

# THE HISTORIC TRAIL HINDENBURGSTRASSE



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HINDENBURGSTRASSE

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Upon the proposal of the First Mayor of Bad Tölz Josef Janker, the city council of Tölz decided on June 25, 2013, to withdraw the honorary citizenship of the former President of the Reich and Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg retroactively and not to rename "Hindenburgstraße" but instead to design a „walkable memorial / monument“.

With regard to the question as to whether Hindenburgstraße ought to be renamed, there were definitely arguments in favour of this suggestion since the naming of a street always denotes a tribute to the person it is being named after. In this case, however, the mayor was persuasive and unanimously supported by council.

His argument inferred that a renaming of the street would simply result in forgetting history in a short time, whereas the goal was to remember and instill a sense of history. The city council thus approved the proposal to set up a project group comprised of experts for text and history to design such a memorial.

After clarifying the basic approach, the project group, made up of well-known personalities, compiled the texts for a panel and nine plaques, and put together the matching photo material. Since Hindenburgstraße had never been the scene of any actions or suffering, which would justify a monument, the conception "Historic Trail Hindenburgstraße" was chosen to define the project.

In conclusion, the Tölz city council approved the draft texts and decided on the design proposal of Julia Stelz from SJJU DESIGN in Tölz. From six design drafts, the project group recommended two for the selection.

Those who follow the "Historic Trail Hindenburgstraße" virtually or in reality, will not only understand the ultimate motivation for this historic trail, but also become aware of the fateful and notorious role that Hindenburg played in paving the way for the illegitimate state of the National Socialists.

# PROJECT GROUP



**Prof. Dr. Herrmann Rumschöttel**  
General Director of the State Archives of Bavaria, ret. / Professor at the Bundeswehr University in Munich / Deputy Chairman of the commission for Bavarian Regional History at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences



**Dr. Christof Botzenhart**  
Historiker  
Historian / Director of studies at Geretsried High School / Third Mayor of Bad Tölz / Deputy Chairman of the Historical Association Bad Tölz



**Peter Probst**  
Screenwriter and author



**Klaus Pelikan**  
Personal advisor to the mayor / Head of the mayor's office / Coordinator of the project group



**Elisabeth Hinterstocker**  
Art historian and Head of the Tölz City Museum



**Stefanie Regus**  
Historian and senior teacher at Gabriel-von-Seidl-Gymnasium Bad Tölz, Hindenburgstraße



**Sebastian Lindmeyr**  
Cultural historian / Archivist at the city archive in Tölz



**Christoph Schnitzer**  
Editor Tölzer Kurier and author

# DESIGN



**Julia Stelz**  
Designer B.A.

As a result of a competition, designer Julia Stelz of SJJU DESIGN in Bad Tölz was commissioned to design the historic trail.

The idea to ultimately use the language of form, emanated from intensive research, which also brought out different rational as well as emotional aspects, which served as a basis for the design.

The shift in the political circumstances between World War I and World War II, the evolution of Paul von Hindenburg from the stabilising "Father of the Reich" to supporter of the National Socialist movement, and the altered present-day perception of his person, constitute the factual basis of the considerations for the design process.

The concepts, which emerged from the historic facts, were the toppling and collapse of political stability and Hindenburg's attitude towards the National Socialists. Formative parameters of the design became the pressure and burden we still feel due to our present knowledge of the circumstances. Another important point constituted the change in the perception people had of Paul von Hindenburg.

The outcome was a continuous uploading and editing of new information. From all these considerations and concepts, tilting, collapsing structures emerged that, in the end, were almost sinking into the ground, and now serve as communication surfaces for the texts and photo material drawn up by the project group. The objective of the designer was to intensify the meaning of the texts and to make the continuing effect of the topic felt by interfacing the design with the thematic content.