



# The Buddha Factory

a project  
of the Diamondway Buddhism Foundation



meditation hall before...

and after

Since the former iron foundry and subsequent Unimog workshop in the Kramerstraße 18 was purchased by Buddhists from Braunschweig in April 2003, a centre for meditation and Buddhist art has gradually come into being. A decade of renovating and refurbishing the building could and can only be carried out through private donations and tireless volunteer work.



model of the guest-apartment



Cafe ZWAW



finish for the meditation hall



large hall

## “Village life“

The number of Buddha Factory residents has steadily increased in the course of the years because many of the members of our non-profit organization have moved into the immediate vicinity. Apart from practising the meditation together, the community life offers many opportunities for exchange – in organizing the numerous centre activities as well as in everyday life. An example of this is the common kitchen: we have built a kitchen on the ground floor that is big enough to cook together and to prepare meals for many people. This is why the kitchen facilities in the private homes often remain unused with their owners rather eating in company with friends.

## Construction in Progress

Scaffoldings are still commonplace in the Buddha Factory, though the fruits of more than a decade of construction work, mainly on a voluntary basis, are clearly visible today: the living area on the first floor can accommodate a number of residents. On the ground floor, to the right of the spacious large hall, there are a seminar room and our community café with an adjacent kitchen. With 240 square metres in size, the meditation hall is the hugest and most beautiful room. A library is located in there. A glass facade with twelve metres in length connects the meditation area with the large hall. It can be removed when needed. This is why we have enough space to also host arrangements on a larger scale such as events with the 17th Karmapa Thaye Dorje, Lama Sherab Gyaltsen, Lama Jigme Rinpoche and Lama Ole Nydahl. The 115 square metre large guest-apartment is our latest project. It enables our teachers to come to Braunschweig for extended stays.



breakdown-lane



Karmapas



Chemet Rigzin - sculptor from Ladakh



workroom



16. Karmapa

## Light and Space for the statue workshop

The Buddhist Institute for Tibetan Art (BINTA) is at home in Braunschweig and in “manufacturing” clay statues it adds a second meaning to the name Buddha Factory. BINTA is the association of European artists that supports the transmission of Buddhist artistic techniques from Asia to the West. The aim is to actively make use of those techniques and to preserve them in the long run. This is done by means of an intensive collaboration – in terms of visits, workshops and lectures – with Asian and European masters. So far the main focus has been laid on modelling statues, though further artistic activities will be consolidated in the coming up years.

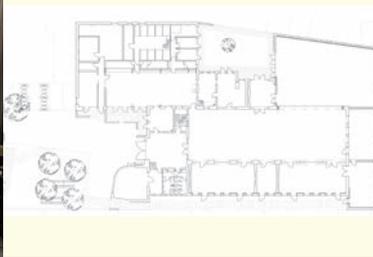
In order to support this significant activity, we have started to refurbish the area the artists have provisionally used up to now. The new workroom covers 100 square metres; huge roof windows provide for the required light, insulation, a heating and running water for the proper working conditions.

## Braunschweig – host of the centre meeting

Since 2007 the Buddha Factory has been hosting the German speaking centre meeting. Approximately 600 representatives of Lama Ole Nydahl’s founded meditation centres in Germany and neighbouring countries come together for an intensive exchange with Lama Ole. Even though the roots of this intensive weekend meeting are to be found in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the event is streamed worldwide today. Guidelines that are laid down here point the way on how to run all our centres around the world. A team of more than a hundred helpers is in charge of the infrastructure for this major event that takes place in our building – from preparing the food to accommodating the people.



centre meeting 2010



sangha

The project is part of the Diamondway Buddhism Foundation. The building provides space for many different activities on a property containing 2400 square metres that include 1800 square metres of effective area. At its core, the Buddhist centre offers daily meditation sessions, lectures on a regular basis, explanations on the meditation practise, a library, teachers' training, introductions to schoolchildren and much more. Moreover, we are home to an artists' workshop that is run by the Buddhist Institute for Tibetan Art (BINTA) and an online bookshop for Buddhist literature (LOGOS).

## Support

We are grateful for every donation that makes our project grow and flourish. Thank you very much!

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