

Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens

House of History of the Jews of Baden

A lighthouse project for Bruchsal

Why Bruchsal?

A Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens (House of History of the Jews of Baden) would be unique in this country. A unique lighthouse project in Southwest Germany with effect over Baden out.

No other community can offer such a historical property such as Bruchsal. On a piece of land, on which the Synagogue stood and a fire station was built. Unique in Germany.

How to continue with such history?

Before the expropriation of the Synagogue land was more than 150 years in the possession of the Jewish Community. 80 years ago, the Synagogue was destroyed. 65 years ago dishonored by the construction of a fire station.

There is no reparation. What happened cannot be undone. But it is possible to make a statement. A statement of the reconciliation, a sign against the omnipresent racism, against any form of discrimination, against xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

Ideas and considerations for arrangement of the House of History

The focus is on exhibition rooms in which the contributions of Jewish fellow citizens to Baden's culture, politics and business is shown. There will be answered the question of how Jews and Christians lived together. Explicit the Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens (House of History of the Jews of Baden) won't be a place of remembrance to the Shoah.

Modern museums no longer see themselves only as exhibition venues. The House of History of the Jews of Baden communicates as an open house of encounter, of experience, learning and research in the entire Baden region.

The proximity to research facilities opens the door to the the possibility of scientific and didactic collaboration through congresses, courses of instruction or conferences. The rooms equipped for this purposes in the House of History can be also used from the nearby commercial school or associations.

The house is a meeting place for young people. These can meet here, independently religion, origin, language or skin color.

A reading café on the ground floor and a roof terrace round off the offer. This grants the visitors of the House of History a phenomenal view over Bruchsal roofscape up to the Palatinate mountains.

The added value for Bruchsal

Bruchsal defines itself as a tourist destination by asparagus and the Schönborn baroque palace.

About 90,000 tourists visit every year the Bruchsal palace. For years now has been discussed how to make the downtown area with its shopping opportunities and the gastronomic delights palatable for the guests of the city.

A high-class House of the History of the Jews of Baden serves here as an inner-city attraction, which is tethered by the castle promenade to the baroque castle. From the House of History are only a few steps to the pedestrian zone.

By the planned monument at the Otto-Oppenheimer-square, the Kaiserstraße will be in total more attractive. A further goal for people who are interested in the Jewish history is the Jewish cemetery with the Bet Tahara.

More and more children and grandchildren of Jews of Baden visit the homeland of their ancestors. For them, the House of History is an important place to go, as they will gain inside the life of their ancestors.

The Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens (House of History of the Jews of Baden) offers good jobs, especially for scientists and scientific personnel. More guests in the inner city of Bruchsal means growth for trade and hospitality.

A special exhibition on Bruchsal Jews?

The Bruchsal Jews were of great economic importance for the city. They were active in the tobacco and hops wholesale. Otto Oppenheimer was a cloth wholesaler. Important industrial companies were founded by them like malthouses or cooking stove factories. The tobacco and cigar trade of the Meerapfel family was established in Untergrombach. The roots of the Schrag family are in Obergrombach. This family is the origin of many qualified merchants or attorneys, but also gifted composers and writers.

The Member of the Reichstag Dr. Ludwig Marum grew up in Bruchsal, Prof. Dr. Fritz Hirsch is honorary citizen of this town.

The successes of emigrated Jewish religious members can be seen in the House of History. The Heidelberg Sulzberger family was and is editor and publisher of the New York Times, the Julius Bär banking house still bears the name of the founder from Heidelberg till today. From there also comes the Carlebach family.

The realization

Experience with other similar projects are available. After that, project funding is available with substantial funds by the federal state Baden-Württemberg, which describes museums as custodians of our cultural heritage, as extracurricular places of learning, places of communication and intercultural meeting places. The demographic and social challenges require an extension and specialization of the offer. The House of History of the Jews of Baden is as such an extension.

The ongoing operating costs of the House of History can be influenced by the activities of a Förderverein (booster club) and at least partially covered. For this with large security funds of the federal state are available.

Members of the Board of Trustees (Advisory Board) of the Förderverein will be high-ranking personalities from politics, economy and culture, which will bring out the uniqueness of the House of History to the outside world and promote this Bruchsal figurehead.

A few remarks about this suggestion of the planned booster club (Förderverein)

The considerations of the Förderverein (booster club) regarding the use of the Synagogue properties are already very far advanced and show exemplary the outstanding possibilities of this inner-city "fillet piece" for the development of our city. Currently this proposal is a suggestion for discussion, but the council is still initiating an ideas competition, in which more ideas will certainly be about the 49 existing. Maybe some of the ideas will provide surprises. Nonetheless, the proposal of the Förderverein is extremely valuable and deeply thought out. The architectural implementation is outstanding.

The Synagogue site is over 2,600 qm (28.000 ft.) large. A House of History of the Jews of Baden and even more ideas can be realized there. The granddaughter of the former Synagogue servant has suggested a memorial garden. This could be located in the area of the Synagogue foundation walls. The size of the property permits a further development. One possibility here would be the Paul-Schrag-Haus, into which the municipal museum or the city archives could move. A move of municipal departments of the Dragonerkaserne into this Paul-Schrag-House would also be possible. But it must be now waited for the competition for ideas.

Here is the unique opportunity to create on a central place something unique, a lighthouse project. This chance Bruchsal should not miss.