

# German Architectur

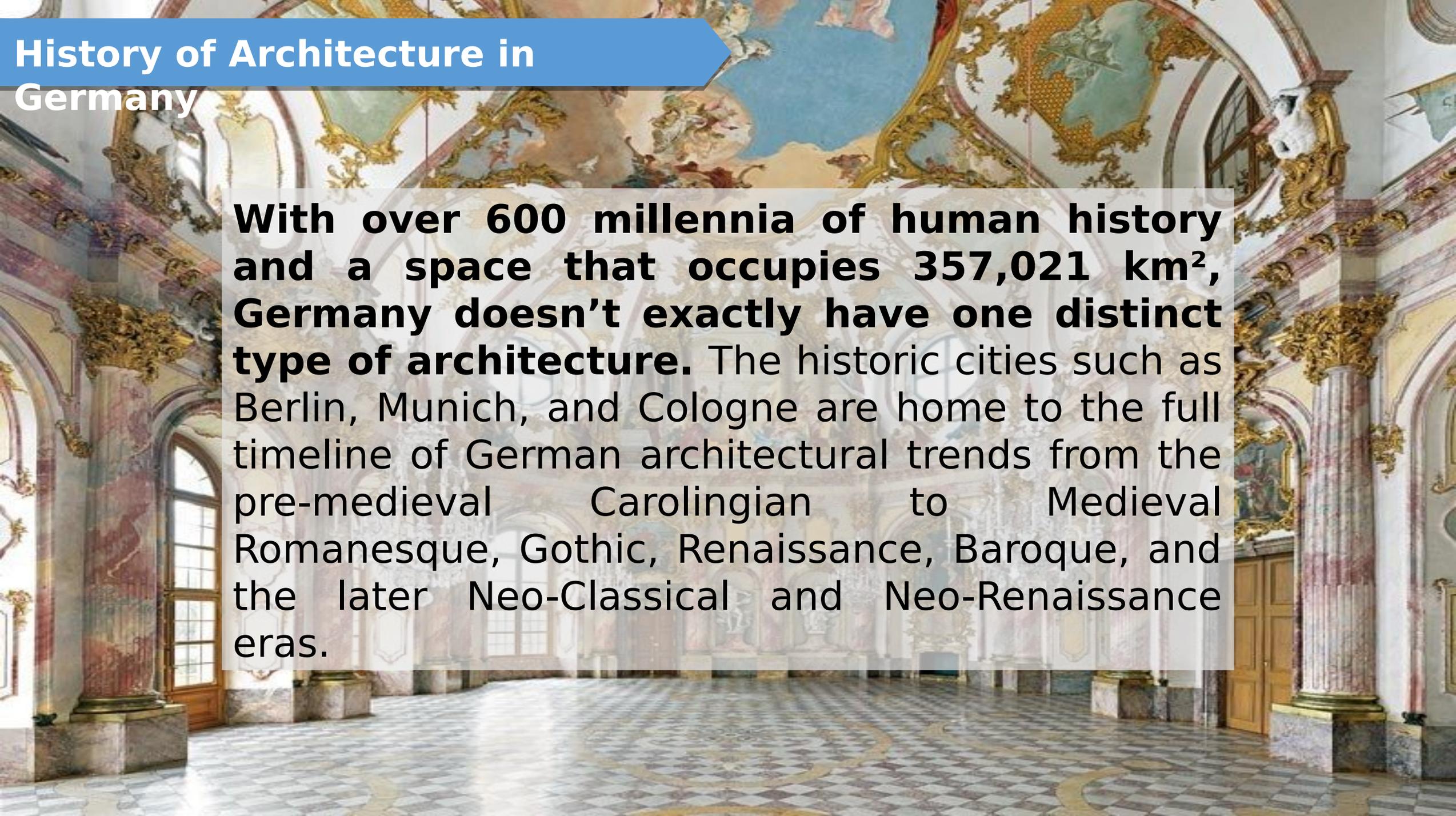


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Neuschwanstein  
Castle, Bavaria

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# History of Architecture in Germany

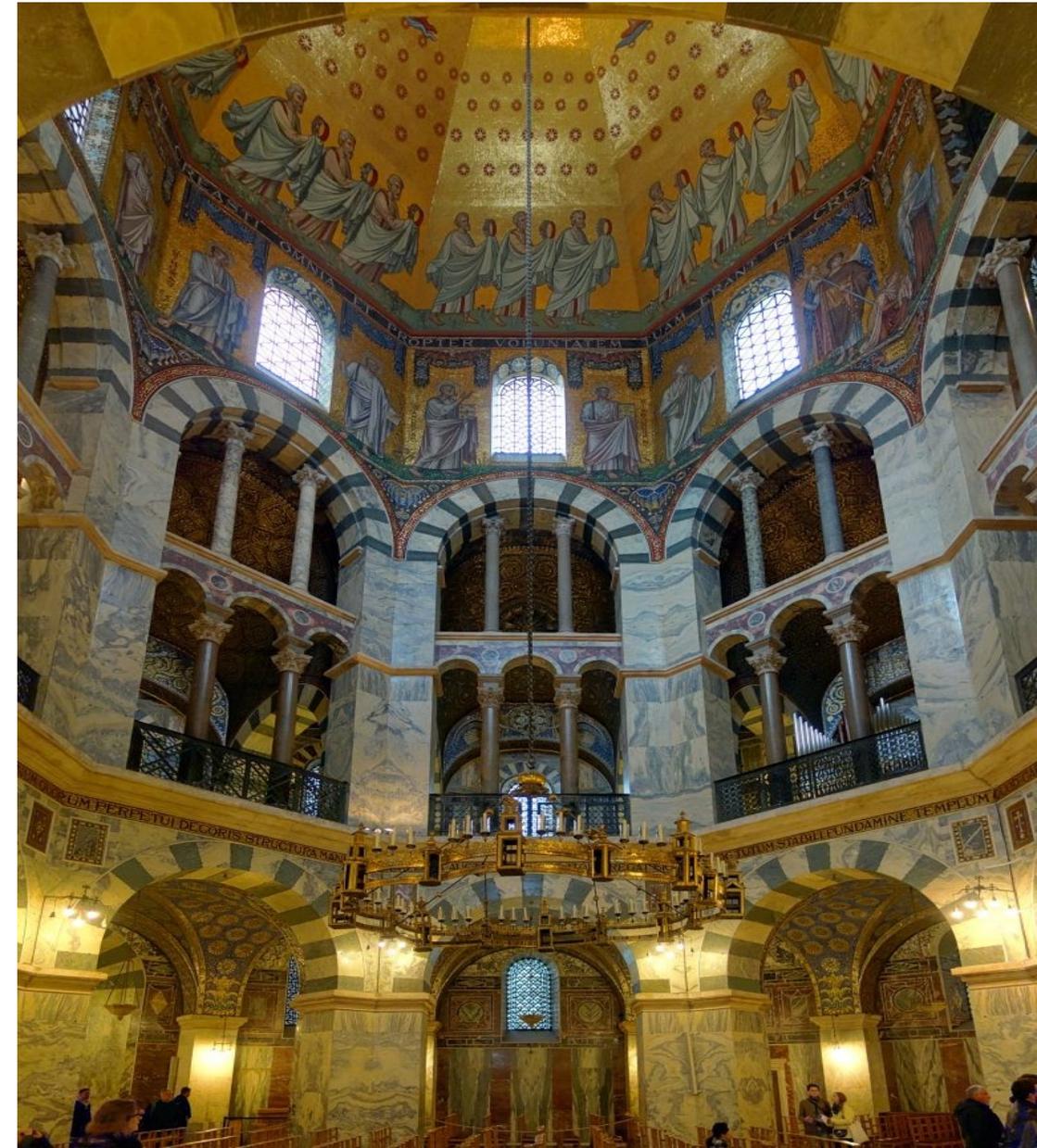
The background image shows the interior of a grand, ornate church. The floor is a checkered tile pattern with circular designs. The walls are decorated with intricate carvings and frescoes. The ceiling is a masterpiece of Baroque or Rococo style, featuring a large central fresco of a landscape with a blue sky and golden accents. The architecture includes tall, slender columns and arched doorways.

**With over 600 millennia of human history and a space that occupies 357,021 km<sup>2</sup>, Germany doesn't exactly have one distinct type of architecture.** The historic cities such as Berlin, Munich, and Cologne are home to the full timeline of German architectural trends from the pre-medieval Carolingian to Medieval Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and the later Neo-Classical and Neo-Renaissance eras.

# Pre-Romanesque Architecture



The Palatine Chapel,  
Aachen



- Also known as the Carolingian era.
- From late 8th century to the early 11th century.
- This combines elements of the Roman triumphal arch (arch-shaped passageways, half-columns) with the vernacular Teutonic heritage (baseless triangles of the blind arcade, polychromatic masonry).

# Romanesque Architecture



Speyer Cathedral

- From the 10th to the early 13th century.
- Characterised by semi-circular arches, robust appearance, small paired windows, and groin vaults.
- The most significant building of this period in Germany is the Speyer Cathedral. It was built in stages from about 1030, and was in the 11th century the largest building in the Christian world and an architectural symbol of the power of the Salian dynasty, a dynasty of four German Kings (1024-1125).



# Gothic Architecture



Cologne Cathedral,  
Köln

- It evolved from Romanesque architecture.
- Cologne Cathedral is after Milan Cathedral the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. Construction began in 1248 and took, with interruptions, until 1880 to complete - a period of over 600 years.
- It is 144.5 metres long, 86.5 m wide and its two towers are 157 m tall.
- Because of its enormous twin spires, it also has the largest façade of any church in the world.

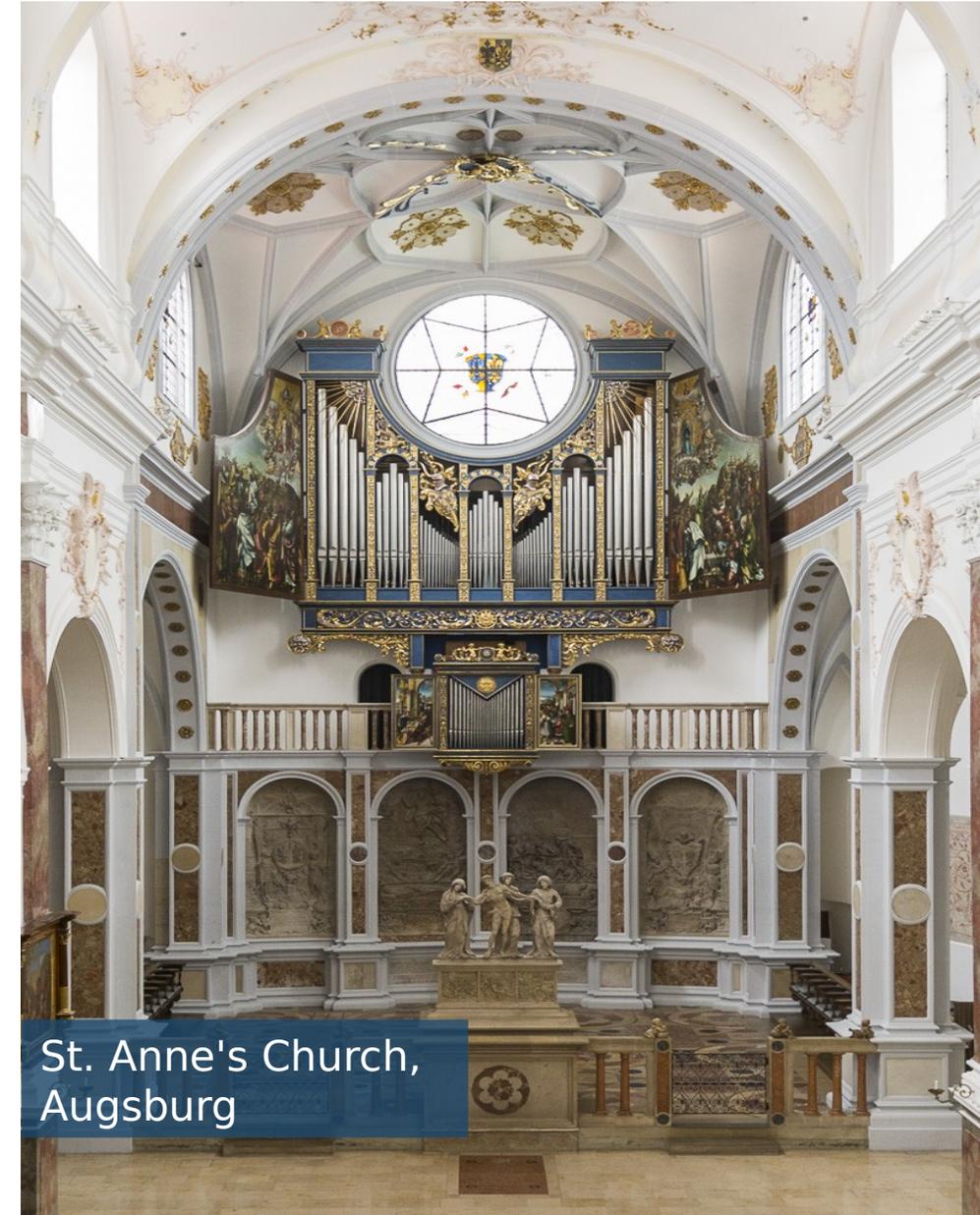


# Renaissance Architecture



Heidelberg Castle,  
Heidelberg

- Renaissance architecture belongs to the period between the early 14th and early 16th centuries in different parts of Europe, when there was a conscious revival and development of certain elements of ancient Greek and Roman thought and culture.
- The earliest example of Renaissance architecture in Germany is the Fugger chapel in St. Anne's Church, Augsburg



St. Anne's Church,  
Augsburg

# Baroque Architecture



Benedictine abbey  
in Ottobeuren

- Baroque architecture began in the early 17th century in Italy, reinventing the humanist vocabulary of Renaissance architecture in a new rhetorical, theatrical, sculptural fashion, expressing the triumph of absolutist church and state.
- The Baroque style arrived in Germany after the Thirty Years War.



Würzburg Residence

# Neo-Classical Architecture



Brandenburg Gate,  
Berlin

- Classicism arrived in Germany in the second half of the 18th century.
- It drew inspiration from the classical architecture of antiquity and was a reaction against the Baroque style, in both architecture and landscape design.
- The Brandenburg Gate, commissioned by King Frederick William II of Prussia as a sign of peace and completed by Carl Gotthard Langhans in 1791, is arguably one of the most famous monuments of classicism in Germany.



Gendarmenmarkt,  
Berlin

# Historicism



Reichstag, Berlin



Schwerin Palace,  
Meklenberg

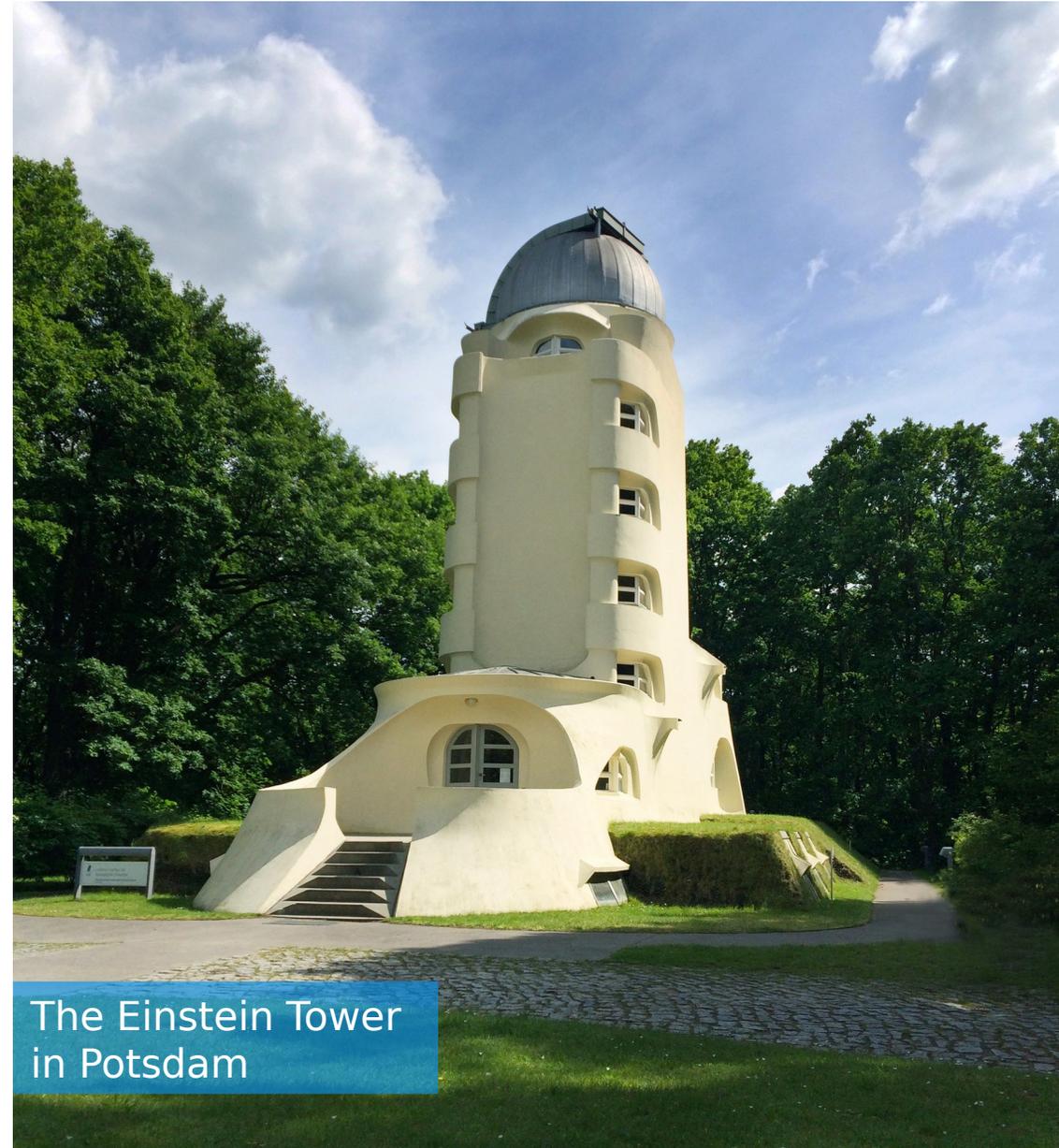
- Sometimes known as eclecticism.
- It is an architectural style that draws inspiration from historic styles or craftsmanship.
- After the neoclassical period (which could itself be considered a historicist movement), a new historicist phase emerged in the middle of the 19th century, marked by a return to a more ancient classicism, in particular in architecture and in the genre of history painting.
- The Reichstag building (1894) was built by Paul Wallot.

# Modern Architecture



The Bauhaus school, Dessau

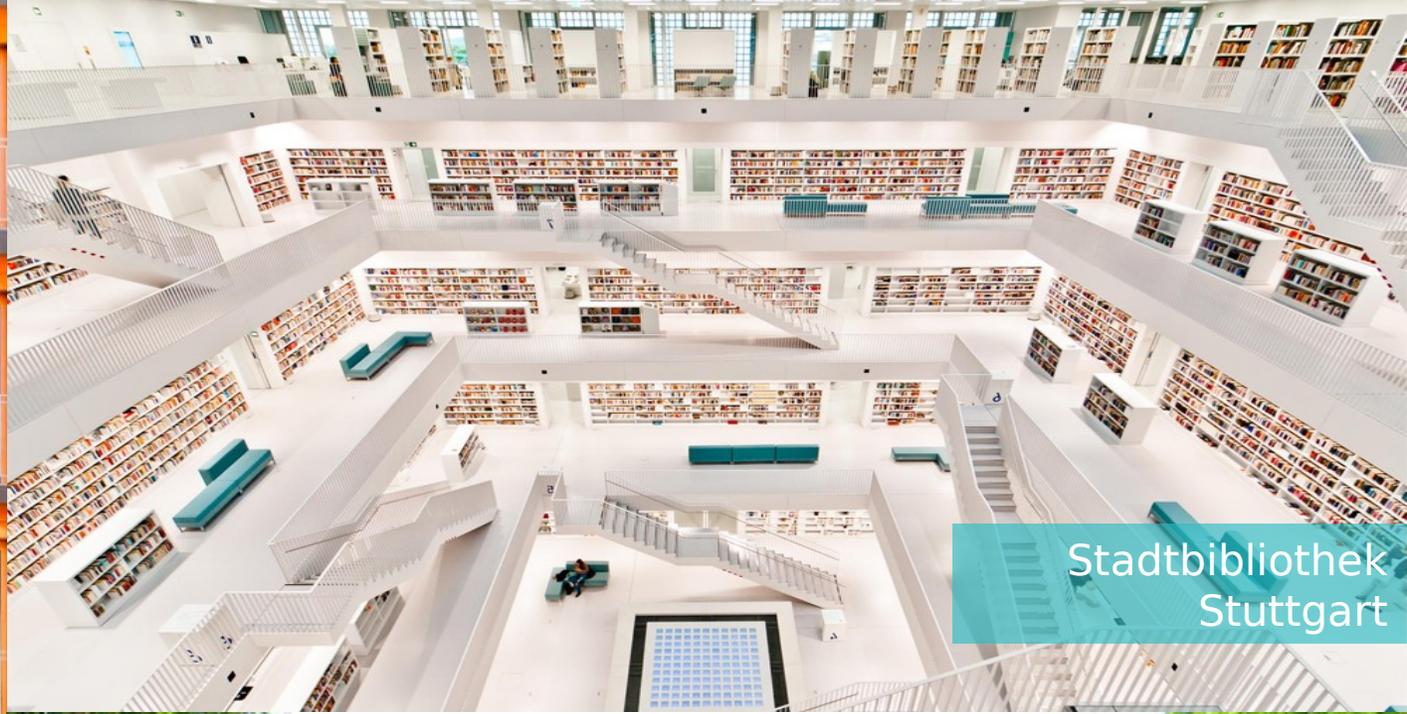
- The distinctive character of modern architecture is the elimination of unnecessary ornament from a building and faithfulness to its structure and function.
- Bauhaus literally translates to 'Architecture House'. It was a school of art with its heyday lasting from 1919-1933, and it was founded by Walter Gropius.
- The Einstein Tower (German: Einsteinturm) is an astrophysical observatory in the Albert Einstein Science Park in Potsdam.



The Einstein Tower in Potsdam



Umschreibung,  
Munich



Stadtbibliothek  
Stuttgart



Rakotzbrücke,  
Rhododendronpark,  
Kromlau



Elbphilharmonie,  
Hamburg



Frauenkirche,  
Dresden



Neuschwanstein Castle,  
Bavaria

## Architecture tours

If you're fascinated by architecture, why not book yourself in for one of the many architecture tours held in most of Germany's main cities? To get you started, you can tour the 'new' Museum Island in Berlin, the arts district of Munich, or take part in the Cologne: Urbanism: Where Old Meets New tour. Castle tours in Bavaria are also extremely popular.

## Types of Houses in Germany

Whilst these trends existed in cities, those living in rural areas throughout the medieval and early modern era lived in a variety of houses including the Low German House, a farmhouse found in northern Germany and the High German House, a farmhouse more common in Central Germany.

### **What are German style houses called?**

People use a variety of words when they are describing German style homes. This includes log cabins and chalets as well as High German and Low German houses.



Das  
Einfamilienhaus



Das Reihenhhaus



Das  
Zweifamilienhaus/  
Das Dopplerhaus



Das Bauernhaus



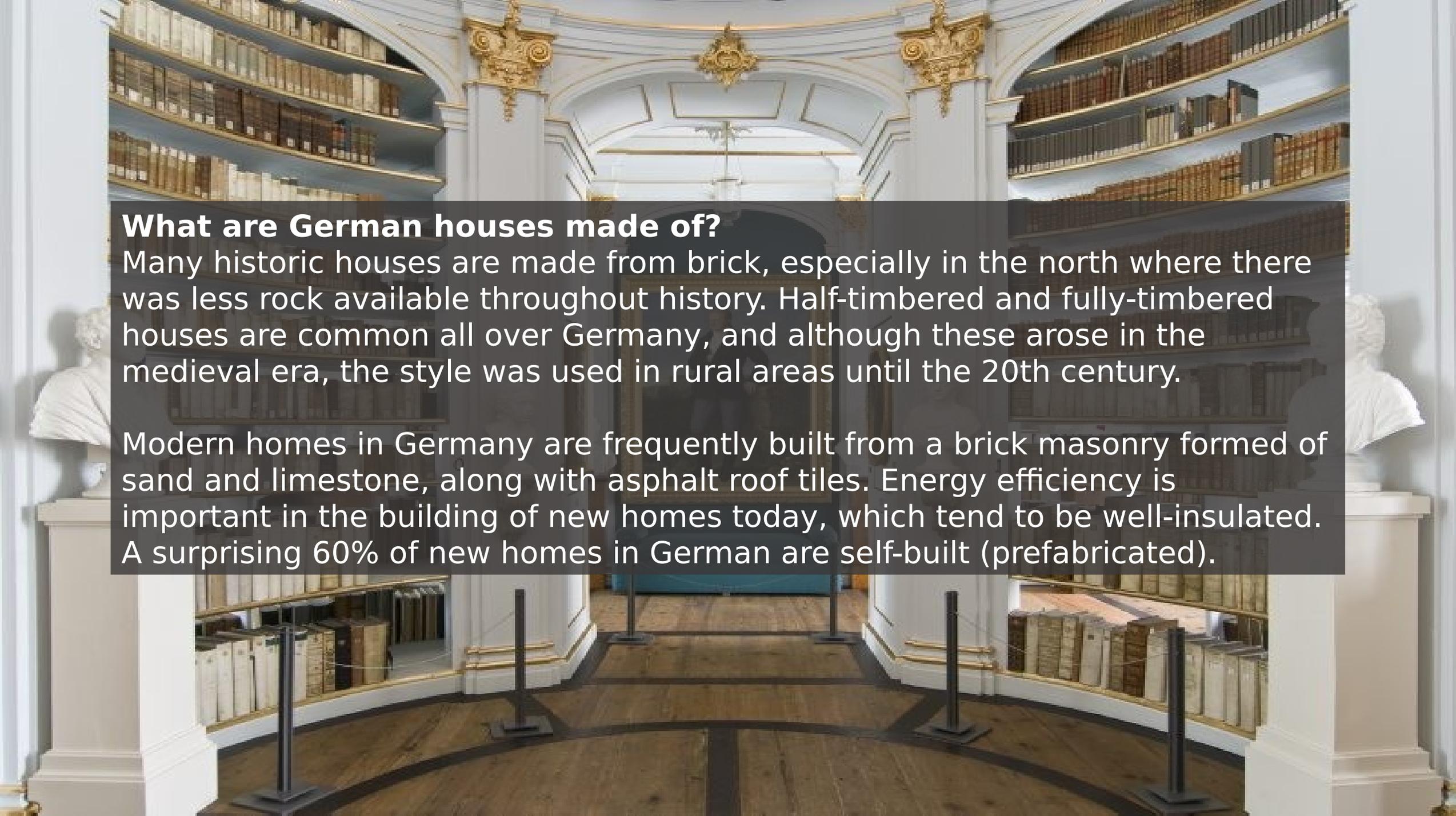
Das  
Mehrfamilienhaus



Die Wohnung



Das Hochhaus

A grand library with curved bookshelves and classical architecture. The room features high ceilings with ornate gold-colored decorations, including a central chandelier and decorative capitals on the columns. The bookshelves are filled with books, and the floor is made of polished wood. The overall atmosphere is one of historical elegance and intellectual pursuit.

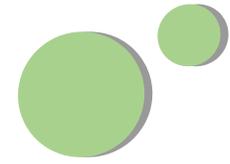
## **What are German houses made of?**

Many historic houses are made from brick, especially in the north where there was less rock available throughout history. Half-timbered and fully-timbered houses are common all over Germany, and although these arose in the medieval era, the style was used in rural areas until the 20th century.

Modern homes in Germany are frequently built from a brick masonry formed of sand and limestone, along with asphalt roof tiles. Energy efficiency is important in the building of new homes today, which tend to be well-insulated. A surprising 60% of new homes in German are self-built (prefabricated).

## References

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THANK YOU