SPECIAL EXHIBITION “THREE GENERATIONENS OF BÖHM”

This special exhibition is presented by the Mindelheim museums in cooperation with the architekturforum allgäu. On display are almost exclusively original hand drawings and sketches by individual members of this famous dynasty of architects. The architect Dominikus Böhm, born in Jettingen in 1880, who created unique sacred spaces in the wake of the liturgical movement from about 1920 onwards, made a name for himself as a builder of churches. Much space in the exhibition is devoted to the life’s work of his son Gottfried, who – like his father – created outstanding buildings and had a great influence on the architecture of his time. He was the first German architect to be awarded the internationally renowned Pritzker Architecture Prize. Also represented in the special exhibition are plans and sketches of projects in which his wife Elisabeth, who came from Mindelheim, was also involved. Elisabeth Böhm, née Haggenmüller, studied architecture in Munich together with her future husband. Although she influenced the work in Böhm’s architectural office for decades, she was perceived more as the wife of the famous architect after the birth of their four sons – as was customary at the time. The works of Gottfried Böhm’s sons Stephan, Markus, Peter and Paul demonstrate an immense talent for drawing, combined with the feeling for space, form and light which characterises the work of all the Böhms. Exhibits reflecting the diverse talents which span generations in the fields of sculpture, painting and design paint an accurate picture of the Böhms’ creative work over more than 100 years.

IMPRESSIVE DESIGNS

The works on display cast a spell over the viewer. “The exhibits, which illustrate the many talents through the generations in the fields of sculpture, painting and design, paint an accurate picture of the work of the Böhms over more than 100 years”.

Architectural sketches and designs show the high level of skill as well as the artistic prowess of the architects from the Böhm family.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE IN COLOGNE

The Islamic Cultural Centre was to become visible in order to finally put an end to the backyard existence of the large Muslim community in the suburb of Ehrenfeld. A contemporary and regional interpretation of a mosque was required and Paul Böhm reinvented the dome and minarets without falsifying them.

This is an extraordinary building, large in volume and gesture and just foreign enough to beckon the unknown. The Turkish-Ottoman domed mosque with its opened up walls and many window elements not only allows a view from the inside to the outside, but also in the opposite direction. An allusion to and a symbol of open communication between people of different faiths.

AN OPEN HOUSE

When discussing this mosque, words like “open”, “inviting” or “bright” are likely to be used. That is exactly what Paul Böhm wants to achieve with his architectural style: “The prayer hall is open and then there is this huge inner courtyard which is meant to welcome people of all religions”.

The dome opens upwards like a bud – framed, as it were, by two slender minaret towers that taper upwards in an elegant twist.

The centrepiece is a generous flight of stairs leading up to the 36-metre-high domed hall with its curved concrete shells and glass façades, which can hold around 1,200 visitors,