

Ruhr Museum



GARDEN CITY MARGARETHENHÖHE





Garden view of the small studio house, 2012 © Ruhr Museum,
Photo: Frank Vinken



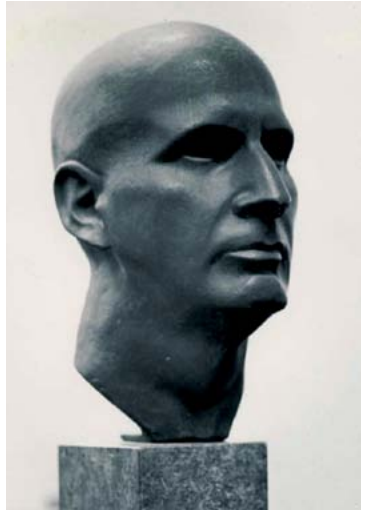
View of the permanent exhibition © Ruhr Museum,
Photo: Andrea Kiesendahl

T H E S M A L L S T U D I O H O U S E

The construction of the small studio house was initiated in 1919 by Margarethe Krupp for the graphic artist Hermann Kätelhön, who worked and lived there with his family until 1931. The house at the Sommerburgstraße quickly developed into the nucleus of the artists' settlement Margarethenhöhe in the middle of the new housing estate. After the Kätelhöns moved out others as for example Johannes Leßmann, the manager of the "Keramische Werkstatt Margarethenhöhe", lived in the small studio house and from 1948 Prof. Hermann Schardt, the director of the Folkwang School for Design. 2012 the studio was extensively renovated by the Margarethe Krupp Foundation and the **permanent exhibition "The Garden City Margarethenhöhe"** opened. The exhibition of the Ruhr Museum in the former studio and workshop rooms gives an overview of "The Margarethe Krupp Foundation", "The Garden City Margarethenhöhe" and "Life in the Garden City". 2020 it was extended by the theme "The Artists' Settlement".



Margarethe Krupp, 1919, etching by Hermann Kästelhön © Ruhr Museum



Bust of Georg Metzendorf, 1925, bronze portrait by Joseph Enseling © Dr Rainer Metzendorf

THE MARGARETHE KRUPP FOUNDATION

After the death of Friedrich Alfred Krupp in 1902, his wife, Margarethe, acted as the trustee for his eldest daughter and heiress Bertha. She continued Krupp's social programmes and in 1906, in honour of Bertha's marriage to Gustav von Bohlen und Halbach, established the "Margarethe Krupp Foundation for Housing Provision" with the idea of providing affordable housing. The foundation was started with a donation of one million marks and 50 hectares of building land. In contrast to Krupp's housing project for the company's workers, these new houses were available to all the citizens of Essen. Today, the foundation is still overseen by a supervisory board and chaired by the Lord Mayor of Essen. It also consists of five representatives from both the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation and the City of Essen. The city planner and architect Georg Metzendorf was commissioned to design the residential area, which was inspired by the garden city movement and the ideas of the German Werkbund association.



Model "Die Gartenstadt Margarethenhöhe" (garden city Margarethenhöhe), around 1935/40 © Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg



Door handle with ellipsoid knob, design Georg Metzendorf, 1921, lender: Dr Rainer Metzendorf, Mainz © Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

Group of houses Steile Strasse,
2nd building phase 1910/11
© Dr Rainer Metzendorf

THE GARDEN CITY MARGARETHENHÖHE

Georg Metzendorf's trend-setting concept of a "small house with its own garden", was the main reason why he was awarded the commission for the project in Essen. It was based on a floor plan that, depending on the space available, could be modified. In contrast to the initial, elaborately designed construction phases, which focussed on detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, subsequent work also saw the realisation of multi-story residential buildings of a formal design. The outstanding urban development quality of the housing complex is still evident to this day thanks to the imposing gatehouse, the picturesque market square with the former Krupp'sche Konsumanstalt store, and the Margarethenhöhe guest-house. The estate's quality of life is further enhanced until today by the two forest parks – Sommerburgtal and Nachtigallental – which were donated by Margarethe Krupp in 1907 as local recreation areas for the residents of Margarethenhöhe.



Small market with Hans Sachs games, 1913
© Ruhr Museum



Kaiser Wilhelm II. visiting the Margarethenhöhe,
8 August 1912 © Krupp Historical Archive, Essen,
Photo: Erich Benninghoven



Access bridge with tram and shelters, ca. 1912
© Ruhr Museum

L I F E I N T H E G A R D E N C I T Y

At the time they were built, the living standard of the Margarethenhöhe houses was very high. All the homes were fitted with the latest heating and sanitary systems. Almost each house had its own garden for rest and recreational purposes. The housing complex had an autonomous infrastructure that boasted a store, a guesthouse, a Protestant parish hall, a Catholic church, a primary school and even its very own police station. In 1912, Margarethenhöhe was connected to the tram network and, thus, to the City of Essen. Street parties, religious events, theatre performances and a thriving cultural scene featuring well-known artists helped to create a dense social network. But also spectacular events, such as a visit by Kaiser Wilhelm II. to mark the 100th anniversary of Krupp in 1912, allowed residents of Margarethenhöhe to develop a special relationship with the estate that still prevails today.



Stained-glass window from the
Gruga park, around 1950, Philipp Schardt
© Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg



"Großes Atelierhaus" (big studio house), built in
1929 © Haus der Essener Geschichte/Stadtarchiv
[House of History in Essen/city archive]

Vase with the emblem of the city of Essen,
around 1950/70, ceramic workshop Margarethenhöhe
© Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

THE ARTISTS' SETTLEMENT

Based on the Folkwang idea of Karl Ernst Osthaus, a community of artists and craftsmen on the Margarethenhöhe was created, which in the Weimar Republic had to cope with everyday life both in the garden city as well as in the industrial area. Under the leadership of Margarethe Krupp a model for the promotion of art in Essen developed, that is still unique today. Artists lived in modern apartments and worked at the same time in studios and workshops on the Margarethenhöhe. In 1924 a building was converted into a ceramics workshop. In 1927 the Werkhaus and in 1929 the big studio house were built. Next door to Hermann Kätelhön lived the goldsmith Elisabeth Treskow, the bookbinder Frida Schoy, the photographer Albert Renger-Patzsch, the sculptor Will Lammert, the enamel artist Kurt Lewy, the painters Gustav Dahler and Philipp and Hermann Schardt. After the Second World War the artists' settlement was history.



Model flat, 2010 © Ruhr Museum,
Photo: Rainer Rothenberg



Interior view of the model flat at Margarethenhöhe, stove
© Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

T H E M O D E L F L A T

A model flat furnished by the Ruhr Museum and the Margarethe Krupp Foundation can be visited as part of a guided tour of Margarethenhöhe. This small flat is situated in a two-family house built in 1911 during the second building phase. The model flat is a museum installation and represents the high level of home furnishing standards which were heavily influenced by Georg Metzendorf's original concept. The flats at Margarethenhöhe were based on a variable floor plan layout that could be adapted accordingly to meet demands. Each flat had a "combined heating and cooking system", a "scullery" with a bath tub, washbasin and bath boiler, as well as a separate WC. The model flat displays carefully coordinated furnishings and household objects through some original pieces of Metzendorf furniture and true-to-original replicas.



Halbachhammer (historic hammer mill for iron and steel production) at the Nachtigallental © Ruhr Museum, Photo: Andrea Kiesendahl



Forging demonstration at the Halbbachhammer © Ruhr Museum, Photo: Andrea Kiesendahl

T H E H A L B A C H H A M M E R

In 1914, it was decided to create a public attraction in the Nachtigallental forest park. It was planned to reconstruct the last water-powered “hammer mill” in the Siegerland region as a technical-cultural monument at the existing pond system. This idea was the brainchild of Siegerland industrialists. It was then expanded upon by the Deutsches Museum in Munich and finally realised by Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, who was one of the museum’s benefactors, in Essen in 1935/36. During its formal reopening to mark the 125th anniversary of Krupp, the Halbbachhammer, which now bore the name of its donor, was presented to the City of Essen as a technical-cultural monument. Today, the Halbbachhammer is considered a unique monument of its kind throughout Europe. During the summer months, visitors can, on specified dates, step back in time and discover pre-industrial smelting and forging processes using water and coal power.



Guided tour of the Margarethenhöhe
© Ruhr Museum, Photo: Lena Berndes



The sower, 1934, sculpture by Joseph Enseling
© Ruhr Museum, Photo: Rainer Rothenberg

GROUP TOURS (IN ENGLISH)

Margarethenhöhe – Garden City and Work of Art

(complex, model flat and
small studio house)

2 hrs, €130, max. 20 persons

Living in the Countryside – The Margarethenhöhe

(complex and model flat)

1,5 hrs, €110, max. 20 persons

PUBLIC TOURS (IN GERMAN)

Margarethenhöhe – Garden City and Work of Art

(complex, model flat and
small studio house), 2 hrs, €10,
max. 20 persons, every Sunday
(April to October), every 1st Sunday
of the month (November to March),
11am

Meeting point: Am Brückenkopf/
corner Steile Straße

Forging demonstration at the Halbachhammer

4 hrs, free of charge,
every 1st Sunday of the month,
(May to October), 2pm to 6pm



Brückenkopf of the Margarethenhöhe © Ruhr Museum, Photo: Frank Vinken



ADDRESSES AND HOW TO FIND US

Garden City Margarethenhöhe

Am Brückenkopf, 45149 Essen
From Essen main station U 17 to Halbe Höhe, from here it is a roughly 5-minute walk

Kleines Atelierhaus Margarethenhöhe (small studio house)

Sommerburgstrasse 18, 45149 Essen
From Essen main station U 17 to Laubenweg, from here, it is a roughly 1-minute walk

Forging demonstration at the Halbachhammer (hammer mill)

Altenau 12, 45149 Essen
From Essen main station U 17 to Margarethenhöhe, from here, it is a roughly 10-minute walk



OPENING HOURS

The exhibition at the Kleines Atelierhaus (small studio house) can be visited like the Musterwohnung (model flat) and the Halbachhammer (hammer mill) only as part of public and booked events and group tours.

REGISTRATION AND BOOKING

Ruhr Museum Visitor Service

Phone +49 (0)201 24681 444
besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de
Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm

Further offers of the Ruhr Museum and its other external branches at www.ruhrmuseum.de

