

## **Group 2 : AUDIOGUIDE**

### **Hansaviertel : history and architecture**

Hansaviertel is located on a grassy area.

#### **Early History**

In 1762 it was sold to farmers from Schöneberg and it was also known as Schöneberger Wiesen.

In 1874 a Royal Order confirmed the first official construction plan. The builders didn't strictly follow the rules and started building higher buildings than they had to, creating the old Hansaviertel district. These were the first steps of the creation of a typical Berlin block construction with side, crosswise buildings, and backyards.

#### **Early 20th century and WWII**

In 1900s the area was at its prime, bigger than it had ever been and would ever be, with around 18,000 inhabitants. In 1930 the discrimination laws were enforced and, with the accession of Nazis, the demolition of Jewish professional buildings and synagogues began. About ten percent of the population were Jewish and were forced to move elsewhere. In 1941 deportation began and in the same year the place was declared "Jew-free zone". During World War Two, around November 1943, bombings destroyed around seventy-five percent of the buildings. Of the one 161 houses, only 21 were left habitable, and the area of Hansaviertel was greatly reduced.

#### **Post War**

After the war, around 1953, a new construction plan was introduced. For the 1957 International Building Exhibition, fifty-three architects were called to make building plans for the reconstruction of the district. The plan was implemented between the years of 1955 and 1960 and is still the one visible today.

#### **Architecture and Bauhaus at work**

The area of Hansaviertel is considered a model of modern city planning and of the classical modern or post modernism. The architects behind the area were all representatives of the Bauhaus style. The Bauhaus style practices several rules. Firstly, the Bauhaus style practices a geometrical and right-angled style of building. This allows for a full use of all available space by avoiding curves. Secondly, the style practices an unobtrusive style of building using no kind of ornamentation. Lastly, Bauhaus practises a monochromatic use of colours, using primary colours only as subtle details. These rules all carry the purpose of creating a practical and functional structure. Around the centre of the area, at the main square of Hansaviertel, the residential buildings are grouped in a mix of high and low buildings. Amongst the types of buildings existing in Hansaviertel are slab high-rise- and linear buildings. Linear buildings are elongated rectangular residential buildings at diagonals to the road. Slab high-rise buildings are rows of houses on a rectangular base with a narrow silhouette, over

22 meters high. The combination of this style, the Bauhaus style, and the modernization, paired with the history of the area, is what made the Hansaviertel so attractive up to today.