Kazerne Dossin

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- 1 Kazerne Dossin – Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on the Shoah and Human Rights, resulting from an initiative of the Flemish Community, opened its doors to the public on 1 December 2012. In November 2013 it welcomed its 100 000th visitor. The site consists of a new building designed by architect bOb Van Reeth and housing permanent and temporary exhibitions, as well as a part of the Dossin Barracks, the former transit camp for Jewish and Gypsy deportees.
- 2 The major difficulty was assuring a link between the historic site and the new building. The architect solved this problem by creating a panorama on the 4th floor of the museum, which limits the visitor's view to only the restored part of the barracks, without overlooking the courtyard transformed into a garden.
- 3 The designers of the permanent exhibition chose to focus on the history of the Holocaust in Belgium and Northern France. Each floor is dedicated to a theme (Mass, Fear and Death), with the main section being dedicated to persecution and racial deportation, whilst the secondary section discusses current issues related to Human Rights and their violations. The proposed reading grid is structured around mechanisms of discrimination and persecution which, taken to the extreme, lead to mass murder and genocide. Careful attention is paid to the diversity of individual behaviours of spectators, executioners, and victims.

Wall of Faces, Kazerne Dossin

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- 4 A very important place is given to victims on the Wall of Faces, where portraits of over 19 000 of the 25 000 deportees are displayed. This wall is undoubtedly the highlight of the museum.
- 5 Established in a small part of the historic Dossin barracks, the memorial is dedicated to contemplation and mourning and consists of four rooms in succession. The first is called "Trails" and presents several rare and authentic objects that belonged to the deportees. The second room houses "15 August 1942, Lange Kievitstraat, Antwerp", a sculpture by Philippe Aguirre y Otegui which symbolizes disappearance and absence. In the third room called "Names", 28 loudspeakers (one for each journey from Mechelen to Auschwitz-Birkenau) recite the names and ages of the deportees. In the last room "Faces", 28 screens show images and silhouettes of the deportees on each journey.
- 6 A carriage of the same type as those used in racial deportation since April 1943 was installed next to the Dossin barracks, on Tinellaan, where the railway tracks once passed.

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