

The New Reich Chancellery, Designed by Albert Speer (c. 1940)

Abstract

Albert Speer's Reich Chancellery was the architectural embodiment of the Nazi dictatorship's claim to totalitarian rule. The building was constructed as an annex to the Old Reich Chancellery (and to that building's earlier extension on Voßstrasse and Wilhelmstraße in Berlin). After approximately three years of construction, the new Reich Chancellery was dedicated in January 1939. The building was 400 meters long and 20 meters high; this photograph shows the entrance, which was adorned with four monumental pillars; the Reich eagle (with swastika) occupies a prominent position above the portal. In addition to Hitler's office and apartment, the building included a "court of honor" for official occasions, a marble gallery and various banquet halls and ballrooms. In 1943, construction began on Hitler's bunker underneath the Reich Chancellery; it was there that he would commit suicide in May 1945.

Hitler actually seldom used the New Reich Chancellery as the seat of government, since he preferred to reside at his "Berghof" on the Obersalzberg. The Reich Chancellery survived the war largely intact, but in 1949, at the command of the Soviet city administration, the demolition of this symbol of Nazi rule began. Photo by Heinrich Hoffmann.

Source



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-P89708
Foto: Hoffmann, Heinrich | 1940 ca.

Source: Berlin, Neue Reichskanzlei, c. 1940. Photo: Heinrich Hoffmann. Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1989-0508-504. Available online at Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-1989-0508-504,_Berlin,_Neue_Reichskanzlei.jpg

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