

# Berlin Report

August 2025

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## 1. Sphere Tim Raue

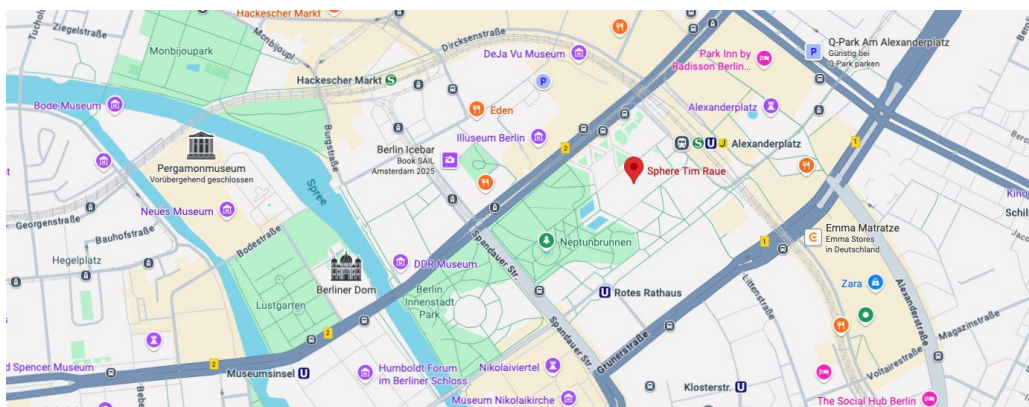
### Project Overview

In 1969, a 220-meter television tower was constructed in East Berlin, then the capital of East Germany. At the center of its gleaming silver sphere, an observation deck and revolving restaurant offer a 360-degree view of the city every 30 minutes, making it one of Berlin's most popular attractions. This restaurant has now been renovated and reopened as Sphere Tim Raue, hailed as Berlin's "best" restaurant under the direction of star chef Tim Raue, and has generated significant buzz. Although born in Berlin, Raue grew up not in the East but within the underground scene of West Berlin. In respect for the tower's history as a symbol of East Germany, the cuisine focuses on traditional, rustic East German dishes, while the interiors incorporate graffiti-inspired details reminiscent of West Berlin. The renovation was led by Dittel Architekten, who sought to honor the monolithic architecture while updating the interior into a comfortable, contemporary space. The restaurant reflects the tower's concentric geometric structure and is divided into three zones. The outer ring, enclosed by a glass façade, forms a rotating space for dining and viewing, designed to highlight the ever-changing scenery and light. The central access zone, which remains stationary and serves as the service corridor, is kept visually calm with minimal lighting and a deep blue carpet. The wine cellar and bar feature light-shielding panels arranged to emphasize the radial layout, with deliberately lowered ceilings for intimacy. The color palette combines mocha brown—an original 1960s tone now back in vogue—with deep blue accents. Retro glass objects and table lamps have been preserved, while custom-designed plates were commissioned in a classic style. Like Raue's cuisine, in which diverse flavors contrast and harmonize, the space itself embodies a dialogue between past and future.

### Project Details

1. Client: Sphere Tim Raue
2. Type of Business: Gastronomie
3. Open Date: 03.06.2025
4. Location: Alexanderplatz, Panoramastraße 1A, 10178 Berlin
5. Size: 240 seats, 420 m<sup>2</sup>
6. Architect: DIA Dittel Architekten / Frank Dittel, Gesche Falkenburg
7. Website: [tv-turm.de/sphere-tim-raue](http://tv-turm.de/sphere-tim-raue)

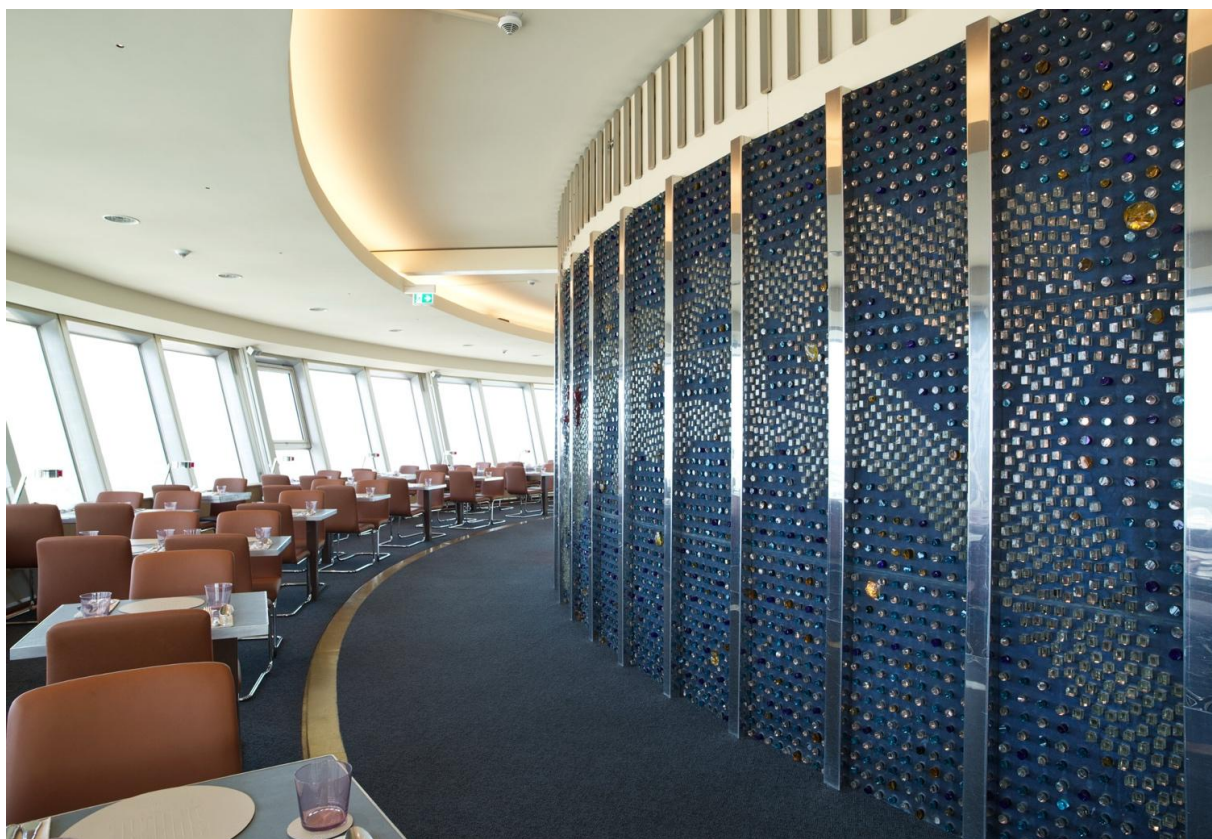
### Location Map





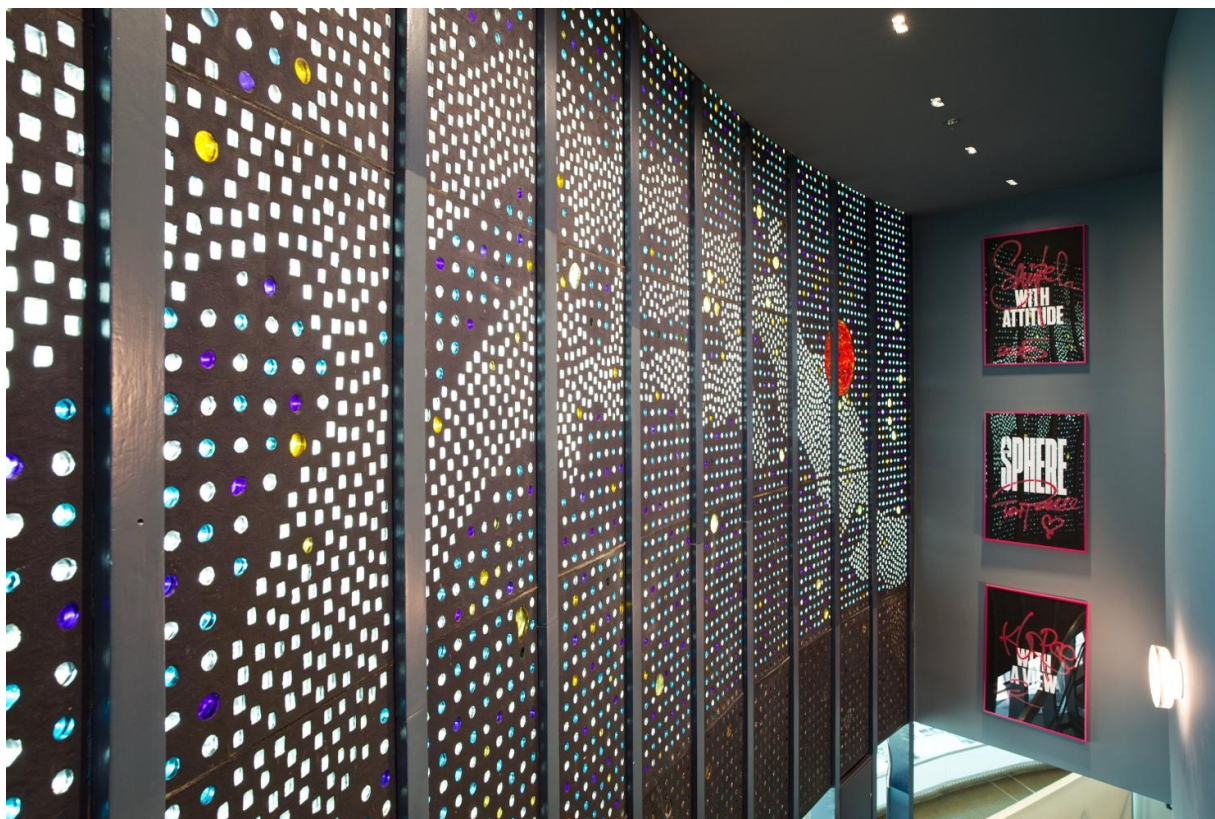
Above: The seating area (left) rotates faster than expected. The boundary with the central access zone is visually emphasized by a low golden step, which also serves as a fall-prevention measure. Below: The bar counter on the lower floor features a raised floor and lowered ceiling, while the shape of the light-shielding panels accentuates the radial geometry of the space





Above: Glass objects from the East German era.

Below: Guests are guided to their seats via a narrow staircase leading from the entrance on the lower floor, with graffiti-style details scattered throughout.





Above: Entrance to the TV tower, with staircases and lighting on all four sides preserved from the original design.

Below left: Classic tableware custom-made by ASA SELECTION, with original period lighting and graffiti on the windows.

Below right: Raue's signature graffiti also appears on the staff uniforms, which he personally spray-painted in various places



## 2. Galerie Judin & ZEIT Café

### Project Overview

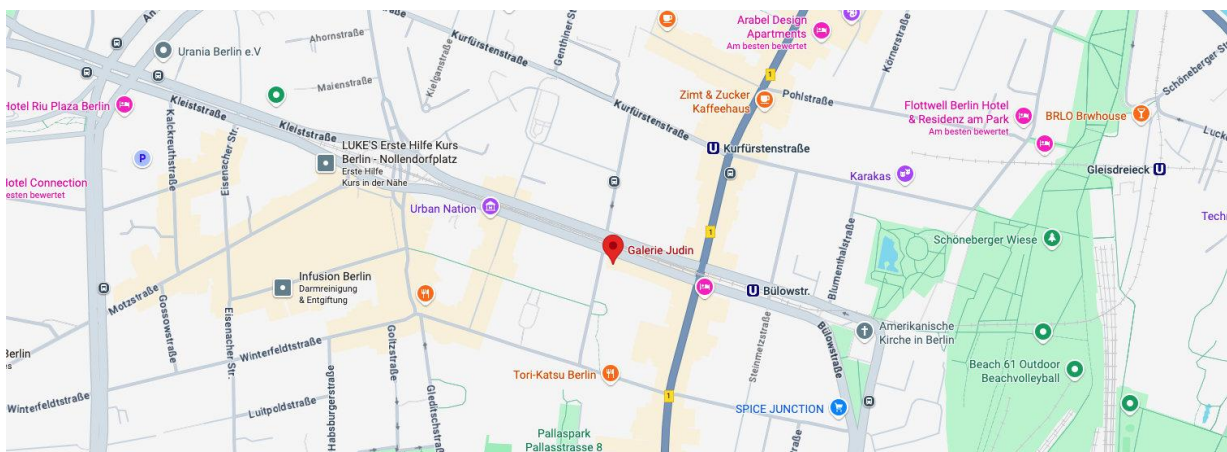
In 1956, a Shell gas station was built and has since been reborn as a gallery and café. Despite its location along a bustling main street and beside an elevated railway, it offers a tranquil, house-like space surrounded by greenery, making it a popular destination. The transformation began in the 1990s, when gallerist and collector Juerg Judin discovered the long-abandoned station, which had been left unused since the 1980s. Captivated by its architectural charm, he conceived the idea of creating a place where people could encounter both nature and art. A two-story gallery was added to the open-air site of the station, with three sides of the original structure enclosed by walls. On the roadside, a pond was created like a moat, and tall trees and grasses were planted around the 1950s pines to block views of the street, successfully transforming the site into an oasis that shuts out the surrounding noise. The canopy of the gas station itself now resembles a park pavilion. The station's storefront, fully restored to its 1950s appearance, has been converted into a café in collaboration with the German weekly newspaper ZEIT.

Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves line the hallway, filled with art catalogues, while the interior is kept simple with only comfortable chairs and minimalist tables by Hoffmann Kahleiss Design, arranged to make the most of the large garden-facing windows. The design follows a restrained palette, using the station's original red as its base color. The only bold accent is a massive chandelier, designed in the 1950s for a Frankfurt ballroom, now hanging like an art object from the ceiling. When entering, visitors first notice the sparkle of light flooding through the large glass windows, but once seated, the chandelier—positioned high overhead—fades from attention. The interior reflects Judin's wish for guests to focus on their time in the space—reading, contemplating artworks, or engaging in conversation with others.

### Project Details

1. Client: Juerg Judin / Shell AG
2. Type of Business: Galerie, Gastronomie / Gas station
3. Open Date: 26.04.2025 / 1956
4. Location: Bülowstrasse 18, 10783 Berlin
6. Architect: bfs d / planbb bakel Landscape architect: Guido Hager

### Location Map





A 50-year-old pine tree stands at the heart of the garden, encircled by cherry trees and tall bamboo, while koi swim gracefully in the pond. The Japanese-style garden blends seamlessly with the former gas station building, creating an unexpected harmony. Designed by renowned Swiss landscape architect Guido Hager, the garden reflects his signature approach of stimulating the senses while integrating naturally with its surroundings





Above: The impressive chandelier, designed by Martin Elsässer and Ernst May in the 1950s. Below left: The hallway leading to the café serves as an art book corner. Below right: The extension features a double-layered industrial glass façade with translucent insulation that reflects light softly without disrupting the retro atmosphere of the building and garden.

