



**Report on the activities of the
Museum of the Second World War
in 2010**



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This Museum of the Second World War will become a unique and powerful icon, as well as a public attraction standing for the never-to-be-forgotten history of World War II, a new symbol that will inscribe itself in the hearts of the people of Gdańsk, Poland, and Europe.

Daniel Libeskind



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Prof. Paweł Machcewicz, director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

No museum like this one exists anywhere in the world. Here, we want the experiences of many nations to come together in one place. To have this opportunity to understand each other better, but without forgetting the differences that have shaped us. After all, many effects of the Second World War live on, shaping state borders, relations between nations and mentalities.


The Museum of the Second World War should take the experiences of the Poles and of the other nations of East-Central Europe, which in many ways were unlike those of the Western Europeans, and insert them into Europe's and the world's memory. It is important to remember that Poland fell victim to two aggressive powers that occupied it. And that, in this part of Europe, the Second World War only really came to an end in 1989, when the fall of the Iron Curtain erased its consequences. We hope that our Museum will help to link the different fragments of memory of the Second World War, which until now have often been separate.

It is most importantly for future generations that we should preserve the memory of wartime suffering and crimes. But also of resistance and heroism. And of the simple decency that millions of ordinary people showed at the crucial moment. This is the Museum's most universal and most significant message.

Paweł Machcewicz
Director of the Museum of the Second World War



Ryszard Pajewski walks over Warsaw's rubble, September 1939. Photo: Julien Bryan, US Holocaust Memorial Museum



Museum of the Second World War:
its programmatic premises
and mission



"...military events will merely serve as the background to its narrative about the everyday lives of civilians and soldiers, the terror of the occupation, genocide, resistance to the occupying forces, diplomacy and great-power politics."

Warsaw, September 1939. Photo: Julien Bryan, USHMM

Despite the fact that over 70 years have passed since the outbreak of the Second World War, no museum in Europe treats the course and nature of this war comprehensively. It is therefore not surprising that our initiative to create such a museum has met with widespread interest and given rise to lively debates. Its location in Poland, the first country to offer armed resistance to Hitler's expansionism, and in Gdańsk, which played such an important role in the origins and beginning of the war, was welcomed outside Poland.

One of the Museum's principal goals is to show the wartime experiences of Poland and the other countries of East-Central Europe. These were in many respects different from the experiences of Western Europe and of countries outside Europe, and tend to be little-known there.

Our Museum will focus on the stories of individuals, societies and nations; military events will merely serve as the background to its narrative about the everyday lives of civilians and soldiers, the terror of the occupation, genocide, resistance to the occupying forces, diplomacy and great-power politics. This approach will convey the uniqueness of the Second World War, in which it was the civilian populations that suffered the most.



Warsaw, September 1939. Photo: Julien Bryan, USHMM

The Museum of the Second World War will present the Polish experience in the broad context of developments in Europe and around the world. But it will also take into account the stories of other nations. The Second World War has been one of the most important events in the history of humanity, and it continues to influence the state of the world and of Europe, as well as the system of universally accepted values. The Museum will aim to relay this paramount message to the younger generations. In the words of Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, himself a fighter in the underground Home Army: “The war was indescribably, infernally horrendous, but at the same time the experience of fighting for freedom was unspeakably magnificent and beautiful. I would like the young Europeans who visit the Museum of the Second World War in a few years to leave it convinced that fighting for their ideals is worth it” (*Przegląd Polityczny* 2008, no. 91/92).



The commander of the Vilna District of the Home Army, Aleksander "Wilk" Krzyżanowski, decorates "Szczerbiec" with the Silver Cross of Merit with Swords and "Lancet," "Bury," "Okon," "Burza," "Rekin" and "Dłuższy" with Crosses of Valour. From Olgjerd Christa "Noc" and Jerzy Ossowski "Osa," eds., AK Wilno Trzecia Brygada "Szczerbca." March 1944, Turgiele





Key information

Creating the Museum

It was Prime Minister Donald Tusk who presented the idea of creating an institution that would show the Second World War from a perspective combining the Polish experience with those of the other European nations. On 1 September 2008 Tusk appointed Prof. Paweł Machcewicz his plenipotentiary for the Museum of the Second World War.

The Museum of the Second World War was created on 26 November 2008 by a directive of Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski. It would be located in Gdańsk. On 1 September 2009 Prime Minister Tusk officially signed its Foundation Act during the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War taking place on the Westerplatte Peninsula.

The Museum of the Second World War is a national cultural institution, under the direct authority of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

Management

Prof. Dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz is the Museum's director, and Dr Janusz Marszałec and Dr hab. Piotr M. Majewski serve as his deputies.

Staff

Because of the growing number of tasks before us and the intensive work on the Museum's permanent exhibition, we have also been expanding our staff. In 2010 its number grew to 29. Since the research and exhibition departments are directly responsible for developing the permanent exhibition, we have focussed primarily on adding people to these departments.

In 2010 the Museum also had help from nine short-term student assistants, two post-graduate interns and two volunteers in its information and promotion, exhibition, education and administration departments. These young people not only had an opportunity to learn about the Museum's creative work, but also took part in projects such as organizing our architectural competition and putting on the European Night of Museums.

Financial information

The Museum of the Second World War is funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

In 2010 the Museum's budget of 5,861,000 zlotys was comprised of:

- day-to-day expenses (substantial research and educational activity, purchases of exhibits, contracts, licences, furniture and equipment, office maintenance, salaries) 3,831,000 zlotys
- investments (planning the permanent exhibition, the preparation and management of the architectural competition for the Museum's building, the construction of the educational path on Westerplatte) 2,030,000 zlotys

On 4 January 2011 the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution to establish a multi-year programme for "The Construction of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk" with an appropriation of 358,432,000 zlotys. This programme will be implemented in 2011-14 and will assure regular funding for the investments entailed in the construction of the Museum and the creation of the permanent exhibition.



Members of the Museum Board view exhibits from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War



Chairman of the Advisory Board Prof. Norman Davies. Photo: S. Czalej

The Museum and Advisory Boards

Two mutually independent consultative bodies, the Museum Board and the Advisory Board, sustain the work of the Museum. Both include prominent historians from Poland, Britain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Russia and Israel, and museum specialists, journalists and veterans.

Two new members, Lt.-Col. Tadeusz Filipkowski and Prof. Jack Lohman, were named to the Museum Board in November 2010. Leading to this change was the Smolensk tragedy of 10 April 2010, which killed Poland's top civilian and military officials, including Museum Board members Czesław Justyn Cywiński, chairman of the board of the World Society of Home Army Soldiers, and Andrzej Przewoźnik, secretary general of the Council for the Remembrance of Struggle and Martyrdom. The Board meeting of 8 December 2010 elected Prof. Bogdan Chrzanowski as its chairman, replacing Andrzej Przewoźnik.

The Museum Board is currently made up of:

Dr Piotr M.A. Cywiński, director, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum;
Prof. Bogdan Chrzanowski, professor, University of Gdańsk; senior curator, Stutthof Museum;
Lt.-Col. Tadeusz Filipkowski, member of the board, World Society of Home Army Soldiers; chairman of the Board, Home Army Film Foundation;
Dr Jarosław Krawczyk, historian of art; editor-in-chief, *Mówią Wieki* journal of history;
Prof. Jack Lohman, historian of art; museologist; director, Museum of London;
Prof. Krzysztof Mikulski, president, Polish Historical Society; professor, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń;
Prof. Zdzisław Najder, historian of literature;
Jacek Taylor, attorney; representative of the minister of the treasury on the Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation and
Dorota Zawacka-Wakarecy, chair, Gen. Elżbieta Zawacka Foundation, Archive and the Pomeranian Museum of the Home Army and of the Polish Women's Military Service.

"We not only need works of synthesis about the Second World War, we also badly need exhibitions, multimedia, ways of conveying what is known about the Second World War. And it is for this very reason that this project is extremely welcome."

Prof. Norman Davies

The Advisory Board consists of:

Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, the Prime Minister's plenipotentiary for international dialogue;

Prof. Jerzy W. Borejsza, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences;

Prof. Włodzimierz Borodziej, Institute of History, University of Warsaw;

Prof. Andrzej Chwalba, Institute of History, Jagiellonian University, Cracow;

Prof. Norman Davies, British Academy;

Prof. Israel Gutman, International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem;

Prof. Ulrich Herbert, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg; School of History, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany;

Prof. Jerzy Holzer, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences;

Prof. Pavel Polian, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences; Academic Library, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow;

Prof. Krzysztof Pomian, Museum of Europe, Brussels;

Prof. Henry Rousso, Institut d'histoire du temps présent, Centre national de la recherche scientifique; Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre-La Défense;

Prof. Timothy D. Snyder, Yale University;

Prof. Yuri Shapoval, Institute of Political and Ethno-National Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and

Prof. Tomasz Szarota, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Norman Davies has been serving as the chairman of the Advisory Board since June 2009.

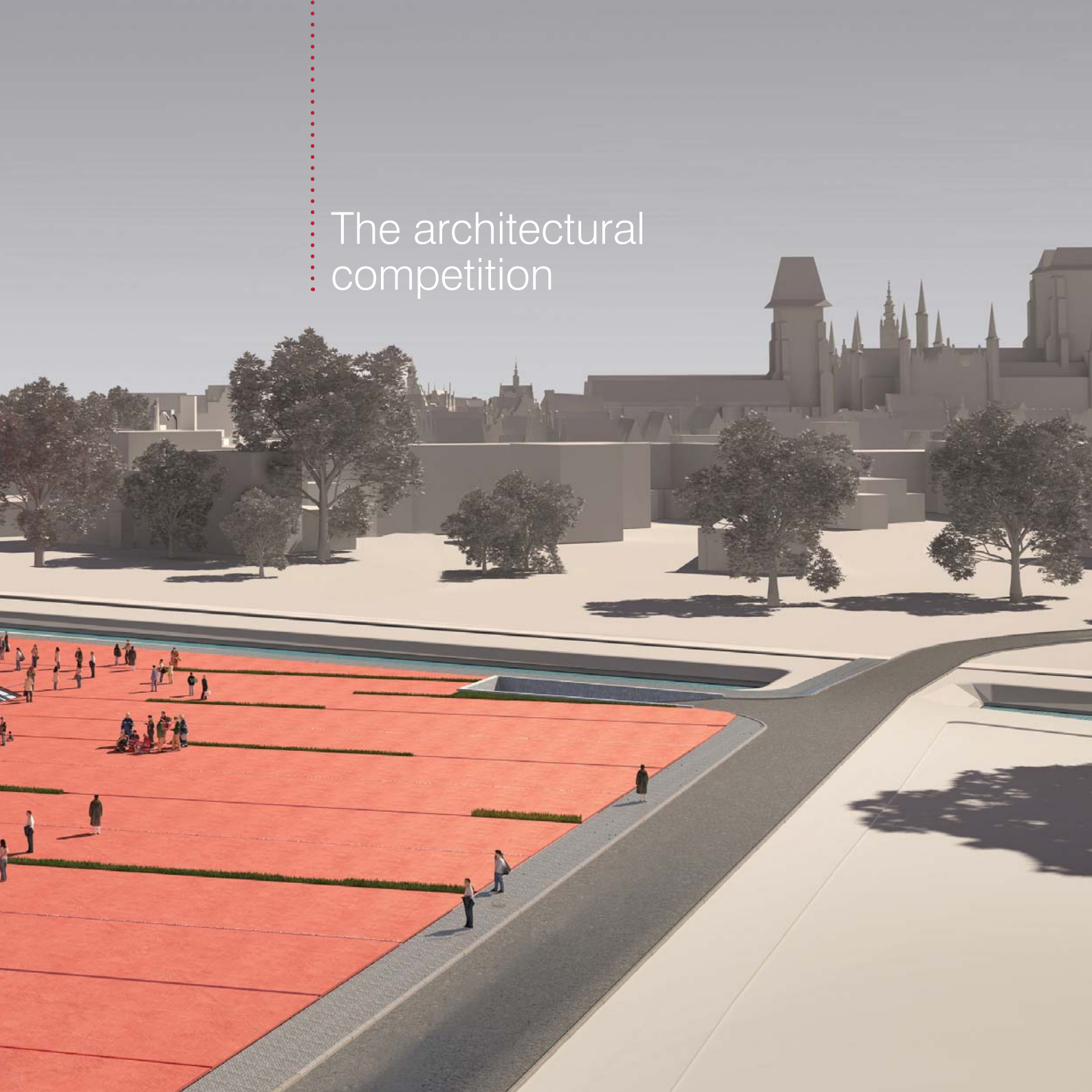
"The huge building tactfully merges in the neighbourhood sharing the chance of becoming an icon of Gdańsk with the major historic elements around.... It rises symbolically from the ground, led by light, it is bold, simple, and naked, symbolically placed in the geometry of the shipyard. It links the ground – its gloom, chill, and imprint of the Past, with the skies – hope, freshness, and Future."

A fragment of the jury's citation

Design by the "Kwadrat" architectural team



The architectural
competition





Members of the jury during deliberations

The architectural competition

We announced an international competition for the architectural design of the Museum of the Second World War in January 2010. Thanks to our far-flung promotional campaign among Polish and international architects, 328 firms from 42 countries expressed an interest in entering the competition. Not only European and US participants, but also architects from places as remote as Japan, Korea and Australia, sent in expressions of interest. In the end, 129 proposals from 31 countries were judged by an international jury. The jurors were Daniel Libeskind (whose projects have included the Jewish Museum Berlin), the architects George Ferguson, Hans Stimmann, Wiesław Gruszkowski, Grzegorz Buczek, Wiesław Czabański and Wiesław Bielawski; Jack Lohman, art historian and architect, director of the Museum of London; graphic artist Andrzej Pągowski; stage and costume designer Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda and historian Wojciech P. Duda.

The jury announced the results of the competition on 1 September 2010 in a ceremony in the main lecture hall of the Gdańsk University of Technology. Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski and Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz were present at the ceremony.



"In this ingenious design, a rational vision of a public facility meets the wealth of history. It rings full sound, telling a story hard to chew for any generation, the story we must never forget."

A fragment of the jury's citation

The winning design by the "Kwadrat" studio, view from the Radunia River



From left to right: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Bogdan Zdrojewski, Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Prof. Norman Davies, Mrs Maria Davies and Director of the Museum of the Second World War Pawel Machciewicz during the announcement of the winners of the architectural competition, 1 September 2010. Photo S. Czalej

The jury awarded the first prize of 80,000 euros to the "Kwadrat" architectural team based in Gdynia. The citation for the award underscored the virtues and the uniqueness of the design: "The minimalist means of architectural expression proposed by the authors gracefully blend the modern idea of the building with the historic background." And continued: "This exceptionally designed Museum of the Second World War will become a major attraction, telling the story of paramount importance for the humanity. It will grow to become a timeless symbol inscribed in the hearts of the people of Gdańsk, Poland, and Europe."



Second-prize winners, Piotr Płaskowicki & Partnerzy Architekci, Warsaw



Third-prize winners, BETAPLAN S.A., Athens

The second prize of 50,000 euros went to the Warsaw firm of Piotr Płaskowicki & Partnerzy Architekci. Its citation pointed out: “This entry has a very clear and well organized strategy, based on a story about destruction and revival.”



Exhibition of the projects entered in the architectural competition, Gdańsk University of Technology, 1 September 2010. Photo: Kosycarz Foto Press

The Greek firm BETAPLAN S.A. from Athens won the third prize of 30,000 euros. The jury was of the opinion that “the proposed buildings smartly bring together the experience of war with allusions to the present and the future as expressed by the series of exhibition containers and the multi-functional building that provides a binding back up to the complex.”

Four distinctions of 10,000 euros were granted to:

- Ad Artis Emerla Jagiełłowicz Wojda, Poland;
- DIZARH Ltd., Bulgaria;
- Selim Velioglu, Turkey and
- Domino Grupa Architektoniczna Wojciech Dunaj, Szczecin, Poland.

The jury granted a further eight honourable mentions to the following participants:

- Max Rieder Ziviltechniker GmbH & Architekt Wagner ZT GmbH, Austria,
- Perumal Pedavoli PTY LTD, Australia,
- Kimmel Eshkolot Architects Ltd, Israel;
- Hago-Architekci, Poland;
- PPW Fort, Poland;
- Art. Rays, Bulgaria;
- Projektēšanas birojs ARHIS, Latvia and
- JKMM Architects, Finland.

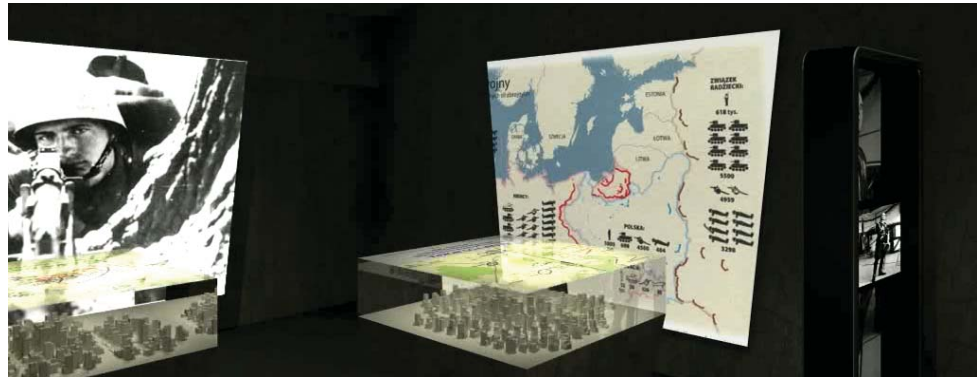


The jury during the announcement of the winners of the competition, 1 September 2010. Photo: S. Czalej

In congratulating the winners, Chairman of the Advisory Board Prof. Norman Davies stressed the imperative to create an institution such as the Museum of the Second World War precisely in Poland, which was the first country to become a victim of this greatest catastrophe of the 20th century. He stressed that today museums are key vehicles for supporting public awareness of history.

On 20 October 2010 a post-competition discussion was held with members of the jury and representatives of the winning firms. In it, the winning architects were able to present their projects in person and to share their experiences of working on the design of the Museum. The discussion also allowed the jurors to recapitulate the competition and its results. In discussing the work of the jury, Daniel Libeskind said: "The Jury has selected a bold, sensitive, and unexpected solution to the Museum of the Second World War... Echoing the iconic skyline of Gdańsk, with its shipyard cranes, the building ties together traditional urban spaces, scales, materials, and colours of the city with a 21.c museum."

The home of the Museum of the Second World War will be located at Wałowa Street along the Radunia Canal. It will have a surface of about 15,000 sq. m., of which 6,000 sq. m. will be devoted to exhibitions. Its opening is being planned for 2014.



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition by Tempora S.A. of Belgium

Work on the permanent exhibition

The specialists in our research and exhibition departments have been working intensively on the exhibition script. They are collaborating with the Tempora design firm, which won the competition for the exhibition's design (which was adjudicated in October 2009). Their cooperation consists of regular working meetings and a continuous exchange of information. In 2010 the Museum team completed segments of the script and relayed them to the designers; they included the Polish campaign of 1939, the ending of the war and the situation in post-war Europe. It also finalized the segment of the script about Pomerania in 1939 and deportations of civilians.

This year the Museum staff devoted the majority of their time and efforts to historic and preliminary archival and museum research. They collected materials relevant to discrete parts of the exhibition. Their research took them to the collections of numerous institutions in Poland and abroad. These visits included the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, the Jagiellonian University, the KARTA Centre, the Home Army Museum in Cracow, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, the Norwegian Resistance Museum in Oslo, the Museum of Military History in Prague, the Jewish Museum Berlin, the Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen, the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation and the Dutch Resistance Museum in Amsterdam.

In 2011 we are planning to conduct further surveys in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Archives in Washington, archives in Paris and Lyons, the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, German archives in Berlin, Koblenz and Freiburg and archives in Moscow.



M3A1 half-track armored personnel carriers, probably used by Gen. Stanislaw Maczek's 1st Armoured Division sapper unit, donated by Wladyslaw Dwojak, who served in this division



Our collection



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition prepared by Tempora S.A. of Belgium

One of the most important tasks being accomplished by the Museum of the Second World War is the systematic collecting of exhibits, which will lead to the creation of our permanent exhibition. Exhibits are being acquired as purchases, donations and loans. At the end of 2010, they numbered about **3,200**, having grown by over 1,700, of which about 300 were donations, in the course of that year. The total value of the exhibits purchased in 2010 was **211,522.12 zlotys**.

Currently, the Museum's collection includes:

1. Militaria and military-related exhibits:

- cold steel;
- relics from the historic battles of the 1939 Polish campaign;
- pieces of uniforms of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, the Red Army and the Imperial Japanese Army;
- pieces of soldiers' equipment and
- Polish Army first-aid and medical equipment.

2. Artefacts used or manufactured in prisoner of war camps:

- letters to families back in Poland, photographs and
- small articles made by prisoners (such as boxes, cigarette boxes, photograph frames).

3. Objects of everyday use from the period of the Second World War:

- a collection of trench art (including cigarette boxes, lighters, small knives);
- articles used by civilians (suitcases, toys, clothing, medicines) and
- food ration cards, tickets.

4. Photographs showing:

- military operations on Westerplatte;
- the 1939 campaign in Poland and other campaigns and
- German crimes in Poland.

5. Documents:

- pre-1939 Polish military documents;
- letters, identity documents and notes smuggled out of prisons;
- the occupying authorities' permits, school reports and
- announcements from the period of the occupation.

6. "Adrema" plates, metal identification badges for people including forced labourers in Gdańsk, 1939-45.

7. An early 20th-century German-made freight car used to transport prisoners, prisoners of war and deportees during the Second World War.

After it is acquired, each artefact is analysed on its merits, and its value as a museum piece is estimated.

Our Museum uses the ZEUS computer data base to catalogue its collection; it was commissioned by us and adapted specifically to our needs. The Museum of the Second World War is currently the only museum in Poland to use this kind of database to inventory its collection.

We also subcontract the conservation of acquisitions to specialists in areas such as metals or wood. It is our high priority to store these exhibits in specially prepared and equipped rooms.



"I think that it's a truly inspiring project. It is a fantastic vision, powerful and bold. It does not fill us with terror, but it challenges us, emboldens us; it's very sensitive to its environment. It has many sustainable aspects that should really be those of a 21st-century museum."

Daniel Libeskind

Daniel Libeskind explains the winning design in the architectural competition to Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Gdańsk University of Technology, 1 September 2010. Photo: Kosycarz Foto Press



Temporary exhibitions



Exhibition of the entries in the architectural competition for the design of the Museum of the Second World War, Gdansk University of Technology, September 2010. Photo: S. Czajka



Outdoor exhibition of the winning designs in the architectural competition, Długi Targ, Gdańsk, October 2010

This year, apart from two exhibitions of the designs entered in the architectural competition, at the Gdańsk University of Technology and outdoors in Długi Targ in Gdańsk, the Museum held the following public exhibitions:

- A post-competition exhibition of the projects entered in the international competition for the permanent exhibition, which was shown at the Zielona Brama branch of the National Museum in Gdańsk, on 7-31 January.
- An exhibition curated by the Gen. Elżbieta Zawacka Foundation, Archive and the Pomeranian Museum of the Home Army and of the Polish Women's Military Service on "The Katyń Massacre from the perspective of archaeological excavations," which was displayed in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Gdańsk from 8 to 22 June.
- An exhibition prepared by the Museum of the Defence and Siege of Leningrad entitled "A Diary of the Blockade," commemorating the tragic period of the siege, which lasted from 8 September 1941 to 17 January 1944, which was put on view in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Gdańsk from 18 to 24 November.



The European Night of Museums, "Westerplatte: A spa – a bastion – a symbol" exhibition, 15 May 2010. Photo: S. Czajek



Scientific activities
and educational projects



Books published in 2010 jointly by the Museum of the Second World War and Scholar publishers

Publications

The Museum of the Second World War sponsored the following works, which were either published or prepared for publication in 2010:

- Tomasz Chinciński, *Forpocztą Hitlera. Niemiecka dywersja w Polsce w 1939 roku* (Hitler's vanguard: German sabotage in Poland in 1939) (Gdańsk-Warsaw, 2010). The book was chosen for the third round of the History Book of the Year competition organized by the Institute of National Remembrance, Polish Television and Polish Radio.
- Marek Andrzejewski, Grzegorz Berendt, Tomasz Chinciński, Andrzej Trzeciak, eds., *Od wojny do wolności. Wybuch i konsekwencje II wojny światowej 1939-1989. Materiały z konferencji naukowej odbytej 5-6 października 2009 r. w Gdańsku* (From war to freedom: The outbreak and consequences of the Second World War, 1939-89. Materials from an academic conference, which took place on 5-6 October 2009 in Gdańsk) (Gdańsk-Warsaw, 2010).
- Piotr T. Kwiatkowski et al., *Między codziennością a wielką historią. Druga wojna światowa w pamięci zbiorowej społeczeństwa polskiego* (Between everyday life and world history: The Second World War in the collective memory of the Polish population) (Gdańsk-Warsaw, 2010).
- Barbara Szczepuła, *Rajski ogród* (The Garden of Eden) (Gdańsk-Warsaw, 2010).
- Jerzy W. Borejsza, *Stulecie zagłady* (A century of mass extermination) (Gdańsk-Warsaw, 2011).
- Tomasz Chinciński and Jochen Böhrer, eds., *Przemoc i dzień powszedni w okupowanej Polsce. Materiały z konferencji odbytej 20-22 listopada 2009 r. w Warszawie* (Violence and everyday life in occupied Poland. Materials from a conference of 20-22 November 2009 in Warsaw) (forthcoming, 2011).



"Meetings with history." Presentation of Tomasz Blatt's "Escape from Sobibor"



Barbara Szczepuła during the promotion of her book "The Garden of Eden"

- Marek Kornat and Mikołaj Morzycki-Markowski, eds., *Minister Józef Beck i marszałek Edward Śmigły-Rydz w dokumentach rumuńskich służb bezpieczeństwa 1939-1945* (Minister Józef Beck and Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz in the documents of the Romanian security services, 1939-45), with an introduction by Marek Kornat (forthcoming, 2011).

Public lectures, book events

"Meetings with history"

The Museum hosts public lectures by invited historians and other specialists whose work focuses on narrow aspects of the history of the Second World War, as well as eyewitnesses to history. The meetings take place regularly. In 2010, the following events took place:

- "Poles in the Wehrmacht," Prof. Ryszard Kaczmarek. (January)
- Book discussion of Tomasz Chinciński, *Forpocza Hitlera. Niemiecka dywersja w Polsce w 1939 roku* (Hitler's vanguard: German sabotage in Poland in 1939). (March)
- Book discussion of Marzena Kruk and Edyta Wnuk, *Nie było czasu na strach...* (There wasn't enough time to be afraid...), organized jointly by the Museum of the Second World War, World Society of Home Army Soldiers (Gdańsk chapter), the Szczecin and Gdańsk offices of the Institute of National Remembrance and the Gen. Stefan Rowecki "Grot" History Club. (April)
- "The Katyń Massacre from the perspective of archaeological excavations. Archaeological exhumation work in Kharkiv (Pyatichatki) and Kyiv (Bykivnia), Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Kola. (June)

- Book promotion for Barbara Szczepeła, *Rajski Ogród* (The Garden of Eden). (October)
- Meeting with author Tomasz (Toivi) Blatt and promotion of his book *Ucieczka z Sobiboru* (Escape from Sobibor). (November)

Educational projects

“Save a shred of history: Young people build museums” competition

This competition was announced on 2 November 2009 as part of the Year of Contemporary History, and was organized by the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk and the European Solidarity Centre, with support from the Ministry of National Education and school superintendents, under the patronage of the marshal of the Sejm and the minister of national education. The establishment of the competition was an issue that had been discussed at the meeting creating the Coalition for Contemporary History.

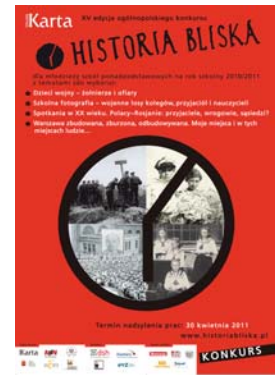
The competition was open to pupils in Poland and to those attending Polish-language schools abroad. Participants were to describe a memento from the Second World War or from the time of the “Solidarity” trade union and the democratic opposition, 1970-89. The focus of each project was to be a “crumb of history” to be described as a special museum certificate. A “crumb of history” could also be a photograph, document, letter or material object, or an account of the wartime experience of citizens of interwar Poland.

The goal of the competition was to encourage young people to become actively involved in creating the collection of the Museum of the Second World War and the European Solidarity Centre. It was equally important to create an interest in 20th-century Polish history among children and teenagers.

Applications from 709 organizations in Poland and abroad were received. Provincial-level committees selected 240 projects on the Second World War for the central round of the competition. The winners were announced on 31 August 2010 during a ceremony in the Artus Court in Gdańsk. Minister of National Education Katarzyna Hall, Marshal of the Senate Bogdan Borusewicz, the first prime minister of the post-1989 Third Republic Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Director of the Museum of the Second World War Prof. Paweł Machcewicz and Director of the European Solidarity Centre Father Maciej Zięba participated alongside representatives of the Coalition for Contemporary History and local-government officials.



Director of the Museum of the Second World War Prof. Paweł Machcewicz and Minister of National Education Katarzyna Hańke during the award ceremony for the winners of the "Save a shred of history: Young people build museums" competition. Photo: S. Czajka



15th "History is close" competition

The competition about "History is close" is organized by the KARTA Centre and aimed at secondary-school youth in all Poland.

The Museum of the Second World War is a co-organizer of this year's round of the competition. Our partner institutions are the Office of Veterans and Repressed Persons, the City of Warsaw Education Office and the Warsaw Centre for Educational and Social Innovation and Training. Supporting the competition are the History Meeting House in Warsaw and EUSTORY, the history network for young Europeans.

Participants can choose from among four topics: 1. "Children of war: soldiers and victims;" 2. "School photography: wartime stories of schoolmates, friends and teachers;" 3. "Meetings in the 20th century between Poles and Russians: friends, enemies or neighbours?" and 4. "Warsaw: built, destroyed, reconstructed. My places and the people in them." They are to prepare an essay based on previously unpublished materials. The winners receive monetary prizes and other awards. The winning entry will be included in the KARTA Centre's "History is close" collection.

The competition was announced on 3 November 2010. The names of the winners will be published in September 2011.



An active visit to the Westerplatte battlefield, May 2010

An active visit to the Westerplatte battlefield

This project is aimed at secondary-school pupils. It intends to teach them about the peninsula's topography, the locations of both existing and destroyed buildings which made up the defence system of the Military Transit Depot in 1939, as well as the progression of the fighting to defend it in September 1939. The outdoor exhibition prepared by the Museum in 2009 and entitled "Westerplatte: A spa - a bastion - a symbol" is an important part of this visit.

Some 340 pupils, including a Polish youth group from St Petersburg and Kaliningrad, took place in the Westerplatte activities from April to October 2010.

European Night of Museums on Westerplatte

On 15 May 2010 the Museum of the Second World War participated for the first time in the annual event that is the European Night of Museums by inviting visitors to Westerplatte. Museum staff positioned around the "Westerplatte: A spa – a bastion – a symbol" exhibition and the remains of the Polish barracks, were available to talk about Westerplatte's history and answer visitors' questions. Many special attractions were prepared. They included the participation of members of the Group of Historical Reconstruction of the Land Defence of the Coast Association, who were dressed in replicas of 1939 uniforms and re-enacted scenes from the life of the Westerplatte crew.



The European Night of Museums on Westerplatte, 15 May 2010. Photo: S. Czalej

Night Patrol on Westerplatte in the 8th Baltic Science Festival

On 28 May 2010, the Museum of the Second World War organized an evening assault course for secondary-school pupils on the Westerplatte battlefield. This was combined with a visit to the remnants of the defence architecture of the Military Transit Depot (including the ruins of the barracks and guardhouse no. 1). Assisted by Museum staff, the participants were also able to visit the “Westerplatte: A spa – a bastion – a symbol” outdoor exhibition. The programme included members of the Group of Historical Reconstruction of the Land Defence of the Coast Association, who tested the teenagers’ skills in using maps, giving first aid and conducting drills.

Film Discussion Club

Between September 2009 and June 2010, the Museum organized a series of film shows for secondary-school pupils entitled “The war on tapes.” The programme aimed to teach teenagers about Poland’s defensive war of September 1939. The choice of films intended to expand their knowledge about events, as well as figures who have become national symbols. The films included *The Neighbours* by Aleksander Ścibor-Rylski, *Birds to Birds...* by Paweł Komorowski, *Lotna* by Andrzej Wajda and *Tomorrow We Are Going to the Movies* by Janusz Kwieciński. About 600 pupils from schools in Pomerania Province attended the shows.

In late November 2010, a second cycle, "The war on tapes – world cinema," was launched. These films aim to teach young viewers about various aspects of the Second World War, not only the exciting rivalry of intelligence services or the realities of the frontline, but also the unimaginable suffering in a concentration camp. This cycle includes *Europa Europa* by Agnieszka Holland, *Operation Arsenal* and *Just Beyond this Forest* by Jan Łomnicki, *The Ascent* by Larisa Shepitko, *Kornblumenblau* by Leszek Wosiewicz, *A Hundred Horses to a Hundred Shores* and *Agent No. 1* by Zbigniew Kuźmiński and *Tonight a City Will Die* by Jan Rybkowski. The Museum's research staff present the historical background of each film and a film critic talks about the background of making the film and the filmmaker's other work. Admission is free. The shows take place monthly and information about each one is sent out to schools in Gdańsk and environs.

"Introducing Westerplatte to children"

"Introducing Westerplatte to children" is a series of workshops for pupils with special educational needs, in which the subject matter and teaching methods are adjusted for psychologically and physically challenged pupils. These multimedia workshops use a variety of materials, which make it easier to communicate with young people with disabilities. They include photographs and excerpts from films and sound recordings, which allow the pupils to learn about the fighting in Pomerania. These lessons also use a section of the outdoor exhibition "Westerplatte: A spa – a bastion – a symbol."

These workshops take place in schools or in a centre specializing in caring for the handicapped.



A school group takes part in a class on Westerplatte

The Westerplatte educational path

Work on the educational path was completed in the autumn of 2010. It consists of information tablets which show the visitors what the peninsula looked like during the September 1939 fighting. The trail also serves as a guide to the buildings of the former Military Transit Depot. Thanks to the tablets describing and pointing to the buildings that exist, as well as those that no longer do (such as the guardhouse or fragments of the field fortifications), it is now much easier to imagine not only the outlines of the peninsula in 1939, but also the sequence of the battles. The trail complements the outdoor exhibition, which focuses on the architecture and the topography of the land. Two lit-up cases containing maps of the peninsula were installed alongside the tablets that form the path through Westerplatte.

The official opening of the trail and the inauguration of this educational project will take place in the spring of 2011.

Patronage of the European Parliament for the creation of the permanent exhibition

In January 2011, the European Parliament declared that it would serve as a patron to the creation of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk. In his letter to the director of our Museum, President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek wrote that the memory of the history of Europe should serve as a foundation for lasting peace on this continent, and that the initiative to create the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk would underscore the pan-European nature of this most horrific conflict in the history of our continent.

The opening of the permanent exhibition of the Museum of the Second World War is being planned for 1 September 2014.

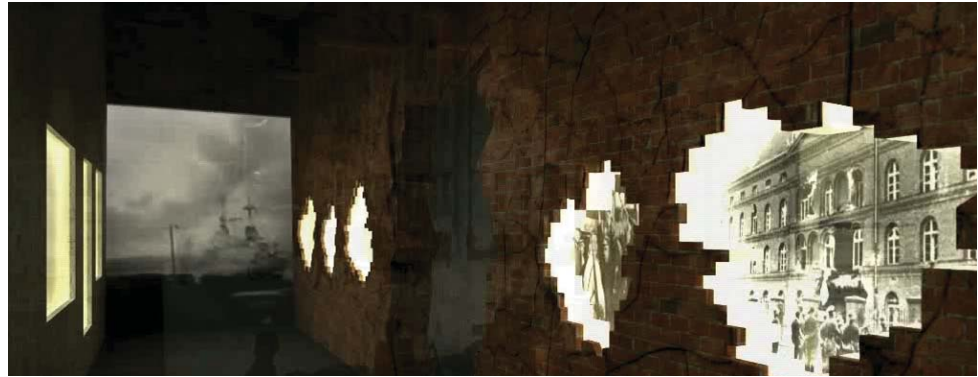




: Other undertakings



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition prepared by Tempora S.A. of Belgium



Visualisation of the permanent exhibition prepared by Tempora S.A. of Belgium

Domestic and international cooperation

Our Museum takes advantage of the experiences and help offered by many museums, archives and research institutions. Some of these partnerships are sealed by cooperation agreements. In Poland, we have such agreements with the KARTA Centre and the Internal Security Agency. These institutions have declared their assistance in equipping the Museum with exhibits and cooperating broadly, especially in the area of education. We have also maintained dynamic contacts with museums outside Poland. In November 2010, we signed a cooperation agreement with the Museum of the Great Patriotic War in Kyiv, and in January 2011 a cooperation agreement with the Royal Museum of the Army and the History of Military History in Brussels. These two institutions have declared their willingness to cooperate in exchanging information, historical materials, exhibits, as well as in the fields of education and exhibitions. This Belgian museum donated a howitzer and a Sherman tank: tanks and howitzers of this type, as well as the original radio station given to us by the Canada War Museum in Adegem, Belgium, were the type of equipment used by the troops of the 1st Panzer Division led by Gen. Stanisław Maczek. These items are a significant contribution to the collection devoted to the Polish input into the fighting in Western Europe in 1944-45.

Cooperation with our Russian partners in St Petersburg is also growing. The Piskariovsky Memorial Cemetery organized a collection of exhibits relating to the siege and defence of Leningrad. The Russian delegation presented these gifts, assembled by representatives of various associations of survivors of the blockade, to our Museum at the opening on 18 November 2010 of an exhibition in Gdańsk devoted to the siege.



Young people taking part in a night patrol on Westerplatte during the 8th Baltic Science Festival, May 2010

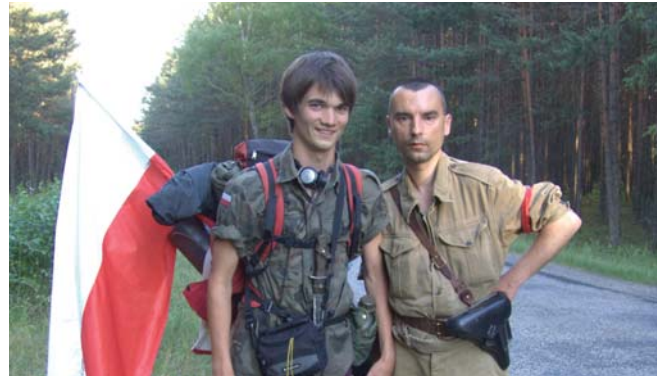
Events co-organized with other organizations or under the patronage of the Museum of the Second World War

8th hike in the footsteps of the soldiers of the 5th Vilnius Brigade of the Home Army led by Maj. Zygmunt Szendzielarz „Łupaszko,” 25 June – 1 July (co-organization)

The goal of the hike was to propagate and honour the memory of the Polish Underground State and the struggle of these “cursed soldiers” against the communist system. The hike took place in the Tucholski Forest and in the Sztum region of north-eastern Poland. The young participants needed to use their own ingenuity in covering the many kilometres of the hike. They also met with a Home Army soldier, Józef Bandzo “Jastrząb.”

“Jan Karski – the unfinished mission,” 13 July (patronage)

A series of films about the life of Jan Karski, the famous emissary of the Polish Underground State and witness to the Holocaust, was put on to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Karski’s death. Eight Polish and foreign films about Karski’s life were shown. A panel discussion took place prior to the film show. The Jewish Historical Institute Association organized this event at the Kultura cinema in Warsaw.



Participants in the 8th Tucholski Forest hike, June 2010

Premiere of the film [The Children of the Wehrmacht](#), 3 September (co-organization)

The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, together with the Kashubian-Pomeranian Association, took part in organizing the Pomeranian premiere of Mariusz Malinowski's *The Children of the Wehrmacht*, at the Neptun cinema in Gdańsk. The film tells the stories of Poles whose fathers were coerced to sign Volkslisten, which classified them as ethnic Germans, during the Second World War and to join the Wehrmacht. A discussion led by historians and filmmakers followed the film.

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