

Lecture: Preserving and interpreting the Berlin Wall in a world of new walls

Professor Axel Klausmeier will speak about his experiences of conserving this most interesting of modern city features.



6:00 p.m. for 6:15, Wednesday 13 February 2019

The Engine Shed, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ

(by kind invitation of Historic Environment Scotland)

£6.00; book via the website:

www.wspab.org.uk/whats-on/lectures/lecture-preserving-and-interpreting-berlin-wall-world-new-walls

Axel Klausmeier studied Art History, Modern and Medieval History in Bochum, Munich and Berlin. From 1999 onwards he worked for the Foundation for Prussian Palaces and Gardens Berlin-Brandenburg (an organization akin to our Historic Royal Palaces agency) and then at the Department of Heritage Preservation at the Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus. At the request of the Berlin Senate, he researched the remains of the Berlin Wall in collaboration with his research director, Professor Leo Schmidt; they published their results in 2004 as a book.

In 2006 Axel moved to the Institute for the Preservation of Historic Monuments in Zurich. He was called back to Berlin to participate in a major research project entitled *The Berlin Wall as a symbol of the Cold War: from the key instrument of GDR domestic politics to being a monument of international standing*.

In 2009 he was appointed Director of the Berlin Wall Foundation, a role he has held with distinction ever since.



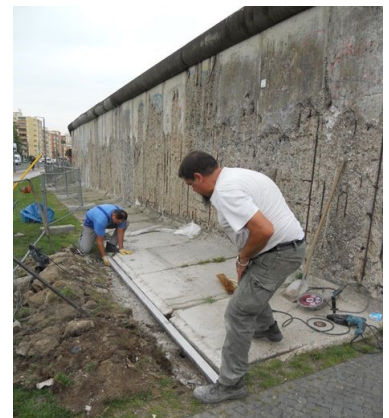
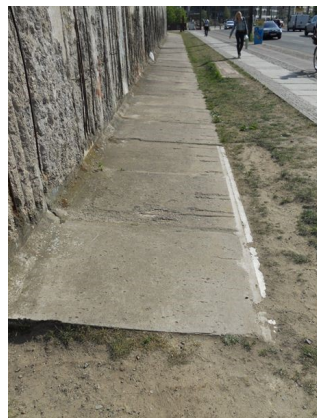
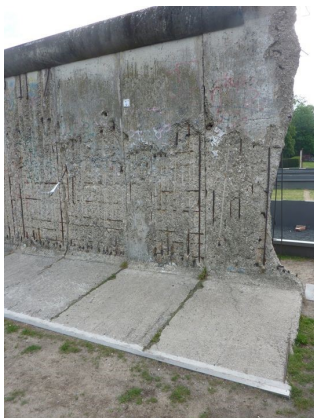
The Berlin Wall was the icon of the Cold War. It symbolized the divided world until its political fall in November 1989. Today, not much is left of its once 155 kilometre long structure, although it is famous all over the world.

The Berlin Wall Foundation is responsible for looking after its most prominent remains in a city with more than 30 million tourists a year, with permanent, often disputable, building conservation activities.

How are these precious physical remains being treated? Which stories are being told, in a world with an ever-greater number of new walls? What does the Berlin Wall stand for today?

Professor Klausmeier writes:

‘Since this lecture is for SPAB Scotland, with a receptive audience in Stirling, I have prepared a lecture that will concentrate on the conservation issues presented by the remains of the Berlin Wall and our treatment of it in Bernauer Strasse and at the East Side Gallery. ... This talk embodies something new that I have only recently developed.’



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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