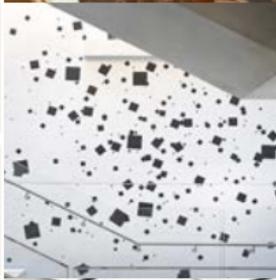




Parliament  
Austria



My Parliament  
Experience

# Welcome to Parliament!

Parliament is the central location of Austrian politics. As a historic site, the Parliament Building breathes the past and is filled with tales and stories.

Many areas of the Parliament Building are open to the public and can be explored individually. Here you can see works by renowned artists, discover the extensive range of literature and exhibitions of the Parliamentary Library, and gain insight into the comprehensive renovation of the Building at the exhibition “Hohes Haus – Hohes Handwerk” (“Construction and Craftsmanship”).

At the Demokratikum – Experience Parliament Visitor Centre, you can discover how democracy works and how it has developed.

All areas of the Parliament Building are barrier-free. The teams at the main entrance or in the Visitor Centre will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



# Ground Floor



 Öffentlich zugängliche Bereiche  
Areas open to the public



Shop



Bankomat  
ATM



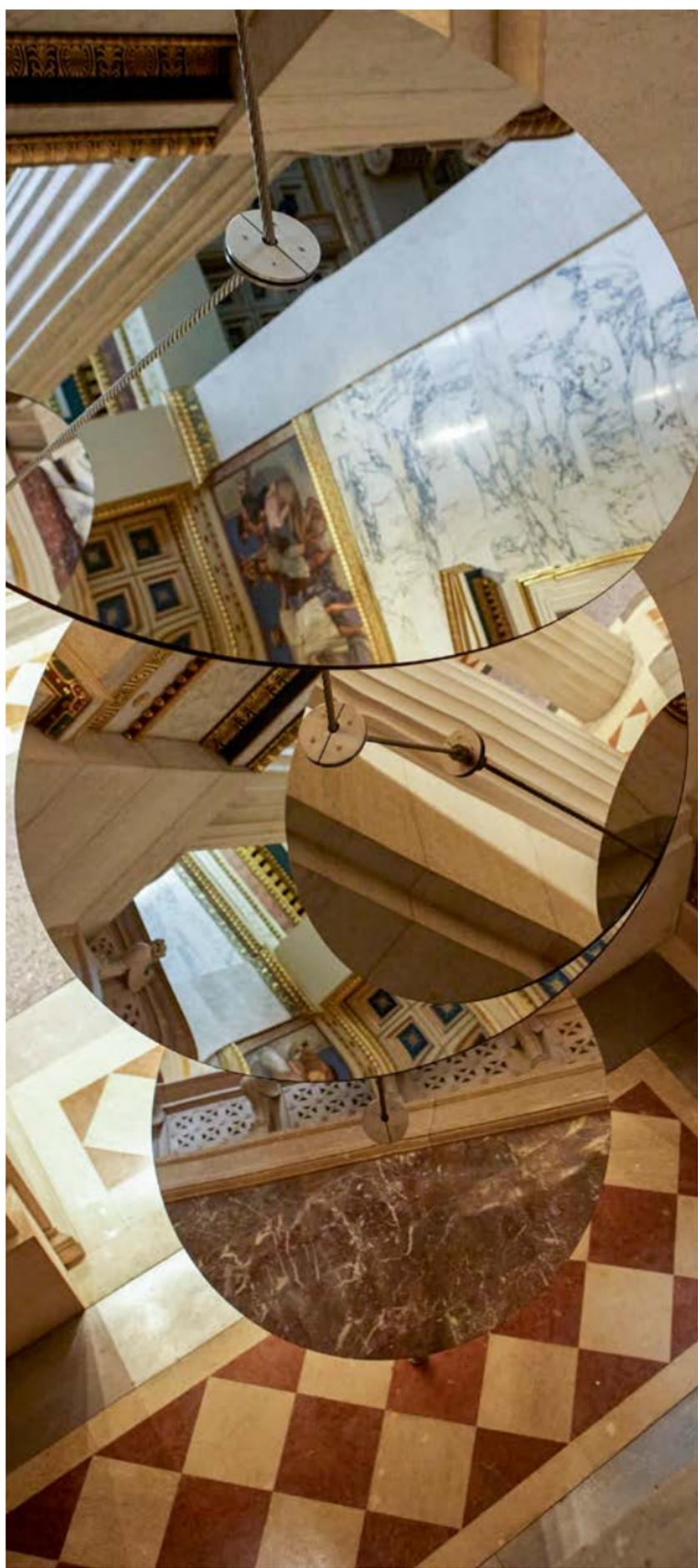
Aufzug  
Elevator

## 1 Eva Schlegel - “extension of public space”

Right at the beginning, you pass through the splendidly designed Lower Vestibule. In the staircase area, you will encounter impressive works by the artist Eva Schlegel. Eleven mirror elements are attached to a steel cable over a total height of around 17 metres. These mirrors, each 140 centimetres in diameter, become a sculpture and thus open up new perspectives on the supposedly familiar.

“Due to the rich decoration and magnificent design of the Vestibule and the Grand Staircases, it seems to me that there is no other conceivable intervention than a light, floating installation that expands the space and view and communicates with both sides.”  
(Eva Schlegel)

 Another installation with seemingly floating mirrors can be seen in the Kelsen Restaurant.



## 2 Passage

Before you reach the Demokratikum – Experience Parliament Visitor Centre, you will find a 3D model of the Parliament Building in the so-called Passage. Here, the varied history of the magnificent building on the Ringstrasse is presented in a multimedia format: starting with the planning and construction by architect Theophil Hansen, through damage suffered during the Second World War, to the general renovation of the Building.

💡 Opposite is the Parliament Shop with its wide variety of items offered.



### 3 Parliament Shop

If you are looking for a small souvenir of your visit to Parliament, you are sure to find it in the Parliament Shop. Carefully selected souvenirs await you here, which you can purchase as a memento of your visit: pens, notepads, posters, postcards, mugs in parliamentary design and a lot more.

The range also includes a series of books on parliamentarianism, the history of democracy, and the architecture of the Austrian Parliament.



## 4 Esther Stocker – “Galaxie”

The wall in stairwell 1 is covered by a graphic work by artist Esther Stocker; it extends over an area of 16 x 20 square metres. The artwork is intended as a symbol of diversity and complexity. The central idea of the work refers to openness, freedom, and the togetherness of individual elements and groups.

“I am interested in an open process of perception, in the fact that our perception is a never-ending process.”

(Esther Stocker)



## 5 Peter Kogler – “Ohne Titel”

In stairwell 4, the artwork “Ohne Titel” (“Without Title”) by Peter Kogler extends like a curtain across the wall from the ground floor to the second floor.

The net-like, digitally created structure made of jacquard fabric is in dialogue with the architecture of the Parliament. It allows for a multitude of interpretations: an organic weave as well as veins and nervous systems or communication channels can come to mind when looking at it.



# Demokratikum – Experience Parliament

## 6 Agora

The Agora, the main room of the Demokratikum – Experience Parliament Visitor Centre, is dedicated to democracy today and its history. Multimedia wall stations provide an overview of how democracy has developed in Austria and the challenges it faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Explanatory videos illustrate, among other things, the tasks of parliamentarians and the parliamentary groups while explaining the importance of fundamental rights and of our Constitution.



## 7 Forum

In an interactive and multimedia manner, you can find out more about opportunities for participation and how legislation works. You will also learn about the separation of powers and the control options available to Parliament. You can test your newly acquired knowledge at the quiz table.

💡 Children and young people can also find activities tailored to their needs at the Demokratikum: A colourful stamp pass accompanies the little ones through the stations, and there is a puzzle rally for teenagers.



## 8 Auditorium

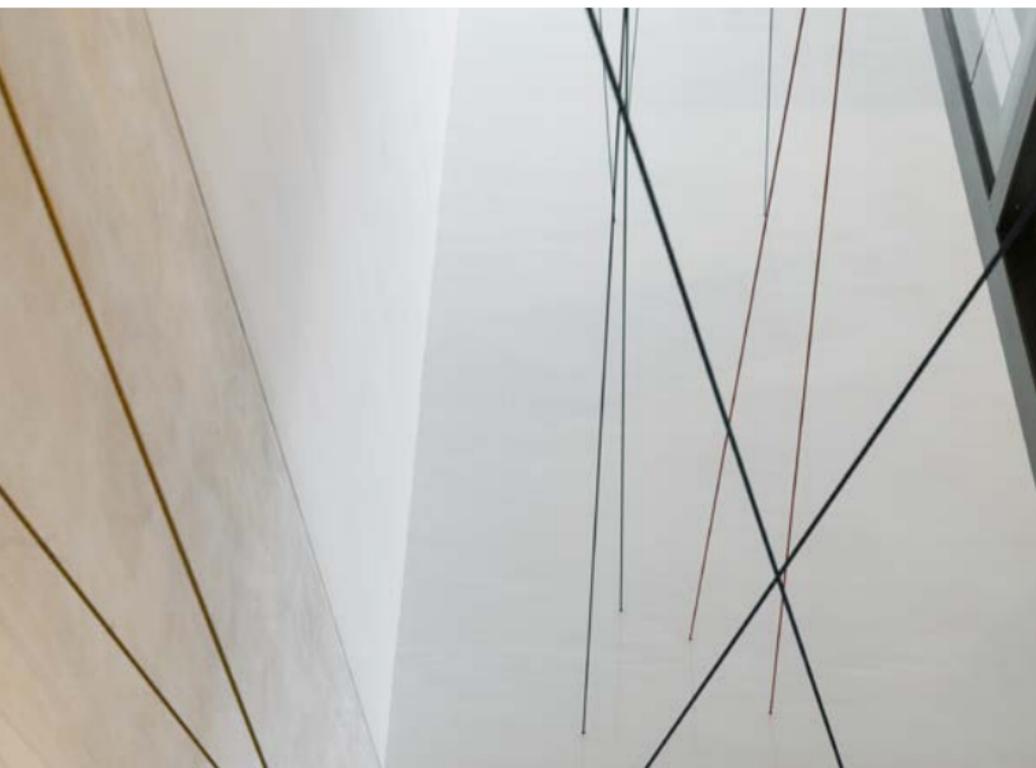
In the Auditorium, interactive tables are dedicated to the interplay between media, the public, and democracy; they also shed light on change through social media. Short videos on the large LED wall show architectural highlights and provide insight into the renovation of the Parliament Building. This room is also used for press conferences and panel discussions.



## 9 Martina Steckholzer – “Figuren”

“Figuren; gespannt; Die Demokratie liegt in unseren Händen wie ein Fadenspiel” (“Figures; tension; Democracy lies in our hands like a cat’s cradle thread game”) is the title of Martina Steckholzer’s artwork in stairwell 3.

The ropes stretched between the walls of the stairwell form an open model that can be imagined as extending beyond the walls. The perception of the artwork is closely linked to one’s own movement in the space.



## 10 The Herm Busts

The larger-than-life figures in the lounge area next to the Café Agora represent important statesmen of the Austrian Imperial Council. A particular eye-catcher is the bust of Franz Smolka, given the name of “Salzstangenferdl” because of his pronounced moustache (reminiscent of twisted breadsticks). Next to him are Count Richard von Belcredi, Anton Ritter von Schmerling, and Baron Ignaz von Plener. The path to the Library leads you past the statue of another statesman: Apollinar Ritter von Jaworski.



## 11 Lea Sonderegger – “Parlament”

The work series “Parlament” with eight photographs, which can be seen in Café Agora, was created as part of the “Temporäre Unordnung” (“Temporary Disorder”) project. Students from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, including Lea Sonderegger, captured the state of the Parliament Building before its major renovation in 2020. Lea Sonderegger’s photographs illustrate this time of clearing out and dismantling.



## 12 Passage to the Library

The path from Café Agora into the Library leads you through a corridor that is partially accessible to visitors. On the walls, you will see four historical photographs to get you in the mood for your visit to the Library.

The picture “Parlamentsdiener in der Säulenhalle” (“Parliamentary Attendant in the Colonnaded Hall”) was taken in 1883 and shows the Colonnaded Hall shortly before the completion of the historic Parliament Building.

The photograph “Parlamentsbibliothek im Wiederaufbau” (“Parliamentary Library under Reconstruction”) was taken a few years after the end of the Second World War. “Kleidsames Parlament” (“Dressed with Parliament”) captured an extraordinary event in 1927: In the costume revue “Alles aus Liebe” (“Everything out of Love”), Parliament featured as an integral part of a spectacular costume almost 100 years ago. Next to it, you can see a current photo showing



historical archive boxes for the stenographic reports and other archive documents of the Parliamentary Administration.

💡 Posters and postcards of the artworks can be found in the Shop.

## 13 The Parliamentary Library

Founded in 1869 by Imperial decree, the Parliamentary Library and the Parliamentary Archives form Parliament's information centre for parliamentarianism, politics, democracy, and law. The rich historical and current physical and electronic holdings, its services, and the modern premises are available to the public and the scientific community.

Two exhibitions are presented in the former central stacks, which can be visited independently.



## Exhibition

### “Reading Democracy”

The exhibition uses examples to explore the role of language and writing in parliamentary democracy – from the plenary debate to the stenographic report and the promulgated legislative text through to the “readable” Parliament Building. Selected exhibits from the Parliamentary Library and Archives provide insight into their extensive holdings. You also have the opportunity to listen to excerpts from interviews with Members of Parliament.



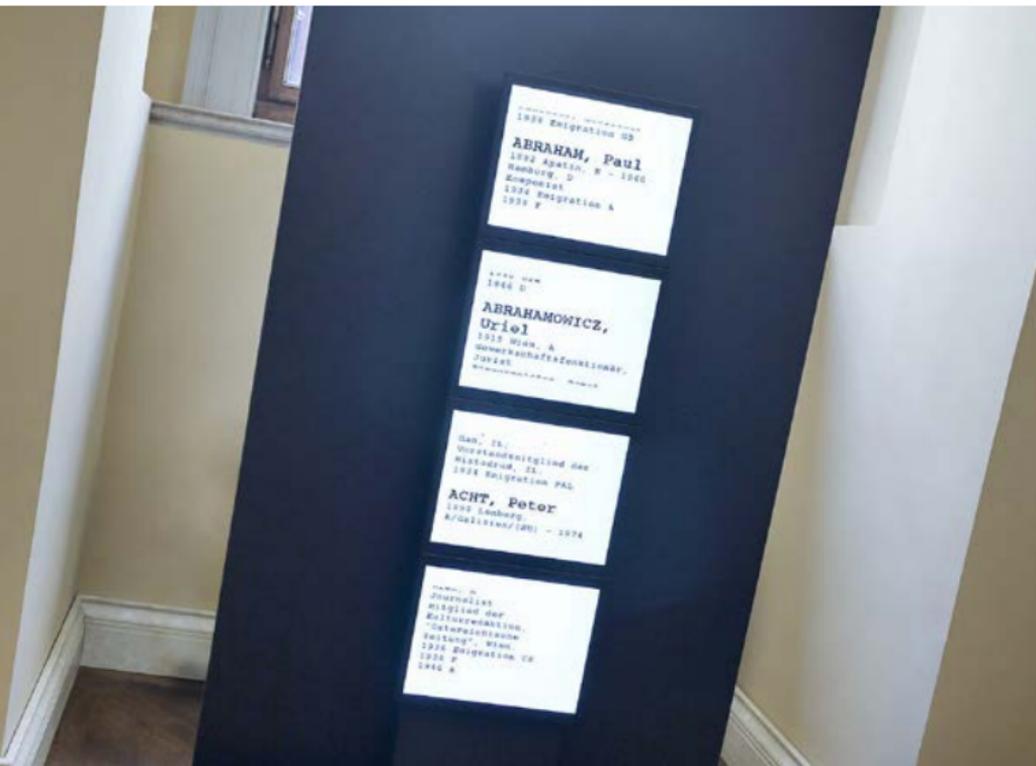
## Exhibition “Talking Tacheles. Antisemitism – a Threat to Democracy”

The exhibition shows that antisemitism is not a phenomenon of the past, but still occurs in various forms today. Especially in times of crisis, antisemitic attitudes and the belief in conspiracy narratives increase. Find out more about antisemitism and the dangers it poses to our democracy.

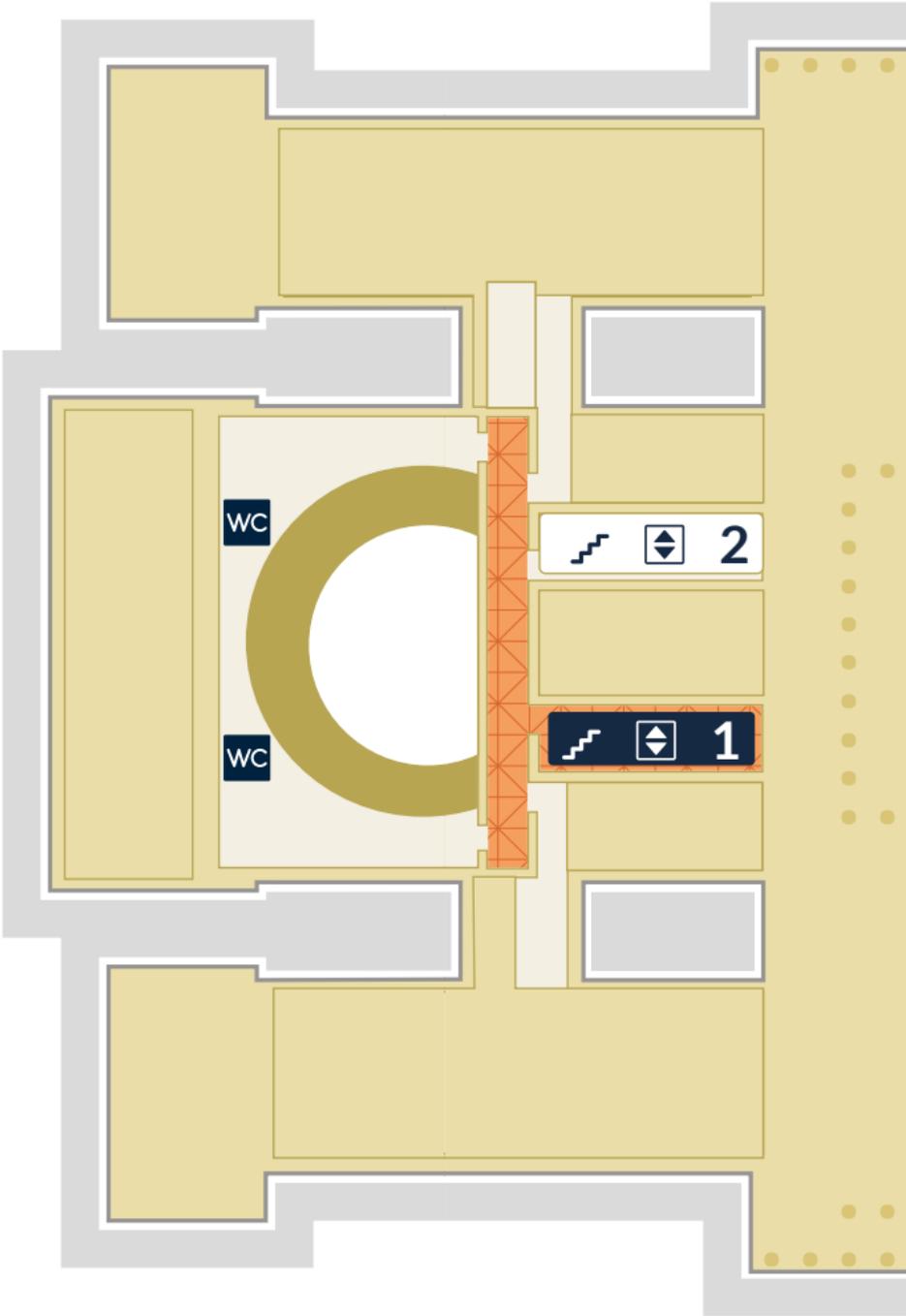


# Peter Weibel – “Vertreibung der Vernunft”

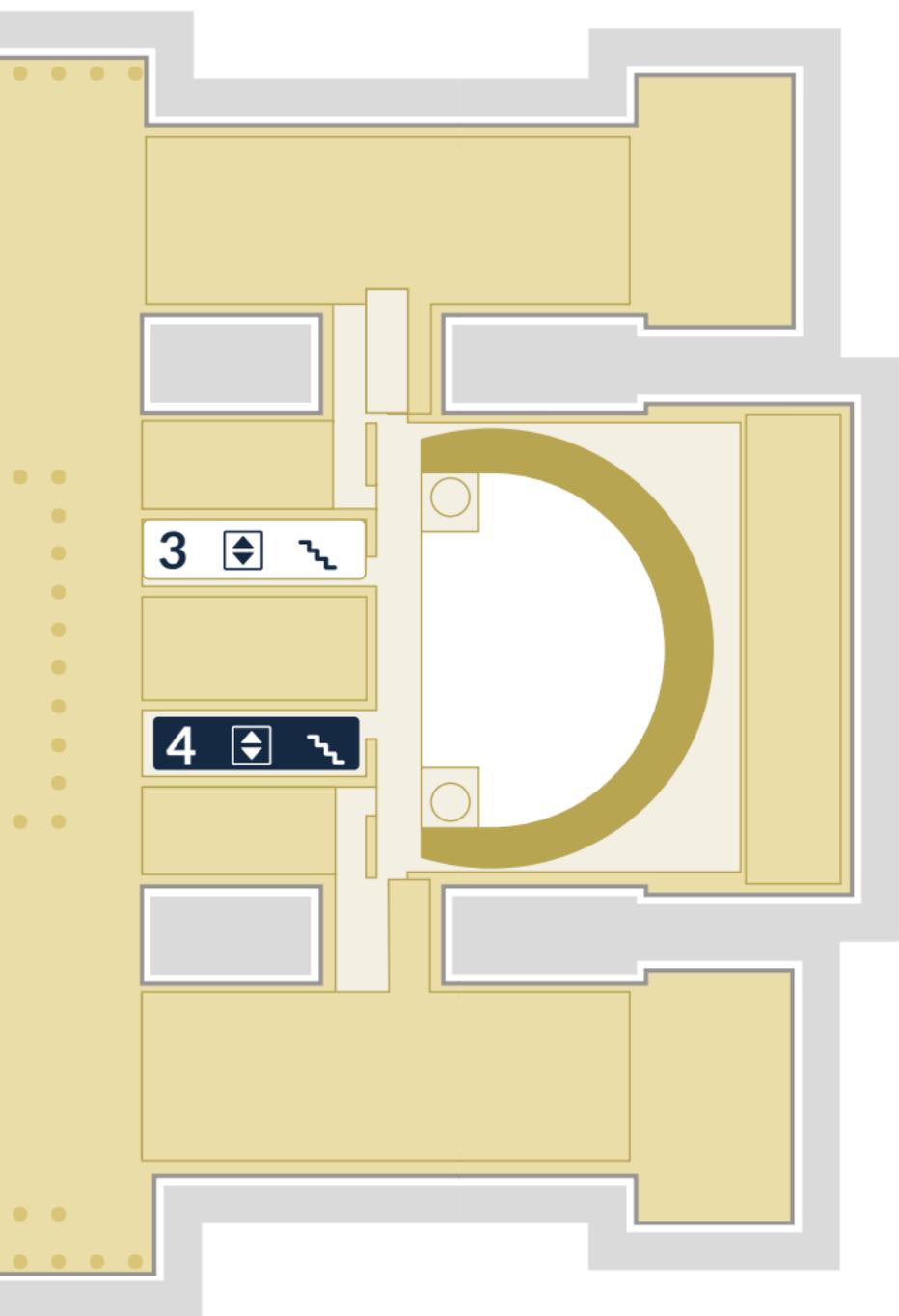
The installation “Vertreibung der Vernunft” (“Expulsion of Reason”) is the result of Peter Weibel’s examination of the expulsion of primarily Jewish academics, researchers, cultural workers, and intellectuals from Austria during the period of National Socialism. Biographies of these people can be seen on the screens. Moving from one monitor to the next, they illustrate the cultural exodus.



# Second Floor



**Öffentlich zugängliche Bereiche**  
Areas open to the public



## 14 Exhibition “Construction and Craftsmanship”

On the second floor, a permanent exhibition provides insight into the five-year general renovation of the Parliament Building. Film documents and artefacts are used to show the range of work carried out by over 100 construction companies, craftspeople, and restorers.

The diversity of the craftwork is presented in three chapters: “Zu Beginn” (“At the Beginning”) focuses on the initial situation before the renovation, “Große Eingriffe” (“Major Interventions”) shows the functional and technical upgrading of the Building, and finally “Feine Maßnahmen” (“Fine Measures”) shows the restoration work.

The main part of the exhibition can be viewed on the second floor. In addition, there are other small stations to be encountered on guided tours of the Building. One of them is accessible in the lounge area of Café Agora.



# Third Floor



**Öffentlich zugängliche Bereiche**  
Areas open to the public

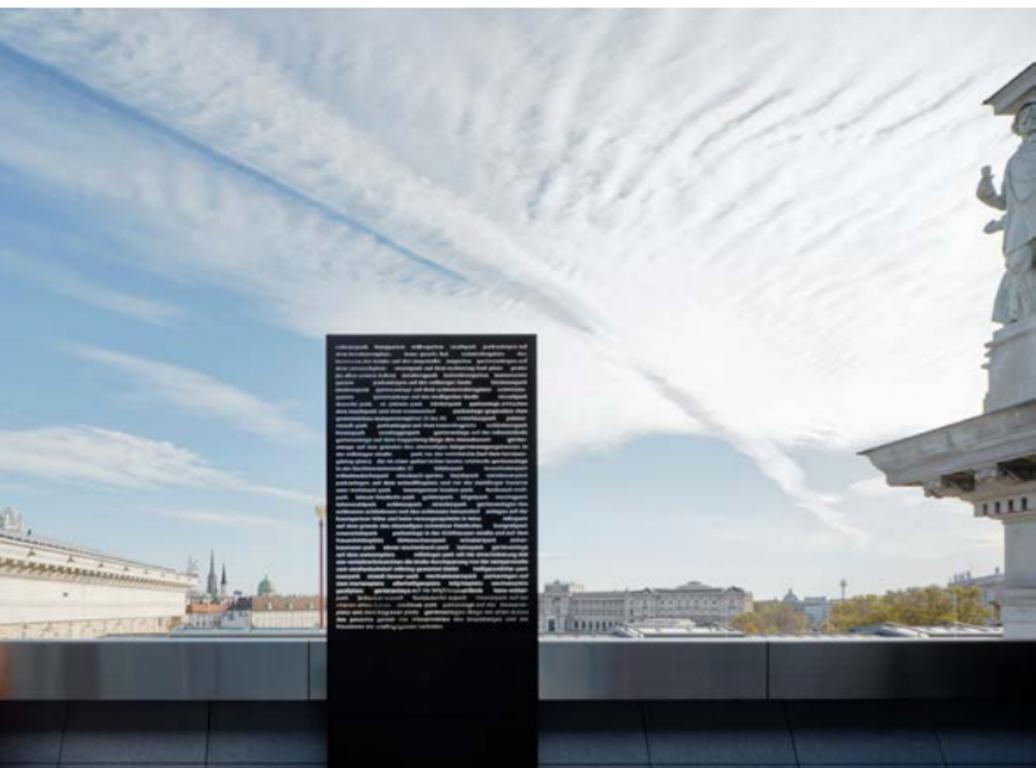


**Restaurant Kelsen und Cantina**  
Restaurant Kelsen and Cantina

## 15 Hofburg Terrace

The Hofburg Terrace, which visitors can reach via staircase 1, offers an impressive view of the Hofburg.

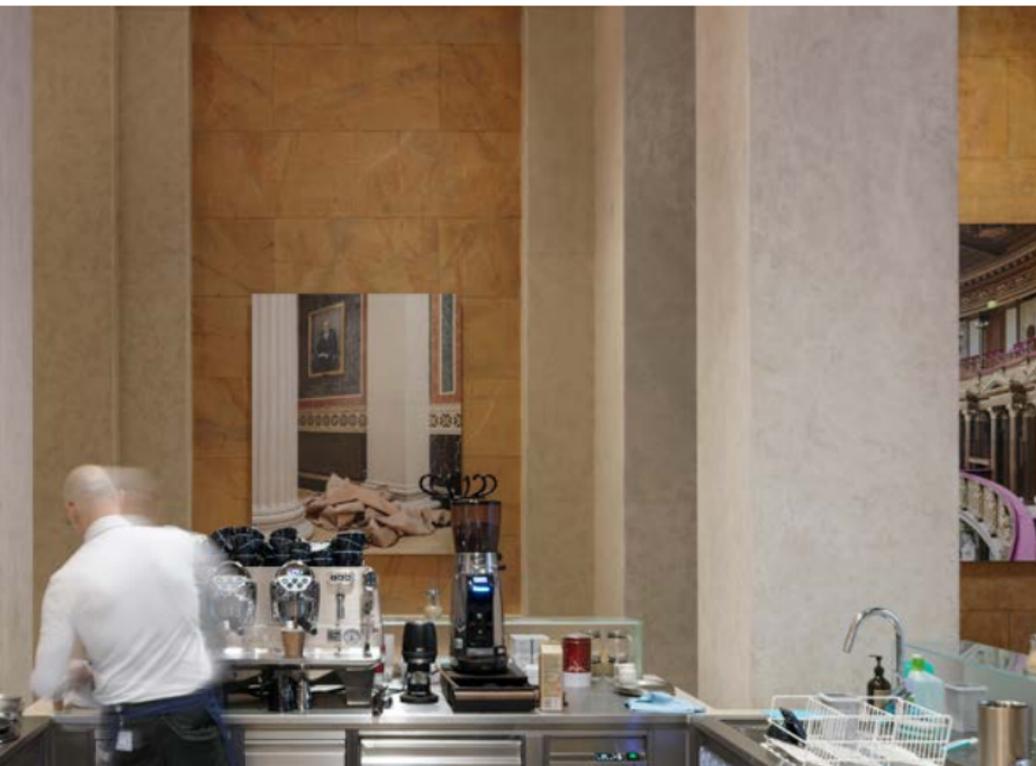
The artistic work on display on the terrace recalls the darkest period of Austrian history, that of National Socialism. It refers to a text from Heimrad Bäcker's work "nachschrift", which was realised as an installation especially for the Parliament.



## 16 Catering

At lunchtime, the Kelsen Restaurant, the Cantina and the Bistro on the third floor offer small and large meals. You can also visit the Bistro outside of lunchtime.

Café Agora, on the ground floor, is also open all day. In a special area opposite the Café, you also have the opportunity to consume food you have brought with you.



## Further Information

### Guided Tours

If you would like to take part in a free guided tour on your next visit to Parliament, you must register in advance. The tours offered can be booked for individuals and groups. Parliament's guided tours are inclusive and cover a range of topics.

### Information on the free guided tours offered:

 <https://www.parlament.gv.at/en/experience/guided-tours>



### Attending a Sitting

Would you like to attend a plenary sitting and watch parliamentarians at work onsite? The meetings of the National Council and the Federal Council are generally open to the public.

## Information on attending plenary sittings:

 [www.parlament.gv.at/en/experience/  
guided-tours/attending-sittings](http://www.parlament.gv.at/en/experience/guided-tours/attending-sittings)



## Accessibility

All areas of the Parliament Building are barrier-free. The service point team in the Visitor Centre (information desk on the ground floor) will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## Further information (in German):

 [www.parlament.gv.at/services/  
barrierefreiheit/barrierefreier-besuch](http://www.parlament.gv.at/services/barrierefreiheit/barrierefreier-besuch)



## Parliament Website

You can also visit Parliament's website to find out more about what Parliament has to offer and learn more about democracy and parliamentarianism.

### Further information:

 [www.parlament.gv.at/en](http://www.parlament.gv.at/en)



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