

Krupp Historical Exhibition

The Small House of Villa Hügel



Krupp Historical Exhibition

The "Krupp Historical Exhibition" in the Small House of Villa Hügel covers several thematic areas: the Krupp family and Villa Hügel with its park are presented on the ground floor.

Two rooms are dedicated to the founding and activities of the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation. The upper floor presents the history of the Krupp company since its beginnings more than 200 years ago.



Dining room
in the Small House,
c. 1906, and the
room about the
Krupp Foundation

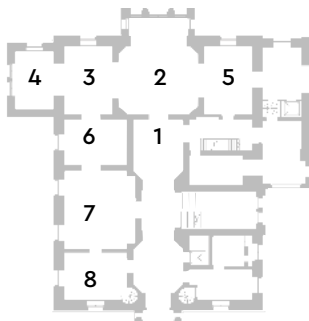
The exhibition aims to provide a nuanced overview of Krupp's history based on the current state of research, and concentrates on the most important developments. In particular, it examines the question of how a company can maintain its position for over two centuries despite deep economic crises, social upheavals and several wars. There are no simple answers to this, and so the presentation invites you to search for traces yourself.

The Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation renovated the Small House of Villa Hügel in 2005/06 in accordance with its status as a listed building, guided by the concept of preserving the remaining historical substance and once again rendering the original character of the villa visible. The newly designed historical exhibition opened in 2007.

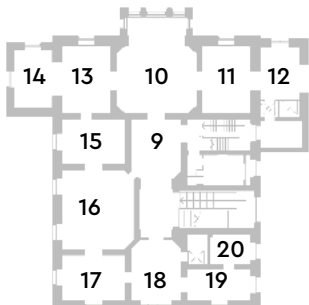
The Small House of Villa Hügel

The Small House was initially used as a guest house from 1873 onwards; it then served from 1906 as the residence of the widowed Margarethe Krupp until her death in 1931. In 1955, the exhibition "Industrial Form" was inaugurated in the Small House, and in 1961, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary, the Krupp company set up its first permanent historical exhibition. The Krupp Historical Archive has also been accommodated in the Small House since then.

Ground floor



Upper floor



Ground floor

Rooms 1 to 3 **Five generations of the Krupp family**

In 1811, Friedrich Krupp founded the Fried. Krupp cast steel works. He came from an old-established and successful Essen merchant family that can be traced back to the 16th century. His son Alfred Krupp (1812-1887) expanded the small company to become a global conglomerate, and growth accelerated once again under Friedrich Alfred Krupp (1854-1902). The young company heiress Bertha Krupp married the diplomat Gustav von Bohlen und Halbach in 1906, who stood at the head of the Supervisory Board until 1943. His eldest son, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach (1907-1967), was the last personal owner of the company.

Each personality in the entrepreneurial family had specific talents. Many possessed artistic talent, Friedrich Alfred Krupp researched in the field of marine biology and Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach sailed and was a keen photographer. All generations fulfilled their social responsibility with foundations and donations. This can still be witnessed today, for example in the "Margarethenhöhe" garden town estate and particularly in the work of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation.

Bertha and Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach with their children, around 1930



Rooms 4
and 5

Villa Hügel and Hügelpark

Villa Hügel was built between 1870 and 1873 as a residence for the Krupp family and as a location for representation. The Allies confiscated the villa in 1945. After it was returned in 1952, the family made it available for cultural purposes. Since then, internationally renowned art exhibitions have been held here. Hügel Park was originally designed with ornamental gardens, fountains and sculptures.

Today, the non-profit Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation owns the villa and park.



Garden in Hügel
Park (watercolour
by Margarethe
Krupp, 1890s)

Rooms 6
and 7

The Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation

On the death of Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach on 30 July 1967, his entire fortune was transferred to the charitable foundation he had established in his will. This was made possible by a renunciation of inheritance by his only son Arndt von Bohlen und Halbach.

The Chairman and the Managing Member of the Board of Trustees from 1 January 1968 until his death on 30 July 2013 was Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Berthold Beitz. Prof. Dr. Ursula Gather has been Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees since 1 October 2013.

Alfried Krupp
von Bohlen
und Halbach
(right) and
Berthold Beitz



Chairwoman
of the Board
of Trustees
Ursula Gather

As the largest shareholder of the current thyssenkrupp AG, the Foundation uses the income it receives exclusively for charitable projects in the areas of science, art and culture, education, health and sport as defined in its Articles of Association. It sets accents in all branches of science, supports creativity and commitment in art and culture, and contributes to international understanding and the education of young generations. Since 1968, it has contributed around € 700 million to this cause.

The Alfried
Krupp Hospital
in Essen
continues the
tradition
of the Krupp
hospitals
founded in 1870.



Room 8

Lounge

The room presents numerous publications from and about the House of Krupp as well as publications of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation.

Upper floor



Room 9

The beginnings of the company (1811–1850)

In 1811, the merchant's son Friedrich Krupp founded a cast steel factory in Essen. On the continent he was one of the first to produce high quality cast steel according to English standards, specifically for cutting and scraping tools, coin punches and rollers. However, the beginnings were not very promising. When Friedrich Krupp died in 1826 at the age of only 39, he left behind a company heavy in debt.

Friedrich Krupp
(1787–1826)





Alfred Krupp
(1812–1887)

Room 10

Rise to a global company (1850–1887)

Alfred Krupp took over responsibility in the company at the young age of 14. With business acumen, perseverance and a willingness to risk, he succeeded in turning the small, still largely hand-operated cast steel factory into a globally operating group with 20,000 employees – with coal mines, ore mines and smelting works.

Several success factors came together: technical innovations, qualitative production, financing acumen, public relations, and last but not least, employees and the propitiousness of the times. During the Industrial Revolution, railway construction opened up new markets for the company. The seamless railway tyre invented by Alfred Krupp in 1852/53 was, in particular, in demand worldwide and by the millions. A second new development was guns constructed from cast steel.

"Last shift"
of steam
hammer
Fritz on
4 March 1911





Friedrich
Alfred Krupp
(1854-1902)
and his wife
Margarethe
(1854-1931)

Room 11

Further expansion (1887–1902)

Under the direction of Friedrich Alfred Krupp, construction of an ironworks commenced in Rheinhausen from 1896 onwards. The company also acquired the Grusonwerk in Magdeburg in 1893 and the Germania shipyard in Kiel in 1896.

Fried. Krupp
Germania
shipyard
in Kiel,
around 1930



Room 12

The Krupp social system: "The purpose of work should be the common good" (Alfred Krupp, 1873)

The social policy of the Krupp company began very early and ranged widely – from housing, support funds, schools and grocery shops to facilities for organising free time "after the shift". This commitment corresponded to social aspirations, but also had practical motives: disturbance of a revolutionary nature was to be prevented and a qualified central workforce bound to the company.

Room 13

World War I (1914–1918)

Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach viewed the war with concern, but considered German policies to be justified. Within two years the factories were largely converted to armaments production.



The bulletin of the Krupp Educational Association reports on the last visit of Emperor Wilhelm II to the Krupp works on 9/10 September 1918.

Room 14

Crisis years (1918–1933)

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles dictated the destruction of numerous factories and the almost complete renunciation of armaments production. Krupp began manufacturing new "civilian" goods, such as trucks, locomotives, agricultural machinery, cash registers and film projectors. WIDIA hard metal tools and stainless steel (NIROSTA) products, invented by Krupp as early as 1912, proved to be innovative. The most important business segment remained the production and processing of steel. The Great Depression from 1929 onwards also plunged Krupp into deep crisis.



Stainless steel (NIROSTA) was invented in the Krupp company as early as 1912.

Room 15

The Group in the National Socialist era (1933–1945)

Gustav Krupp, with his conservative-national stance, initially viewed Hitler's rise to power with scepticism. He had not supported the NSDAP, but the economic upswing and apparent political stabilisation caused him to increasingly come to terms with the Nazi regime and dismiss its brutality. Simultaneously, dealings with those in power were not free of conflict, as the state increasingly restricted the company's scope for decision-taking.

Allied
occupation
officers in
the destroyed
Krupp factories,
1945



Room 16

New objectives, new paths (1945–1967)

The situation after the end of the war seemed hopeless: the entire company was placed under the control of the Allied victors, 70 % of the Essen factory was impacted by war damage or dismantling, and other works destroyed or expropriated.

It was not until 1953 that Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, convicted as the company's owner by a US military tribunal, returned to the top of the Group. He appointed Berthold Beitz to be his chief representative the same year.

In the following years the company was rapidly rebuilt. The production range was expanded, especially in the industrial plant sector. Trade with the East, driven forward by Beitz, was also of political significance. In

Alfried Krupp
von Bohlen und
Halbach and
his son Arndt,
Hanover
Trade Fair 1960



July 1967, Alfried Krupp died. The non-profit Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation established by him became the new sole owner of the company.

Room 17

Global challenges (1968–1999)

Fried. Krupp GmbH had to respond to the long-lasting, global steel crisis. In the mid-1970s, Berthold Beitz persuaded the state of Iran to take a stake in the company, thus significantly expanding the capital base.

Share of Fried.
Krupp AG
Hoesch-Krupp,
1992



The closure of factories, for example in Rheinhausen, opened up scope for the expansion of future-oriented business areas. In 1991/92, the company acquired a majority shareholding in its competitor Hoesch, and in 1999, Fried. Krupp AG Hoesch-Krupp merged with Thyssen AG. Today, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation is the largest single shareholder of thyssenkrupp AG.

Room 18

Company headquarters

A map from 1932 documents the extent of the Krupp factories in Essen. The Ruhr Tech Campus Essen, the corporate headquarters, was built in 2010 on the historic site of the Krupp cast steel factory.

Room 19

"Treasure chamber"

The "treasure chamber" presents exhibits from the rich holdings of the Krupp Historical Archive. The splendid pieces were never at the centre of Krupp history, but still tell a narrative.



Honorary certificate
for Friedrich Alfred
Krupp, 1896

Room 20

Historical films

As early as 1912, the Krupp company founded a "Cinematographic department". In this room, 18 selected historical films can be viewed. They date from between 1928 and 1964.



Transporting a
seamless wheel tyre,
1899



Address Villa Hügel, Hügel 1, 45133 Essen
Phone: +49 (0)201 61 62 90

Opening hours Villa Hügel and
Krupp Historical Exhibition
Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hügelpark
Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Guided tours Phone: +49 (0)201 61 62 917
E-mail: info@villahuegel.de

Foreign language guided tours are available.

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Lenders of the exhibition: Deutsches Historisches Museum (Berlin), Deutsches Museum (München), Deutsches Technikmuseum (Berlin), Eric Hammarberg (New York), Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr (Dresden)

Images: Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation/Krupp Historical Archive; Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, Photographers: Peter Gwiazda, Lutz Kampert, Michael Rasche

