For the first time, architecture and design are mapped out as an essential application of design concepts of modern architectural spirit to an entire industrial complex.

Saarland is the only discontinued ironworks throughout Europe and was the monument preservation assessment of Rammelsberg as a unique document of industrial heritage.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein since 1996: „The Zollverein ironworks is the only fully preserved ironworks worldwide dating back to the heyday of industrialisation. Wuppertal’s ironworks in Saarland is the only documented ironworks throughout Europe and North America that is still preserved with its original facilities.“

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001: „The Zollverein Coal Mine Complex is a remarkable cultural monument thanks to the fact that its buildings are outstanding examples of the application of design concepts of modern architectural spirit to an entire industrial complex.“

Fagus Factory, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011: „With a construction of glass and steel Gropius gave the Fagus Factory a weightless elegance which was exceptional for factories at that time. For the first time, architecture and design are mapped out as an essential factor for the quality of human life at Fagus Factory“.

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UNESCO World Heritage Site Rammelsberg
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World Heritage Site Zollverein
free accessible area facility open every day from 9 am except 24, 25 and 31 December
;

World Heritage Site Rammelsberg
open every day from 9 am except 26 and 31 December

UNESCO World Heritage Site Völklinger Ironworks
Völklinger Hütte, Rathausstraße 75–79 | 66302 Völklingen
Phone +49 6898 9 100 100 | Fax +49 6898 9 100 111
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www.unesco-welterbe.de

World Heritage Site Fagus Factory
open every day from 10 am except 24, 25 and 31 December and 1 January

www.fagus-work.de

Industrial heritage

The UNESCO industrial heritage world heritage sites have become centres and meeting places of the European cultural capitals for a long time and every year they mobilise hundreds of thousands of visitors. The change in the use of former industrial plants to turn them into animated places for visitors is the most important cultural achievement at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. However, industrial heritage, i.e. 200 years of technology, everyday and social history, also experiences the crossing of frontiers of all cultural kinds.

Industrial heritage means getting closer to the past and looking to the future. Industrial heritage is the central cultural platform of the 21st century. Today, industrial World Heritage Sites have become international hubs for visitors. Industrial heritage preserves the heritage of industrialisation for future generations.

Two other industrial sites in Germany, in Zollverein Coal Mine and Coking Plant and the Fagus Factory, achieve world heritage status. UNESCO’s decision makes clear: an awareness has long since arisen that in addition to churches, castles and abbeys, industrial heritage is also a heritage of mankind deserving protection as an authentic testimonial of the past. Industrial heritage units history and future. Its sites are a place for the emotions of the people who worked at these factories and at the same time they are the starting point for something new. Today people get to know about the world of their parents and grandparents or bygone worlds at places where smoking chimneys and noise used to dictate everyday working life.

Industrial culture is a meeting point for the whole family, as animated industrial architecture, as a location for exciting exhibitions or theatre or electro festivals. Concerts, exhibitions and festivals transform former production facilities into exceptional places full of inspiration and unforgettable moments. Today, the four industrial UNESCO World Heritage Sites are attractive touristic industrial heritage places and anchor points of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH).
Even during its working period, the Zollverein Coal Mine in Essen was named the "most beautiful coal mining plant in the world". A total of 240 million tons of coal were mined there between 1847 and 1986; up to 8,000 miners were employed above ground and underground. The completely preserved coal mining and coking plant sites are regarded as unique icons of modern industrial architecture and are an exemplary representation of the history of the coal and steel era.

Today the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein is the largest tourist attraction in the region and a symbol of the successful change of an industrial area into an attractive location for culture, leisure time and business. Visitors can discover one of the most fascinating places in the history of industry: for instance during a guided tour along the ZOLLVEREIN® memorial path, a visit to the Ruhr Museum or the Red Dot Design Museum, in the portal of industrial culture or during a walk in the Zollverein Park. The Zollverein Foundation and the institutions located at the world heritage are constantly working to enable all guests to enjoy an easygoing and widely barrier-free visit.

The gigantic iron works site, spread over more than 600,000 square metres, is a must for all those looking for something exceptional. Völklingen Ironworks has collected high-technology milestones from the 19th and 20th century in a confined space. Today concerts and edgy exhibitions take place at Völklingen Ironworks, where smoking chimneys and ear-deafening noise once dictated everyday working life.

An exciting cosmos of iron and steel opens up along 7,000 metres of visitor pathways. In addition to the exhibitions, it is also possible to visit the UNESCO Visitor Centre, the Ferrodrom® Science Center and “Das Paradies” – The Paradise, the industrial landscape park. The Ferrodrom® Science Center is a world of adventure that links the history of iron to the history of Völklingen Ironworks. All areas of the World Heritage Site Völklingen Ironworks are accessible using a walking frame and wheelchair.

In 1911 Walter Gropius, founder of Bauhaus and pioneer of modern architecture, designed the Fagus Factory, the original building of the modern era. As a result he created a revolutionary building characterised by light, air and clarity. Shoe lasts have been produced at this worldwide monument of building culture for more than 100 years.

Today, the shoe last production is complemented by electronic and mechanical engineering divisions. Following in the footsteps of Walter Gropius and company founder Carl Benscheidt, visitors are able to experience the symbiosis of tradition and innovation as well as architecture and production. The multimedia-based UNESCO Visitor Centre, the Fagus-Gropius exhibition as well as special exhibitions turn a visit to the Fagus Factory into an unforgettable experience. Factory tours provide a look behind the scenes and cultural events in a factory ambiance complete the choice. Some parts of the Fagus Factory can be explored barrier-free.

1,000 years of mining and living at Rammelsberg: exciting conducted tours at UNESCO’s World Heritage Site at Rammelsberg deliver an extraordinary insight into the working environment of the miners in the region of the Nordharz, above ground and underground.

The visitor goes on a journey through time to the 200 years old power system in Roeder tunnel with its wooden pumping and reversible water wheels. The visitor follows the path of the water underground – the early energy carrier of the industrial revolution – to the gigantic water wheels that powered the dewatering of the pit and the shaft hoisting.

The three museums in the Rammelsberg above-ground sites invite the visitor with topics about the history and culture of coal mining in the region of the Unterharz. The museums, the museum restaurant and the trip underground using the mine railway are barrier-free.