

Kaisersaal – The Salons on Potsdamer Platz

The Kaisersaal, integrated into the futuristic Sony Centre in the early 1990s, is one of the historic remains of the former Hotel Esplanade. This legendary hotel was at the hub of Berlin's high society in the swinging twenties where film stars and dignitaries alike mingled as they congregated here to "see and be seen" when in town. Unfortunately, the hotel was bombed during World War II and only a few rooms and the main marble staircase remained. During the time of the Berlin wall, the hotel remains stood in the shadow of the no mans' land of rubble between the borders, but since reunification in 1989, the buildings have been recognised as monuments of national importance and awarded a special status. When Sony bought land between Bellevue Street and Potsdamer Platz after the wall fell, architects integrated the remaining buildings into the new centre. This required moving the 1,800 metric tonne Kaisersaal 75 meters!

The fully restored salons now sit quietly tucked away amidst the glass-fronted, modern Sony Centre. A striking contrast of the modern and the historic is now found here. The Kaisersaal's Palmenhof and Silbersaal have been restored to their original condition and have maintained their unassuming elegance. Marble fireplaces, crystal chandeliers and double doors grace the cosy rooms and the Kaisersaal restaurant provides an excellent setting for enjoying some of Berlin's finest regional specialities.