

Starting Posts of Memory (2014)

The swimming pool in the synagogue in Führer's study



When the imperial castle in Poznań was being converted to Hitler's residence, the sacred interior of the chapel was selected as the future location of Hitler's study (who never visited the castle). National Socialists destroyed the chapel and transformed it into the Hitler's study, their "sacred" place of exercising dictator's power.

The Nazis had previously destroyed another sacred place in Poznań. In 1941, the former synagogue became a swimming pool, so that German soldiers may enjoy some quality time after front deployment. The swimming pool remained in use until 2004. 2014 saw Horst Hoheisel and Andreas Knitz begin a symbolic demolition of the pool, dismantling some of its furnishings, which they brought to the Hitler's study to create an installation. From the desecrated synagogue the swimming pools returns to the seat of Nazi power, which turned a chapel into Hitler's office and a synagogue into a swimming pool.

The cabinet displays three artefacts from the former synagogue found during archaeological excavations. Nothing more has been found. (courtesy of the Jewish Community in Poznań)

Mock-up of the building (cross-section of the swimming pool building) shows the current architectural layout of the former synagogue, converted in 1940 into a swimming pool.

In good weather, ask a member of the staff to access the balcony, from which you can see the Monument of the Grey Buses.

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