

History of the Museum

1874	Opened as the second museum of art and crafts in Germany
1892 to 1896	The first Grassi museum is built at today's Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz from the estate of Leipzig banker Franz Dominic Grassi*
1920	Founding of the Grassi trade fair under museum director Richard Graul
1925 to 1929	Construction of the new Grassi museum at the Johannisplatz as one of the most modern museum ensembles of the time
1939	War-related closure of the permanent exhibition
1943 and 1945	Severe destruction of the building
1952	Opening of a provisional permanent exhibition in five of formerly thirty exhibition rooms
1982	Closure of the permanent exhibition due to progressing deterioration of the building
1994	Permanent presentation of a chosen cross-section of the collection in five newly equipped show rooms
1997	Revival of the Grassimesse as a judged sales exhibition with international profile
2000 to 2005	Renovation and constructional modernisation of the Grassi museum
Dec. 2007	Opening of the first round tour of the new permanent exhibition "Antiquity to Historicism" in thirty show rooms on approx. 2,000 sqm
Oct. 2008	Resumption of special exhibition activities
Jan. 2010	Opening of the second part of the permanent exhibition "Asian art. Impulses for Europe".
Dec. 2011	Handover of the reconstructed Josef-Albers windows in the main staircase of the Grassi museum to the public
March 2012	Opening of the third and last exhibition round tour of the permanent exhibition, "From Art Nouveau to the Present"
July 2015	Handover of the reconstructed historic staircase lamps to the public

The name of patron Franz Dominic Grassi (1801 – 1880) is mostly connected to the building itself. Today, it houses three museums: The museum of applied art, museum of ethnology and the music instrument museum.

GRASSI Museum of applied art

Johannisplatz 5-11, 04103 Leipzig

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Collections

With its top collection, the GRASSI museum of applied art is among the leading museums of applied art in the world. Today, the collections by far exceed 100,000 inventory units of European and worldwide arts and crafts from Antiquity to our time. The classical collection areas of ceramics, porcelain, glass, textile, gold and silver work, decorative and used pewter, non-precious metals, forged iron, sculptures of wood and stone, especially image carvings of the late Gothic time, furniture and wooden equipment, coins and medals are richly represented.

The profile-determining collection focuses in nearly all sections are Art Nouveau, Art déco and functionalism. Arts and crafts and industrial design of the 20th century represent further central areas of the collection.

The library also contains comprehensive special collections. This includes the graphical sheet collection and ornamental engraving and example collection, as well as the collections of historical books and photography with a memorable inventory from the early time of photography and a focus on Bauhaus photography.

Figures:

- About 100,000 inventory units from all material areas of applied art from Antiquity to the present day
- About 65,000 sheets in the graphical collection
- Photo collection with approx. 70,000 inventory units
- About 70,000 volumes in the scientific technical library

Building

The Grassi museum was built from 1925 to 1929 based on plans of Leipzig architects' office Zweck und Vogt and is considered one of the most modern museum ensembles of that time.

Today's museum of applied art is among the oldest and most traditional facilities of its kind in Europe. With its top collection, it is among the leading museums of applied art in the world.

Roof crowning

In spring of 2005, the 7.5 t "Golden Pineapple" was lifted onto the building's roof. The main façade was thus restored to its historical silhouette. The original roof crowning had burned in World War II.

Hall of pillars

The hall of pillars was the central event and exhibition room of the Grassi museum when the museum opened in 1929, and is again today. Destroyed completely by fire-bombs in World War II, the Art déco hall was restored gradually.

The name of the room refers to the twelve display case pillars on a triangular footprint that were rebuilt in 2006 in accordance with their historical models.

The last steps of reconstruction took place in 2009: The hall of pillars was given artificial skylights matching the floor, the typical Art déco-lamps and distinctive parapet of the gallery according to its original version from 1927/1929. The original harmony of shapes and colours has now been restored.

Josef Albers windows

The total of 18 distinctive and up to seven metres tall windows in the main staircase of the Grassi museum will catch every visitor's eye. Designed by Bauhaus artist Josef Albers in 1926, produced and installed in 1927, they were destroyed in World War II. They used to be the largest flat-glass work of an artist from the Dessau Bauhaus time. After many years of preparatory work, they were reconstructed in the summer of 2011. This was made possible by the great commitment of the Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung and the Sparkasse Leipzig. The Josef Albers windows were presented to the public on 4 December 2011.

Exhibition areas of the permanent exhibitions:

"Antiquity to Historism":	Approx. 2,000 sqm
"Asian art. Impulses for Europe":	Approx. 300 sqm
"From Art Nouveau to the Present":	Approx. 1,200 sqm
Areas for special exhibitions:	850 sqm plus hall of pillars

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