

PANEL 1: AVIATIONAL LOCATIONS

Ciphers and icons: 100 years of airport construction in Europe

Berlin is rich in airfields. Tempelhof, Tegel and Johannisthal are regarded as historic airports even beyond the borders of Europe. It can easily be said that these icons of civil architecture have written social history. This lecture looks at the history of airport construction beginning with the first wooden aircraft hangars and the experimental development of concrete shell roofs. Long-span steel structures were built for larger aircraft. With the passage of time, urban planning systems also changed: First-generation airfields were replaced by larger sites with a variety of functional buildings, warm-up areas and rainwater drainage systems, runways and fences. This lecture compares the self-sufficient airports of Tegel and Tempelhof with the Berlin-Friedrichsfelde airfield of 1917-19.

Finally, we will take a look at the function of the airports: How do military facilities differ from civilian airports? The military airfields of the Western Allies will serve as examples here: the USA confiscated Tempelhof civil airport, Great Britain occupied Gatow air base and a new airport was built for France in Tegel Nord.



Christina Czymay has been a consultant in monument conservation at the Berlin State Monuments Office since 1990. After studying art history/art science in Poznań, Leipzig and Berlin, she began her career in the State Monument Preservation Office in Berlin. She is responsible for all categories of monuments in a third of Berlin's districts. She also devotes her time to the topics of

uncomfortable, contemporary monuments such as the Berlin Wall, military airfields, makeshift homes, barrack camps as well as buildings for various religious communities, villages and settlements and the architect Franz Ehrlich. Christina has published numerous essays on aviation and the history of the construction of aircraft hangars. She is also an assessor on the board of the Association of Monument Authorities in the Federal States (VDL).