



BIRTHPLACE OF WILHELM CONRAD RÖNTGEN  
DONATE SUPPORT CREATE



GEBURTSHAUS  
WILHELM CONRAD RÖNTGEN  
STIFTUNG



# IMPRINT

Geburtshaus Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen  
Stiftung e. V.

c/o Deutsche Röntgengesellschaft e. V.  
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 10  
10587 Berlin  
www.roentgen-geburtshaus.de

Contact:  
Prof. Emeritus Dr. med. Ulrich Mödder  
Dipl. theol. Bernhard Lewerich

Mail:  
geburtshausroentgen@drg.de

With the exempt from corporate tax in  
accordance with the notice of exemption  
by the tax authorities for corporations I of  
Berlin from 07 May 2013 the Birthplace of  
Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation has  
a recognised non-profit status according to  
§§ 51 ff AO and § 5 Abs 1 Nr. 9 KstG.

Bank account:  
Deutsche Röntgengesellschaft e.V.  
Konto Nr.: 403 268 612  
BLZ: 500 400 00  
Commerzbank Neu-Isenburg  
IBAN: DE 44 5004 0000 0403 2686 12  
BIC: COBADEFFXXX

## Organisation

Deutsche Röntgengesellschaft e. V.  
Dr. med. Stefan Lohwasser (CEO)  
Florian Schneider (public relations)  
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 10  
10587 Berlin  
www.drg.de

Architecture:  
welke architekten  
Baisiepen 10  
42859 Remscheid  
www.welke-architekten.de

Exhibition design and scenography:  
Dr. Ulrich Hermanns  
Ausstellung Medien Transfer GmbH  
Patronatsstraße 11a  
48165 Münster  
www.ulrich-hermanns.de

## Booklet

Texts:  
Dr. Angela Koch  
Sophie Welke  
Dr. Uwe Busch  
Jörg Holtschneider  
Dr. Ulrich Hermanns

Layout:  
Dr. Ulrich Hermanns  
Ausstellung Medien Transfer GmbH

© Deutsche Röntgengesellschaft e. V./  
Dr. Ulrich Hermanns GmbH 2014

Picture credits:  
Sophie Welke: 30/31  
Dr. Ulrich Hermanns: 33, graphics and  
visuals  
Stadt Remscheid: 49  
Archiv Deutsches Röntgen-Museum:  
all others

# CONTENTS

Introduction		The concept		From Lennep to the world		Organisation	
Greetings	5	Guiding principles	11	History of the building	32	Project partners	40
The future of the Röntgen-House	6	The ground floor	12	The Röntgen family in Lennep	37	Operation	41
Objectives and target groups	8	The upper floor	24	From a clothmaker's son to a Nobel laureate	38	The German Rönt- gen Museum in Remscheid	44
		The attic	28			Time and cost	48
		The renovation of the building	30				



Prof. Dr. med. Norbert Hosten,  
German Radiological Society



Dipl. theol. Bernhard Lewerich,  
Birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation



Prof. Emeritus Dr. med. Ulrich Mödder,  
Birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation

## GREETINGS

Probably no other discovery of modern times has triggered such profound changes in natural sciences, in medicine and in cultural studies as the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. The glimpse into matter, made possible by Röntgen's discovery, led to a vast wealth of knowledge and applications in science and technology in the years and decades that followed. Röntgen's discovery may rightly be called a milestone in the history of humanity.

Two years ago, an unusual stroke of luck gave the German Radiological Society an opportunity to purchase Röntgen's birthplace, which has changed little in its outer form in the past 170 years. There was no doubt that the poor structural condition of the house would require a significant investment in its redevelopment and renovation. Nevertheless, it was clear to all involved that the cost of maintaining and taking care of that little gem was out of proportion to the priceless heritage of its former inhabitant.

Once all the necessary structural examinations are completed, and the future usage of this cultural and historical treasure as a museum and a meeting place is agreed upon with the cultural heritage management, the extensive renovation of the building can be started.

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen understood his discovery from the beginning and without ifs and buts as a gift to the world, and firmly rejected every offer of any kind of »marketing«. The acquisition of his birthplace by the German Radiological Society offers the opportunity to make this house a common heritage of science and medicine, and thus to promote and maintain the memory of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen.

An important first step has been done with the acquisition and the beginning of the renovation works. To achieve our goal, however, the commitment of all those dedicated to the legacy of W. C. Röntgen is required.

In this brochure, we present the plans for the renovation and the concept of future use. At the same time, we would like to invite you to get involved as a donor or a sponsor.

For the Birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation:  
Prof. Emeritus Dr. med. Ulrich Mödder  
Dipl. theol. Bernhard Lewerich

For the German Radiological Society:  
Prof. Dr. med. Norbert Hosten

# THE FUTURE OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF WILHELM CONRAD RÖNTGEN

**R**öntgen City is the name of the former clothmaker town of Lennep today. Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen was born here to an old Lennep clothmaker family. He discovered the rays, known today as x-rays, in Würzburg in 1895. His work revolutionised the entire medical diagnostics and paved the way for many high-tech applications. The brilliant physicist, explorer, researcher and winner of the first Nobel Prize in physics is a leading figure of the interdisciplinary and creative thinking outside the box.

With the acquisition of the birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen in the heart of the Lennep Old Town, the German Radiological Society has paved the way to create a dignified space at the place of origin of the world famous scientist for his comprehensive personal inheritance, and to establish an inspiring science conference.

The importance of the Röntgen House is rooted in the impressive personality of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen as a researcher, and the global use of his pioneering discovery. Until now, space and context needed to adequately present the unique archive materials of the Röntgen inheritance were missing. The inheritance of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen finds an expressive destination in his protected birthplace.

## A living monument

The birthplace of Röntgen, together with the German Röntgen Museum, offers the chance to present the life, work and influence of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen in a comprehensive way. It fulfils a national and international mission as a guardian and promoter of the person and work of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen throughout the generations and ages. Röntgen's personal inheritance contains objects, furniture, sketches and designs related to a variety of scientific topics, and rare specialist literature on early radiology. It thus offers a rich spectrum in order to present the scientist in a biographically authentic environment.

A public exhibition on the ground floor, accessible free of charge, meeting and conference rooms upstairs, and a guest and fellows apartment on the top floor make the house a new attraction and a point of reference for both professional scientists and the general public.

## A jewel in the heart of the Old Town

As a contribution to the vibrant and diverse Lennep cultural landscape, and as a new facet of the Röntgen City, the architectural and historical heritage increase the identification and sense of belonging of the people in a special way. Thus, the rehabilitation of the house not only opens up a further dimension to the life of the scientist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, but also offers the chance to make a historic landmark building in the heart of the old town available to a wide audience, and to vividly convey the history of its usage by its world-famous resident.

## An inspiring place for research and science

As a meeting place for international researchers, the house serves as the place of exchange and inspiration of new generations of researchers. In close connection with the German Röntgen Museum, the birthplace as a special historical place with a supraregional appeal offers the opportunity to preserve the spiritual and material heritage of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen in an extraordinary way, and to develop it with a new impetus.



Röntgen's birthplace today

## OBJECTIVES AND TARGET GROUPS

As a non-profit, permanent and publicly accessible facility, the Röntgen's birthplace is supposed to be a driving force of science and society. The setup and offerings of the birthplace are aimed at a broad audience:

- Citizens of the city of Remscheid
- Museum visitors
- Tourists (scientific, individual, group, bicycle, pilgrims to Santiago)
- Families, pupils, students, trainees
- National and international scholars and conference participants
- Members of the German Radiological Society
- National and international guests of the city, of the federal state and the German Radiological Society

### The objectives:

- Protection and conveying of the person and work of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen
- Connecting Röntgen's life and work with the aura of his birthplace
- Strengthening the house of the Röntgen family in Remscheid-Lennep as an integral part of the identity of the Bergisch region
- Introducing the house, as architectural and historical heritage and a special event location, into the existing Bergisch cultural landscape
- Establishing the birthplace as an international scientific centre of attraction with emotional appeal
- Creating an inspiring conference and meeting place in exceptional premises
- Offering young scientists and scholars a special place for thinking and learning



Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, 1900



Multi-part model of the house by  
Friedrich Conrad Röntgen, around 1840

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen kept his native town in good memory in his lifetime. Röntgen's father, the cloth manufacturer Friedrich Conrad Röntgen, made a multi-part model of the house at the Gänsemarkt around 1840. The model accompanied Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen in his life stages, and documents his special connection to his hometown.

The reference to his birthplace receives central importance in the restructuring, and builds a bridge between the aura of the historic building and the charisma of the international scientist.

The Röntgen birthplace takes the visitors back to the lifetime of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen and his family. In contrast to the German Röntgen Museum, which focuses on Röntgen's work and influence, it features furniture, documents and objects from Röntgen's private inheritance. It aims at familiarising visitors with the person of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen.

The exhibition on the ground floor throws light on central biographical themes of the Röntgen family in Lennep and on the further life path and creative career of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. It traces the influence that followed the discovery of X-rays on Röntgen's private life and his scientific career.

The overall concept for the renovation and redesign of the building, with its diverse areas of use, connects the conservation standards for the preservation of heritage with a lively scientific exchange, very much in the spirit of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the cultured scholar and a man of many interests.

## THE GROUND FLOOR – MEETING WILHELM CONRAD RÖNTGEN



1

The proper restoration of the half-timbered interior walls allows to restore the original 1840 layout for the most part. Visitors can make a tour of four exhibition spaces around the central staircase. In close consultation with historic preservation studies, the original building fabric is referenced in some places. A restored design accentuates the historical aura of the premises. Another step to adapt the building to its original 1840 state is a winter garden, which is being created and aligned with a former annex. The glass conservatory and the shop windows facing the Gänsemarkt are designed and played out as as blick-through areas to arouse curiosity and interest of the passers-by.

The first half of the tour is a time window into the lifetime of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. Pieces of furniture from Röntgen's inheritance illustrate further course of his life.

In the second half of the tour the visitor enters a »treasury«, where personal belongings, documents, letters and print works from Röntgen's inheritance are presented adequately in terms of conservation requirements in high-quality displays. The focus is on the single object that is presented to the visitor as a valuable historical source with a central explanatory power.

The original documents provide insights into the creative processes and the private correspondence of the famous scientist.

Media tools allow the visitors to discover the documents individually, and bring the history of science to life. Spaces, objects and documents come together to form an overall picture that allows to comprehend Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen in a new way as a private person and a scientist.

1 Sideboard, around 1880

2 Script »Über eine neue Art von Strahlen«,  
December 1895

2

Über eine neue Art von Strahlen.  
von W. C. Röntgen.  
(Röntgen'sches Institut)  
Lässt man durch ein Litzkopf'sches Vacuum  
rohr, oder einen genügend evacuierten Leyden  
Brooke'schen oder ähnlichen Apparat  
Entladungen eines grösseren Ruhmkorff's  
die Röhre  
und bedeckt den beschriebenen Apparat mit  
einem leicht beweglichen Mantel aus dünnem  
Papier...

# THE GROUND FLOOR – VISITOR ORIENTATION

## 01 Reception

- A mobile reception counter for personal greeting of visitors and handing out information

## 02 »The Röntgen birthplace«

- Immersion in the life and times of W. C. Röntgen
- The model of the house made by Röntgen senior is the central exhibit
- Reconstruction of the historical building fabric and the equipment coordinated with the monument preservation (wall paint, flooring, possibly curtains and lamps)

## 03/04 »From Lennep to the world«

- Röntgen and his family in portraits, letters, documents and photographs
- Life stages are illustrated by original furnishings, personal documents and letters

## Winter garden: »In the footsteps of W. C. Röntgen«

- The conservatory is included in the presentation as a film room
- A short film presents Röntgen's life and work, his relation with his native city, the birthplace and the commitment of the German Radiological Society
- Use of the conservatory as a guest, catering and lounge space for meetings

## 05 »Treasury«

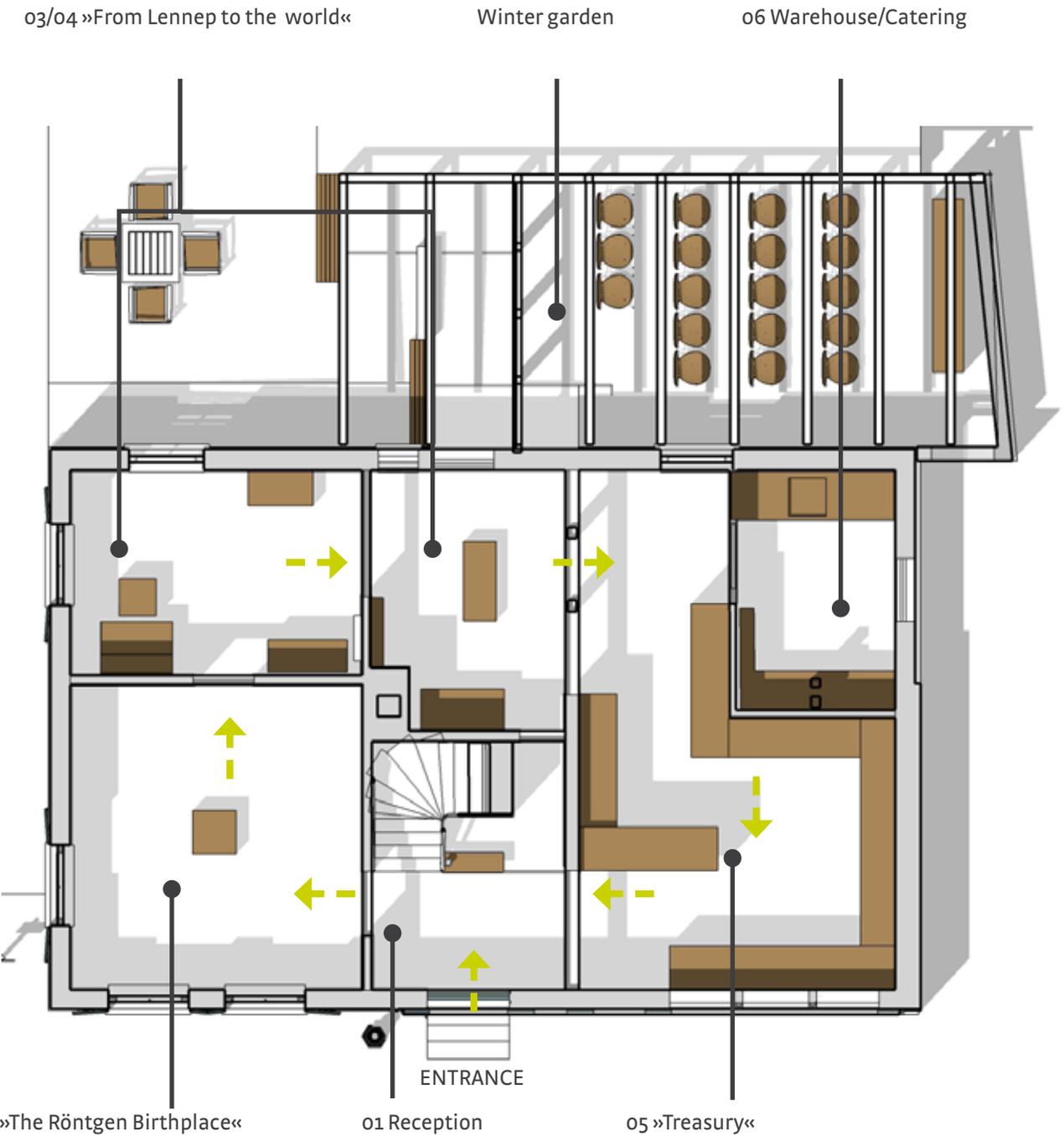
- Objects and documents from Röntgen's inheritance
- High-quality presentation of selected objects in air-conditioned cabinets
- Media development for in-depth information on individual objects

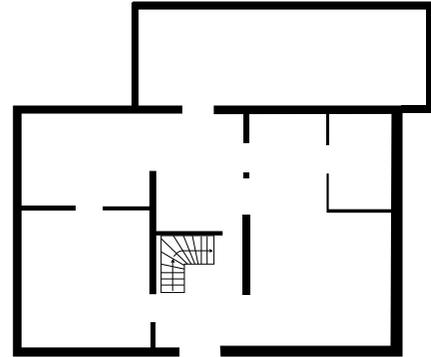
## 06 Warehouse/Catering

- Enables event logistics



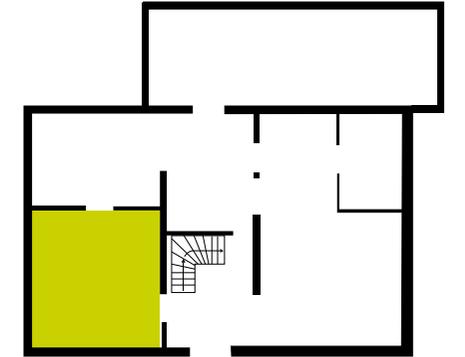
Wash jug and bowl (set)





Birthplace of Röntgen from an outside view

Introduction with the model of Röntgen's house





## THE EXHIBITION ON THE GROUND FLOOR

The interior design is adapted to the location in the heart of the Old Town and the special atmosphere of the house. The presentation focuses on the historical atmosphere without adding a scenery. Subtle colour and lighting accents preserve the authentic character of the house.

The original building fabric is accented by way of example in certain places. Walls, floors and ceilings are designed in the contemporary style. The walls of the first room are plastered with historic, gray-blue lime sludge. Wide wood flooring in the dining room and a tiled entrance area contribute to the authentic appearance of the house. Visible dividers of the partition walls accentuate the historical layout.

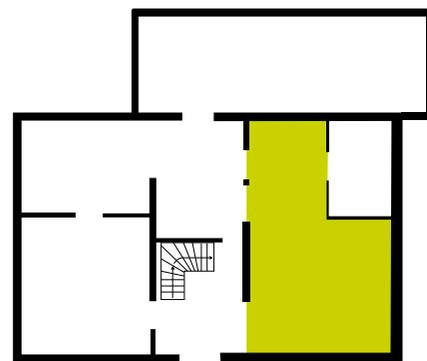
The shop window from the late 19th century remains intact and is separated from the showroom with a semi-transparent gauze. It offers the passers-by first insights and incentives to visit the Röntgen birthplace, without giving a direct insight into the exhibition rooms.

The use of quality materials and state-of-the-art technology accentuates the uniqueness of the exhibits and meets the demands of an international scientific exhibition centre.

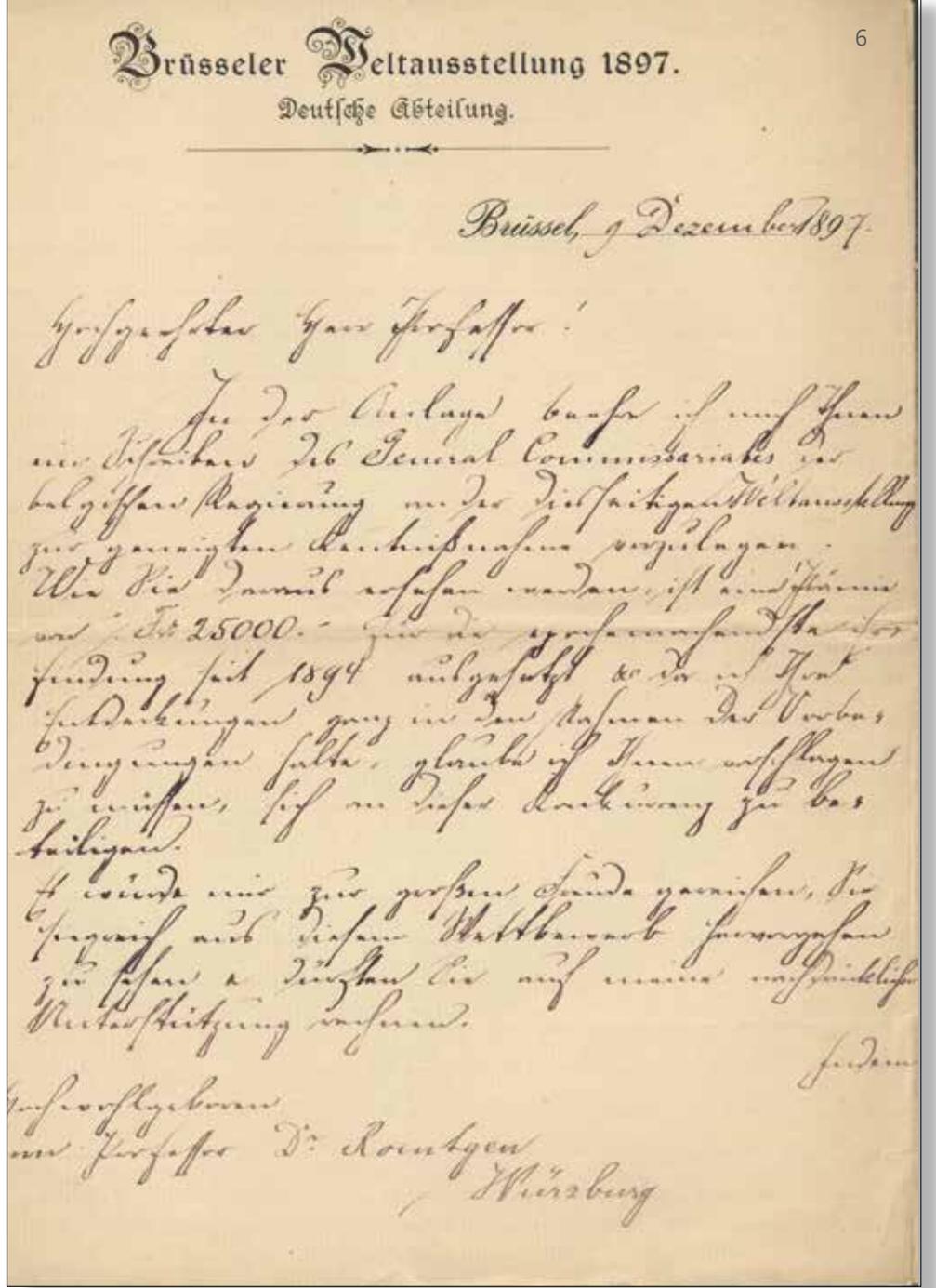
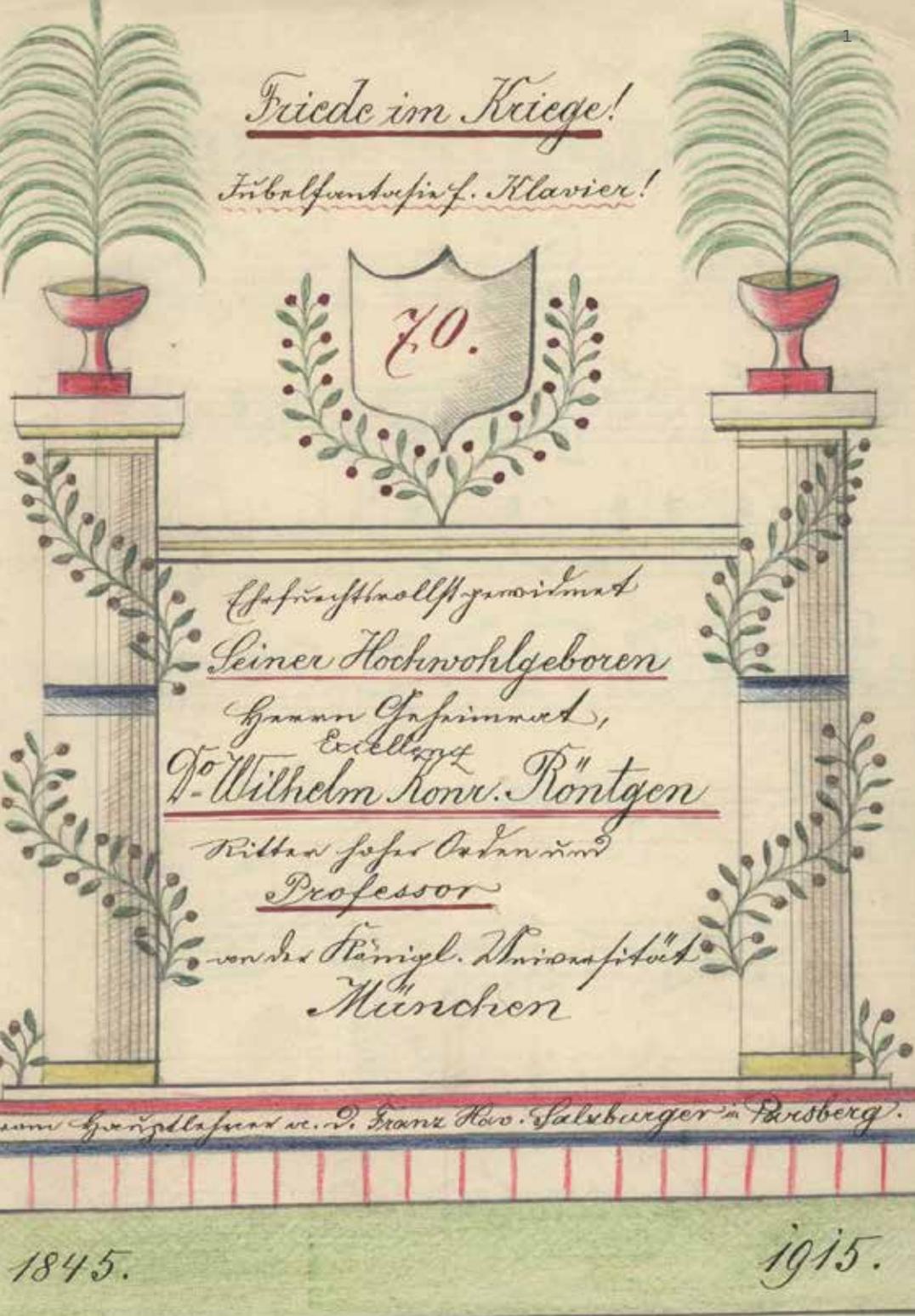
The visitors can experience the objects and the content individually by means of media tools. Classic and media presentation forms exist side by side, so as to offer different levels of information and starting points to the life and work of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen to a wide range of audiences. The use of media is integrated into the exhibition architecture and offers the visitors an intuitive and targeted handling that corresponds to the current stand of information.



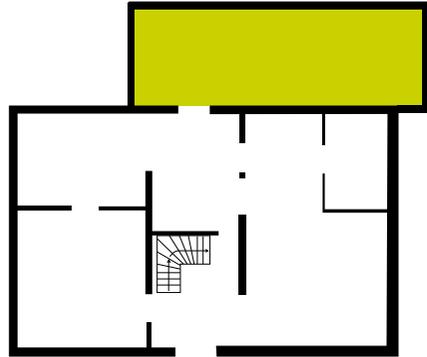
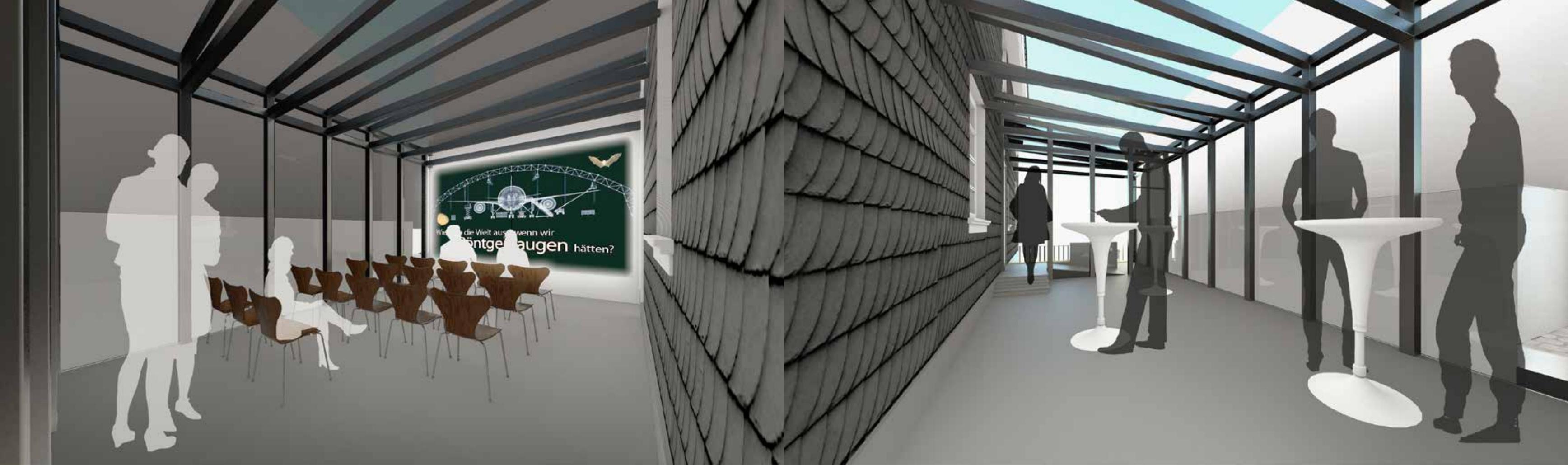
Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, 1895



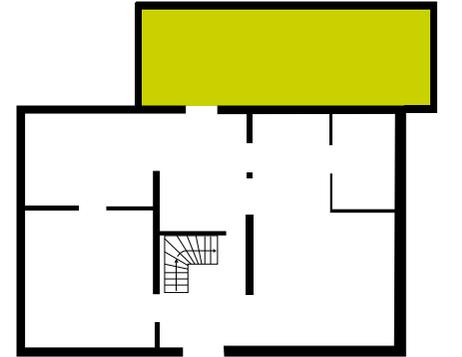
»Treasury«



- 1 Score with personal dedication to Röntgen's 70th birthday, March 1915
- 2 Signet
- 3 Letter with seals
- 4 Glasses with leather case
- 5 Invitation to the audience of the Royal Bavarian Order of Merit, 24 March 1915
- 6 Notice from the World Exhibition Brussels, 1897

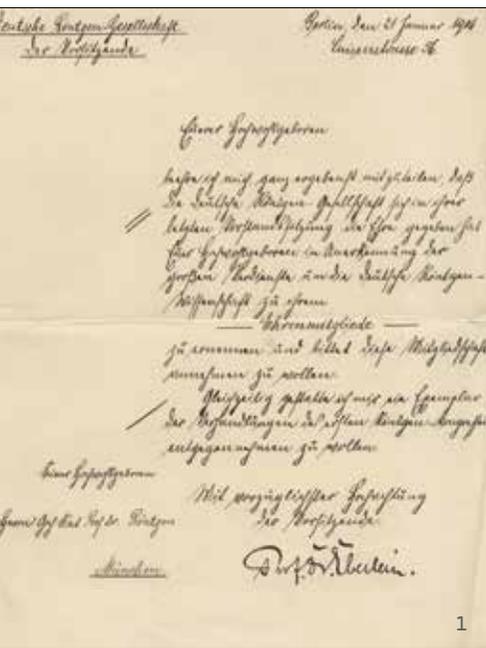


Winter garden as a presentation and meeting room



Winter garden as lounge space

# THE UPPER FLOOR – CONFERENCE AND DIALOGUE



1



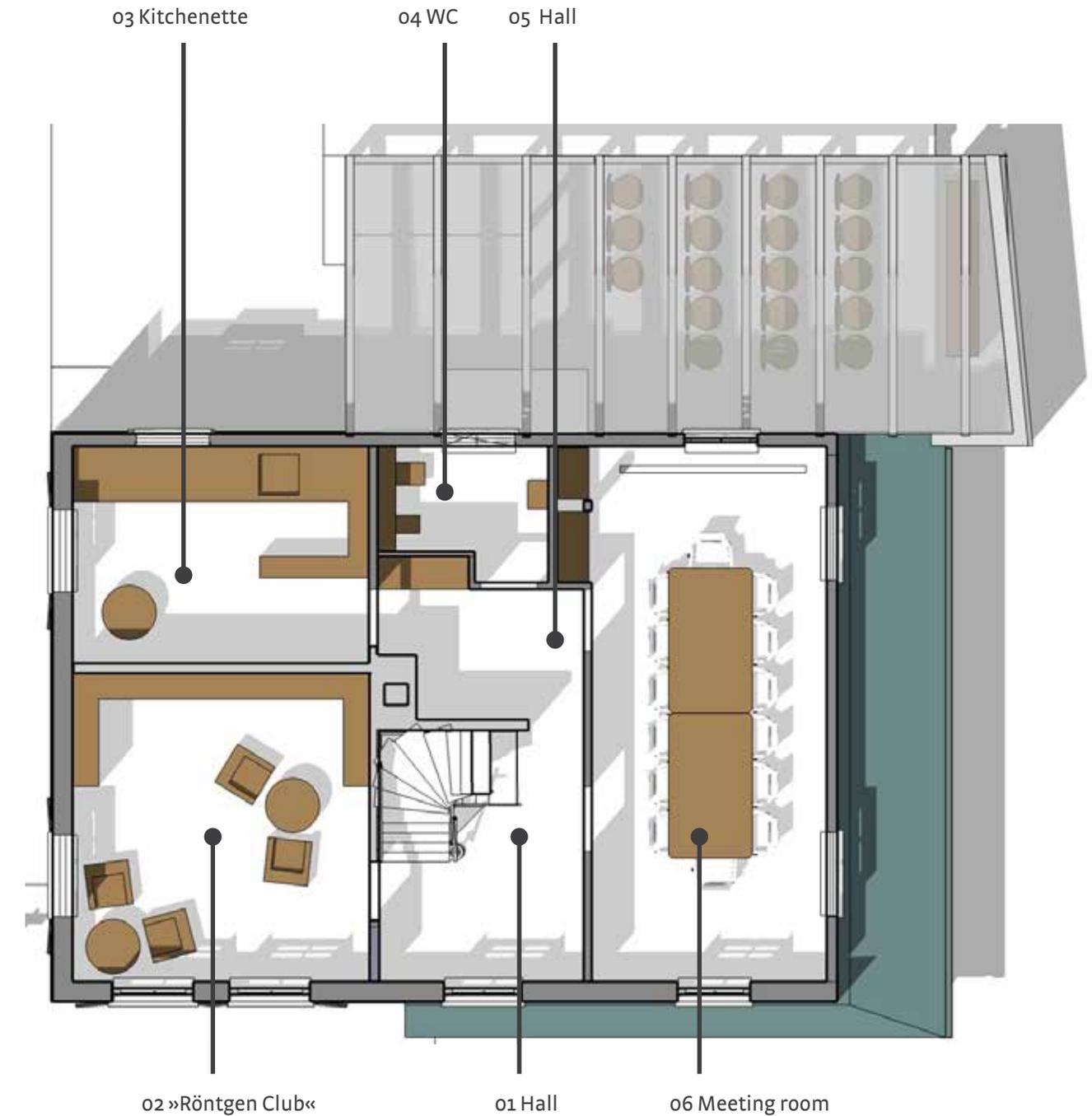
2

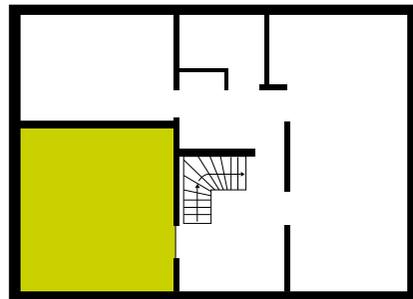
The upper floor is available for use by expert audience. It features a meeting and a conference room for meetings at a national and international level, which can be used on request from the German Radiological Society. Very much in the spirit of Röntgen, scientific exchange will be made possible here. The rooms feature the latest technology and media equipment and can be variably prepared for different conference and meeting scenarios. Wi-Fi is available to accredited guests.

As a special retreat area for meetings and recreation, the street-side room will be established as »Röntgen Club« - a stylishly designed lounge with library showcases and an enthusiast library, stocked with rarities of early radiology.

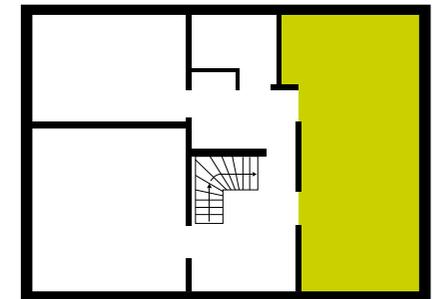
1 Honorary membership of the German Radiological Society, 1906  
2 Private photo album

- 01 Hall**  
Access to the »Röntgen Club« and the meeting room
- 02 »Röntgen Club«**
- 03 Kitchenette**
- 04 WC**
- 05 Hall**  
Cloakroom, access to the kitchenette and the toilet
- 06 Meeting room**  
High-quality conference facility





»Röntgen-Club« – library, retreat and recreation



Meeting room

# THE ATTIC – GUESTS ARE WELCOME

An apartment is being created in the attic, which will be available to scientists and guests of the German Radiological Society, as well as to special guests of the city of Remscheid and the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Fellows and »Thinkers in Residence« may use the premises as an inspirational thinking and learning place in the future.

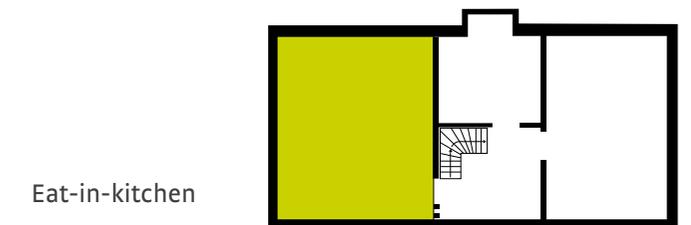
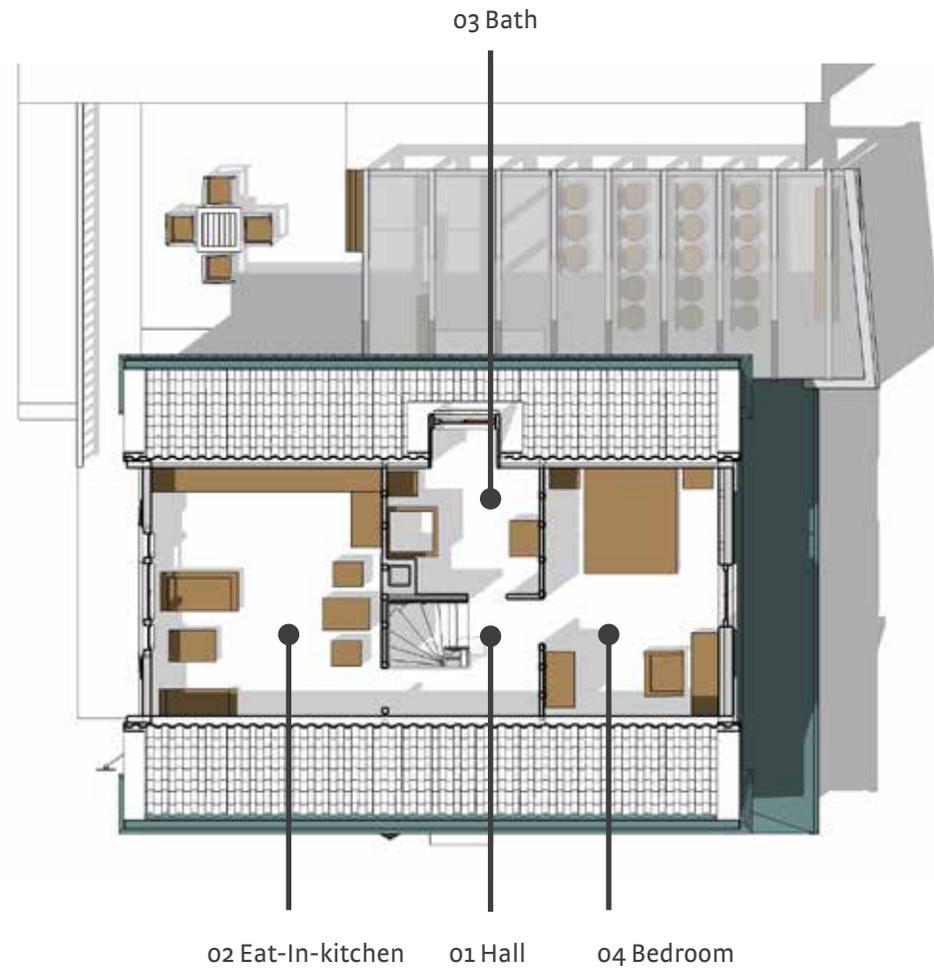
An authentic and quality design of the premises makes the stay a special and inspiring experience.

01 Hall

02 Eat-in kitchen

03 Bath

04 Bedroom



# THE RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING

Careful analysis of the inventory forms the basis of the usage concept and of an appropriate development within budget. This first step was early initiated by the German Radiological Society in order to provide planning reliability.

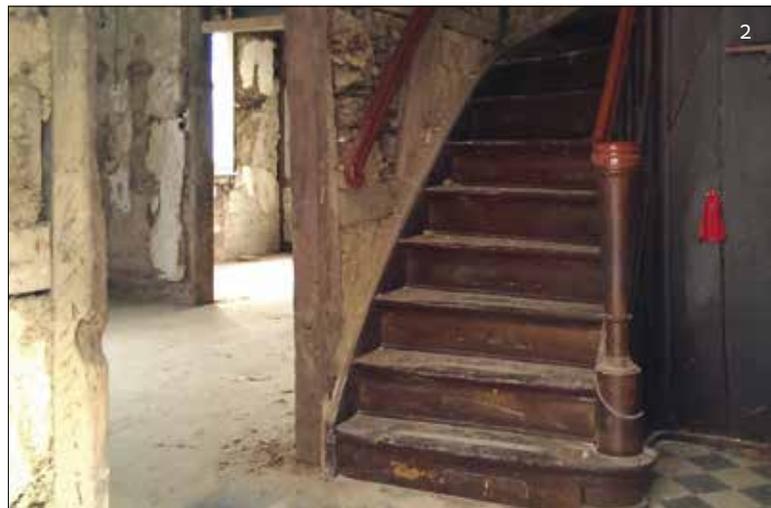
The house at the Gänsemarkt was re-developed in the late 1970s by the city of Remscheid. The then common materials such as mineral wool, plasterboard and aerated concrete blocks were used for the renovation. The courtyard façade was thereby completely renewed, as its half-timbered wall was severely damaged due to its exposure to adverse weather conditions.

The replacement of the wall was made in coniferous wood and the infill of the half-timbered wall with aerated concrete blocks. Damaged half-timbered interior walls were partially clad with plasterboard stud walls without repairing the damage. Likewise, the exterior walls were provided with an internal insulation in the form of an insulating panel made of plasterboard and mineral wool.

Since those measures no longer reflect the current state of the art and do not comply with the proper restoration, and since these fixtures prevented an evaluation of the damage to the timber framework, all contemporary fixtures have now been completely removed.

After the original components had been exposed, a detailed inventory was made. The display of the now visible timber framework in the floor plans and interior views enabled a detailed damage assessment.

1 Timber framework with mortise and tenon connections; 2 Entrance and staircase before the renovation; 3 Timber framework



## Renovation

Based on this damage assessment, a timber framework restoration is currently carried out with mortise and tenon connections in the old carpenter tradition, to secure the building fabric for the next centuries, and to toughen up the shell for the planned use. Unfortunately, the damages of the timber framework are more severe than the German Radiological Society expected when taking over the house, which results in additional costs in the area of timber framework restoration.

The rehabilitation works also take into account the static aspects of the building. To reduce the weight, the existing cement paving in the upper floor and attic must be removed. In order to preserve the original and thus historically valuable ceiling beams, additional timber is placed sideways. To upgrade the building in terms of energy efficiency and structure, the contemporary infills from aerated concrete will be replaced by clay bricks. Furthermore, installation of a capillary thermal insulation made of wood fibre panels and earthen mortar, which is applied to the inside of the exterior walls, is being done.

The removed wooden windows from the 1970s will be replaced with thermal insulation glazed wooden framed windows in accordance with proper restoration guidelines.

A wall heater is provided in the area of the top floor and the attic. Through the expansion of the flooring on the ground floor, an underfloor heating can be laid there. Both the wall and the floor heating are supplied by a new air heat pump.

The renovation is completed with relaying all water, sewage and electrical lines in the EIB system. Alarm devices and other installations resulting from the fire protection requirements will be planned and implemented in the course of the museum development and interior design.

After implementation of the above measures, the building will be fundamentally and comprehensively restored and will meet the requirements of all uses to offer the future visitors a place of inspiration and well-being.

# HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The birthplace is not just a biographical testimony; it also represents the typical characteristics of living and working in the Bergisch Land during the 18th and 19th century.

After the devastation of the last town fire of 1746, the city of Lennep decided to reconstruct the city centre according to the medieval town plan, including its street network and the old plot structure. Also ornamentation should be understood as an overarching design feature of the traditionally built half-timbered houses, apart from the sloping roofs. The reasons for this lie in fire protection regulations, in the need for weather protection for the walls reinforced with clay, and in a changing taste.

The birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen was built in the early 19th century. The construction was already documented in the 1827 land register. A dendrochronological examination revealed that the timber had been harvested for construction in 1783-1785. In his time the address was »Alte Poststraße«.

The half-timbered building, in terms of its ground plan, follows the scientifically documented basic type of the Bergisch housing dating from around 1800. Side-gabled and facing the Gänsemarkt with four axes, it rises two storeys above the ground with a double spatial depth. Approximately in the middle the slightly spiralled staircase opens up to the upper floor and the attic. A vaulted cellar partially underpins the ground floor. The gable side facing the street is constructed with two axes. The interior walls feature the original building construction with straw clay plaster, lime plaster and lime paint.

Contrary to the current understanding of a clear demarcation of use, the buildings of the Lennep Old Town always featured a mixed function of living and working. The city district between the »Lüttringhauser city gate« (now Mollplatz) and the »Schwelmmer city gate« (now the site of the German Röntgen Museum) along the Gänsemarkt was the dyer centre of Bergisch clothmaker town. Also bakers and butchers settled here.

The Röntgen birthplace is exemplary for these two formative, socially and architecturally important facets. In the end of the 19th century, a shop characteristic of the Lennep Old Town with floor-level windows and a sophisticated timber design was installed in the right part of the house. After the clothmaker family of Röntgen

## Architectural cultural heritage and monument protection

Largely spared from the effects of the Second World War, the Old Town was still strongly marked by dereliction in the late 1960s. In 1964 the house at Gänsemarkt 1 was handed over to the city of Remscheid. The European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975 and a gradual rethinking of the urban renovation policies of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia encouraged more and more a respectful handling of the traditional historical building and city structures.

- 1 Access from Gänsemarkt
- 2 Shop windows
- 3 Memorial plaque, 1952

Given its particular importance, the birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen was declared a National Monument and registered on 18 March 1982 in the list of monuments of the city of Remscheid. It has housed the Library of the German Röntgen Museum since the 1980s.



1 Brass template W. C. Röntgen; 2 Pipe  
3 Leather chair; 4 Bertha Röntgen's desk,  
around 1900



Herrn Bürgermeister Sauerbrunn  
Hochwohlgeboren  
Lennep.

In Erwiderung des sehr geehrten Schreibens vom 17 d. ult.  
beehre ich mich zu Hochwohlgeboren ganz ergebenst mitzu-  
theilen, dass ich das mir angetragene Ehrenbürgerrecht der  
Stadt Lennep mit dem wärmsten Dank für die mir zu  
Theil gewordene hohe Auszeichnung und mit der größten  
Freude annehmen werde.

Mit vorzüglichster Hochachtung  
ganz ergebenst  
Dr. W. C. Röntgen

W. C. Röntgen's reply to  
the honorary citi-  
zenship of the city of  
Lennep, 20 April 1896

## THE RÖNTGEN FAMILY IN LENNEP

The roots of Röntgen's family lie in the small village of Dabringhausen – today a district of Wermelskirchen – and go back to 1650. A branch of the family can be traced back to Lennep, where it establishes itself in the educated and commercial circles.

The grandfather and the father of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen married into the cloth merchant Frowein family, which had been rooted in Lennep already since the 17th century. The family had family ties to the Netherlands and other Western European countries. Through connections with various known clothmaker families, the Röntgen family entered the Lennep mercantile community over time, and at the end of the 18th century belonged to the wealthy citizens of the city.

Johann Heinrich Röntgen and Anna Louise Frowein, the grandparents of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, bought the house at Gänsemarkt 1 from Catharina von Pohlheim. They passed it on later to their son Friedrich Carl Röntgen and his brothers Richard and Ferdinand.

In 1848 Friedrich Conrad moved with his family to Apeldoorn in the Netherlands. The family ties to Holland turned out to be advantageous thereby.

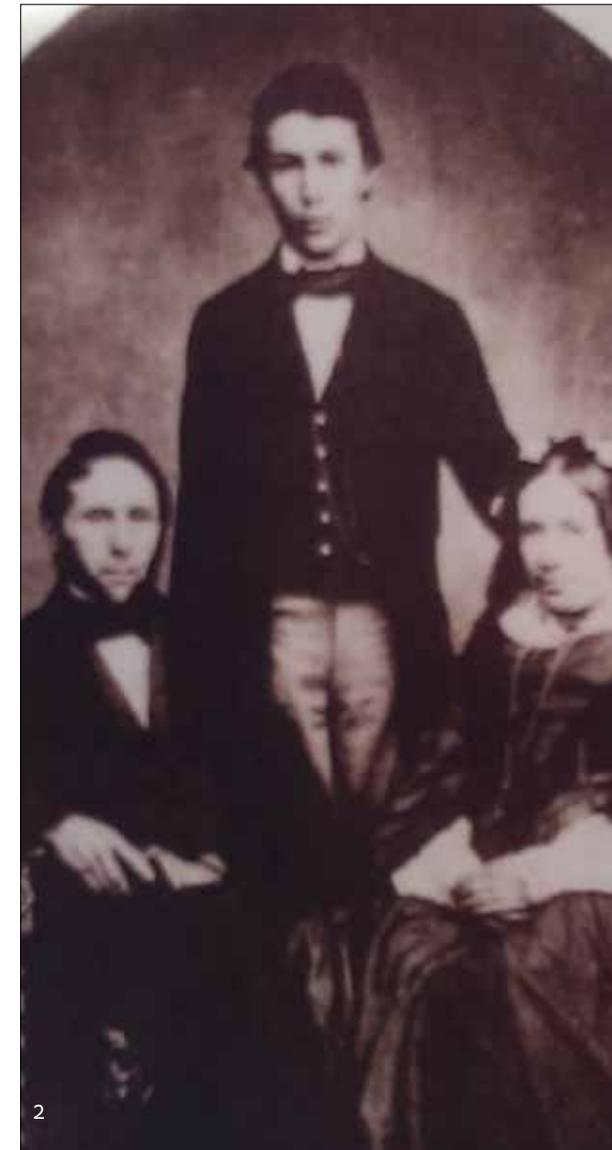
The majority of the immediate family in Lennep had already died or emigrated in previous years. Moreover, the economic and political conditions were difficult due to the Revolution of 1848/49. The Netherlands were not affected by this unrest and offered the merchant Friedrich Conrad Röntgen a peaceful and stable environment for family, business and the education of his son Wilhelm.

1 Röntgen House in winter

2 Family photo Wilhelm Conrad and his parents in Apeldoorn



1



2

# FROM A CLOTHMAKER'S SON TO A NOBEL LAUREATE



1

As a child of a cloth manufacturer, marked by increasingly industrial production methods, Röntgen should have studied »a technical subject« according to the wish of his father. With hard work, persistence and perseverance, Röntgen secured a college place without university entrance qualification in order to study at the prestigious Polytechnic School in Zurich.

**The experiment as the highest instance**  
Röntgen was fascinated by mainly four aspects of the natural sciences, and of the experimental physics in particular: the precise »non-complex questions«, the potential »possibility to get clear answers«, the research method, namely the exact and reproducible experiment, and finally the interlinking of »observations and conclusions,« so Röntgen in a letter to M. Boveri of 12 July 1919.

Röntgen was an experimental physicist in the truest sense of the word. In his presidency speech, he stressed that »the experiment is the most powerful and reliable tool by which we can eavesdrop the secrets of the nature, and it must be the highest

authority when making a decision on whether to maintain or to reject a hypothesis.« (Röntgen 1893)

### A humble superstar of science

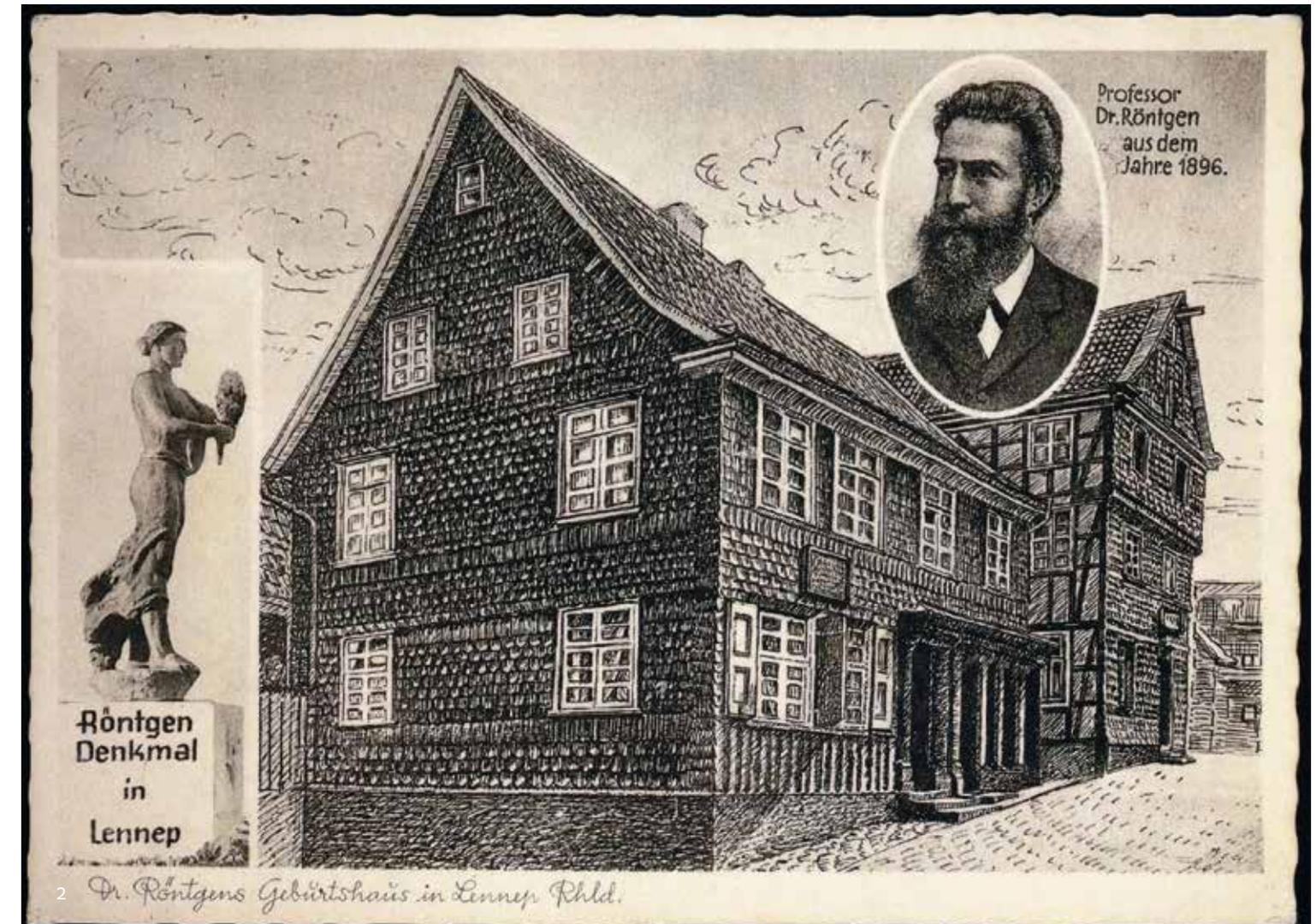
His discovery of a new type of radiation, made on 8 November 1895, made him famous overnight and at the same time a first superstar of science. Röntgen has thus helped, though not consciously, to publicise the scientific research.

Röntgen, who assumed his social position through his own work, held on to his citizens ethos. He categorically refused the personal nobility title, which was connected with the award of the Bavarian Order of the Crown 2nd class.

Röntgen, more than anyone else, has contributed to demystification of the traditional world view through precise research. His epochal discovery is now the basis for numerous scientific and technical areas, and especially so in medicine in the past, future and present.

1 Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, 1920

2 Postcard of the Röntgen monument and birthplace, undated



## PROJECT PARTNERS

In cooperation with the city of Remscheid and the German Röntgen Museum, the Röntgen House will also play a key role as a meeting place of winners of the annual award of the Röntgen Plate in the future. Among the winners of this scientific award, which is highly regarded in professional circles, there are already nine Nobel Prize winners.

The Röntgen House should be supported and accompanied from the beginning by great civic involvement and the support of the members of the German Radiological Society, with its 7,000 members in 38 countries around the world.

The owner of the Röntgen House is the German Radiological Society. The Birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation, which was established under the umbrella of the German Radiological Society as a non-independent foundation under public law by a unanimous decision of the board of the German Radiological Society on 18.04.2012, is responsible for the funding.

The sponsor guarantees financing, which allows the reconstruction and continuous operation of the Röntgen House. It shall ensure that the exhibits provided from the holdings of the German Röntgen Museum for exhibition in the Röntgen House will be made available to the public during regular opening times.

## OPERATION

The targeted organisation of the Röntgen House is done in close coordination between the city of Remscheid, the German Röntgen Museum, the German Radiological Society and the birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen Foundation. The strategic concepts for positioning the Röntgen House and a consistent corporate design will be developed in cooperation and consultation with these organisations, with the support of an agency with experience in the modern museum design.

The German Radiological Society in close cooperation with the German Röntgen Museum and the city of Remscheid organises staff planning based on the needs of the house, and develops a forward-looking economic planning and the corresponding controlling. This results in the best economic use of the resources provided.

### Qualified personnel

The museum-specific qualifications of the staff ensure that the objectives of the Röntgen House will be continuously achieved at all levels. As a place of preservation and mediation of cultural and natural heritage, of social memory and of ethical and aesthetic education, the House offers a wide range of options for identification and commitment. In light of the current cultural-political discussion, which has been taking place especially since the publication of the Survey on Volunteering and the Report of the Enquete Commission of the German Bundestag in 2002, the concepts of voluntary work for the museum are developed.

### Marketing

The Röntgen House will benefit greatly from the museum marketing of the German Röntgen Museum, as the birthplace will be integrated in its exhibition portfolio and its targeted advertising. Moreover, the professional community (mainly physicians working in radiology) is addressed through the public relations of the German Radiological Society, and is closely linked to the birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen through various fundraising activities and seminars.

The general lobbying, marketing and public relations of the Röntgen House and the contact with representatives of all the media and opinion makers is established and continuously maintained via the office of the German Radiological Society.



Business card Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen



1



2



3

1 Longitudinal graduating engine, around 1900; 2 Tangential compass with aiming circle; 3 Gyroscop; 4 Decorative certificate from the German Museum Munich to Röntgen's 70 th birthday, 1915

4

Seiner Excellenz  
 Herrn Kgl. Geheimrat, Professor  
**Dr. Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen**  
 München.

Euer Excellenz

bringt zum 70. Geburtstage das Deutsche Museum herzlichsten Glückwunsch dar.

Wir erinnern uns an diesem Tage dankbar der Zeit, in der unter Leitung Euer Excellenz die Grundsteinlegung für den Neubau unseres Museums stattfand, und wir sind stolz darauf, durch Ihre Güte die Originalapparate bewahren zu dürfen, die noch in späten Zeiten von Ihren grundlegenden Arbeiten auf dem Gebiete der Strahlungsercheinungen Kunde geben werden.

Indem wir Euer Excellenz zum Nutzen der gesamten Wissenschaft noch eine lange Reihe glücklicher, arbeitsreicher Jahre wünschen, zeichnen wir

München, den 20. März 1915.

als Euer Excellenz ganz ergebenstes

**Deutsches Museum:**

*Dir. v. H. v. Meyer Dr. v. D. v. D. v. D.*

# THE GERMAN RÖNTGEN MUSEUM IN REMSCHEID

**R**emscheid is the birthplace of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the first Nobel Prize winner for physics. His birthplace is in today's district Lennep. The city and the German Radiological Society are involved in an outstanding way in the promotion of the biography of Röntgen, of his scientific work, his pioneering research and its continuing influence in modern medicine to a wide public. The centre of these activities is the German Röntgen Museum, which has been comprehensively re-designed since 2004, according to the latest didactic, medial and aesthetic demands.

First ideas for the establishment of a Röntgen museum were discussed by the German Radiological Society already shortly after its founding in 1905 in order to give an appropriate framework to the processing, documentation and presentation of the historical development of radiology as a new medical discipline.

On the occasion of the unveiling of the Röntgen monument in Lennep on 30 November 1930, Paul Krause, the chairman of the Rhenish-Westphalian Society of Radiology, proposed to establish a museum in the birthplace of Röntgen.

However, because it was not offered for sale, the city purchased the patrician house of the family Oelbermann located vis-à-vis the monument, and opened there the Röntgen Museum in 1932.

The German Radiological Society has steadily supported the development of the museum. In 1951, the Society of Friends and Supporters of the German Röntgen Museum was founded. Its members included many members of the German Radiological Society. In cooperation with the X-ray industry a museum could be realised, whose foundation stone was laid in 1955 in the presence of the then Interior Minister Gerhard Schröder.

In 1964, the city of Remscheid acquired the birthplace of Röntgen. After its renovation and reconstruction until its sale in 2011 it housed the museum library.

The reconstruction of the German Röntgen Museum from a specialist scientific museum to a realistic thematic and family museum of creative research and exciting discovery allows visitors to follow in the footsteps of Röntgen and to become researchers and explorers themselves.

With the project phase implemented in the coming years, the area of »modern medical imaging« enhances the museum tour. The new »treasure chamber« provides insight into the aesthetics of technical exhibits and the prospects of application fields of X-rays outside of medicine. The innovative »Röntgen lab« appeals especially to pupils, students, trainees and adults in further education. New learning formats allow intensive investigation into the themes of the museum.



Front of German Röntgen Museum



1



4



2



3

Impressions from the permanent exhibition:  
1 Röntgen's laboratory; 2 sources of inspiration  
3 hospital; 4 Nobel laureate; 5 time channel



5

# TIME AND COST

Cost estimates for renovation and interior fittings amount to 1 Mio Euro.

The completion is planned for 2015/2016.

1.

Renovation of the building in close consultation with historic preservation studies

around 750,000 Euro

2.

Interior fittings for the exhibition, conference and guest rooms

around 250,000 Euro



Certificate for the honorary citizenship of the city of Lennep, 15 June 1896

