

# Press Release

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT



Train Station of Qingdao/China (photo Michael Falser 2023).  
Built in 1901, torn down in 1992, reconstructed in 1999 and  
embedded into a historicising mega-structure in 2006

### ***Monuments and Sites* De-colonial! Methods and Strategies of Dealing with the Architectural Heritage of the German Colonial Era**

International Conference as cooperation between ICOMOS Germany and TU Munich

3–4 November 2023

Vorhoelzer-Forum, Technical University Munich

(Arcisstr. 21, 80333 Munich)

Access is barrier-free. For online and on-site participation registration is required.

Conference language: English

With the international hybrid conference "*Monuments and Sites* de-colonial! Methods and Strategies of Dealing with the Architectural Heritage of the German Colonial Era" in Munich, ICOMOS Germany, together with the Technical University of Munich, attempts to open up this topic to a broad audience. The aim is to promote constructive dialogue and professional exchange in the sense of a shared heritage across today's national borders. The visibility and knowledge of the architectural heritage from the German colonial era is thus to be increased and the dialogue with today's custodians and those affected on site is to be promoted.

The omnipresent discourse on provenance and the handling of relics / works of art from societies of origin other than the German one in our museums as well as in public space –

e.g. street names, names of institutions and monuments in Germany – that has been going on for some years give reason to now increasingly deal with the architectural legacies of the German colonial era. Since 2020, a research project at the Technical University of Munich on the history and heritage of German-colonial architecture has been funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), on which this conference now builds.

"*Monuments and Sites de-colonial!*" is dedicated to the architectural relics of the German colonial period and enquires into the post-colonial strategies of appropriation and critical communication with and to these buildings. The focus is on the period of the German colonial era from around 1880–1920, covering the territory of the German Empire itself at the time as well as the former German colonies in Africa, East Asia and the South Pacific. A total of 34 papers will be presented by researchers from Germany as well as from Africa, East Asia and the Pacific in six sections (Session I: International Campaigns and Cooperations - Institutional Research / Session II: Mapping, Inventory, Evaluation / Session III: Historic Preservation, Conservation, Appropriation / Session IV: Use, Tourism, Commodification / Session V: Colonial Monuments and Sites of Memory / Session VI: Decolonial Comments and Art Installations).

The conference, funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, will take place as a cooperation between ICOMOS Germany ([Homepage](#)) and the TU Munich ([Project-Homepage](#)). Organising committee: Tino Mager, Gabriele Horn, John Ziesemer (ICOMOS Germany) and Michael Falser (TU Munich).

Selected conference papers will be published in the series *ICOMOS – Journals of the German National Committee* after the conference.

The conference programme and the abstracts of the papers are available [here](#).

**Registration for the conference:** <https://forms.gle/QbCkJF6RXXgeGPG9>

**You will receive the zoom link for the conference after registration.**

Participation is free of charge for all interested parties.

The number of seats is limited.

**Press contact / Queries:**

Dr. John Ziesemer  
ICOMOS Deutschland e.V.  
Brüderstraße 13  
10178 Berlin  
Deutschland  
[icomos@icomos.de](mailto:icomos@icomos.de)  
[www.icomos.de](http://www.icomos.de)

Dr. Michael Falser  
TU München  
[michael.falser@tum.de](mailto:michael.falser@tum.de)

gefördert von:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien