



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus  
District with Chilehaus**  
World Heritage since 2015

**World Heritage area Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus**

- 1 World Heritage Information Point
- 2 Speicherstadtmuseum
- 3 Hafencity InfoCenter Kesselhaus
- accessible train/subway-station
- accessible public toilets
- StadtrAD/rental bike station
- bus station
- car park



0 100 m

# HAMBURGS SPEICHERSTADT AND KONTORHAUS DISTRICT WITH CHILEHAUS > WORLD HERITAGE SINCE 2015 – OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF MARITIME WAREHOUSES AND MODERN OFFICE BUILDINGS.

## WHAT IS UNESCO?

UNESCO stands for „United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization“.

It is one of 16 specialised agencies of the United Nations and is based in Paris. There are currently 195 member states represented in UNESCO.

UNESCO's mission is: „Since wars being in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.“ It is embedded in the Preamble of its Constitution which was ratified by 37 states on 16 November 1945 in London.

The experiences of World War II has led to the belief that, „a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.“

UNESCO's aim is „to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture.“

Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list on 5 July 2015. The World Heritage Committee based its decision on the belief that the Speicherstadt and the Kontorhaus District are „an outstanding example“ of buildings and an ensemble which „illustrate significant stages in the history of humanity“. The Outstanding Universal Value of the two mono-functional but complementary areas is reflected in Hamburg's warehouse district “Speicherstadt” with its opulent historic architecture and its connecting network of roads, canals and bridges dating from 1885 to 1927 and in the Kontorhaus District with the modern red-brick architecture of the office buildings for port-related use from the 1920s to 1950s.

Hamburg was and still is a dynamic port and trade centre that is in a constant state of flux. At the end of the 19th century, a transformation process had been initiated with the construction of the Speicherstadt resulting in Hamburg transitioning from a city with mixed living, commercial and working quarters to a modern city with service districts. The construction of the Kontorhaus district continued this process at the start of the 20th century.

The **Speicherstadt** was originally constructed between 1885 and 1927 by the „Hamburger Freihafen-Lagerhaus-Gesellschaft“ (HFLG) shipping company on a 1.1 km long archipelago in the Elbe river (reconstructed in part between 1949 and 1967). Constructed in three building phases, the Speicherstadt remains the largest uniform and cohesive ensemble of warehouses in the world to this day.

Using new technology and materials, it is a unique representation of the functional and sophisticatedly designed maritime industrial architecture in the style of European historicism.

As a result, the Speicherstadt is of high international importance to the development and history of architecture. With its composition of red brick buildings in neo-Gothic architectural forms, its streets, waterways and bridges that give the Speicherstadt its unmistakably unique image, this area of Hamburg is a formative part of the entire cityscape.

This „city of storage“ includes 15 large warehouse blocks that were very progressive in terms of their technical facilities and equipment, as well as six decorative ancillary buildings and a network of roads, canals and bridges.

The adjacent **Kontorhaus** district is a cohesive, densely built area featuring pure office complexes that were built from the 1920s to the 1950s in direct neighborhood to the Speicherstadt to house businesses' offices engaged in port-related activities.

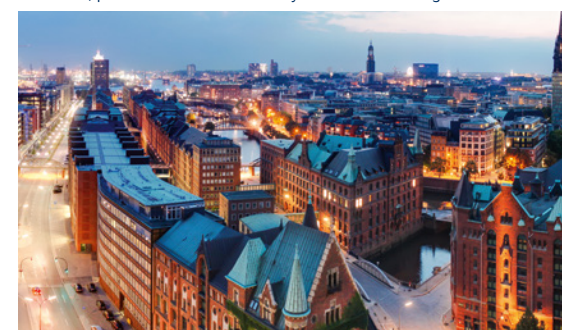
The Kontorhaus district's massive office buildings stand out for their early expressionistic brick-clad architecture and their unity of function with the Chilehaus as “flagship”.

The Chilehaus, Messberghof, Sprinkenhof, Mohlenhof, Montanhof, former Post Office Building at Niedernstraße 10, Kontorhaus Burchardstrasse 19-21 and Miramar-Haus attest to architectural and city-planning concepts that were emerging in the early 20th century. In particular with the Sprinkenhof and Chilehaus the architectural forms achieved an almost unsurpassable degree of virtuosity in terms of design and craftsmanship.

Furthermore, the Chilehaus by Fritz Höger is regarded as an icon of expressionism with its tip reminiscent of a ship's bow and characteristic detailing of its façades.



Chilehaus, planned and constructed by architect Fritz Höger in 1922-24.



View to the west over the Speicherstadt and Sandtorkai.



The Brooktorkai is the eastern part of the Speicherstadt.

Photo credits: Chilehaus © Maxim Schulz, Speicherstadt, Sandtorkai © Andreas Vallbracht, Brooktorkai © Denkmalschutzamt Hamburg Bildarchiv (FH-Bildarchiv)