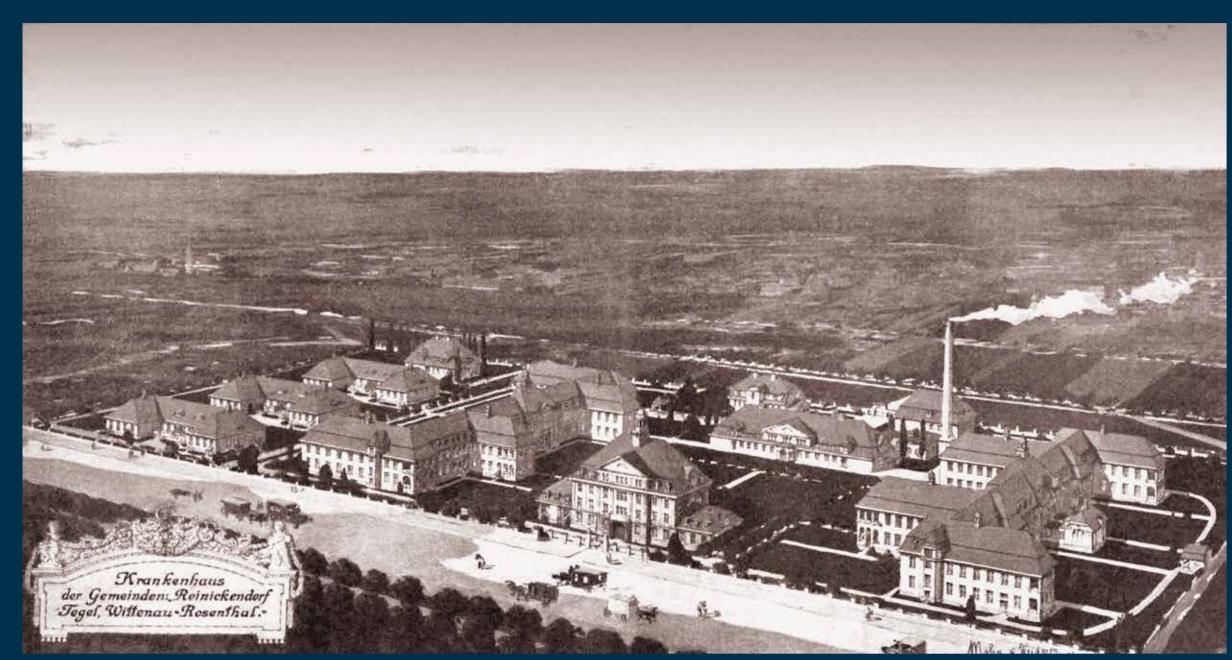
THE "SURGICAL BUNKER" MONUMENT ON TEICHSTRASSE

Location List of the Surgical Bunkers (German: Operationsbunker/OP-Bunker)



but were not realised (Illustration from: Deutsche Bauzeitung, December 3rd 1910).

Site plan of the hospital complex. None of the extension buildings indicated here (dashed lines) were built.

between fields and meadows in an agricultural be built during the Weimar Republic.

and Rosenthal, with support from the district of dolf Salvisberg, based on an urban planning design

association for this purpose. Reinickendorf, which ments, it was intended to help alleviate the hous-

at that time had a population of around 34,000, ing shortage. The "White City" was added to the

beds and consisted of several pavilion-style build- staff of Jewish origin were dismissed in the spring

would not have been able to raise the necessary UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008 as one of

At the time, the 4.5-hectare site was located was the last Classical Modernist housing estate to

Niederbarnim, which joined together to form an by Otto Rudolf Salvisberg. With its 1,600 apart-

History of the hospital area on Teichstrasse

(From: Deutsche Bauzeitung, December 3rd 1910).

funds on its own.

ern suburbs into the city of Berlin (Greater Berlin), World War and was confiscated by the French oc- to 365 as early as December 1940, and four of the the hospital was renamed "Reinickendorf Munic- cupying forces after the end of the war in August 27 surgical bunkers in hospitals (a total of 34 surin the north of Berlin, the Reinickendorf Associ- surrounding area began. The best-known building "Hôpital Militaire Louis Pasteur". After it was re- were postponed for the time being.

the neighbouring municipalities of Tegel, Wittenau Bruno Ahrends, Wilhelm Büning and Otto Ru-

six large-scale Berlin Modernist housing estates. It

During the National Socialist era, all hospital

April 7th 1933. In 1935, the hospital was renamed social institutions. the "Erwin Liek Municipal Hospital". The conservative doctor and professional politician Erwin The Surgical Bunker (OP Bunker) Liek (1878–1935) propagated a new medical pro- **Teichstrasse** fession with a special doctor-patient relationship. As early as 1926, he welcomed eugenics and eutha- After the first bombardments of the Reich capi-

of 1933. The basis for this was the "Law for the most of the old hospital buildings serve as offices Restoration of the Professional Civil Service" of for the Reinickendorf district authority and various

nasia: "Idiots and epileptics need not be cared for tal by the Royal Air Force in August 1940, Adolf in model institutions, while healthy people would Hitler ordered the "Führer-Soforterlass", also known find neither shelter nor work." Liek's endeavours as the "Bunker Construction Programme for the were regarded by the National Socialists as funda- Reich Capital". Within six months, the "General mental to a renewal of the medical profession, al- Building Inspector for the Reich Capital" (GBI) though Liek was never a member of the NSDAP. was to build bunkers for almost 200,000 people There was close collaboration between the Erwin as well as additional "bomb-proof air-raid shelters Liek Hospital and the Wittenau sanatoriums, also for about seven railway stations". On October 25th, From the mid-1930s onwards, the hospital was to the emergency decree regarding "bomb-proof ber of beds had reached 290. The hospital com- and building materials, the 498 bunkers originally In 1921, after the incorporation of the north- plex was only slightly damaged during the Second planned for the civilian population were reduced

ation Hospital was built in neo-baroque style be- here was the "White City", which directly adjoins turned to the city of Berlin, it was renamed "Hum- A report dated May 10th 1941 then states that, kers for Reich ministers and ambassadors", as well reported "that 237 bunkers with 59,989 beds are tween 1908 and 1910 in accordance with designs the hospital grounds to the east and south. It was boldt Hospital are as eleven completed and 20 started air-raid protec- now completed, 53 bunkers with 21,000 beds are by the architects Carl Mohr (1878–1958) and Paul built in 1928–1931 by the Gemeinnützige Heim- until 1985, when it was moved to a new building time, which were to protect a total of 90,090 people, tion facilities for a total of 10,750 people. Of the under construction and 100 bunkers with around Weidner (1874–1954). It was jointly financed by stättengesellschaft "Primus" mbH, and the architects on Am Nordgraben street in Borsigwalde. Today, only 58 facilities for 8,700 people had been com- 37 surgical bunkers mentioned here, 25 were re- 94,000 beds are planned".

Partly demolished 2020 (Schönstraße 87-90) I OP-Bunker (Type B I OP-Bunker (Type A Demolished 2014 (Wiltbergstraße 50) I OP-Bunker (Type A) Preserved (Teichstraße 65) I OP-Bunker (Type A) Converted (Scharnhorststraße 3) I OP-Bunker (Type B Converted (Lynarstraße 12) I OP-Bunker (SB) I OP-Bunker (SB) I Kreiß-Bunker (SB I OP-Bunker (SB) I Kreiß-Bunker (SB I OP-Bunker (Type A)

7. Women's Hospital Charlottenburg

8. Auguste-Viktoria-Khs. (Schöneberg)

10. Hospital Köpenick

II. Hospital Weißensee

13. Hospital Buch (Pankow)

15. DRK-Augusta-Hospital (Mitte)

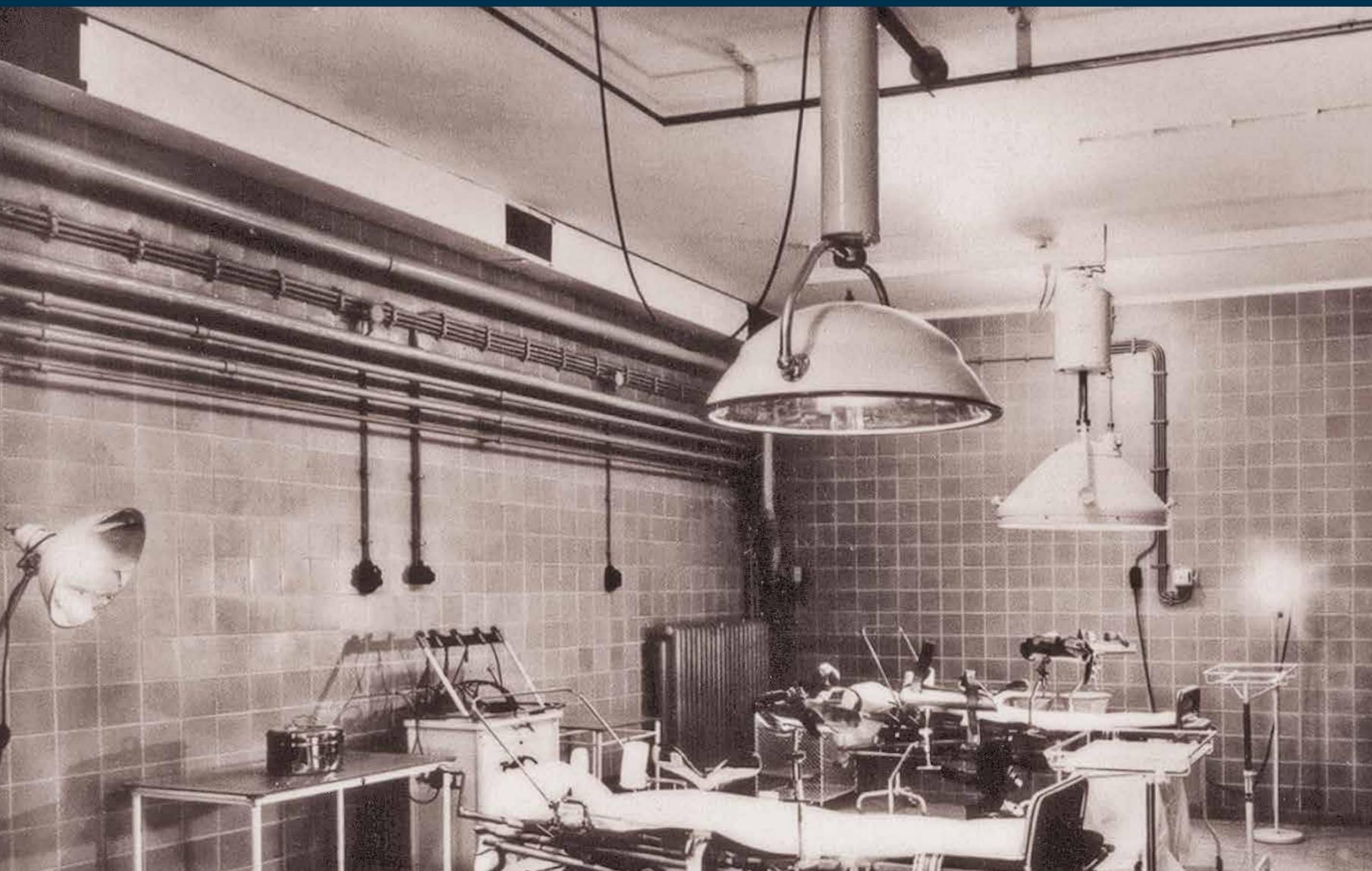
20. Surgical University Hospital

24. State Hospital of the Polic

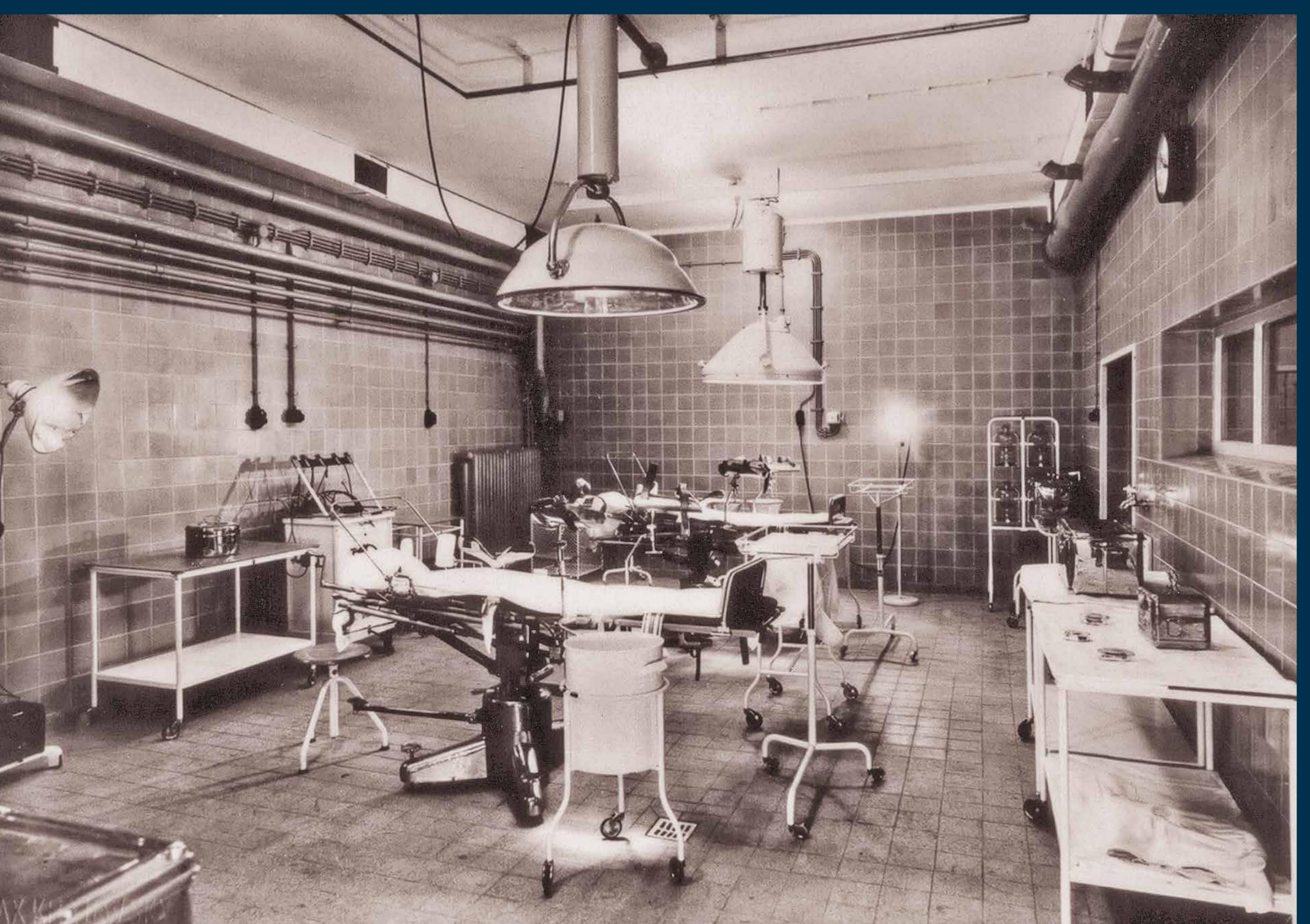
25. State Hospital of the Police

18. Charité (Sauerbruch-Bunker, Mitte)

To provide basic medical care for the communities ipal Hospital". In the 1920s, development of the 1945. Until 1952, the military hospital was called gical bunkers were planned) that had been started pleted; 258 were still under construction. Added ported as "under construction" and only 12 as comto this were the construction sites of seven "bun-pleted. On November 19th 1941, "GBI" Albert Speer



Fully equipped operating theatre in the surgical bunker of Auguste Viktoria Hospital in Schöneberg with two operating tables, around 1942 (Source: Klaus Topel Archive).





View of the freshly renovated operating theatre in the Teichstrasse surgical bunker, which has been re-equipped with historical furnishings (Photo: Frieder Salm, 2012).

a type A surgical bunker, built by the GBI's *Pfeil* 1990s, after which it stood empty. construction group. Further additions and superstructures were to be made "after the final vic- History of a restoration tory". The approval of the shell construction as labour ward bunkers (see list of surgical bunker the archives of the responsible administrative delocations above). Other surgical bunkers were verifiably planned for the Charité (high-rise bunker with beds, three storeys), the St. Hedwig Hospital (Mitte), the Martin Luther Hospital (Wilmersdorf) and the DRK Hospital Drontheimer Strasse (Wedding) but were never built.

There is little information about the post-war use of the Teichstrasse surgical bunker. An interesting idea for its use can be found in a letter dated January 22nd 1958, in which the hospital management of Humboldt Hospital asked the head of the public health department whether the bunker on the grounds could be used to sober up drunks. This was approved if the occupancy time did not last more than eight to ten hours at a time. After Humboldt Hospital was moved to a new building on Am Nordgraben, the bunker was used to store

At that time, the Erwin Liek Hospital received a storage facility for medical alcohol until the early

Krüger, which sent an overdue notice to the Amts- Underworlds) to ask whether it would be interested surgical bunker and the hospital grounds. built with two operating theatres (type B1) and also immediately apparent. During their research in out the interior.

> BAUHERRENPREIS 2012 DAS BEZIRKSAMT REINICKENDORF WÜRDIGT DIE HERVORRAGENDE PFLEGE DES STADTBILDES

mattresses and bed frames for disaster relief and as Property Developer Award, 2012 (Photo: Mario Schüler).

partments, members of the association discovered old documents relating to the site and the bunker, example with a missing second original end door

which were very useful for a future exhibition.

guests were welcomed into the bunker for the first tional seminars run by our non-profit organisation. time. In 2007 and 2008, the bunker was further secured, repaired, and equipped. The main focus of the work was now on restoring the interior. For Imprint this purpose, it was necessary to secure the original wall tiles in the interior rooms and to fill in the missing areas, to restore the sanitary facilities, and to set up the distillation apparatus true to the original. The delivery of two original operating tables, which can now be seen in the operating theatre, was a surprise Christmas present in December 2008. Both tables, including transport, were sponsored by MAQUET GmbH & Co. KG in Rastatt. With entry in the list of monuments of the state of Berlin on April 27th 2009, the most important project goal was achieved: the permanent protection of the historic surgical bunker on Teichstrasse.

By 2012, the interior had been completed, for (salvaged from the former surgical bunker in Frie-A concept drawn up by the association, which drichshain Hospital) or with fittings and sanitary was approved by the owner, envisaged making the objects (salvaged from the surgical bunker of the took place on February 20th 1942. The con- In the summer of 2004, the Reinickendorf district facility permanently available for guided tours and Urban Hospital). On October 24th 2012, the prostruction work was carried out by Betonbau- office approached Berliner Unterwelten e.V. (Berlin exhibitions and documenting the history of the ject was awarded the "Bauherrenpreis des Bezirkes" Reinickendorf von Berlin" in the category "Exkasse on April 16th 1945 for 2,300 Reichsmark for in developing a concept for the use of a surgical A few months later, the association was given ceptional Initiatives". Berlin Underworlds received protective concrete work on the surgical bunkers. bunker located on the grounds of the former Hum- "key authority" over the surgical bunker on Teich- this award for the "restoration and equipping of Surgical bunkers were built at 25 locations in Ber-boldt Hospital. Even during the first inspection of strasse and began the first cleaning and repair work the Teichstrasse surgical bunker for guided tours lin. Type A was a standard building with an oper-the building, the unique state of preservation of in December 2004. New roofing was installed and in keeping with its status as a listed building", thus ating theatre. However, surgical bunkers were also the original building structure and equipment was the second exit was uncovered, which slowly dried preserving this facility as a unique historical building for future generations. Today, the historical On the "Day of the Open Monuments" in surgical bunker can be visited with our expert tour September 2005 and 2006, about 150 interested guides as part of *Tour O*, or as part of the educa-

Literature: Dietmar Arnold, Reiner Janick: Bunker, Sirenen und gepackte Koffer - Berlin unter Stahlbeton (2017, Edition Berliner Unterwelten im Ch. Links Verlag, Berlin). Peters, Sigurd/Topel, Klaus: Berlin. Die gesundheitliche Versorgung während der Luftangriffe 1940–1945. (2015, Westkreuz-Verlag GmbH, Berlin/Bonn). Text: Dietmar Arnold, Berlin Images: Photo credits on the images Translation: Linda O'Grady, Berlin

Scientific advice / Research: Klaus Topel Graphics: Uwe Friedrich, Berlin Printing: KUSS GmbH, Potsdam Responsible according to the press laws: Berliner Unterwelten e.V.

www.berliner-unterwelten.de/en/index.html www.berliner-unterwelten.de/en/the-association/projects.html



setting. After its completion, the hospital had 200

ing complexes. In addition to the Rudolf Virchow

Hospital in Wedding, the facility was one of the

most modern hospital complexes of its kind before

the First World War. It was surrounded by a park-

like green area and was modelled on social reform

The arcade and bridge house on Aroser Allee are part of the "White City" listed complex (Source: Wikipedia CC).

