

Dear Friends and Colleagues of Trans Europe Halles,

The cultural centre Z-Bau is facing big changes. After more than 11 years of existence the cultural centre Z-Bau will have to close down and leave the building. It is the City Council of Nürnberg that will take possession of the 3000m² building, out of which 70% will remain unused.

The centre is located in former empty barracks that were built during Nazi times and were used by the US army until the beginning of the 90s. The decision to convert the former barracks that were abandoned for many years into something cultural came from the city of Nürnberg in the end of 1998. The expectations that something new would have emerged were big.

And this came true. Nowhere in the region there was such a diverse range of cultural activities, offered in five different venues. Simultaneously, the cultural centre was the home for many artists who embedded their ateliers and rehearsal rooms into the former barracks. The fact that it has always been so active in the cultural field was also the reason why in 2003 the centre became a member of Trans Europe Halles.

Because the building, like all TEH Members, was created for another purpose than being a cultural centre and that is, a cultural transformation, the commune requested conditions that happened to be unattainable. Yet in 2005 it was already decided that the Z-building would become a long-term cultural project and the city council of Nürnberg took over the administration of the building. However, despite the opinion of the City Council of Nürnberg on the necessary renovations and extensions, which would have helped us make effective use of the existing space, remained undone until today. In turn, the limitations and prohibition on the use of the centre's space were announced progressively. During the past twelve months the activities had to be reduced to such an extent that the organization had to declare insolvency.

The destiny of Z-Bau will now have to be written by others. The City Department for Culture and Leisure has taken over the management of the building in October, 2011. After a reconstruction, according to actual planning, the cultural centre will be converted into a centre for popular music.

We, members of Z-Bau, appreciate the experience of being a Member of Trans Europe Halles, the diversity of the other TEH Members and the positive energy that the network has given us. It made us believe that everything is possible when cultural centres from all over Europe come together and combine forces.

We would like to stay in touch with TEH as an active development association, in order to follow the developments as a Friend. Thank you for your help over all these years!

Stephan Grosse-Grollmann and Willi Reichel

Translated by Plamena Slavcheva