



## Schloss Wilhelmshöhe (Castle)

New exhibition hall for the „Old Masters“ in Kassel

1. Prize in a competition for realisation

### RESTORATION OF A HISTORIC MONUMENT: DAY-LIT EXHIBITION ROOMS UNDER A NEW ROOF LANTERN

Wilhelmshöhe Castle was built in 1791-1798, designed by the architect Heinrich Christoph Jussow. During the war, the castle and the dome were heavily destroyed by bombs. The conversion of the castle into a museum in the nineteen-sixties strongly changed the overall character of the rooms. Furthermore, considerable construction defects, particularly in the area of the roof, made it necessary to substantially restore the central part of the building.

With the preservation of the original historic building, the museum received back a clear arrangement of rooms. Staircases and elevators are located in the side absides. The main entrance, surrounded by the collection of Greek Antiquities, is found on the ground floor. The three upper floors consist of well arranged cabinets of harmonic proportions.

Where ever the exhibits permit direct day-light, seamless glass planes are inserted into the exterior walls allowing for magnificent views of the landscaped park of Kassel.

The new generously spaced lower ground houses the visitor centre with facilities such as the museum shop, cloakroom and the museum café.

A glass „strip of light“ (Latern) was constructed onto the roof of the top floor ensuring that the showrooms of the paintings gallery are illuminated evenly to avoid stripes of light.

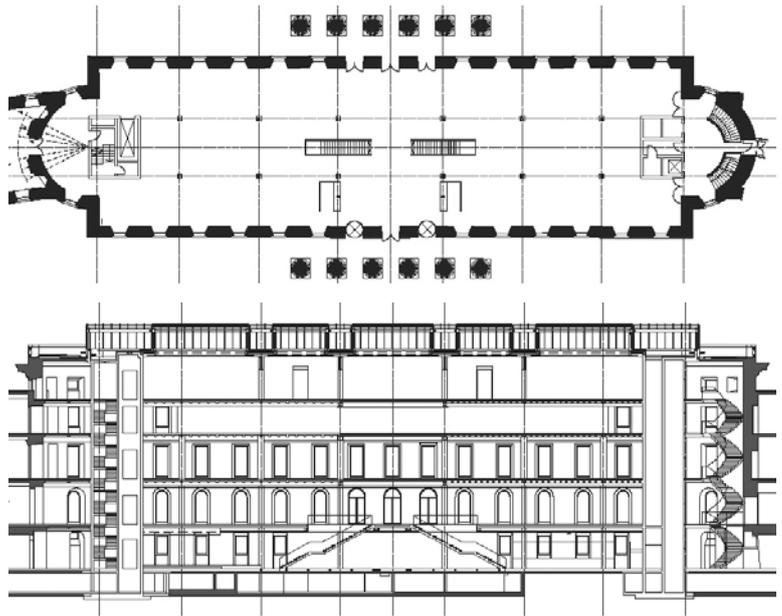
Instead of traditional wall lining, commonly used in museums of Old Masters, the walls were painted in the classic colours of Siena green, Venetian red and light grey.

The Painting Gallery of the National Gallery of Modern Art (Staatgalerie Moderner Kunst) is located in the upper floor. It is a purely day-lit museum with a rooflight grid that ensures an even lighting in all the rooms, without shadows or stripes across the walls.





The discrete minimal architecture foregrounds the exhibits and presents the castle and the beautiful surroundings to their full advantage.



**Location:**  
Schloss Wilhelmshöhe, Schlosspark 3, D - 34131 Kassel  
**Client:**  
Land Hessen, represented by the Staatsbauamt Kassel (State planning office)  
**Planning and Construction Period:**  
1997 – 2000  
**GSF / GV:**  
8,700 m<sup>2</sup> / 41,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Construction Costs:**  
20.5 million euros

**Design:**  
Stephan Braunfels  
**Project Director:**  
Cordula Rau

