



The Fuggerei

Jakob Fugger the Rich founded the Fuggerei in 1521 as a social settlement for needy citizens of Augsburg. The annual rent (excluding heating) for an apartment is still the nominal value of one Rhine guilder (currently 0.88 euros) as well as three different prayers per day for the founder and the Fugger family. Presently 150 persons occupy 140 apartments in 67 buildings. The most prominent resident of the Fuggerei was the master builder Franz Mozart, the great-grandfather of the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The Fuggerei is the oldest social settlement in the world today. It is not only unique in age, but also in continuity: The social settlement is still financed exclusively through an endowment. And still today, the conception is considered exemplary. The Fuggerei is not only a shining example of architecture now as it also was in the past. The concept was already groundbreaking nearly 500 years ago: Jakob Fugger did not allow residents to become paupers, but rendered assistance for self-help. With this concept, the founder was much ahead of the demands made by Reformer Martin Luther and later Catholic social reformers.

The Fuggerei – an ensemble with eight lanes and seven gates – is a “city within a city” having its own church, “city walls” and “city gates.” Inscribed plaques over three gates and the stone lily coat of arms serve as reminders of the founding family. Especially important sights are the Fugger museum (entrance Mittlere Gasse 14, the façade of the house is marked with a plaque commemorating the great-grandfather of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart), the Markus church at “Markusplätzle” as well as the Höchstetter oriel on the administrative building on Jakoberstrasse. The model apartment at Ochsen-gasse 51 shows the current lifestyle of Fuggerei residents. A former air-raid shelter was opened in the summer of 2008 and houses an exhibition documenting the destruction of the Fuggerei during World War II and its post-war reconstruction. Inscriptions on façades define the present or past functions of the buildings and offer astonishing details as well. A monument to founder Jakob Fugger can be located in the park of the Fuggerei.



Fuggerei shop
(Fuggerei-Lädle,
café and beer garden),
Ochsengasse 46



Model apartment,
Ochsengasse 51



Fuggerei museum,
Mittlere Gasse 13 and 14



Bunker of WWII, exhibition
of destruction and recon-
struction of the Fuggerei,
entry through the park

Entrance to Fuggerei,
Jakoberstrasse



Experience and enjoy

Fuggerei museum

The Fuggerei museum displays the lifestyle of earlier times in three rooms found in the only apartment of the Fuggerei which has been preserved in its original condition. In 2006 a modern didactic area of the museum was newly opened where the story of the Fuggerei and the Fuggerei is documented on film, with text and picture boards as well as with exhibits.

Model apartment

The unoccupied fully furnished apartment at Ochsen-gasse 51 displays the lifestyle of Fuggerei residents today. A TV set showing a documentary film conveys the story of the Fuggerei.

Bunker of WWII

Shortly after World War II began, an air-raid shelter was erected in the Fuggerei. Since 2008 a permanent exhibition entitled “The Fuggerei in WWII – Destruction and Reconstruction” has been displayed here and shows the fate of the social settlement and its residents during the time of National Socialism and during the phase of post-war reconstruction. Texts and photographs, film and sound as well as exhibits all document the air strikes aimed at Augsburg during WWII, plus the reconstruction of both the Fuggerei and the city of Augsburg (daily, during opening hours of the Fuggerei).

Museum shop and gastronomy

The “Fuggerei-Lädle” (Ochsengasse 46) in the Augsburg Fuggerei is one-of-a-kind. This museum shop offers Fugger “to the max”: books, souvenirs and sweet delicacies adorned with the Fugger coat of arms. Also, the “Fuggerei-Lädle” offers simple dishes, coffee, cake and Fugger torte. When the weather is nice, the idyllic beer garden is irresistibly inviting.

The “Fuggerei-Stube” (Jakoberstrasse 26), located right next to the main entrance of the Fuggerei, is a restaurant with home-style cooking offering gourmet, regional cuisine. In addition, from June to October the “Fuggerei-Stube” serves customers outdoors at the romantic Markusplätzle in the Fuggerei.



Further information

Opening hours

April – September: 8 am – 8 pm
October – March: 9 am – 6 pm

Prices

Admission per person: 4 €
Children (8 – 18 years): 2 €

Annual ticket: 10 €
Annual ticket for Augsburg residents: 5 €
School classes, max. 30 pupils
incl. max. two teachers: 15 €

Fugger website

www.fugger.de provides information about the Fuggerei. Presently the website is available in the following languages: German, English, Italian, French, Spanish, Czech, Swedish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese.



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The Fuggerei

The oldest
social settlement
in the world





Sights of interest

1 Building for seniority committee

Beginning in 1950, remnants of Augsburg patrician homes which had been destroyed in the war – for example, the Höchstetter oriel or the Gothic Leonhardskapelle (chapel) – were integrated in the reconstruction of this building for the seniority committee. The committee, made up of representatives from the three family lines, meets here and still manages the Fuggerei today.

2 Administration

The administration building at "Markusplätzle" (small square) as seen today was developed after the destruction of World War II. From here the "Fürstlich und Gräfliche Stiftungs-Administration" (royal foundation administration) manages the Fuggerei and eight additional foundations and endowments.

3 St. Markus church

In 1581/82 Markus and Philipp Eduard Fugger commissioned the construction of the small building. It has been redesigned a number of times including reconstruction after World War II. Highlights: the epitaph of Ulrich Fugger, a predella panel from 1550 and the Renaissance baptismal font. (Open until 6:00 p.m.)

4 School and house of the sexton

Presently, the sacristy and the apartment of the Fuggerei priest are found in house no. 35 on Herrengasse. In former times the house served as the school as well as the home of the sexton of the Markus church who was also the schoolmaster in the Fuggerei. The school of the social settlement was founded in the mid 17th century.

5 Holzhaus (wood house)

During the 16th century house nos. 40, 41 and 42 on Herrengasse collectively served as the "Holzhaus," the facility in which syphilis was combated. Here extracts from guaiacum wood, the latter of which was purchased by the Fugger enterprise from South America, were used medicinally, even for Emperor Maximilian I and Cardinal Matthäus Lang.

6 Fountain

The cast iron basin fountain is located at the main intersection of the Fuggerei. As early as 1599 a wooden fountain was erected here as the first mains water supply for the settlement which the city of Augsburg connected free of charge. In 1744 the wooden fountain was replaced with a fountain made of iron. The drainage system in the Fuggerei was made up of open gullies and draining pits.

7 Ochsengasse (ox lane)

Ochsengasse was the first expansion of the Fuggerei. The lane ends at the Ochsentor, the only gate through which residents can enter the settlement after 10:00 pm. Here a night watchperson allows latecomers into the Fuggerei for a small fee. An inscription and the founding family's coat of arms can be seen on the outside of the gate.

8 Home of Franz Mozart

Beginning in 1681 the family of Franz Mozart lived in the upstairs apartment of house no. 14 on Mittlere Gasse. The plaque on the façade commemorates the great-grandfather of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who moved into the Fuggerei in 1681. He died here in April 1694. House no. 14 is the entrance into the Fuggerei museum.

9 House no. 13

House no. 13 on Mittlere Gasse accommodates the Fuggerei museum in part. The ground level unit is the only one in which the original construction has been extensively preserved. A visit to this house (museum entrance through house no. 14) offers visitors a look at the kitchen, living room and bedroom, all historically furnished.

10 Medical facility

Around 1520 the medical facility for employees and servants of the Fuggerei was founded and maintained into the 17th century. House no. 1 provided space for six patients at the most and included a small library. A channel of the Lech River flowed through the adjoining Saugasse which provided the water essential for caring for patients.

11 Ochsengasse 52

The first victim of witch-hunting mania in Augsburg, Dorothea Braun, lived in the upper level of the gatehouse. She worked as a caregiver in the Fuggerei infirmary and was accused of sorcery by her own 11-year old daughter. After "severe suffering" 48-year old Dorothea "confessed." She was convicted on September 25, 1625 by a court of law of the imperial city of Augsburg and was beheaded and burned on the same day.

12 Monument for Jakob Fugger

The bronze bust of Jakob Fugger (1459 – 1525) in the Fuggerei park was cast in 2007 in the image of the plaster bust created by sculptor Hans Ladner. The plaster bust was the model for a bust of marble which in 1967 was placed in Walhalla, the "consecrated temple for all famous persons of the German tongue" erected near Regensburg from 1830 to 1842 by Bavarian King Ludwig I.



Fuggerei details

A Commemorative plaques

The plaques above the three entry gates to the Fuggerei serve as reminders of the founding family. Jakob Fugger founded the social settlement in 1521, also in the names of his deceased brothers Ulrich (Udalrich) and Georg, "for the blessing of their city, out of sincere gratitude for the possessions received from God and out of devotion and great generosity."

B Sundial

Since reconstruction of the Fuggerei after World War II, the sundial on the south gable of the Markus church has been decorated with the merchant's motto "Make the most of your time," a motto very appropriate for the Fuggerei. Around 1707 a painting with the church patron saint and a sundial could still be seen here. Both, however, were no longer existent by the 20th century.

C Hand-pump wells

The residents of the Fuggerei collected fresh water from hand-pump wells found at various locations within the social settlement. As of 1715, an inspector of wells lived in the Fuggerei and was responsible for installation, upkeep and maintenance of the water lines, the wells and a small channel of the Lech river which flowed by the Fuggerei.

D Lily coat of arms

Two stone portrayals of the lily coat of arms on the archway at Herrengasse are reminders of the founding family. The lily coat of arms was presented to the Fuggerei in 1473 as an offering of thanks for financing the marriage of Maximilian I, son of Emperor Friedrich III. From that time on, Ulrich Fugger and his brothers called themselves "Fuggerei from the Lily."

E House numbers

The Gothic numerals from the year 1519 on the consecutively numbered houses of the social settlement are considered to be the earliest house numbers in Augsburg. Originally the first 52 houses were numbered. Today, however, the Gothic numerals exist only in part. Since 1973 the Fuggerei has consisted of 67 houses.

F Doors

Each apartment in the Fuggerei has its own entrance from outside. This detail assures residents of their privacy and independence, and the appearance of poverty is avoided. Front doors and lintels have varying forms showing the usage of doors which were taken from previously destroyed houses.

G Figures of saints

From the archangel Michael on the house corner at "Markusplätzle" to the figure of the Madonna over the house entrance, visitors will find a number of representations of the Virgin Mary, angels and saints in the Fuggerei. These figures show that the residents are Catholic. Part of the "rent" consists of three prayers daily for the founders, one of which is the "Ave Maria," commonly recited only by Catholics.

H Bell pulls

Allegedly, the bell pulls at the house entrances in the Fuggerei were designed individually to a large extent so that at night, on the unlighted lanes, residents could find the right entrance by "feeling" their way home. Today, however, the lanes are lit up at night. The Fuggerei is the last location in Augsburg where gas lights can still be found.

I Chimneys

The roof landscape of the Fuggerei is marked by more than 100 chimneys, a number of which have various forms. These so-called "Russian chimneys" replaced the original chimneys at the beginning of the 19th century. Each apartment has its own chimney. Wood was used to heat in the past, but today the apartments are equipped with gas water heaters.

J Corbie gables

Even though the Fuggerei row house settlement was founded for needy residents of Augsburg and function was a priority, value was also placed on quality design. The narrow sides of the row ends were decorated by Master Builder Thomas Krebs with corbie gables, a typical characteristic of Gothic architecture.

