Water-tower

History...

Until around 1900, the quality of drinking water in Dachau was poor. Not every house could afford its own well, and the public wells were fed with water from the River Amper. This was contaminated with human and animal waste. Nonetheless, the water was used for brewing beer!

In 1906, to fundamentally improve the water supply, a 62 m (203 ft) deep well was drilled in nearby Günding, which provided clean drinking water. In order to supply this groundwater to the town of Dachau, a 29 metres (95 feet) tall water-tower was planned.

Having such a functional building in the immediate vicinity of Dachau Palace was controversial: the water-tower was not to spoil the skyline and also not to be taller than the palace. The town councillors thus commissioned the Munich "Association for Folk Art and Folklore" to design the tower, and the building became a fine example of late historicism, for which it is now listed.

In 1969, the tower lost its function as a reservoir: as a result of the increased demand, a new elevated reservoir with greater capacity was erected at Günding.

... and a story

In 1988, the demolition of the tower was rejected by the town council with the support of a citizens' initiative. The former reservoir was to be sold. But the negotiations failed and the tower remained the property of the town.

Following various suggestions for its use, a contract was awarded to the "Association for the Support of the Dachau Water-tower". The tower was comprehensively restored and since 1998 has been used for cultural events and exhibitions.

By the way: after many years without a water supply, running water was at last restored to the water-tower in time for its centenary in 2010.

Postcard, 1910

The picturesque old town of Dachau with its 1200-year history features many sites of historical interest. Special buildings of prominence in the townscape are marked by these historical plaques.

Dachau historical plaques are a joint project by the town of Dachau and the Dachau District Museum.

Dachau