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PRESS RELEASE

Haus Bastian to augment the Museumsinsel in Berlin: the gift agreement has been signed

Next year, the Bastian family will hand over the gallery building at 10 Kupfergraben, designed by David Chipperfield, to the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation). It is to be used as a center for cultural education and will bear the name "Haus Bastian der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz". In order to confirm its intentions, the Bastian family has already had the deed of donation recorded by a notary. The President of the Foundation, Hermann Parzinger, and the Chairperson of the Foundation Board, Monika Grütters, thank the Bastian family for this generous gift.

Monika Grütters pays tribute: "With this exceedingly generous gesture, the Bastian family has given Germany, at a national cultural level, not only a building of considerable value – a real Chipperfield design at the very heart of Berlin – but above all the opportunity, through a cultural education center, to introduce an even larger audience to the cultural treasures from Europe and the Middle East that can be seen on the Museumsinsel (Museum Island). Cultural outreach work means constantly striving to connect with as many people as possible in our country, whatever their background, in order to awaken enthusiasm for art and culture. The Foundation will try out new approaches to participation, communication and inclusion here – a forward-looking task to which museums and cultural policy must now devote more attention than ever before. The extent to which we need such places of principled affirmation and cosmopolitan outlook has become more than obvious, not least with the entrance of a right-wing populist party into the German parliament as the third-strongest group."

Hermann Parzinger remarks: "I am very pleased that everything has worked out so well, and I would like to thank the Bastian family for its particular generosity and outstanding commitment. The Haus Bastian will address a diverse audience, but especially the young, because children and young people are our visitors of tomorrow. We plan to develop innovative formats for cultural education here and I am sure that the generous architecture and wonderful spaces designed by David Chipperfield will inspire us in this work. The fact that we are dedicating such a beautiful and prominent building at such a desirable location to this kind of use is a

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clear statement of the importance that we attach to cultural education. It sends a signal far beyond the Museumsinsel."

Heiner Bastian comments: "If we imagine the topography of the middle of Berlin, we are based at the city's intellectual center – in every sense – at the Museumsinsel. The island is a vision of real, existing, artistic forms, material, tangible and sensual: a magnificent place, which constitutes its own aphorism of the image-making world cultures in a canon of encyclopedic scope."

Aeneas Bastian adds: "I cannot imagine anything other than cultural activity in the premises at the Kupfergraben. The new educational center of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz will soon be moving into the building. My wish is that the past and the future will meet here, above and beyond a classic 'School of Seeing'."

The building stands directly opposite the James-Simon-Galerie, also designed by Chipperfield, which is currently under construction and will serve as the main visitor entrance to the Museumsinsel. The Haus Bastian makes a worthy addition to the Museumsinsel as a World Cultural Heritage site, not only by expanding its functional scope, but also through its spacious and clear design. The rooms on its four floors are ideal for developing and testing new, forward-looking educational concepts. These will be tailored to different types of user and will tackle current social issues.

So it is not just museum visits that can be prepared and reviewed in this building. The topics discussed here will be ones that allow bridges to be built between the various collections and institutions. This will also involve the Humboldt Forum, which will eventually form a single unit with the Museumsinsel. The range of activities planned ranges from workshops, study or project days, and open workshops to lectures and panel discussions, to name but a few. There will be spacious joint working areas as well as rooms for studies and research, for communication and discussion, for presentations and for reflecting upon new experiences. The concept for the Center for Cultural Education is the responsibility of the Department of Education/Communication of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz.



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The building designed by David Chipperfield, with a gross floor area of nearly 2000 square meters, was built for the Bastian family as the owner and has been used as a gallery since 2007.

Press image at:

www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/newsroom/presse/pressebilder.html