



original Third Reich architecture and art literature and memorabilia

Offered in this category is original Third Reich architecture and Nazi art literature and memorabilia.

Nazi architecture played an important role in the Nazi party's plans to create a cultural and spiritual rebirth in Germany as part of the Third Reich. Adolf Hitler was an admirer of imperial Rome and believed that some ancient Germans had, over time, become part of its social fabric and exerted influence on it. He considered the Romans an early Aryan empire, and emulated their architecture in an original style inspired by both neoclassicism and art deco, sometimes known as "severe" deco, erecting edifices as cult sites for the Nazi Party. He also ordered construction of a type of Altar of Victory, borrowed from the Greeks, who were, according to Nazi ideology, inseminated with the seed of the Aryan peoples. In his political manifest, "Mein Kampf", Adolf Hitler states that industrialized German cities of this day lacked dominating public monuments and a central focus for community life. The ideal Nazi city was not to be too large, since it was to reflect pre-industrial values and its state monuments, the products and symbols of collective effort were to be given maximum prominence by being centrally situated in the new and reshaped cities of the enlarged Reich. Both the Nazis and the Romans employed architecture of colossal dimensions to overawe and intimidate. Both cultures were preoccupied with architectural monuments that celebrated or glorified a victory ideology, such as triumphal arches (the largest in the world would be built on Berlin's North-South Axis), columns, trophies, and a cult of pageantry associated with the subjugation of others. Hitler saw buildings such as the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus in Rome as symbols of the political might and power of the Roman people. Hitler stated, "Architecture is not only the spoken word in stone, but also is the expression of the faith and conviction of a community, or else it signifies the power, greatness and fame of a great man or ruler". In Hitler's cultural address, "The Buildings of the Third Reich," delivered in September 1937, in Nuremberg, he affirmed that the new buildings of the Reich were to reinforce the authority of the Nazi party and the state and at the same time provide "gigantische Zeugen unserer Gemeinschaft" (gigantic evidence of our community). The architectural evidence of this authority could already be seen in Nuremberg, Munich and Berlin. In 1937 Albert Speer was officially put in charge of plans for the reshaping of Berlin and Hitler appointed him "Inspector General of Construction". Speer's plan for the centre of Berlin was based on Roman principles. His plan was to create a central north-south axis, which was to intersect the major east-west axis at right angles. On the north side of the junction a massive forum of about 350,000 square meters was planned, around which were to be situated buildings of the greatest political and physical dimensions: a vast domed Volkshalle on the north side, Hitler's vast new palace and chancellery on the west side and part of the south side, and on the east side the new High Command of the German armed forces and the now-dwarfed pre-Nazi Reichstag. These buildings were to be placed in strong axial relationship around the forum designed to contain one million people.