

Sascha Fronz

## Stadtteilschule Am Hafen, Hamburg, Germany



### *Situation at the school entrance*

Shown is the unused entrance as well as the outside of a newly constructed building which houses the canteen/cafeteria/hall as well as some classrooms and event rooms. The school's logo in combination with the school's name as well as a blue banner with a circle of „European Stars“ and the slogan „Europaschule“ (European School) can be seen on the outer wall. Furthermore, there are prominent white columns that are a specific part of the newly constructed buildings, shown on the righthand side of the picture. The actual entrance to the school is to be found in a side street which is can be seen to the extreme right of the picture. Built in the 1890s, the main building and the schoolground were extended by three new buildings at the beginning of the 21st century. Since 2005, the school has been called an „Europaschule“ and since the years 2010/2011, the school has been a district school - a comprehensive school with senior grades. The four locations of the school are distributed all over the municipal area of Hamburg.



### *Courtyard*

Part of the Courtyard with seats for the pupils. Roofed pavilions which are used as meeting points can be seen in the background. On the righthand side of the picture, the main building that consists of a newly constructed part as well as an old part, can be identified. The stairs at the entrance are covered with colored installations and are located between these two buildings.

A second courtyard, which is connected to the one shown, is at the back of the main building. There are a basketball and a football field as well as table-tennis tables. The gymnasium is linked with this second part. Between these sports fields there are more seats and open spaces for the pupils. Both courtyards can be used during recess and free working periods. Some of the school's festivities are held on the courtyard.





*An entrance hall*

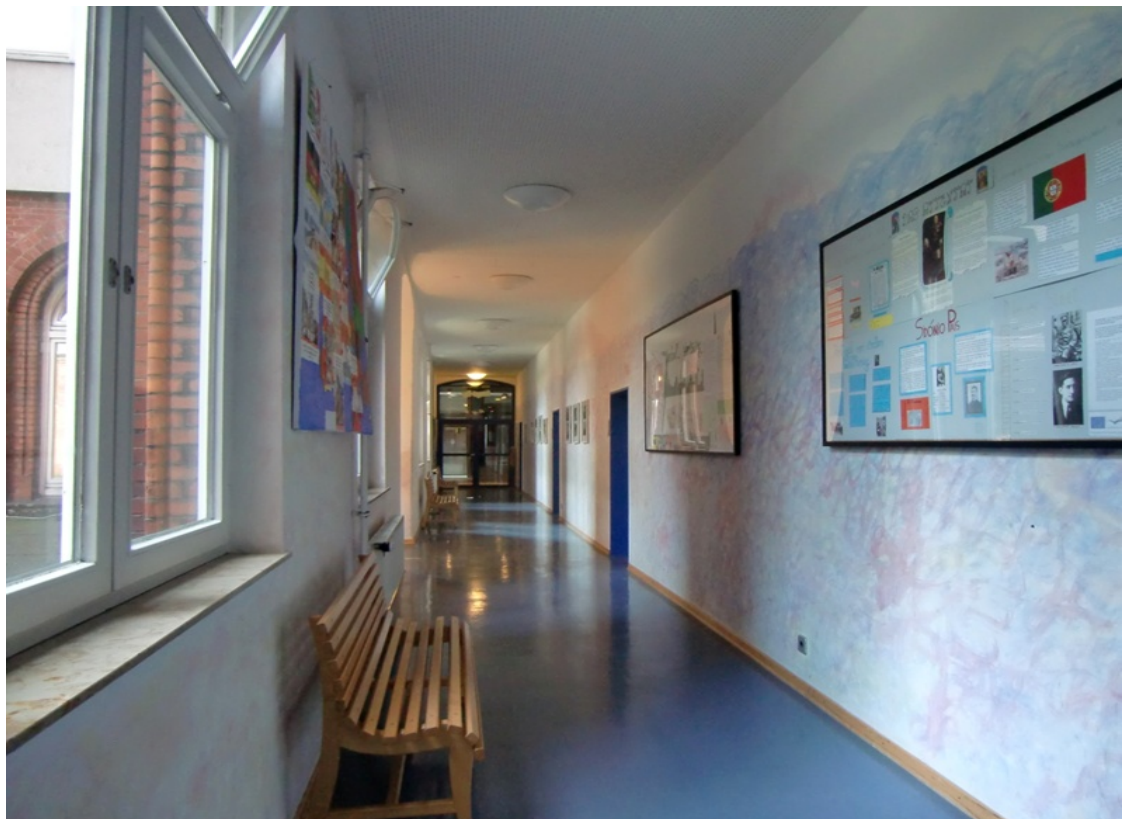
Entrance area of the main building. The colored entrance stairs lead the way to two glass doors which are the entrance to the main building. The logo "Europaschule" is on the door mat.

Inside the entrance hall, the first thing we see is a screen displaying with the current schedule for teacher substitutions. Underneath there are showcases for internal school communication. The walls are covered with colorful pieces of paper greeting visitors in the different national languages of the pupils: Welcome.

*Corridors to the classrooms*

The corridor on the second floor of the main building is called „Europaflur“–„Europe corridor“. Benches for sitting and resting are placed in this corridor. The fundamental stance of the school: peaceful co-existence in Europe is represented on the walls in the shape of projects made by the pupils.

Various design elements are found all over the school's corridors and represent the pupils' artistic self-expression. In another corridor, there are private lockers for the pupils to use.





*Classroom: Rear*

Back wall of a classroom on the 2nd floor of the main building. This classroom is located in the old part of the school. Therefore, the walls and windows are quite large, which results in a bright and friendly atmosphere. Flags of EU member countries, as well as one of Turkey, are hanging on the wall in form of a garland. Between the individual national flags there are several EU flags. The Turkish flag is bigger, because it was attached afterwards.

Below the garland, each of the folders on the shelf has the name of a pupil on it. Further aspects of personalization can only be found occasionally.

Tables and chairs are arranged in a U-shape and directed towards the teacher's table as the central point in front of the panel. Additional tables, which are aligned with the others, fill the inner space of the U-shape. Therefore, various possibilities present themselves for changing the work and communication forms during the lessons as well as during the breaks.

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*Classroom: CE-lessons*

Two different scenes from the CE lesson are shown. In the photos, both classes are working on the topic of the upcoming election for the German Bundestag. The pupils are preparing for an exploratory tour on which they will examine election posters in the school's surrounding areas.

The lower picture shows a classic question-answer situation between teacher and pupils, while the upper picture shows small groups working on the topic. The use of mobile phones and other online resources is permitted for research purposes.

Knowledge about the German electoral system and political parties is tested during the lesson shown in the lower picture. At this point, the pupils in the upper picture are not tested on such knowledge.

The unusual seating plan leads to a different approach to the topic as well as a difference in the pupils' motivation. While the pupils in the lower picture are focused on the teacher and only some are participating, the upper picture depicts a group-centered approach.

*Classroom: Wall decoration*

The side wall of a 10th grade classroom serves as an organizational area for both the class and school community.

In the upper row, two posters made by pupils are exhibited - one about Islam and the other one about Christianity. Next to it, there are two more posters on the rules of working together in a group. Below this we find a notice board with a schedule showing school appointments and class services.

Storage compartments for the pupils are situated on the wall, distinguished according to the subjects. Further storage areas which can be used by the teachers are to be found on a separate table next to the pupils' storage compartments, as well as an encyclopaedia and the class-register.





*Pictures from the CE book*

Several graphics from the CE schoolbook of the 9th and 10th grade are shown: Brameier, Ulrich: Society for Hamburg 9/10. Westermann publishing house 2013. The students are being equipped with political as well as historical and geographical knowledge.

Every main chapter of the book starts with a prelude page – a double page which is intended to arouse interest and curiosity in the pupils. Furthermore, there are so-called method and project pages which convey basic methods and competences for every topic. The content pages offer topic-related information with secondary online references and further exercises.

The selection shown consists of photos and materials on the topic of Europe. The prelude page for this chapter shows the geography of Europe in a picture taken from outer space. On the lefthand side, a reference to Greek antiquity and the legend of how the European continents were named is presented. It shows the king's daughter Europe and the God father Zeus in form of a bull that is kidnapping Europe.

Below this, the picture shows the European Central Bank in Frankfurt am Main with the Euro symbol in front of the building as a symbol of European (monetary) Union. Another two sources are shown in the lower right corner. These symbolize the debate around dealing with aliens and refugees from other countries coming into the European Union. On the lefthand side of the picture, a caricature illustrates the EU as a fortress. The external boarder of the EU in the Spanish Ceuta can be seen on the right hand side of the picture.

*Hall/school festivities*

Within the school, the schoolyard and hall are the two most important places for school festivities, events, discussions and meetings.

The upper picture shows the back part of the schoolyard, which is primarily used for various events like the presentation of prizes and exhibitions, as well as sporting events in the summer months.

In the lower picture, the school's cafeteria, which is also used as hall, is visible. Pupils' projects are exhibited throughout the building which is open to the public. An installation which looks like colorful fish is hanging from the ceiling. National flags to the right of the picture represent the different countries of origin of the pupils.

The stage in the foreground is used for discussions and smaller events. A platform for spectators, which is located above the food counter, can be found on the other side of the room. During recess, or even before classes, the cafeteria serves as a meeting place for the pupils. The pupils have also created the motto panels above the food counter which display the slogan „peacefully, friendly, fairly“, which has been the school's slogan since 2010.





The hall

*The entrance to a staff room*

The general staffroom is located on the second floor, in the old part of the main building. Additional subject teacher rooms are distributed across the other buildings. Furthermore, classrooms as well as the school administration are located in the same corridor. The administrative area includes the publically accessible secretary's office, the principal's office, which is also accessible as well as additional administrative and secretarial support.

The paintings around the entrance to the staffroom were produced by a previous class and symbolize some of Hamburg's prominent sights and buildings, such as the port, churches, the television tower and Hagenbeck's zoo. More photos, drawings and sculptures made by the pupils, as well as photos of school festivities, are presented in this corridor.

The staffroom can only be accessed by knocking on the door and waiting for a teacher to open from the inside. It is not possible for pupils to enter the staffroom independently. In addition, some seats for waiting pupils and visitors are situated in the corridor.





*Europatag/exhibition*

A special moment in the school's calendar of events is the "Europawoche" –Europe Week– and the "Europatag" –Europe Day–, which take place every year. In 2013, the "Europawoche" was held on the topic: „Hamburg, all of Europe in one town“.

In one project, pupils in the 10th grade took photos with the help of a professional photographer under the title: „All of Europe in one school“. Teachers, pupils and parents were invited to the presentation of the photos in a vernissage, so it became an event for the whole school. The photos include portraits, as well as landscape and architectural photographs created on specific topics. One important topic is the origin of the pupils. In addition, social and political questions regarding Europe and the European Union are approached in the pictures. Further events take place within the school and the lessons during the "Europawoche" and the "Europatag".

*Screenshot school homepage*

The homepage of the school shows the school's logo and name as well as a reference to the title "Europaschule", in front of a picture taken in class.

The homepage contains further information on the different school levels as well as contact persons within the school. Additionally, some information about the school's partners within Hamburg, which the school cooperates with, is listed.

The main part of the homepage consists of announcements and information on festivities, important appointments and school offers. These are updated ongoingly in form of a blog.

Home | Newsletter | CommSy | Impressum

**Stadtteilschule am Hafen**

Mittelstufe | Oberstufe | Schulprofil | Partner | Kontakte

Herzlich willkommen auf den Internetseiten der Stadtteilschule am Hafen!  
Wir sind die Schule am „Tor zur Welt“.  
**Lernen Sie unsere Schule kennen!**

– Wir veranstalten für jeden unserer Standorte einen "Tag der offenen Tür":  
**St. Pauli** am Sa., 14.12.2013, 11:00-13:00 Uhr  
**Neustadt** am Fr., 17.01.2014, 17:00-19:30 Uhr  
**Altona** am Sa., 18.01.2014, 11:00-13:00 Uhr

– Besuchen Sie unser [Newsletter-Archiv!](#)

**12. DEZEMBER 2013**  
**Interkultureller Weihnachtsbaum**  
"Ho, ho, ho!" in Altona >> [mehr](#)

**11. DEZEMBER 2013**  
**Präsentation "Lernen ohne Angst"**  
Schülerinnen und Schüler unserer Oberstufe haben im Laufe der letzten Monate in einem umfangreichen Projekt zu dem Thema gearbeitet, inwiefern das Lernumfeld und die Lernatmosphäre das Lernen in der Schule beeinflussen.  
>> [Einladung zur Präsentation am 11.12.2013](#)

**30. NOVEMBER 2013**  
**Elternrat geht online**  
Ein langjährig gehegter Wunsch wurde in die Tat umgesetzt: Unser Elternrat hat eine eigene Internetpräsenz freigeschaltet!

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