



Human Dignity in No Man's Land

a **Hundrich Project**
2026

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Dedicated to the site of the former synagogue in Güstrow.

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How an overlooked place can become a place of dignity

During a walk through Güstrow, I came across the site of the city's former synagogue.

Until its destruction during the Kristallnacht pogrom on 9 November 1938, this was the religious centre of the Jewish community. Today, a single information panel commemorates the site. The former synagogue grounds are now used as a parking area.

Today, this place has become no man's land.

My immediate encounter with this situation became the starting point for this conceptual proposal.

Although inspired by a specific place in Güstrow, this site also represents many former locations of Jewish life throughout Germany, where today often nothing more than a memorial plaque or commemorative stone recalls what once existed there.

The simple statement "Once there stood..." preserves historical information. It does not, however, restore the spatial context in which people prayed, celebrated and lived over generations.

Remembrance is essential.

My proposal understands remembrance not merely as a reference to the past, but as the physical transformation of a place that can be entered and experienced - a place where the dignity of the people once connected to it becomes visible once again.

The historical footprint of the synagogue becomes readable within today's urban landscape. An overlooked place is transformed into a place of remembrance, of the present, and of human dignity.

Location / Urban Context

The historical location of the synagogue becomes visible once again within today's cityscape.

Its original footprint, integrated into the public space, marks the former position and dimensions of the building.
What has disappeared from the urban landscape becomes visible again.



Making the Invisible Visible

The synagogue reappears within today's streetscape.

The abstract outline becomes a place that can be physically experienced.

What was destroyed and erased from the city
returns to public consciousness.



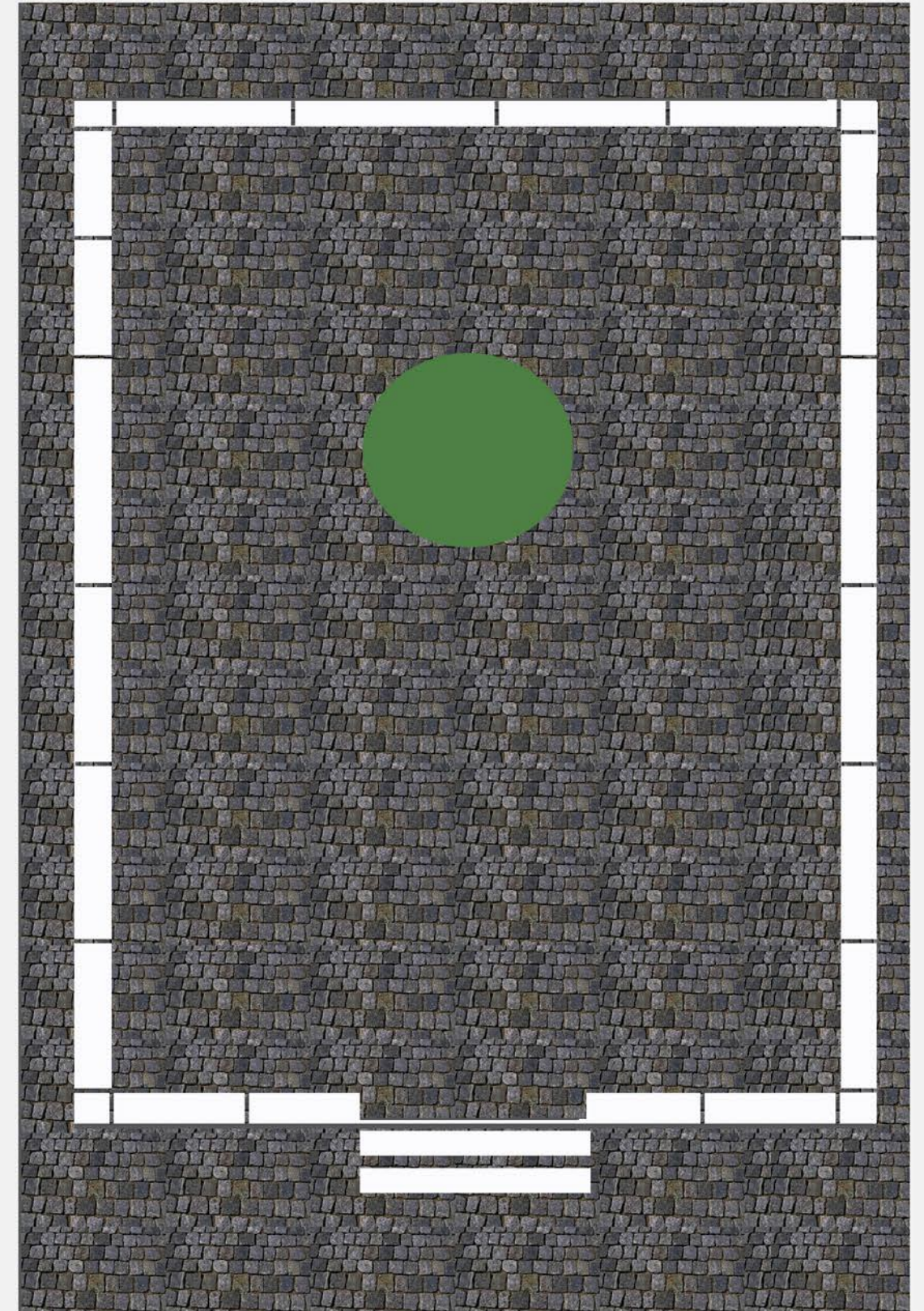
Ground Plan / Technical Description

The site is redesigned using natural stone paving in dark anthracite granite.

The historical footprint of the synagogue is permanently inlaid into the pavement using white marble slabs.

At the centre of the former synagogue an apple tree grows.

The project can be realised using simple, durable materials.
The installation of the paving and marble elements can be carried out with the technical resources of a municipal public works department.



And at its centre -
an apple tree grows.





**Never Again is Now.
Tomorrow is Today.**

Herbert W.H. Hundrich

Born in 1951 in Wittmund, East Frisia, Germany.
Since 1981 Herbert W. H. Hundrich has worked as an independent visual artist. His practice encompasses sculpture, drawing, installation, performance and site-specific projects. His work has been presented nationally and internationally in museums, art centres and galleries. It explores themes of memory, history, social structures and the relationship between material, space and meaning.
Hundrich has received numerous grants, scholarships and public commissions. He lives and works in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany. His artistic career has included extended periods of living and working in France and Spain, as well as long-term projects in the United States, India, Nepal, Ladakh and the Seychelles.

Selected Projects

1987–1990
Zyklus TEMPS / Hanomag Industrial Site, Hanover / Brittany (Pointe du Raz)

A long-term project that originated within the industrial ruins of the former Hanomag factory in Hanover and continued in the landscape of Brittany. The project combined Land Art, dance performance and film in collaboration with choreographer Catherine Pouzet and composer Kent Carter.

1993
The Ocean / Marktkirche (Market Church), Hanover
Large-scale installation within the church space in collaboration with choreographer Catherine Pouzet and musician Kent Carter.

2012
Tsunami Económico / Inca, Mallorca, Spain
Public space project developed in response to Spain's economic crisis, realised in collaboration with Can Mon Roig. Music: Jan Gerdes and Silvina Avila.

2014
The Thin Red Line
Competition proposal for the new headquarters of the German Federal Ministry of Defence Personnel Management Centre (BLB NRW).

2026
Hochstapeln / Annual Exhibition of the Artists' Association of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
The Promise – three-part exhibition project
The River Becoming the Pillar of the Earth / Drawings
Opening performance, 10 May 2026
Städtische Galerie Wollhalle and Ernst Barlach Theatre, Güstrow

- Selected Exhibitions and Projects** / (Selection)
- 1989 Gallery Marghescu, Hanover, Germany
 - 1993 The Ocean, Ecumenical Church Project, Marktkirche (Market Church), Hanover
 - 1994 The Ocean included in Lexikon der Kunst von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart, Vol. VI, E. A. Seemann Verlag, Leipzig
 - 2000 EXPO 2000, German Pavilion, Press Centre, Norddeutsche Landesbank, Hanover
 - 2001–2005 Works on loan to the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Madrid, Spain
 - 2015 Schloss Plüschow – Positions on Sculpture
 - 2018 European Cultural Centre, 16th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia
 - 2021 European Cultural Centre, 17th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia
 - 2022 The Wall – Dialogue Hong Kong + Germany, Berlin
 - 2023–2026 State Art Exhibition of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
 - 2026 Invitation to participate in the 2028 European Cultural Centre Art Biennale, Venice

- Public Collections** / (Selection)
- John Flaxman Library, Art Institute of Chicago
 - Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 - Sprengel Museum Hanover
 - Herzog August Library, Wolfenbüttel
 - Stiftung Niedersachsen
 - Krupp Foundation, Essen
 - Norddeutsche Landesbank, Hanover / Hamburg
 - Landesbank Saar

- Public Projects and Installations** (Selection)
- 2022 only the dead, light installation, Memorial Site Kultur Mestlin
 - 2021 the ocean begins under your feet, Palmyra Sculpture Garden
 - 2019 Palmyra Sculpture Park
 - 2014 Il. Moon, Schlosspark Pansewitz, Rügen
 - 1997 Hannover Airport Authority / City of Hanover

- Filmography** / (Selection)
- 2025 THE RIVER, performance with Lydia Klammer, music by Theo Jörgensmann
 - 2023 The Days After the Day We Started Counting the Days, Kunstraum St. Georgen, Wismar
Music: Theo Jörgensmann and the "Karl Orff" District Music School, North-West Mecklenburg
 - 2022 the panic room, experimental film, music by Alex Souris
 - 1992 AL BAHR, dance and visual arts project, Turkey
 - 1990 TEMPS, experimental film, awarded by the German Film Rating Authority, Wiesbaden

Imprint

This project is part of
THE RIVER / Blog

<https://hundrich.de/category/theriver-blog/>

Concept and sketch:
Herbert W. H. Hundrich

Photographs:
Google Earth and Herbert W. H. Hundrich

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