

# Kiel City Hall



## Facts and Sights



### General information

The City Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. Rooms marked \* are only accessible at certain times and during tours.  
[www.kiel.de/kultur/stadtgeschichte/rathaus](http://www.kiel.de/kultur/stadtgeschichte/rathaus)

### City Hall and tower tours

#### City Hall tower tour:

Dates: May to September,  
Wed 12:30 pm / Sat 11 am, 11:45 am, 12:30 pm;  
Meet at City Hall's main entrance; EUR 4.00/ 2.00  
(max. 18 people)

#### City Hall tours:

Dates: all year round, by request  
Duration: approx. one hour  
Number of participants: max. 18 people  
Prices: EUR 46 /group,  
Euro 15 extra charge for foreign languages

#### Booking and information

Tel. +49 (0)431-67910-13 or  
e-mail: [f.feldhusen@kiel-marketing.de](mailto:f.feldhusen@kiel-marketing.de)  
[www.kiel-sailing-city.de](http://www.kiel-sailing-city.de)

#### Stadtarchiv (city archives)

Mon-Tue 8:30 am - 4 pm; Thur 8:30 am - 6 pm  
[www.stadtarchiv-kiel.de](http://www.stadtarchiv-kiel.de)

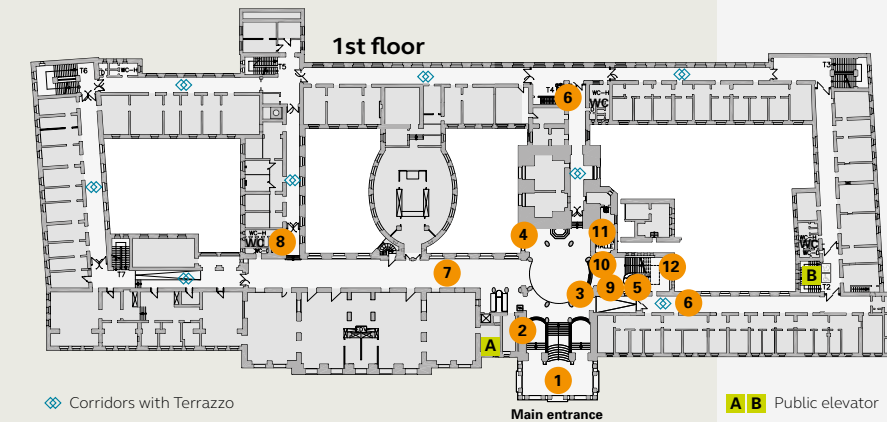
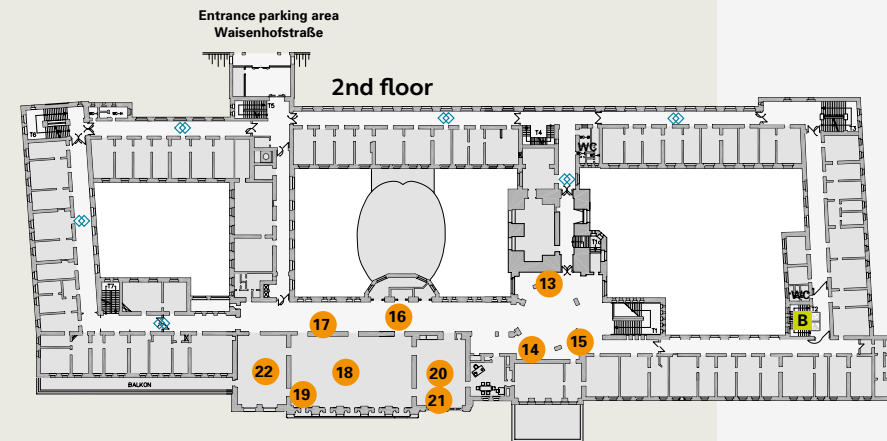
#### Published by



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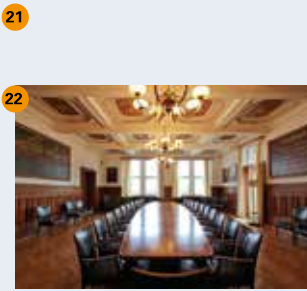
3rd floor, corridor to the Ratssaal (council chamber) gallery  
"Weiblicher Akt"  
(female nude), marble statue,  
Hermann Billing, 1911



Poster design for the exhibition held during the 1972 Olympic sailing competitions, collage/mixed materials, Salvador Dalí, 1971



Magistratssaal (magistrate's chamber), 2nd floor\*  
Inlay works with motifs from Kiel and Schleswig-Holstein on the doors to the panelings, Alwin Blaue, dating from 1950



View of the old City Hall, oil painting, 1754



Ratsherrenzimmer (councillors' room), 2nd floor\*  
View of Kiel City, oil painting, dating from 1696, formerly in the old City Hall on (Alter) Markt  
Three tablets displaying coats of arms and terms in office of Kiel councillors and mayors, 1600-1865  
Oil painting of Kiel's honorary citizens (including Friedrich von Esmarch, honorary citizen in 1903)

Special features:  
All wooden sections of the restored Ratssaal (council chamber) and Magistratssaal (magistrate's chamber) such as the panelled ceiling, wall panels and doors, are made from elm



Rotunda, 2nd floor  
"Andreas Gayk"  
(Kiel's first Lord Mayor following the Second World War), bronze bust, Zoltán Székessy, 1955



Walkway in front of the Ratssaal (council chamber) and meeting rooms  
On inside wall: Portraits of kings and dukes from the 17th, 18th and 19th Century  
Sofas by Hermann Billing  
On the window side: Portraits of former Lord Mayors and Presidents of the City Council. Painters: incl. Harald Duwe and Peter Nagel (Kiel)



Next to the entrance to the Ratssaal (council chamber), 2nd floor  
Sandstone coat of arms dating from 1732, formerly on the Flämishes Tor (Flemish gate to the city)



Ratssaal (council chamber), 2nd floor\*  
Oil painting of important Kiel citizens and mayors



## Proud city landmark: Kiel City Hall

For more than 100 years Kiel City Hall – das Kieler Rathaus – has shaped the city's image. Its tower can be seen from afar, many streets in the city centre seem to run directly towards it. The City Hall has been the home of Kiel's city politics since 1911. Then as now, it is a point of contact for Kiel's citizens, the control centre for the city's extensive administrative and representative duties and the seat of Kiel City Council. No other building in Kiel depicts the history of the city in such a clear and comprehensive manner. A second administrative centre (New City Hall) on Andreas-Gayk-Straße as well as a number of outposts were established over the past few decades as there was no longer enough space in the "old" City Hall.



## Architecture

Kiel City Hall, built according to designs by the architect Hermann Billing, was officially opened on 12 November 1911 in the presence of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Architecturally the building is in fact a grouped construction with three internal courtyards and a long asymmetrically designed main frontage onto Rathausplatz. The broad five-storey Art Nouveau façade is emphasised by a series of colossal wall pillars. In 1971 Kiel City Hall was entered into the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein's Denkmaltbuch (book of historic monuments).

## Interesting facts

Built: 1907-1911  
Architect: Hermann Billing (Karlsruhe, 1867-1946)  
Cost: 4 million Goldmark



## Special features of the building:

- 106 metre high tower reminiscent of St Mark's Campanile in Venice (Photo)
- Curved, copper covered roof (destroyed in 1945 and rebuilt in a simplified design)
- "Kaiser" lift (replaced by a wheelchair accessible lift in 1999)
- "Kaiser" door (Lord Mayor's Office\*, 2nd floor, now sealed)



## Damage between 1943 and 1945:

Main copper roof, administrative wings on Rathausstraße, central building with reception rooms. The Ratsherrenzimmer (councillors' room) remained undamaged.

## Reconstruction between 1945 and 1950:

At Lord Mayor Andreas Gayk's initiative, led by building director

Rudolf Schroeder. Made possible through donations from private individuals, companies and organisations.

## 22 June 1950:

Official opening of the rebuilt City Hall by Lord Mayor Andreas Gayk, in the presence of the Federal President at the time, Theodor Heuss.

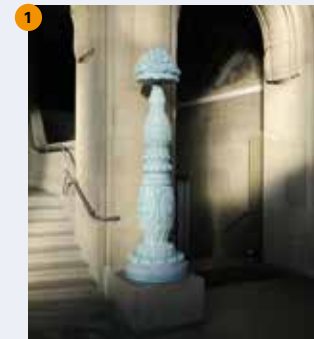
## Sights

### External façade

The Rathausplatz side of the building is adorned with the sandstone coats of arms of Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia and the German Empire, dating from 1907-1911.

### Interior rooms Vestibule (ground floor)

Two light blue glazed ceramic decorative columns, Karlsruhe-based Majolika Keramik Manufaktur, Hermann Billing/Hermann Föry, dating from around 1910. Now replicas, dating from 1970

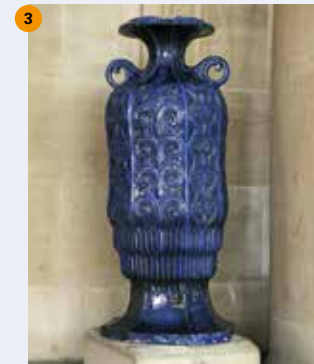


Murals "Hochbau" (construction) and "Tiefbau" (foundations), Ludwig Dettmann, 1913/14, Stiftung Kieler Bürger



### Entrance hall (1st floor)

Two tall dark blue glazed floor-standing vases, Karlsruhe-based Majolika Keramik Manufaktur, Hermann Billing/Hermann Föry, dating from around 1910.



Jura limestone water fountain figure "Nymphe" (nymph), bronze, Hermann Föry, 1911



Bronze tablet commemorating City Hall staff killed in the First World War, Carl Rhein, 1925

### Corridor to the right and straight on (1st floor)

Former main entrance doors

### Waiting area (to the left, 1st floor)

Sandstone relief with nine motifs "Bürger bauen eine neue Stadt" ("People build a new city"), Fritz Düring and Alwin Blaue, 1957



### Waiting area, corridor to the right

Paternoster lift dating from 1911, renovated 1958. There are only three paternoster lifts still in operation in Kiel (City Hall, Landeshaus (seat of the Schleswig-Holstein government), Ministry of School and Professional Education).

### In front of the main staircase to the rotunda on 2nd floor

"Frierende Alte", (freezing old woman), bronze sculpture, Ernst Barlach, 1937



"Der Sinnende II", (the muse II), bronze sculpture, Ernst Barlach, 1934



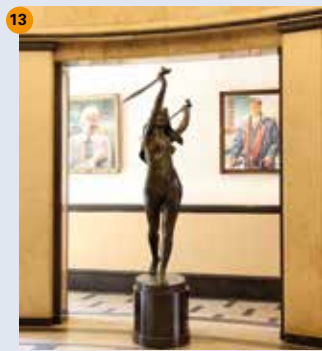
Memorial hall for victims of the Nazi regime and both world wars

### Landing on main staircase to 2nd floor

Five stained glass images, Dagmar Schulze-Ross, 1963, sponsored by Kiel-based companies and organisations

### Rotunda, 2nd floor

"Die Schwerttänzerin", (the sword dancer), bronze sculpture, Adolf Brütt, 1896, originally at Stadttheater (Kiel theatre)



"Theodor Heuss" (First President of the Federal Republic of Germany) painting, Karl Kluth, 1956

