



Projects for the *Rheinisches Industriemuseum*
(Rhineland-Museum-of-the-Industry)

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branch Engelskirchen:

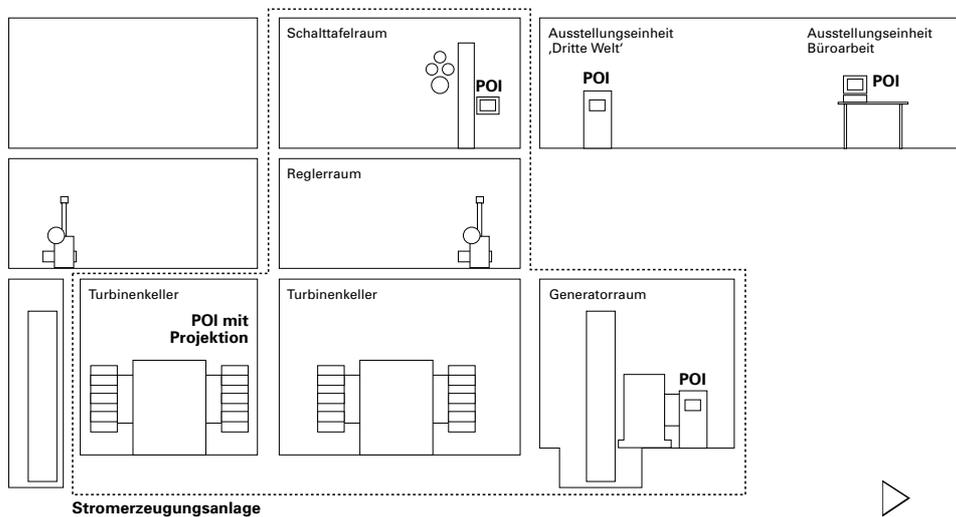
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The Museum-of-the-Industry in Engelskirchen was established in the former cotton-mill 'Ermen & Engels' and opened to the public in 1996. The cotton-mill was founded by Friedrich Engels sen. in 1837. Its machines were driven by electrical power, which was produced with the help of the river Agger.

This power-producing-plant makes up an essential part of the museum's permanent exhibition. The parts of the power-plant are explained by three of the multimedia-kiosks we have produced. Two additional kiosks treat the evolution of office-work and textile-production in the years after 1945.

In these multimedia applications we create a compelling emotional attitude of the visitor to the exhibits by means of slide shows, collages, QuickTime®-videos and -animations. We put emphasis on details, make hidden features and processes visible, just as functions and contexts conceivable.





The power-producing-plant:

Three computerbased kiosks are situated at the crucial locations of the plant: the water-turbine, the generator and the instrument-board.

The context and the joint action of the plant's parts was accentuated, since it's not visible in the exhibition.

For the information design we have used different techniques mostly iconic to visualize the mostly abstract or invisible contents like water-power, voltage or energy.



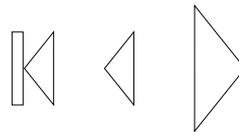
Evolution of the textile-industry after 1945:

This kiosks presents by means of slide shows the development in the textile-industry in the Federal Republic of Germany and the 5 most important textile-producing countries as well as the everyday-life of an Indian textile-worker in the form of a report.



Office-Work:

This kiosks subject is the evolution of office-work, divided into 3 areas of interest. One presents the entry of women into the office and the jobs the have occupied since then. Two further chapters show the development in the field of communication technology from pointer-telegraphs to computer-networks and how computer-technology has step-by-step invaded the office.



Users control these kiosks by means of 3 real buttons in the shape of prominent arrows, that are placed near the display.

It was crucial to develop an interface that can be used by a majority of the audience without problems or fear. This lead to a restriction of interaction to the choice of chapters, repetition or fast-forwarding of chapters and the call of a help-function.





branch Ratingen:

The Museum-of-Industry in Ratingen was established in the former cotton-mill 'Cromford' and was opened to the public in 1996. Johann Gottfried Brügelmann founded this mill in 1784 probably as the first factory-plant on the European continent.

After the factory was closed in 1977, the machines were sold or trashed, so there was nothing left. Exhibits had to be rebuilt, bought or replaced by virtual exhibits. For the museum's permanent exhibition we have put up three media-environments, that explain content on the one hand and establish resp. raise the visitors' emotional relation to the subject on the other hand.

The 'Water-Wheel-House':

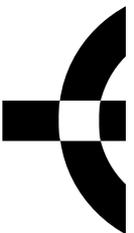
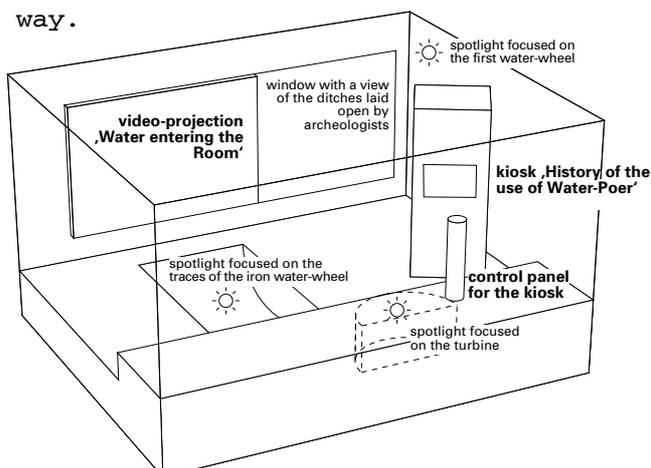
In this room with its very special atmosphere the history of its use is told in relation to the archeological investigated traces by means of a video- and sound-environment and an information-kiosk. Through the window the now dried canalization made for the water-wheels can be seen.

Video-projection 'Water-Entry':

A video of water in its typical grey colours running towards the viewer, projected on the former water-entry together with the respective sounds simulate the former situation in the water-wheel-house.

Kiosk 'History of the use of water-power':

On a screen in the right part of the room the instructional sequences are presented. Sections are made according to history. Through the computer's serial port spotlights - focused on the traces of usage in the room - are turned on by the presentation-application whenever a trace is mentioned. The sound volume of the video-installation is also managed that way.



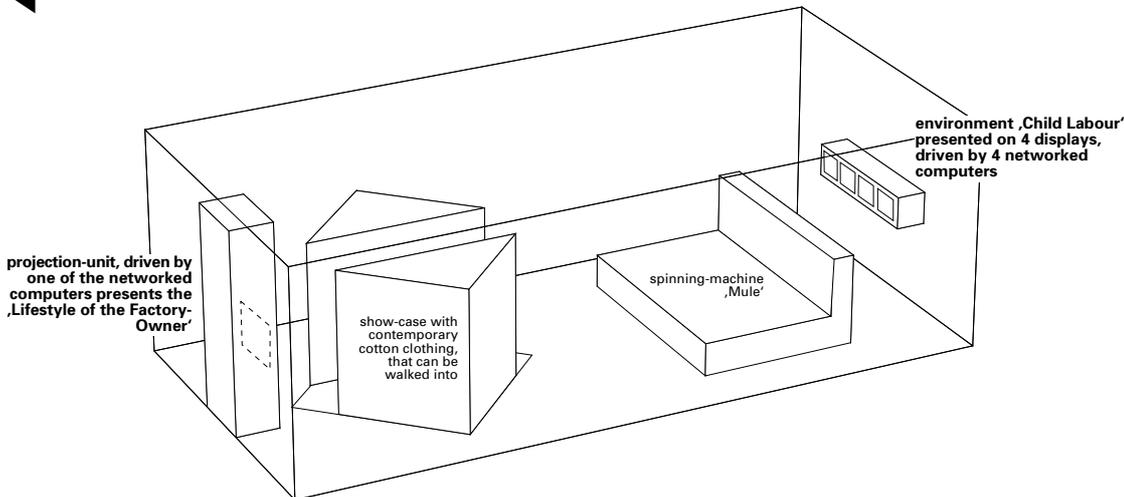


The 'High Factory':

The exhibition in the 2nd floor of the factory-building features on one side of the room the subjects 'Child Labour and Factory-School' and contrasts this on the opposite side with the topic 'The Lifestyle of the Factory-Owner'.

In the 'Child-Labour'-area four monitors are mounted on the wall side by side in a position that a grown-up person is faced with them directly. The presentation - made of contemporary material, mostly drawings and engravings - illustrates the subject visually obtrusive, industrious and insistent. The rhythm of the show, adapted to suit the respective illustration, lets the audience take part in the hectic of that life.

In the environment 'Lifestyle of the Factory-Owner' a video-projection-unit is installed. It shows contemporary illustrations of fashion, 'park-sceneries of Dusseldorf', classicistic idealistic sceneries etc. in slow succession, presented by a networked computer. The dramaturgic construction establishes a contrast to the 'Child-Labour'-environment on the opposite side of the room; in a contemplative way the elements leisure, luxury and spare-time are reflected.



In order to raise the impact of the environment as a whole, visual elements from the opposite presentation of child-labour are inserted, driven by the networked computers. These illustrations contrast in their graphical techniques as well as in the way of manipulation, so that the viewers realize the hidden connection between the two social classes represented in this room.



The Manor-House:

This second important part of the museum's ensemble is a symbol of the new middle-class industrialist type, that emerged in the late 18th century.

In the first room the visitor passes in the tour, three LCD-displays are installed in the niche of a chimney. On them, the history of the factory and the family of the founder and owners is presented.

Three visual and one narrative track report the political and social influences on the Brügelmann family, the behaviour of the women and daughters through the time and the education of the family members. For better understanding of mentioned dates and years one Display shows illustrations and written hints to important contemporary supraregional events, inventions and anecdotes.

