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Follow-up uses assured for many exhibition facilities

**Even after EXPO 2000 the Plaza will be buzzing: A new meeting place for students, business people, and night owls**

Building experts and landscape architects had the future in mind during the planning of the EXPO 2000. When the first World Exposition in Germany finally closes its gates in two weeks time, the follow-up period has already been thought of. The halls, roads and the green areas created for the EXPO 2000 will all be retained, as will the new public transport access created for the area. Some pavilions already have new owners, other nations are in the process of negotiating with potential buyers.

For the first time in the 150-year history of World Expositions, the EXPO 2000 in Hanover made use an existing exhibition complex, and it was able to benefit from its infrastructure, exhibition halls, and service facilities. Only about a third of the site was newly developed. The World Exposition covers an overall area of 160hectares. The site consists of the 100 hectare complex of the Hanover trade fair organisation Deutsche Messe AG, and the newly developed 60 hectare site which is owned by the EXPO real estate company.

EXPO Plaza: Almost all buildings to be retained in situ

The EXPO Plaza, which represents a connecting element between the eastern section of the EXPO site and the original trade fair complex, has established itself as the heart of the World Exposition. With an area of 110 000 square metres, it is larger than St. Peter's Square in Rome. Green areas, paths and streets have all been made to last. The buildings will almost all remain in place, with the exception of the Pavilion of Christ and the EXPO theatre, both of which will be re-erected in other locations.

All the lots around the EXPO Plaza have already been sold. After the end of the World Exposition, the Plaza will feature four main types of activity: Major events, higher education, offices, and gastronomy and entertainment. The largest investor on the EXPO Plaza is NILEG, which will be marketing its properties, the European House and the NILEG PLAZA FORUM. NILEG has also contributed to the strategy for the future of the EXPO Plaza.

Even after the end of the EXPO 2000, the Preussag Arena (seating capacity 13 500) will continue to attract people in large numbers to the EXPO Plaza. Between 100 and 120 events are to be held here every year, with a mix of two-thirds cultural events and shows and one-third sports meetings. Some highlights have already been finalised: On 16 November, AC/DC will be giving a concert, followed on 19 November by Elton John, and from 1 to 3 December by the German group Pur. In April/Mai 2001 plans for the Preussag Arena include the opening game and the final of the Ice Hockey World Cup. This is the only venue of its kind in all northern Germany, and the largest multi-functional hall in Europe.

The Nileg Plaza Forum, which has an area of some 14 400 square metres, will also be fully leased after the EXPO 2000. The large discotheque "FUN 2000" with capacity for up to 2000 visitors will continue to provide entertainment for the young people of the region. Some 6500 square metres of office floor space are to be used by training institutions and IT companies. Retail outlets and restaurants will be allocated 2000 square metres of ground floor area.

The future of the German Pavilion has not yet been finalised. Various options are currently being considered for the follow-up use. "I feel obliged to find a use for the pavilion that is appropriate", says the investor Josef Wund, owner of the German Pavilion. This has already proved possible to some extent. In one part of the building, Stanford University California, the University of Uppsala and the Universities of Hanover and Braunschweig will be cooperating to establish a centre offering courses in New Communications, with research and teaching into the developing world of communications. American computer companies will also be moving into offices in the building. And finally, Wund is also planning to open an exhibition on "The Public Understanding of Science".

The European House, with some 19 000 square metres of floor space, has already been fully leased for the period after the World Exposition. The NILEG planners are dividing the building into two complexes. In one part the European House (and in the Global House and the middle stop of the cable car system) the Federal State of Lower Saxony will relocating parts of its College of Music and Theatre and the University of Applied Science. The second half of the building has received a license as "World Trade Centre Hanover". As in other trade centres around the world, companies will be able to make use of the available facilities and rent office space on a long-term or short-term basis. An area of approximately 2000 square metres is available, with car parking for 300 vehicles.

The Global House, in which the EXPO 2000 is currently presenting its projects from around the world, will be renamed the "Kurt Schwitters Forum". Students of drama, fine arts, and journalism will be studying together under one roof. The basement will be converted into an auditorium.

After the end of the World Exposition, the cable car will be taken down. The manufacturer Leitner AG has not yet decided where it will be running in future. Negotiations are currently going on with various interested parties, including Tyrolean companies. The middle station building will be taken over by NILEG and converted for use by the College of Art and Design.

Another new feature to remain is the Planet m of the Bertelsmann media group. However, the future use of the pavilion, which glows blue in the dark, has yet to be decided on. Options being considered include offices, an events venue with bistro, or gastronomy.

There have been a number of world premieres at the EXPO Theatre. It is expected that it will now be reconstructed in Switzerland at the country's "Expo.02" exhibition. The gap left in the EXPO Plaza will be filled with Nileg Media Forum - a glass office building providing about 5 000 square metres of floor space, and also a multi-storey car park for 350 vehicles. Various enquiries have already been received from potential tenants operating in the fields of IT, media and communications. The new building is scheduled for completion by the beginning of 2002:

The Pavilion of Christ will be moved to Thuringia after the conclusion of the EXPO 2000, where the steel and glass building will be rebuilt at the Cistercian Abbey in the town of Volkenroda. The gap created on the EXPO site will be filled by a building that is to be used by the Multimedia Vocational School Hanover.

The Radisson SAS Hotel will remain in position as a hotel serving the exhibition city of Hanover, providing 250 rooms.

#### Pavilion Site East: An attractive business park is developing

On the Pavilion Site East there are currently 30 national pavilions, mainly from European countries. The majority of these pavilions will continue to be used after the World Exposition. Together with the real estate arm of the exhibition organisation, *EXPO Grund GmbH*, the NILEG company is marketing the properties. After the EXPO 2000, the 28 hectare exhibition area along the Europa Boulevard is to become an attractive business park for growth branches such as media, advertising, or sport and leisure. Some 25 per cent of the Pavilion Site East has already been sold. Negotiations are at an advanced stage for more than 40 per cent.

It is already clear that seven national pavilions on the Eastern Site will be staying put, namely those of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, the People's Republic of China, and Sweden. The French Pavilion will in future house a retail outlet for the sportswear manufacturer Decathlon, due to open in early 2001. The China Pavilion will become a Chinese Health and Contact Centre including a language school, a treatment centre, and a restaurant. In addition the Chinese Centre Hanover will also offer management support for Chinese and German experts from companies, institutions and public bodies, including language training and guidance for delegations in Germany, together with links to a representative in Beijing. The three other buildings will be used to house agencies and service providers.

Arrangements have already been made for the follow-up use of various national pavilions in other locations: Italy (as a cultural institution in Bari), Jordan, Croatia, Norway, and Portugal. As planned from the design stage, the Swiss Pavilion will be dismantled and the materials reused.

It is still not yet clear how the national buildings of Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates will be used in the future.

Talks are being held about primarily commercial uses for the pavilions of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, PostBox, Rumania, Spain, Turkey, Yemen and The Pavilion of Hope (Whale).

The gardens of Kamel Louafi, Garden in Transition and EXPO-Park South are permanent. Lighting fixtures will also be in use subsequently. Outdoor furnishings such as chairs, waste baskets and benches were rented and will be reused in other locations. This applies for the entire EXPO-site.

Pavilion Site West: Temporary buildings will make way for car-parks for visitors to trade fairs

On the 18 hectare Pavilion Site West, a number of temporary presentation buildings have been erected specially for the EXPO 2000, some of which will be reassembled in other locations after the World Exposition. Architectural spectacles reach as far as the eye can see, from a Bhutanese temple to an ultra-modern Mexican Pavilion. Soon - as was planned from the beginning - no trace of them will remain. After the EXPO 2000 this part of the site will be cleared for use by the Deutsche Messe AG as an open space and a car park.

The newly erected exhibition halls (Hall 8/9, Hall 13, Hall 26, Hall 25) and the multi-storey car park and facility management centre in the north block are permanent. Other fixtures designed to remain in place include the Avenue of United Trees, and the EXPO roof. The EXPO Lake is only a temporary feature, as are the rented stands, which will be dismantled and erected again in a new location.

It has been agreed that the main section of the Mexican Pavilion will be moved to Braunschweig to be used there as a library building of the College of Fine Arts. The Pavilion of the Holy See is intended to be used as a community centre in the Latvian town of Liepaja. Follow-up uses have also been arranged for the pavilions of India and Sri Lanka in other locations (as tennis and sports halls).

The pavilion of Island will be reconstructed at the headquarters of Danfoss in Nordborg, where it will be part of the future technological adventure park.

Considerable interest has been expressed in the pavilion of Nepal. Negotiations are currently going on with a number of potential buyers.

In all probability the Japanese paper pavilion will be completely recycled. Talks are currently on-going about the future of the bamboo Zeri Pavilion.

Two German towns have expressed their interest in using the Columbian building as a future cultural centre. The largest Native American teepee in the world, the Big Tipi of the Children's and Young People's Platform EXPO 2000, will be moved to Dortmund after the World Exposition and used there for youth work. The Cycle-Bowl of the Duales System Deutschland will be dismantled and stored, and will be reassembled by the latest in 2002 in North Rhine-Westphalia. The pavilion of the World Wide Fund for Nature WWF and the 14-metre-high *Erdgeist* by André Heller will still be attracting visitors, but in future tourists in Saarland, in Southern Germany.

Countries still in negotiations about the future of their pavilion include Australia, Bhutan, Nepal and Venezuela. There is also uncertainty about the follow-up uses of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Thematic Areas and EXPO-inventory up for auction (with online bidding)

The auctioneers *Troostwijk Auktionen GmbH & Co. KG* are carrying out a number of auctions on behalf of EXPO 2000. The Thematic Areas are generating particular interest. A number of offers were already handed in on Wednesday, 25 October for the exhibitions in their entirety. The particular favourites would seem to be the exhibitions "Knowledge, Information, Communication" and "Planet of Visions". In addition to putting in offers for entire exhibitions, it is also possible to put in bids for individual exhibition items. Among

others, the bidders include art and scientific institutes as well as business companies. The second auction will be held on 7 and 8 December. The third and final auction is then scheduled to be held on 20 January.

The auction catalogue and the general conditions governing the auction procedures can be accessed on the Web site:

[www.troostwijk-expo2000.de](http://www.troostwijk-expo2000.de)

In all the auctions it will be possible to place bids via Internet.

Some leased objects will also be included in the auctions.

Not all the objects used at the EXPO 2000 can be put up for auction. More than a third of the Thematic Areas were leased, mainly the steel constructions and media technology, so that these cannot be sold. It was part of the planning right from the start of the EXPO 2000 to work with leased equipment and fittings.

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