

2. Haus Cumberland

Since its establishment in 2004 the BERLINER LISTE has positioned itself as an innovative "fair of discovery" for young talents and new locations. Special venues for the BERLINER LISTE in previous years have included the former transformer station *Umspannwerk* in Kopenhagener Straße in the Prenzlauer Berg district (formerly the Vitra Design Museum) and the former post office station *Postbahnhof* at the rail triangle.

On its 5th anniversary in 2008 the fair is taking up residence in Haus Cumberland, a listed building on Kurfürstendamm between Bleibtreustraße and Schlüterstraße in Berlin-Charlottenburg. The building was designed and built in 1911/12 by Robert Leibnitz, the architect of Hotel Adlon. It was named "Cumberland" in honour of the 3rd Duke of Cumberland Ernst August.

The building that is 60 metres wide and 180 metres deep was designed as a "boarding house" with numerous suites for rent with domestic staff. However, this business idea failed even before the final opening and the owners went bankrupt. In 1914 the building accommodated the imperial weapons and munitions procurement office for a while. The same year it was converted to a grand hotel with 700 beds.

After the First World War the imperial ministry of economics and the head office for postal services occupied the building, and from 1966 bis 1993 it housed the Berlin regional finance office.

The property group ORCO Germany acquired Haus Cumberland in August 2006. The group plans to invest 150 – 170 million euros in turning the historical building into a "lifestyle centre" with luxury boutiques, fine restaurants and offices. The reopening is planned for the fourth quarter of 2011.

On account of the prestigious architecture of the building, its huge size of 10,200 m², five courtyards stretching between Kurfürstendamm and Lietzenburger Straße and the warm atmosphere radiated by the building both inside and out, in the past Haus Cumberland was used for large events and also as a photo and film set. For example the building served as a backdrop for scenes of the films "Lola rennt", "Der rote Kakadu" and "The Bourne Conspiracy".

ORCO Germany S.A. is a property group with headquarters in Luxembourg. The ORCO Germany Group, which trades uniformly under the registered trademark ORCO Germany, has operated in Germany since 2004 and concentrates on residential and commercial property, asset management and project development. ORCO Germany currently has approximately 210 employees in Germany.

Press contact:

Press office at the fair (30 October - 02 November 2008)

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