue Compound (ID 002)*

A) Component Part *Worms Synagogue Compound*

Measure: Anti-Semitism and vandalism safety measures
Status: Planned; no concrete measures currently exist yet.
Appendix B: None

B) Hintere Judengasse, Buffer Zone south of the *Rashi-House*; ID 002.7

Free-standing adjacent building to the *Rashi-House*; ID 002.7

Measure: Demolition
Status: Completed
Appendix B: Photo of the current state

Buffer Zone of the Component Part *Old Jewish Cemetery Worms* (ID 003)

A) Andreasstraße/Rathenaustraße junction

Measure: Construction of a hotel near “Das Wormser”
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Presentation; excerpt from the planning application; visualisation

C) Willy-Brand-Ring, Hochstift

Measure: Conversion into inpatient hospice
Status: Planned; no concrete measures currently exist yet.
Appendix B: Excerpt from the Technical Paper of the City of Worms

B) Andreasstraße 49

Measure: Renovation in upper floor and attic floor
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application

Buffer Zone of the Component Part *Old Jewish Cemetery Mainz* (ID 004)

A) Quartier M

Measure: Development of a new urban quarter
Status: Ongoing
Appendix B: Excerpt from the Urban Framework Plan

B) Mombacher Straße

Measure: Reconstruction measures of Mombacher Straße through the City of Mainz
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Excerpt from the Urban Framework Plan

Remark: The following development projects were reported in June 2020: Mombacher Straße 6 (construction of a tourist accommodation with a medium-sized, closed, underground car park), Mombacher Straße 4 (construction of an office building with a large, closed, underground car park), Anni-Eisler-Lehmann-Straße-2-8 (construction of a student residence and a tourist accommodation with a large, closed, underground car park) Mombacher Straße 2 (construction of a tourist accommodation). Since they are included in the visualisation of the Quartier M, they are not listed separately.

C) Visitor Centre/World Heritage Information Centre (Paul-Denis-Straße)

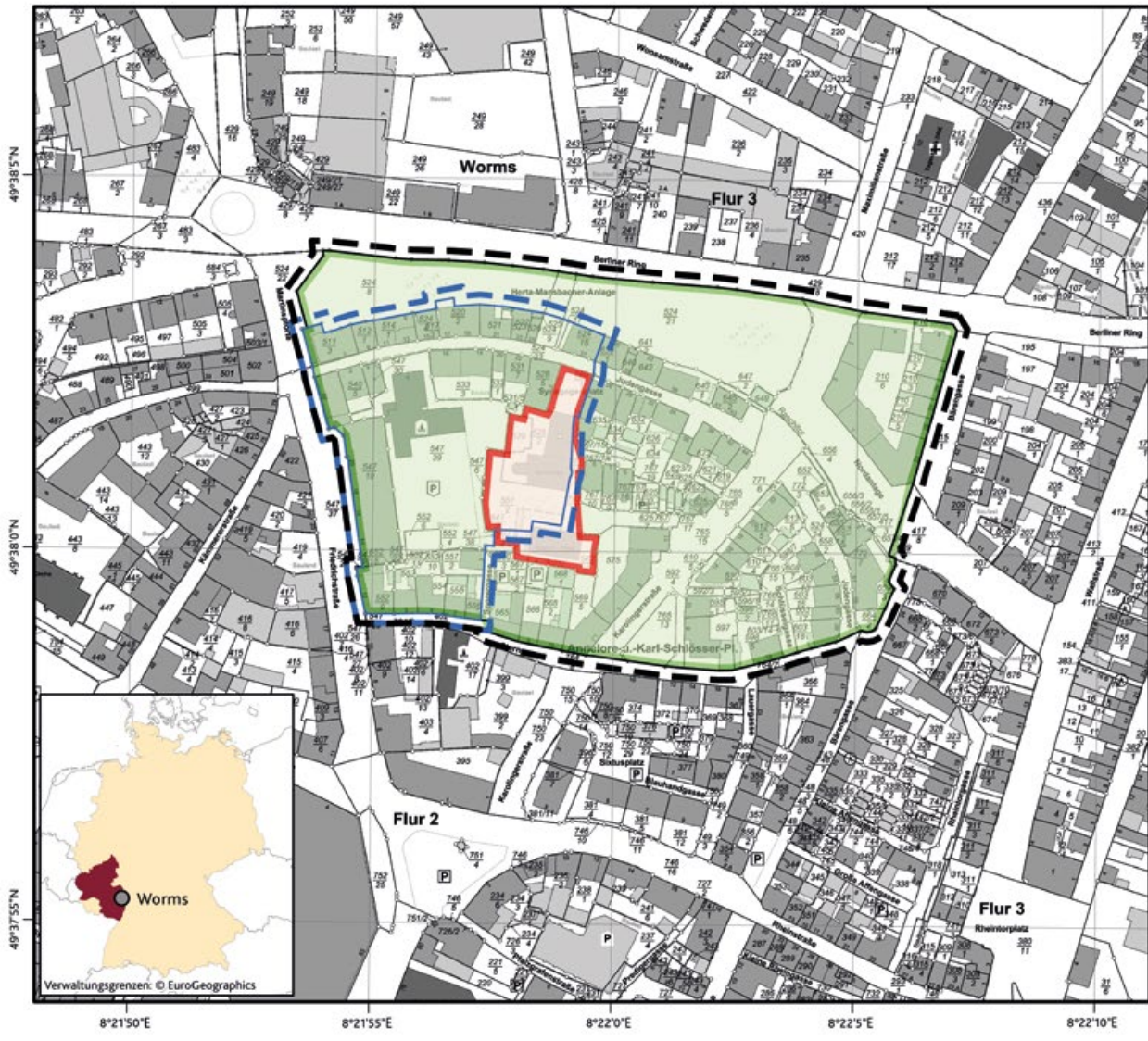
Measure: Planning a Visitor Centre/World Heritage Information Centre
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Winning design from the design competition (design competition completed)

D) Fritz-Kohl-Straße 2

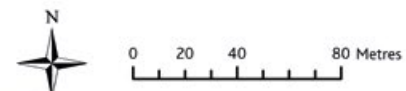
Measure: New building
Status: Planned
Appendix B: Excerpt from the planning application

The nomination dossier and the management plan describe the management system in place and the management structure that is envisaged to enter into force in case the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. Since the stakeholders and partners are numerous and diverse, ICOMOS would be interested to know whether a formalized commitment (e.g. a cooperation agreement, a memorandum of understanding or else) already exists among the administrations and partners indicated in the nomination dossier and in the management plan in order to establish the envisaged management structure or, if not, what would be the timeframe for such a cooperation instrument to come into being.

In order to protect and preserve the community centres and cemeteries, to communicate the significance and history of ShUM and to make a joint effort for the inscription into the World Heritage List, the State of Rhineland-Palatine, the Jewish Community Mainz, the Jewish Congregation of the Rhenish Palatinate, the State Association of Jewish Communities as well as the three cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz entered into a cooperation agreement in 2012, which was updated in January 2020. Thus, the management structures described in the Management Plan have already been established and are in force.



- ▭ Nominated Component Part
- ▭ Proposed Buffer Zone
- Local Building and Construction Plan O 128
"Buffer Zone World Heritage Site Jewish Quater"
(Decision for drafting 2018)
- Local Building and Construction Plan O 102 A
"Judengasse-Friedrichstraße"



Cards base: Estate map
 © GeoBasis-DE / LVermGeoRP
 Scale: 1:2,500
 Graticule: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 32 N
 Projection: Transvers Mercator Projection
 Date: ETRS 1989
 Status: 09.09.2019

Map showing local building and construction plans concerning the component part *Worms Synagogue Compound* (ID 002)

Appendix A: Authenticity

1. Recovery of Worms Synagogue Compound (timeline)

10 November 1938
During the pogrom night the synagogue was set on fire. The firefighters just tried to protect the neighbouring houses.

1943
Rubble of the Synagogue after the downpulling 1939. The Compound was left untouched for years.

June 1949
The re-erected main entrance of the synagogue. Probably rebuilt by the archivist Friedrich M. Illert (1892-1966).

6 November 1957
Clearing work in the foundation of the womens shul. Next to the stairs spolias are placed for the recovery.

17 May 1960
Third construction phase of the recovery. The Synagogue is completed and the building work of the womens shul began.

7 March 1958
Completion of the west façade of the synagogue. The *Yeshiva* in the foreground is already rebuilt.

March 1958
The reconstructed north façade of the synagogue.

17 April 1961
The rebuilt synagogue and building work at the east façade of the womens shul.

3 Dezember 1961
Festive opening of the restored Worms Synagogue Compound and inauguration of the synagogue.

c. 1910
The north façade of the womens shul before the *shoah*.

19 March 1924
The south façade of the synagogue and the *yeshiva* before the *shoah*.

18 November 1947
To protect the Synagogue Compound a boundary wall was built. The Compound was still untouched and plants began to grow.

2. Reconstruction and Recovery of Worms Synagogue Compound (presentation)



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Worms Synagogue Compound, 2019



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Worms Synagogue Compound,
Pogrom night 1938

Historical photographs, 10th November 1938

© Worms Photo Archives



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Worms Synagogue Compound
after the walls and vaults were
purposely collapsed

Historical photographs, 1943

© Worms Photo Archives



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

North portal of the synagogue in *Worms Synagogue Compound*

© Worms Photo Archives/GDKE



Historical photograph, 1943



Building research, 2018



Current state



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Worms Synagogue Compound, viewed from north after 1939 and after the end of the Shoah



© Worms Photo Archives

Historical photograph, c. 1943



Historical photograph, 6th July 1945



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Securing Worms Synagogue Compound, c. 1948/49



Fragments of the Rashi Chair and building inscriptions stored in the depot of the municipal museum

Historical Photographs, c. 1948/49 (r) and August 1953 (l)

© Worms Photo Archives




ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

Georg Dehio · Alois Riegl


Konservieren,
nicht restaurieren

Streitschriften
zur Denkmalpflege
um 1900




„conserve, not
restore“
=
„konservieren, nicht
restaurieren“


Denkmaltheorie




Heidelberg castle,
model (c.1893)
with reconstructed
„Ottheinrichsbau“
(c.1544 – 1556)




Heidelberg castle,
current state





ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020








Palmyra, Baal-Temple in the 1950th and in 2016














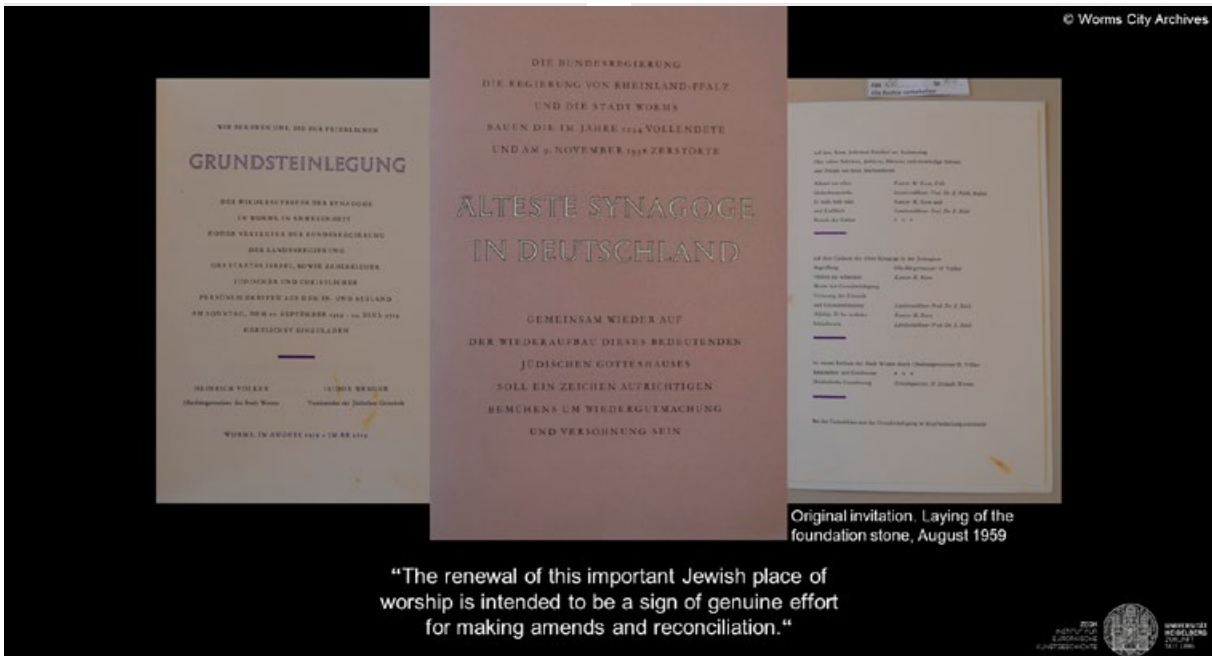
ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



Rebuilding the Romanesque north portal of the synagogue in Worms Synagogue Compound

Historical Photograph, June 1949

ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

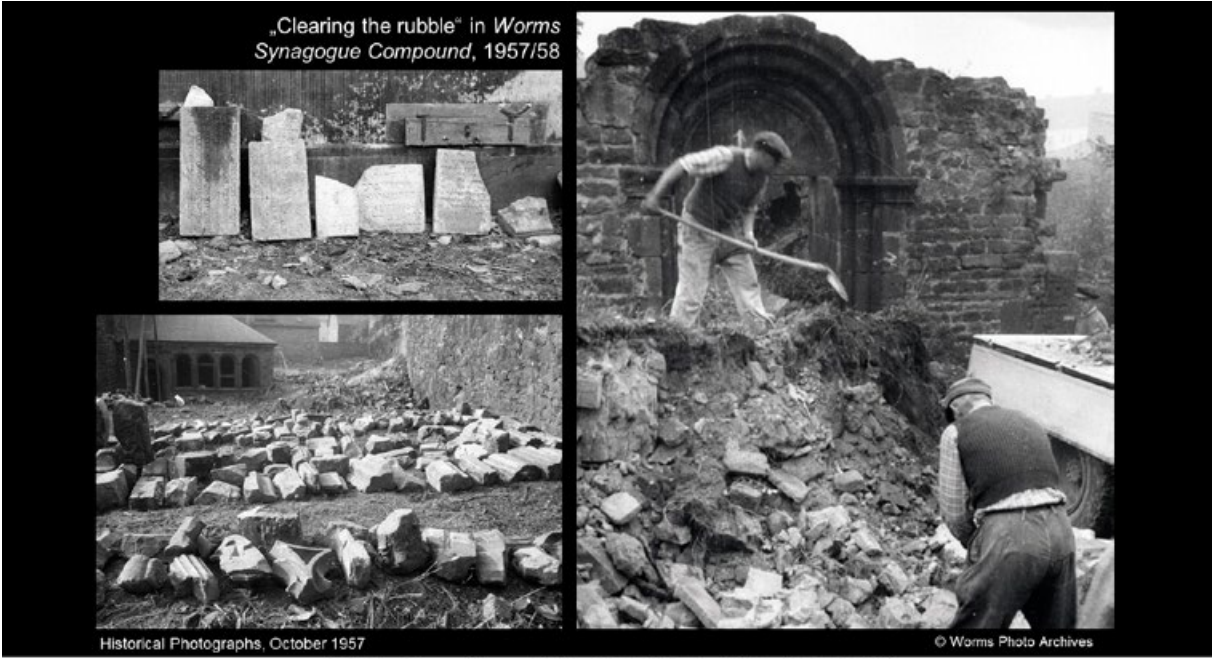


Original invitation. Laying of the foundation stone, August 1959

“The renewal of this important Jewish place of worship is intended to be a sign of genuine effort for making amends and reconciliation.”



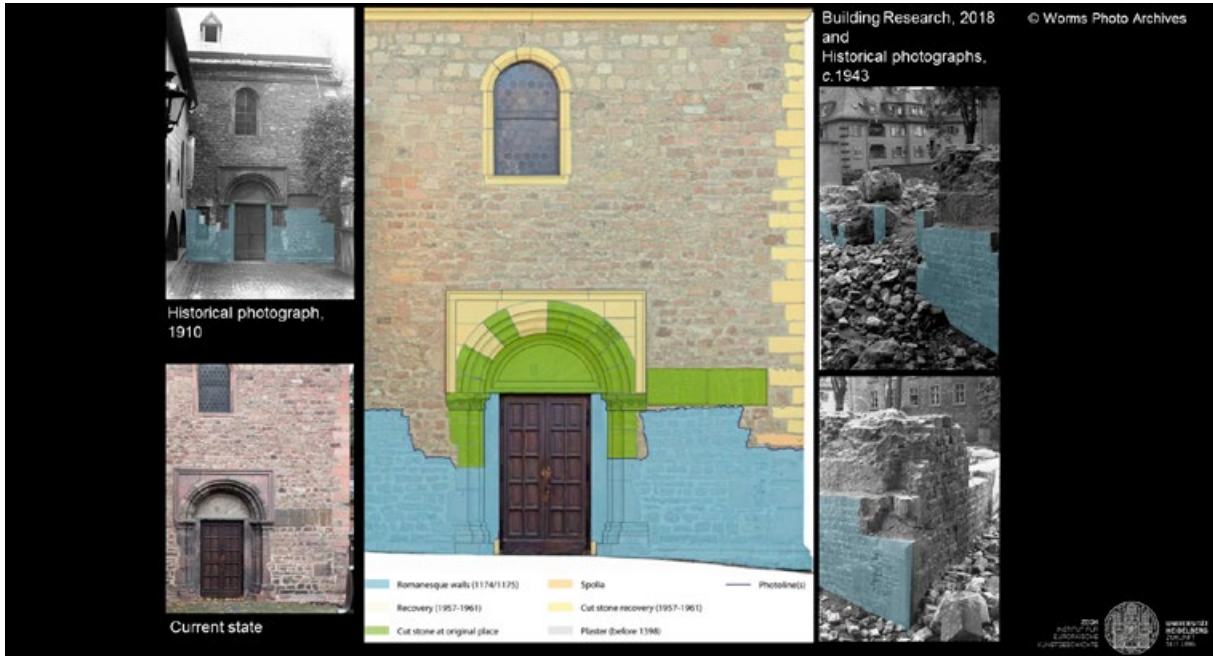
ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



SchUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

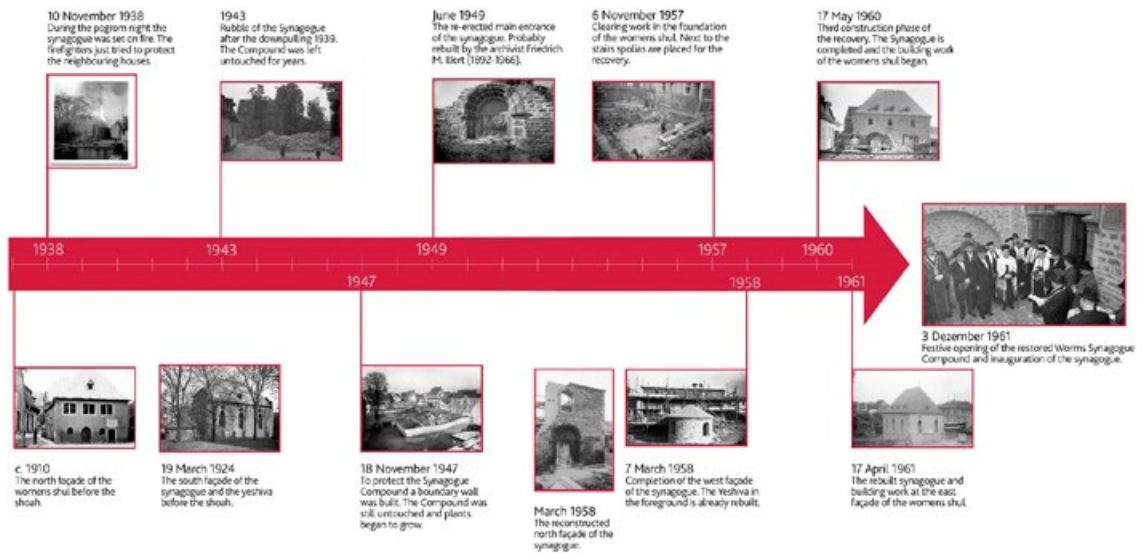


SchUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020



ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, Technical Evaluation Mission, September 2020

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3. Reconstruction and Recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* (text version)

The *Worms Synagogue Compound* was gradually recovered and reconstructed between 1949 and 1961. It began as a municipal project and soon created a far-reaching echo amongst the post-war society of the Federal Republic of Germany. The recovery and reconstruction quickly became a national project attracting a lot of international attention.

Today, the monuments look as they did before the arson attack of 1938 and the subsequent deliberate destruction of the visible masonry during the *Shoah*. In order to present the recovery of the Synagogue Compound in Worms in its full extent, it's necessary to first take a look at its destruction in the 20th century. The historical photographs are stored in the photo archive of Worms within the nominated property.

The *Worms Synagogue Compound* wasn't wilfully damaged for the first time in 1938. The then 750-year-old synagogue had suffered attacks and partial destruction during several pogroms and raids in the 14th and 17th centuries. The citizen of Worms rebuilt it every time in its medieval basic structure using original materials.

All over Germany, on the night of November 9th, more than 1,400 synagogues were set on fire. The November pogrom in Worms is very well documented and traceable in the 18-part photo series of the Worms-based photographer Friedrich Arnold [→ Appendix A.5] and in the interview by the contemporary witness Rabbi Helmut Frank. The fire broke out in the western part of the men's synagogue and spread very fast to the wooden gallery. It spread further to the roof truss of the synagogue and finally set the seating and the roof truss of the *women's shul* on fire. The photos and testimonies reveal that large

parts of the outer walls, parts of the vaulting, the eastern pillar and the *Torah Ark* were still intact after the November pogrom.

A letter from the city archivist Friedrich M. Illert to the city's mayor in August 1947 attests that the synagogue was demolished in late 1939. Pressure applied by hydraulic presses then caused the walls of the synagogue to crumble inwards. Huge pieces of the wall fell to the ground in large blocks with smooth break edges. Large parts of the masonry bond, individual cuboids and even jamb stones from the arched windows remained intact, which is very well discernible on the reproductions of 1943 [→ Appendix A.6]. In parts, several meters of the masonry bond remained intact, and significant inscriptions and building fragments were buried and thereby preserved in the rubble. They were salvaged and stored by members of the Jewish community of Worms in the days and years to follow.

The existing walls were also conserved in the rubble and thereby as much as 2.3 meters were preserved in situ. This is clearly discernible when looking at the north portal of the synagogue and at the negative of the inscription plate which was attached above the portal, over two meters above the ground and where it has been placed again today.

When comparing the historical photograph, the construction research from 2018 and today's image, it becomes evident that the walls conserved in the rubble of the war are at nearly the same level today as they were back then [→ Appendix A.9].

The area of the buildings in ruin lay exposed. In 1943, the blocks that had fallen down were still

lying untouched in the middle of the Synagogue Compound. The photographic documentation [→ Appendix A.6] clearly shows the untouched wall blocks – up to ten interconnecting layers – still lying at the very same spot four years after the walls had been torn down. The comparison also shows that the synagogue was spared the bombing that ensued during the Second World War and didn't suffer any further damages.

We also have photographic documentation from 1948 and 1949. In them you can see that the ruins are enclosed by a wall in order to prevent stones from being stolen [→ Appendix A.6]. There is a photograph from this same time showing the inscriptions and fragments safely stored in a municipal depot. Lying once again exposed, however, are the walls of the synagogue and the adjacent buildings conserved in the rubble.

At first, only a local effort engaged in the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound*. The city archivist and the head of the cultural office Friedrich M. Illert played a significant role in this initiative. He was also familiar with the theoretical considerations on the preservation of historic monuments at the turn of the 19th to 20th century.

Since the end of the 19th century, there had been a debate surrounding the Heidelberg Castle, the so-called castle dispute, or "Schlossstreit" in German. The Heidelberg Castle had lain in ruins since the 18th century, and there were two opposing sides when it came to what to do with the structure: One side supported a modern reconstruction of the castle, and the other supported a pure conservation of the monument. In 1901, Georg Dehio extensively explained why the Heidelberg Ottoheinrichsbau and the castle should be preserved as ruins and not be reconstructed.

However, great losses of cultural heritage due to the Second World War and an overall changing zeitgeist, resulted in other, new theoretical considerations.

For instance, on the 31st of May 1964 the Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments took place in Venice. As a result, a charter was drafted which listed the developments of the past decades and linked them to contemporary requirements for appropriately dealing with historic monuments. The participants established a new, open concept for historic monuments. Among other things, the participants demanded that constructional interventions not change the structure and design of historic monuments. Reconstructions should only be made in the form of anastylosis in order to respect all of the epochs represented in the construction. The charter and the subsequent founding of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) provided the impetus for a more differentiated approach to architectural heritage, assigning it the character of a historic testimony.

Thirty years later in 1994, in order to discuss the issues that had emerged over the past decades, UNESCO and ICOMOS organised a conference which focussed on the issue of authenticity. It was here that the Nara Declaration was drawn up: It aimed to establish new guidelines to ensure greater respect for cultural diversity, and thus assess authenticity in a way that takes full account of the social and cultural values of all societies. The Nara Document on Authenticity was conceived in the spirit of the Venice Charter from 1964, building and expanding on it as a response to the growing range of concerns and interests of cultural heritage in our present times.

Building on the values of the Venice Charter, the Charter of Krakow 2000 – Principles for Conservation and Restoration of Built Heritage was published in the course of the International Conference on Conservation "Krakow 2000". In the guidelines for the efforts to protect cultural heritage, contemporary principles for the preservation and restoration of buildings were reformulated according to technical and structural criteria.

In his paper "Reconstruction – From the Venice Charter to the Charter of Cracow 2000", Román András summarises all of the efforts and approaches of the past decades, names case studies and demands that a new declaration should be drafted that summarises current efforts.

Today, the issue of recovering cultural monuments lost by armed conflicts has become relevant again.

Significant monuments of the World Heritage Sites in Mossul, Aleppo and Palmyra have been destroyed. These sites and monuments are the heritage of humankind, which raises the question of how to preserve them for future generations all over the world. Against this backdrop, on the 8th of May 2018, representatives of UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, World Bank and Global Alliance for Urban Crises met to deal with "The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery" and to find ways for implementation.

With these theoretical basics in mind, let's go back to the sites in Worms.

Since 1947, various stakeholders in Worms have been making efforts to rebuild the synagogue and its adjacent buildings. Again, the driving force behind these efforts was the city archivist and former head of the municipal cultural institutes Friedrich M. Illert. The buildings and functional rooms should not merely be reconstructed, they should evoke the cultural identity, the intangible practices and the spirit of the place. In 1957, after more than ten years of preparation, the recovery of the Synagogue Compound and its monuments began.

In August 1959 the foundation stone was laid. The State Rabbi and numerous politicians were invited to the ceremony. It was announced in the programme as a "sign of genuine effort for making amends and for reconciliation".

The fragments and inscriptions were gathered carefully from the depots and sorted out on the site. Rubble was removed from the area. Many of the steps were recorded with photographs.

On the 3rd of December 1961 – the first day of Hanukkah of the Jewish year 5722 – the synagogue in the Synagogue Compound in Worms was reinaugurated. In January 1962, the first Bar Mizwar was celebrated. In the following years, until the middle of the 1990s, only a small population of Jews lived in Worms and the synagogue was only used sporadically. Among others, it was visited by American soldiers or guests from neighbouring communities. It was only after 1989, when Jews immigrated from the CIS countries, that the number of Jewish residents in Worms started to rise; organisationally they belonged to the Jewish community in Mainz. Since that time, services have taken place in *Worms Synagogue Compound* on a regular basis.

In 2018, the Institute for European Art History investigated the stock of the synagogue and its adjacent buildings. The numerous photographs from the time before the war, from the time of the *Shoah* and the time of recovery were compared with the current stock on site. Design elements such as window jambs and inscriptions were compared with the historical photos. The plans presented the results of the investigation of the masonry as well as the height of the masonry as shown in photos from different periods.

In so doing, it was possible to get an extensive picture of the current stock of the monuments in *Worms Synagogue Compound* [→ Appendix A.9].

During the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound*, it was ensured that as much original material as possible were used and that later additions were made visible. The work began as a local initiative and was accompanied by researchers from the very start. A large effort was made to sort the remains before beginning with the reconstruction and recovery.

During the construction process, it was ensured that original materials were being used to the greatest possible extent and that structural elements which had been damaged but were

still stable were reintegrated into their original places. Elements significant to the history of the Synagogue Compound and the identity of the community were carefully reworked according to the available documentation. Whenever it was necessary to use completely new parts – as was the case with the visible masonry of the *women's shul* – these were marked as later additions using contemporary forms.

In summary: The recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* with the synagogue and the adjacent buildings (*women's shul* and *yeshiva*) started out as a local project with great significance for the urban community of Worms. The recovery and reconstruction of the oldest German synagogue quickly became a project of national and finally international attention. From today's standpoint, it must be made clear that the reconstruction and recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* are no means for making amends for history. The expression "making amends" (in German: "Wiedergutmachung"), as was written in the invitation for the groundbreaking ceremony in 1959 in connection with the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound*, is regarded as problematic today. Strictly speaking, there is no way to make amends for the crimes of the *Shoah*.

Instead, the project of recovering *Worms Synagogue Compound* by faithfully rebuilding the destroyed buildings according to aspects of monument preservation must be seen as a reconstruction of cultural heritage damaged by an armed conflict. The recovery exceeds the mere reconstruction of the lost architectural structure of the synagogue. It is an opportunity to strengthen or retrieve damaged or lost identity. The recovery has encouraged mutual recognition and it has been a means for dialogue to this day. As such, the recovery, as written in the invitation, laid the foundation stone for a genuine effort for reconciliation.

4. View of *Worms Synagogue Compound* before 1938 (example)



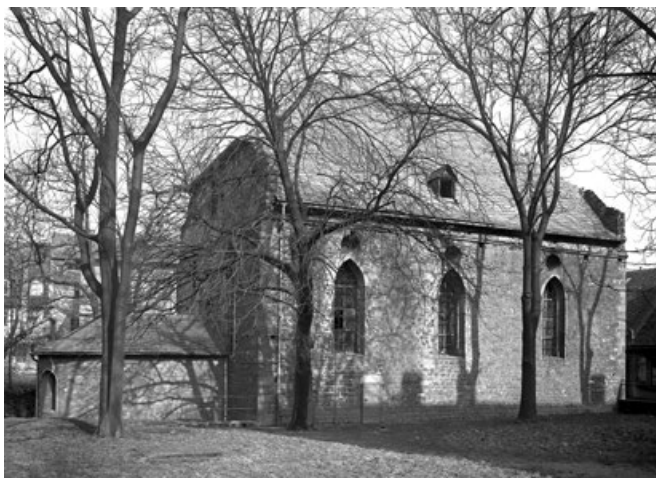
1. The north façade of *Worms Synagogue Compound* with the Jewish council chamber (above) and entrance hall of the *women's shul* (below).

Historical photograph,
c.1900-1910



2. The *yeshiva* in *Worms Synagogue Compound*.

Historical photograph,
c.1905-1910



3. The synagogue and *yeshiva* of *Worms Synagogue Compound*, viewed from the south.

Historical photograph,
19 March 1924



4. The synagogue courtyard in *Worms Synagogue Compound*.
Historical photograph,
c.1890-1805



5. Inscription of 1034 commemorating
the foundation of the first
synagogue in Worms.
Historical photograph,
early 20th century



6. Interior view of the synagogue in
Worms Synagogue Compound:
east-facing benches and the
Torah Ark of c.1704.
Historical photograph,
c.1900-1920

5. Historical photographs taken during and after the pogrom night of 1938



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12.



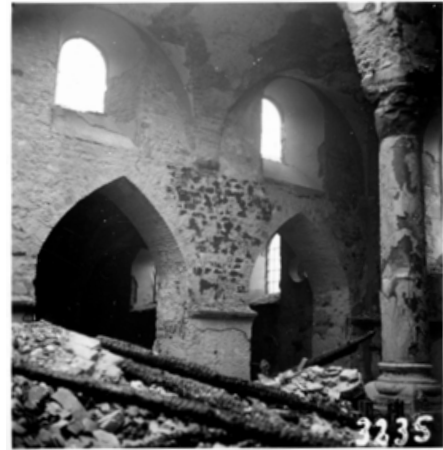
13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.

6. Worms Synagogue Compound after the Second World War



1. The destroyed *Worms Synagogue Compound* after the Second World War with the former community hall in the background. Viewed from the north.
Historical photograph, 6 July 1945



2. The destroyed synagogue compound in Worms after the Second World War. Viewed from the south.
Historical photograph, 6 July 1945



3. Overview of the destroyed *Worms Synagogue Compound* after the Second World War.
Historical photograph, 18 November 1947



4. Original fragments of the north portal.
Historical photograph,
October 1948



5. Example of the systematic sorting
of the original fragments.
Historical photograph, after 1945



6. Example of the systematic sorting
of the original fragments.
Historical photograph, after 1945



7. Excavation on the east wall of the synagogue 1956.
Historical photograph, 1956



8. "Clearing the rubble" in *Worms Synagogue Compound* in preparation of its recovery and reconstruction.
Historical photograph, October 1957



9. The rebuilt of the *yeshiva* in *Worms Synagogue Compound*.
Historical photograph, 1958



10. The recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound*.
Historical photograph, 1958

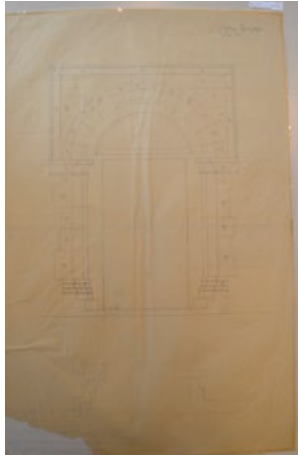


11. The recovery of the synagogue
in *Worms Synagogue Compound*.
Historical photograph, 1958

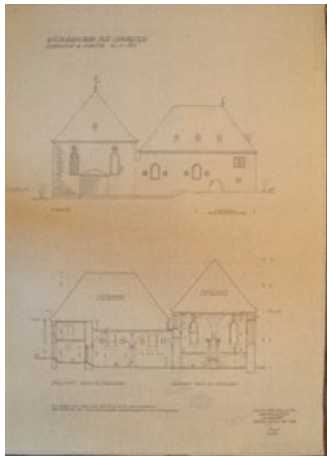


12. The recovery of the synagogue
in *Worms Synagogue Compound*.
Historical photograph,
November, 1961

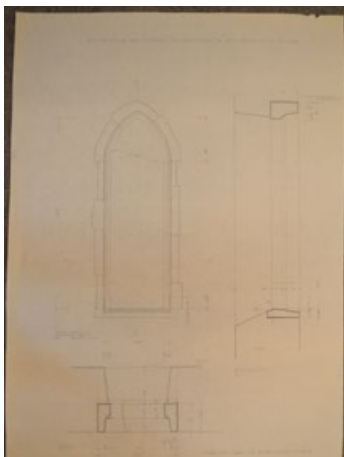
7. Architectural sketches of the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* (examples)



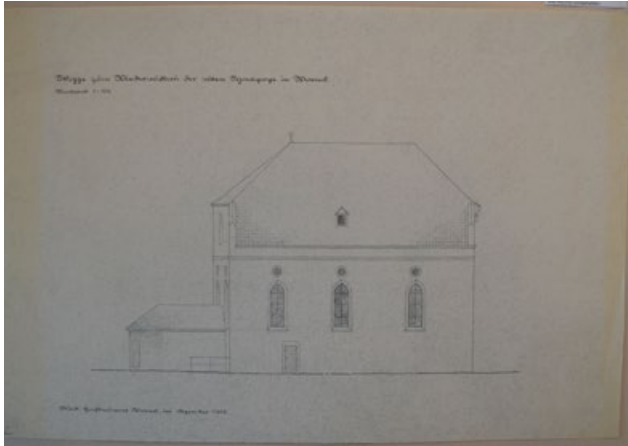
1. Main portal of the synagogue, 1942



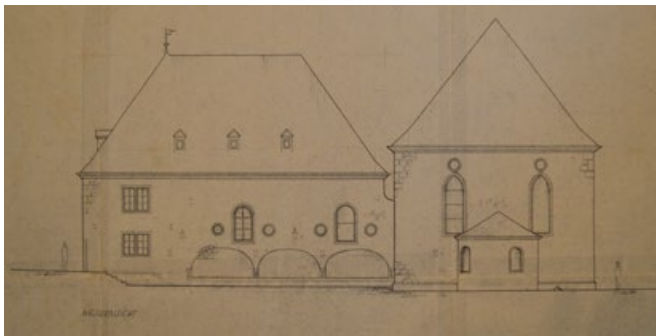
2. East view and sections of the synagogue, 1958



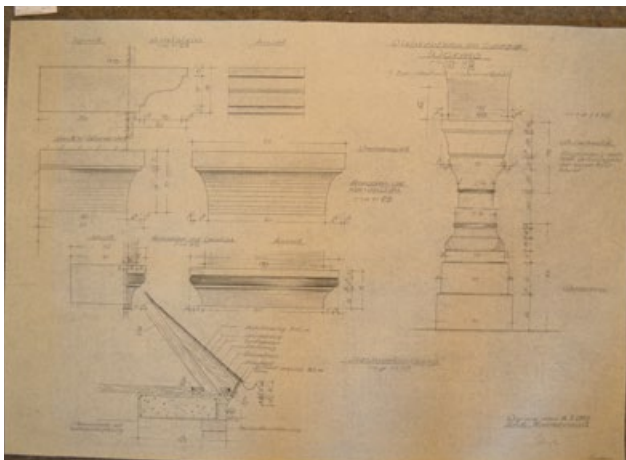
3. South view of the synagogue, 1949



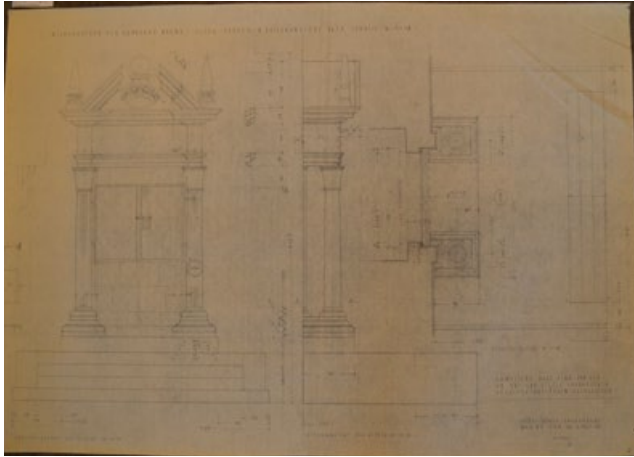
4. South view of the synagogue, 1949



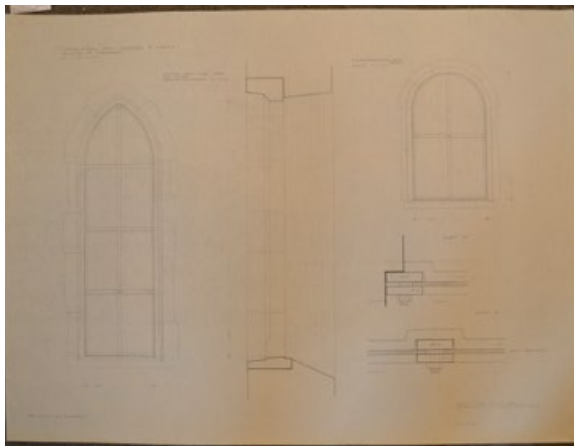
5. West view of the synagogue, 1958



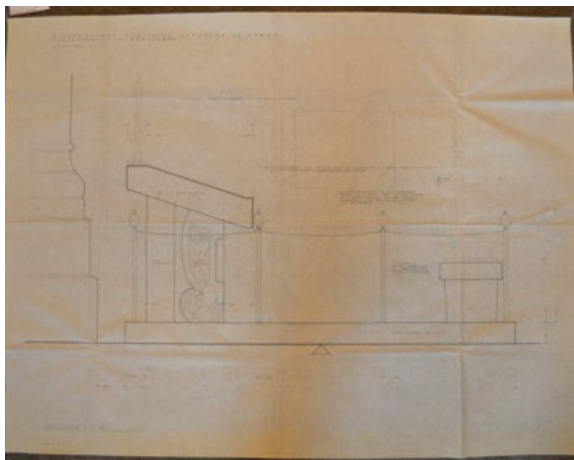
6. First construction phase: details, 1959



7. *Torah Ark*, 1960



8. *Windows*, 1960

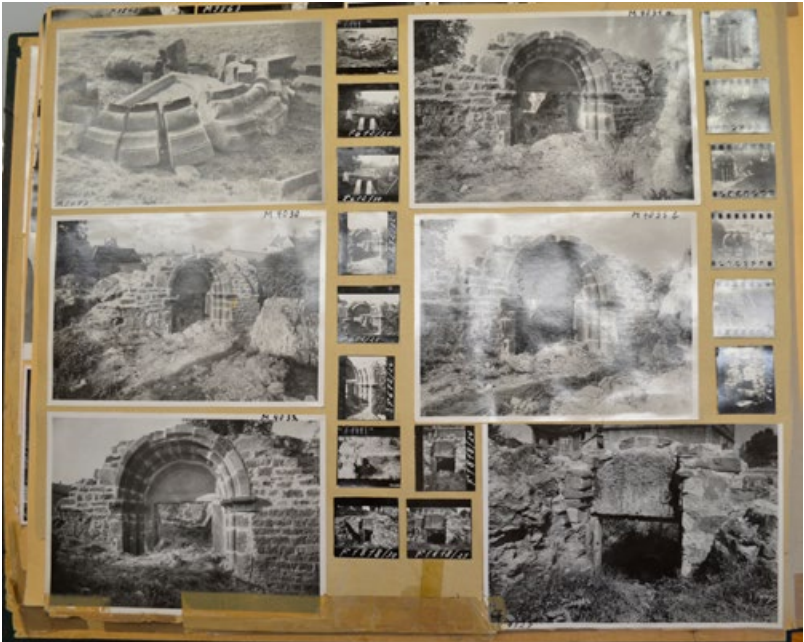


9. *Bema*, 1961

8. Photographic documentation of the recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* - Overview (example)



1. *Worms Synagogue Compound* from 1938 on



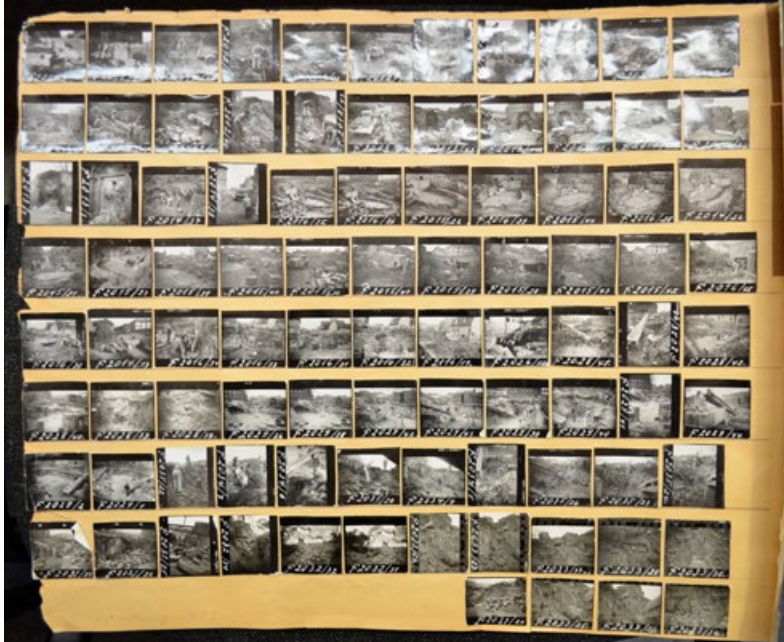
2. *Worms Synagogue Compound* from 1938 on



**3. Worms Synagogue
Compound from
1938 on**



**4. Worms Synagogue
Compound from
1938 on**



5. *Worms Synagogue Compound* from 1938 on



6. Recovery of *Worms Synagogue Compound* from 1957 on



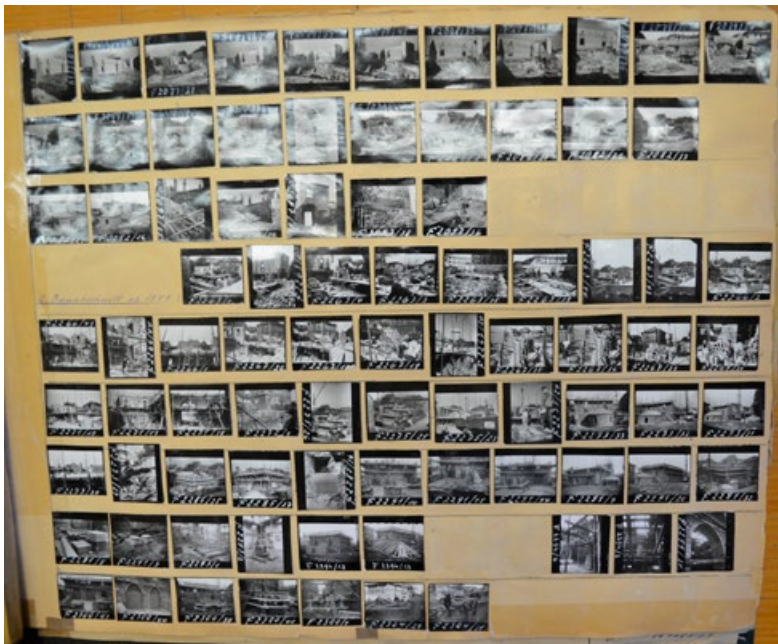
7. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on



8. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on



9. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on



10. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on



11. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on



12. Recovery of
*Worms Synagogue
Compound* from
1957 on

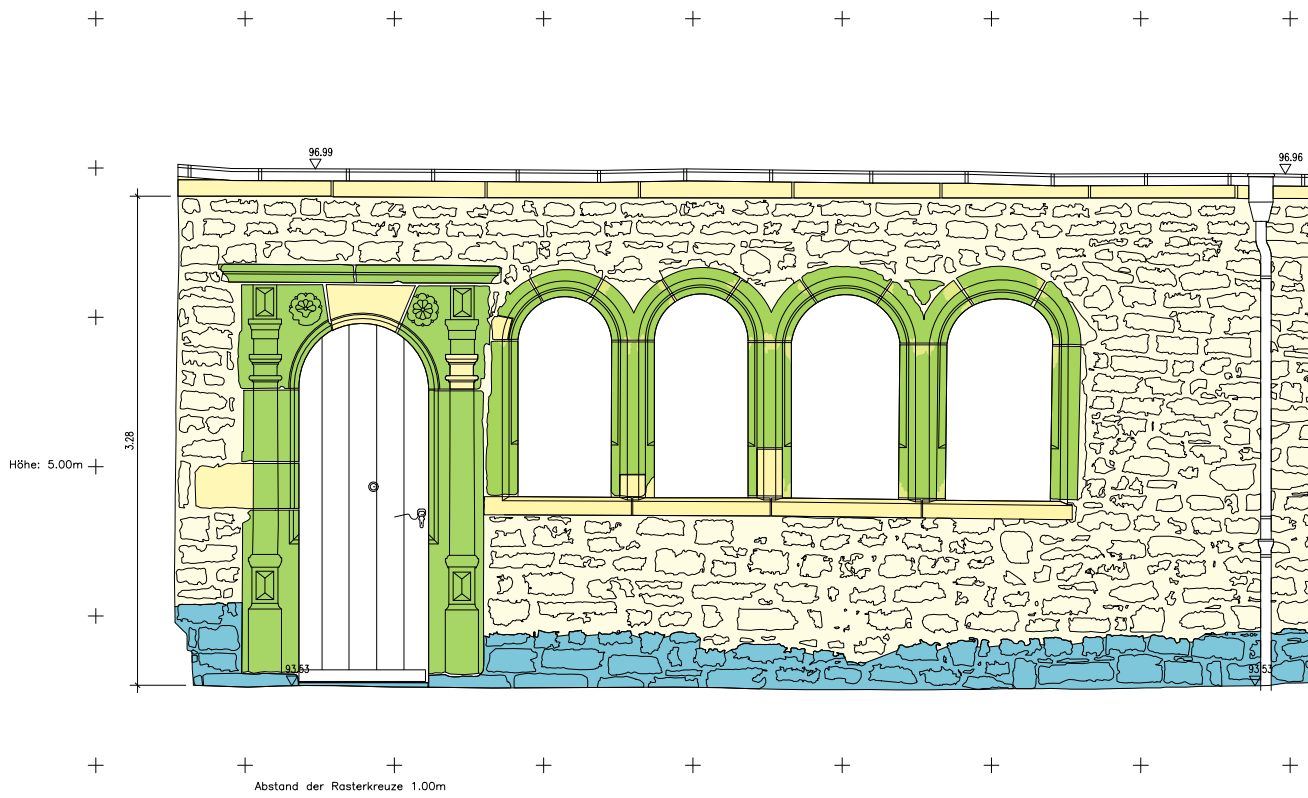
9. Construction phase plans of Worms Synagogue Compound



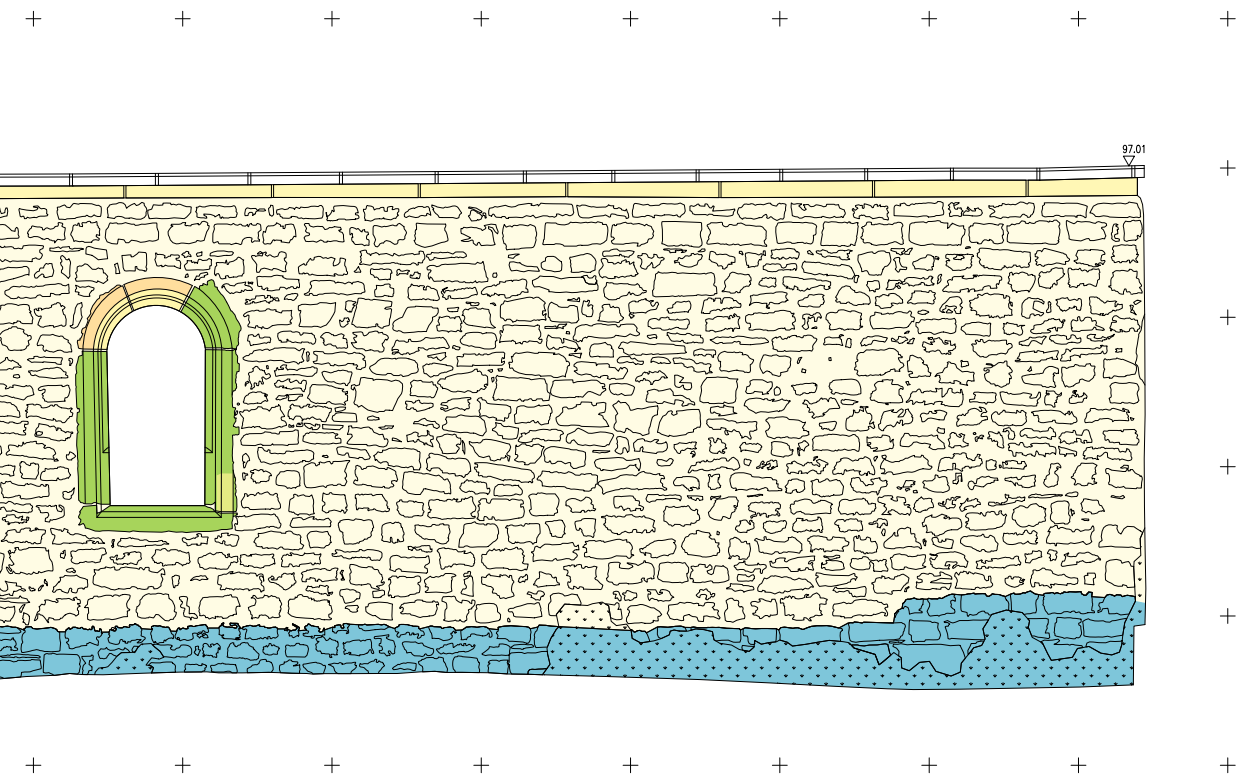
1. Construction phase plan of the nord façade with the Jewish council chamber and entrance hall of the *women's shul*



2. Construction phase plan of the north wall of the synagogue

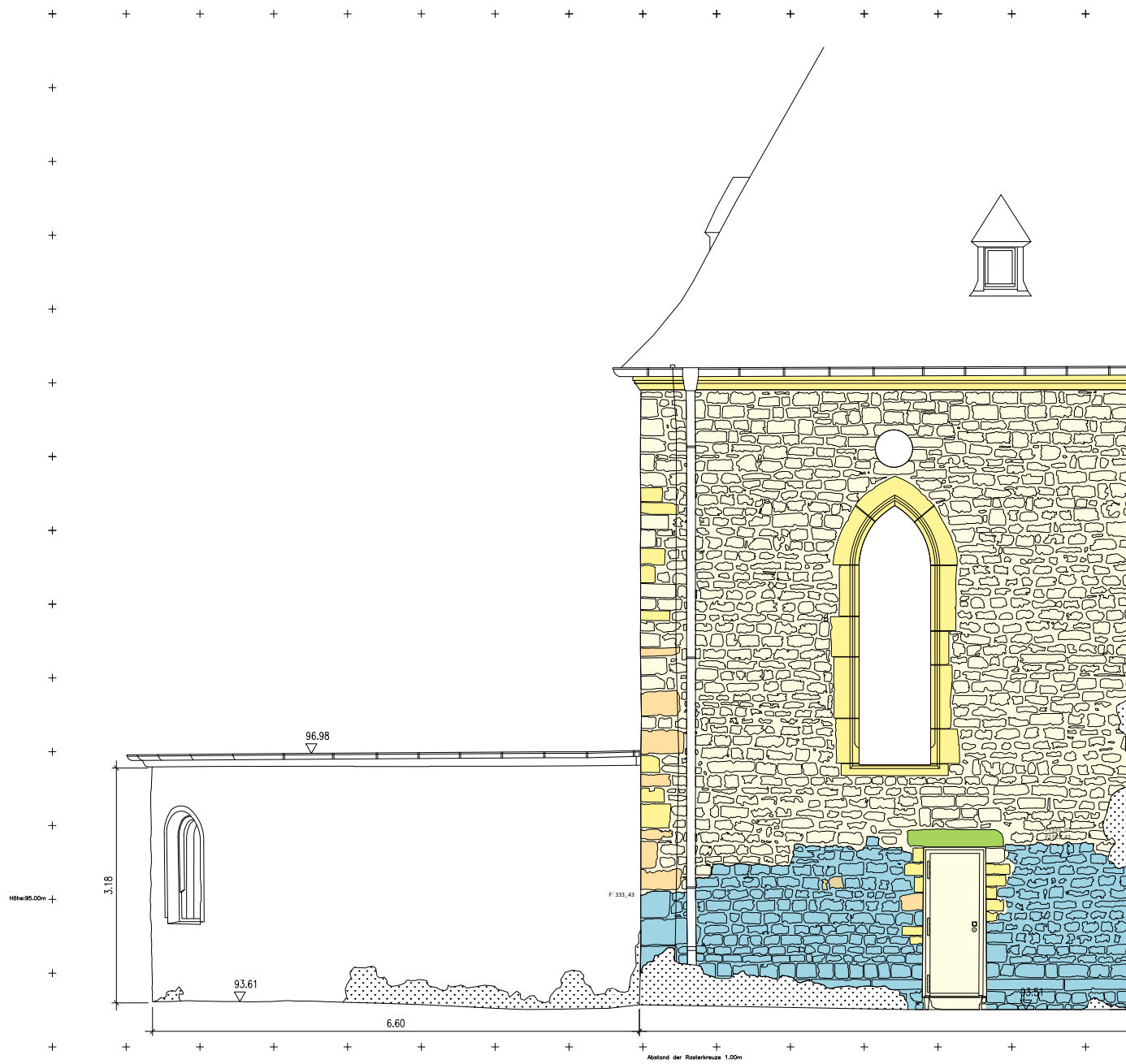


3. Construction phase plan of the yeshiva

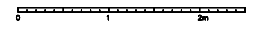
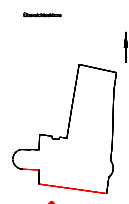
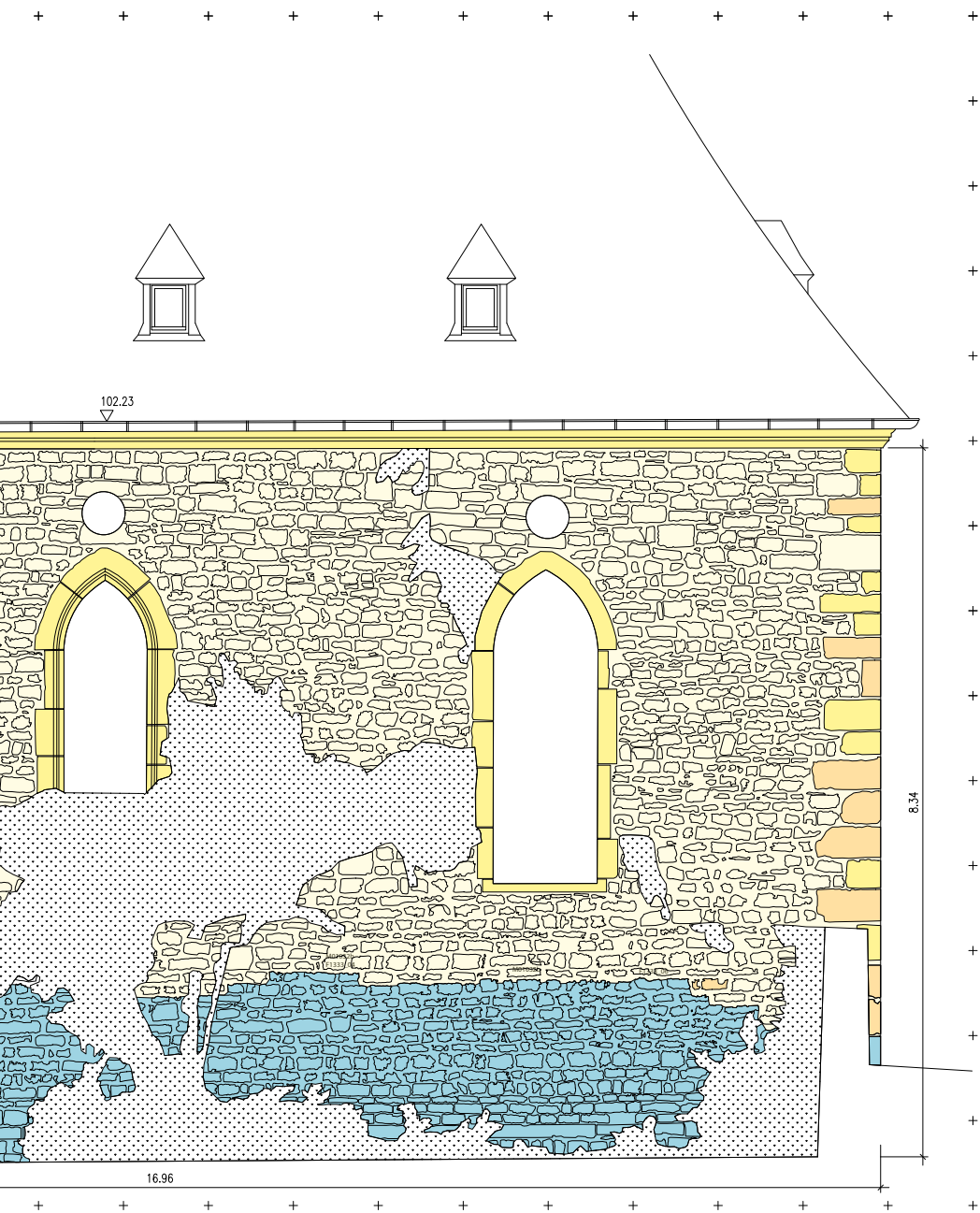


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10_Abw-Kapelle
Höhenbezug: NN, gemessen von Vermessungsbüro



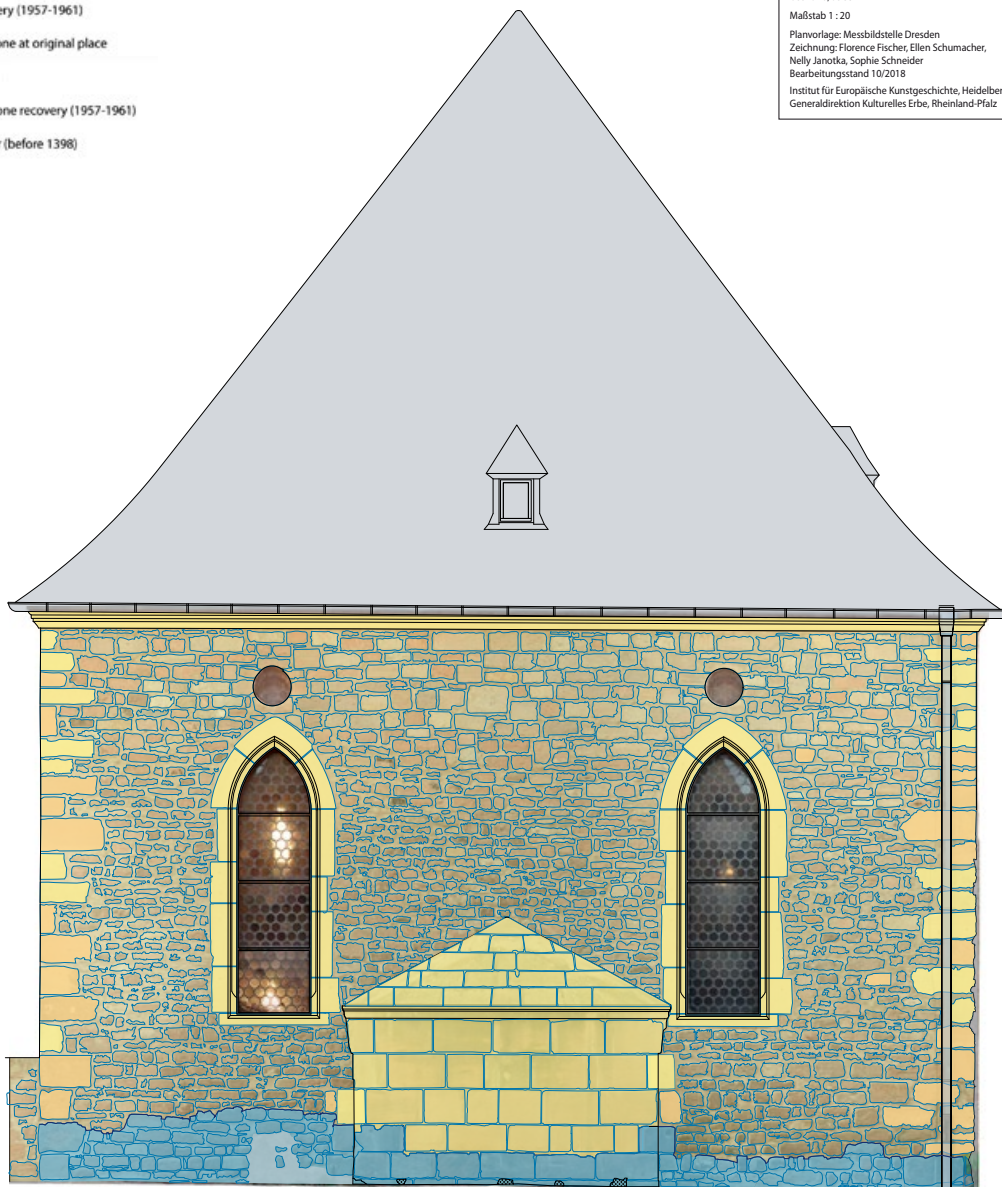
4. Construction phase plan of the south wall of the synagogue



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WORMS Synagoge Synagogengröße	
Südansicht mit Kapelle Südseite	
1 : 20	
Dr. Heesche	1. Architekt
Müller	2. Architekt
Klein	3. Architekt
<small>© MESSBILDSTELLE GmbH 2018</small>	

- Romanesque walls (1174/1175)
- Recovery (1957-1961)
- Cut stone at original place
- Spolia
- Cut stone recovery (1957-1961)
- Plaster (before 1398)

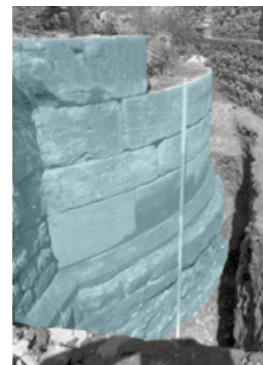
Worms, Synagoge
 Ostwand, außen
 Maßstab 1 : 20
 Planvorlage: Messbildstelle Dresden
 Zeichnung: Florence Fischer, Ellen Schumacher,
 Nelly Janotka, Sophie Schneider
 Bearbeitungsstand 10/2018
 Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte, Heidelberg/
 Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe, Rheinland-Pfalz



Synagoge von Südosten vor 1947, Fotografie: Fotoarchiv Worms

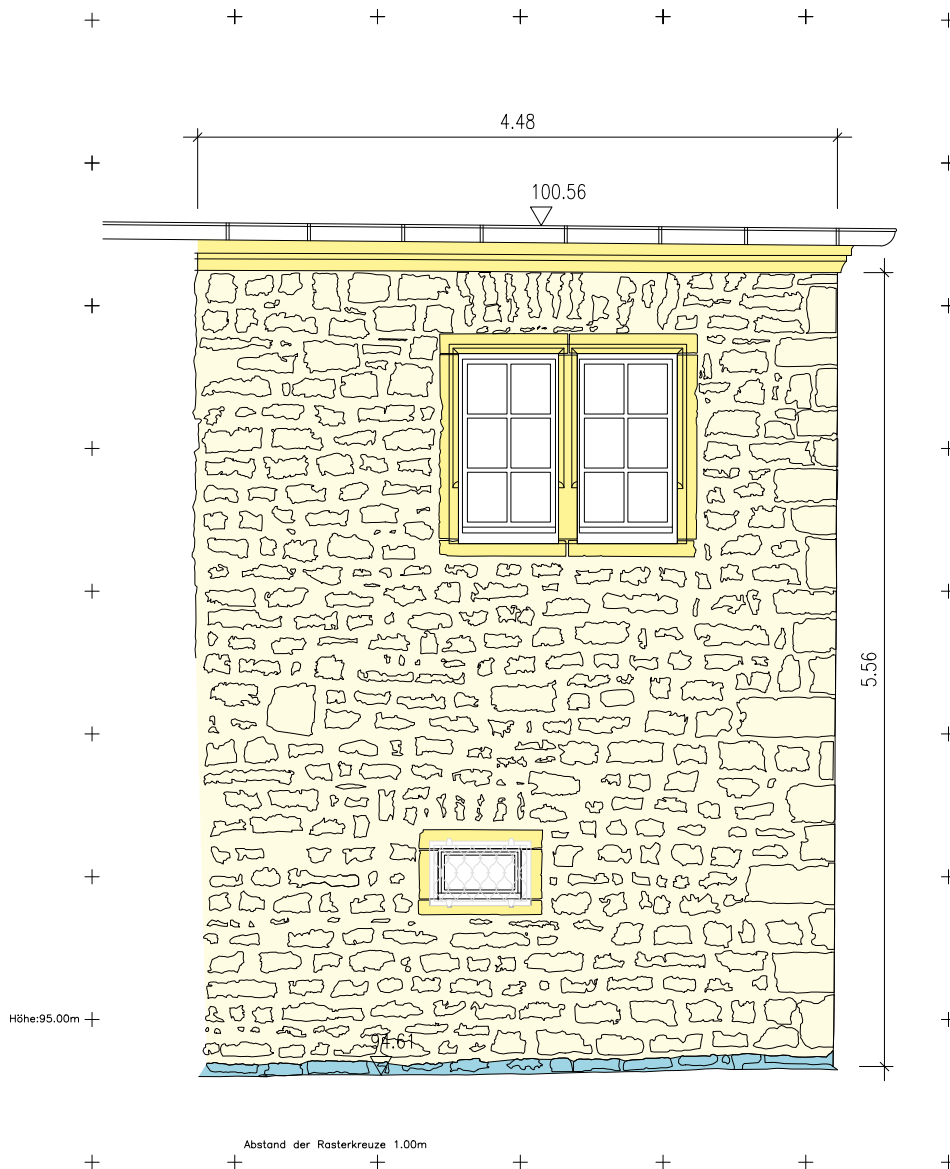


Synagoge von Südosten nach 1938, Fotografie: Fotoarchiv Worms

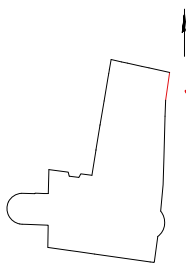


Steinerne Ostapais 1656, Fotografie: Fotoarchiv Worms

5. Construction phase plan of the west wall of the synagogue



Übersichtsskizze



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Index	Änderung/Erklärung	Datum	Name
Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte D-69117 Heidelberg, Seminarstraße 4			
Auftraggeber MESSBILDSTELLE GmbH D-01187 Dresden, Altpflaun 19 (Bienenmühle) Tel.: +49 35141503-0 Fax: +49 3514150299 Email: info@messbildstelle.de www.messbildstelle.de			
Planverfasser WORMS Synagoge Synagogenplatz			
Ostansicht, Abschnitt 3			1 : 20
Rechenstellen Dr. Bruschke lokal	Kaufdatum 05/2018	5_A-Ostansicht3 Zeichnung D18-020	Maßstab 420 x 594 Plangröße 5
Höhenbezug lokal Höhebezug: NN, gemessen von Vermessungsbüro Buchholz am 9.8.2008	Notizen	Datum Buchholz am 9.8.2008	Plan 5

6. Construction phase plan of the east wall of the women's shul

List of Figures

Answers to the additional information

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Appendix A:

4. View of *Worms Synagogue Compound* before 1938 (example)

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5	© Stadtarchiv Worms, Abteilung Fotoarchiv	CH0244
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5. Historical photographs taken during and after the pogrom night 1938

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6. Worms Synagogue Compound after the Second World War

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12	© Stadtarchiv Worms, Abteilung Fotoarchiv	F2472_56

7. Architectural sketches of the recovery of Worms Synagogue Compound (examples)

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6	© Stadtarchiv Worms, Abteilung Fotoarchiv	217/56
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8	© Stadtarchiv Worms, Abteilung Fotoarchiv	217/56
9	© Stadtarchiv Worms, Abteilung Fotoarchiv	217/56

8. Photographic documentation of the recovery of Worms Synagogue Compound – Overview (example)

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9. Construction phase plans of *Worms Synagogue Compound*

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