

L'EDIFICI OCUPA "TACHELES" A BERLÍN

Per Sara Cañaveras (1r batxillerat)

A la ciutat de Berlín, a Alemanya, hi han unes cases ocupes que des d'els últims temps s'han convertit en una alta atracció turística, on la legió d'ocupes de Berlín utilitza l'edifici per muntar la seva pròpia "paradeta empresarial", on i venen des de complements com per exemple arracades, polseres, anells, a roba feta a mà, CD's de música piratejats, quadres pintats per ells mateixos, escultures de ferro... Per aquests edificis ocupes i passen una mitjana de quatre mil persones al dia.

L'edifici es va obrir l'any 1909, perquè fossin les galeries comercials més importants de la ciutat, va passar a ser la seu de la companyia ADG, de dos bancs, de l'organització laboral dels nazis i fins i tot el quartel de la SS. Fins que al Febrer del 1990 l'edifici va ser ocupat per iniciativa *artística de Tacheles*, i des de llavors és un centre polivalent d'art.

Últimament, concretament des de l'11 de Setembre, a la casa anomenada "Tacheles", (ocupada des de l'any 1990), situada pràcticament al centre de la ciutat, els seus venedors es van dividir entre els de "baix", on hi havia la cafeteria el cine i la galeria, i el de "dalt" que eren un col·lectiu d'artistes. Aquestes cases son conegudes arreu del món: un diari de Shangai defineix aquesta casa com "un sistema cultural alternatiu", i una guia Francesa la defineix com "el símbol de la bohèmia artística Berlinesa". Aquests dos grups, des de l'any 2001 que estaven discutits.

Un bon dia, a les sis del matí, un grup de gent va anar a picar pedra on hi havia la cafeteria, als baixos d'aquest edifici, sense que ningú sàpigues res. Després es va saber que *Ludwig Eben*, el propietari d'aquest negoci, s'havia venut tot aquest espai per un milió d'euros. No van tenir problemes en posar-se d'acords en quina part de l'edifici venien perquè ja estaven molt discutits des de l'any 2001.

El bielorús *Aleksander Rodin*, membre de la part de "dalt", explica que té un espai d'uns 300 metres quadrats on allà hi pinta els seus quadres i els ven a la gen que passa per allà. Només i paga la llum, la calefacció i el manteniment del seu espai. Ell opina que només es dedica a crear, i que lo de la venda de la par de baix ni ho entén ni li interessa, que ell continuarà pintant al seu espai.

... and there we were!

... dort sind wir gewesen!

29 pupils from our school went there last December and had the unique opportunity of visiting the place.... Maybe for the last time as it has been sold and it's going to be rebuild or perhaps demolished. It was snowing at the time we arrived there what made the visit even more special for us. In the school trip organised by the department of foreign languages took part those pupils of 4th

of *ESO* and 1st of *batxillerat* who learn German as the second foreign language. We visited historical places as the **German Wall** and the **Brandenburguer Tor** but some of us will remember the conversation we had with one the artist living there at that time. She was s Spanish girl and told us about the things they did in **Tacheles**.

Have a look at some of the pictures we took in the place:





And this is one of the pictures taken while we were waiting for our visit to the top of the **Fernsehturm** (torre de comunicacions) from which there is a breathtaking view of Berlin. <http://www.tv-turm.de/de/panorama.php>

If you want to know something else about **Tacheles** please read the following information taken from the official page or click the following link and you'll be connected to it: <http://super.tacheles.de/cms/>



The History of TACHELES

“Tacheles” is an old Jewish word meaning to relate, to reveal or to speak clearly. The slang meaning of the word was bringing to an end.

The Art-Centre Tacheles is situated in a ruin in Berlin Mitte. Located in former East Berlin, the area was a Jewish quarter in the past and has now become a meeting point for people interested in arts and culture and for those who think they are.

The building itself was the entrance of the Friedrichstadt-Passage, a huge shopping mall built in 1907.

Within a relatively short time, the department store went bankrupt, and in 1928 the house was taken over by AEG, that founded the Haus der Technik, a display and marketing space for their products.

In World War II parts of the building were used by the Nazi Party for administration and organization departments, and in the 5th floor French prisoners of war were detained.

Between 1943 and 1945 during the allied air raids the building was hit by bombs several times and got partly damaged, but not completely destroyed.

After 1948, one side of the building was still used for many different purposes, but the other side was slowly torn down, step-by-step, as the East Berlin government had no funds to restore it properly and for the distant future they had other plans for this area. So meanwhile, the house became just a storage for building material. The very last structure still standing was planned to be demolished in April 1990.

In February 1990 the building was discovered and taken over by a group of young artists from all over the world and in the meantime it has been declared a historical architectural monument, regarding its special steel construction.

After the Berlin Wall came down in November 1989, a subculture which had its main focus on autonomy, spontaneity and improvisation arose in the former East Berlin areas Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg and Friedrichshain. Artists and individualists from all over the world used the plurality of available free spaces to put alternative lifestyles to the test.

Due to the individualistic character of the building and the mass of creative activities taking place, the Tacheles soon became famous. Right from the start, Tacheles was a centre of development and realization of individual ways of thinking, of the creative contamination of art and living as well as the testing of artistically and urban ideas. Many international artists staged performances or concerts here, exhibited paintings, sculptures and installations. This essential thought still exists today and the program was even extended further by staging and organizing performances, theatre, various workshops, poetry and special events.

During its existence, Tacheles in its function as an international arts centre has greatly influenced and formed the surrounding area in a positive as well as in a

negative sense. By now the once creative surrounding area has mutated to a napless trend quarter.

Tacheles also attained recognition from the Berlin government and receives a varying amount of subsidy every year in order to help finance a part of its many projects. Other money is raised through commercial enterprises such as the cinema and the bar.

Because of its special architecture and the “ruin appearance” of the rear side and due to its 13 years of activities in the international arts field, “Kunsthaus Tacheles” became quite a celebrity on a national and international scale and is also listed in many travel guides of Berlin.

In the course of changes since the wall came down, Tacheles has been confronted with the difficult challenge of remaining true to its roots and ideals without becoming too sentimental about the old squatter times.



