

TEMPOHOME SITE OF TEMPELHOFFER AIRPORT FELD

Berlin, Germany



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GENERAL INFO

HISTORY OF THE SITE

GALLERY

TEAM BEHIND IT

TYPE

emergency shelter

STRUCTURE

a light-frame construction hall in a 52-foot-high hangar of the decommissioned airport divided into 270-square-foot spaces formed by temporary screens with six double bunk beds sleeping 12¹, in 2017 and in 2022 – self-contained containers. The building is a legally protected historic monument with strict regulations dictating the physical forms of the interior camp spaces. No alterations can be made that will permanently affect the building; nothing can be stuck to the walls. While temporary structures can be deployed elsewhere on the site, within the historic building at Tempelhof little more can exist beyond the regimentally arranged living cubicles, with their pristine white walls².

TIME TO BUILD

2-3 months

OPERATION TIME

2015-2017, 2022-present

FUNDING

State of Berlin

TOTAL COST

EUR 17 mm, including EUR 7.2 mm to purchase 976 containers and EUR 9 mm for equipping the containers, developing the site, and designing the outdoor facilities

OF REFUGEES

from 2,000 in 2015 to 868 beds in 2023

AVERAGE AREA PER RESIDENT

13 sq m

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HISTORY OF THE SITE

Tempelhofer Feld (in English – Tempelhof Field) is a former airfield that opened in 1923 as the first civilian airport in Europe. After WWII, Tempelhof was in the US-controlled West Berlin and was the site of the Berlin Airlift, from which Allied supply planes delivered a total of 2.3 million tons of food and fuel to save two million West Berliners from starvation in what was considered the largest humanitarian operation in history³.

The airport was closed in 2008 and the city put the future of the site to a public vote in 2014. As many as 90% of residents in some districts voted to protect their new green space⁴. Today, the former airfield is the city's largest public park. The 2014 referendum effectively prohibited any further construction on the site, but the legislation was reversed the following year to allow for temporary accommodation.

In 2017 the site was chosen for the installation of four “Tempohome villages” hosting upwards of a thousand inhabitants, making it the largest Tempohome site in Berlin⁵.

In 2015, the site was used to house Syrian refugees with more than 2,000 people sleeping under the hangars' 52-foot-high ceilings at one point⁶.

In 2017, the plan was to set up “better-equipped “Tempohomes” outside the hangars for the refugees to move into”⁷.

In 2022, a “container village” near the runway housed hundreds of Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection⁸. Portable containers were used as temporary accommodation for around 400 Ukrainians.

In 2023, a new emergency container shelter was opened inside hangars 2 and 3. Built within a couple of weeks, it has 281 containers with 868 beds available⁹.

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TEMPORARY
SCREENS TO HOUSE
REFUGEES IN 2015

Source: [vice.com](https://www.vice.com)

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TEMPOHOME SITE OF TEMPELHOFFER AIRPORT FELD

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INSIDE THE SHELTER
IN 2015

Source: [vice.com](https://www.vice.com)

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TEMPOHOME SITE OF TEMPELHOFFER AIRPORT FELD

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INSIDE THE SHELTER
IN 2015

Source: [vice.com](https://www.vice.com)

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CONTAINER VILLAGE
NEAR THE RUNWAY
BUILT IN 2017

Source: France 24

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CONTAINER VILLAGE
NEAR THE RUNWAY
BUILT IN 2017

*Source: The Berlin
Spectator*

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CONTAINER UNITS
INSIDE THE
HANGARS BUILT IN
2022

Source: Flughafen
Tempelhof

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INSIDE TEMPELHOF
AIRPORT - EUROPE'S
BIGGEST REFUGEE
CAMP

Source: Channel 4
News



Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTSt8xkX_fE

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SAFE HOUSING
CONSTRUCTION IN
TEMPELHOF,
DECEMBER 2022 (in
German)

Source: Senate
Department for
Integration, Labour,
Social Affairs

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Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaaAX6SK1pU>

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COMMISSIONED BY

PROVIDER

CONSTRUCTION

Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten (Berlin State Office for Refugee Affairs, or LAF)

Tempelhof Projekt GmbH

Berliner Immobilienmanagement GmbH (Berlin Real Estate Management company, or BIM)



FLUGHAFEN
TEMPELHOF

SIMILAR PROJECTS

Light-frame construction hall emergency program in Munich [\[learn more\]](#)

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