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## ***A New Architectural Landmark Opens at Leuphana University of Lüneburg in Germany***

***Opening Ceremony Set for Saturday, March 11, 2017***

Lüneburg, Germany – The new Central Building at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, designed in collaboration with Daniel Libeskind, provides the campus with a landmark building that promotes the vision of innovation and excellence for the university.

“The building represents our University at its best for the future. It establishes the new agora for students and professors as well as other visitors to foster the exchange of ideas, to inspire creativity and to support a vibrant academic life. It will be a landmark of Lüneburg’s culture,” said Leuphana President Sascha Spoun.

The 13,000 sq. m. (139,930 sq. ft.) zinc clad building integrates the Research Center, the Student Center, the Seminar Center and the Auditorium into one single structure. This new configuration promotes cross disciplinary interaction and a dynamic learning environment for the students and faculty alike. Each of the functions are housed in four individually shaped and mutually interlinking volumes that form a major composite structure achieving the maximum efficiency in terms of usage, structure, energy consumption and architectural impact.

“For the new Central Building at Leuphana, I was inspired by the ethos of the University,” said architect and Professor Daniel Libeskind. “Leuphana is an incubator for new ideas, innovation, research and discovery. The new building is imbued with these principles.”

The Center is composed of four interlocking sculpted forms; the low slung, Student Center with dramatic geometric windows that span the height of the building at irregular intervals and includes a cafeteria at the ground floor and workshops, labs and offices on the upper floors; the Seminar Center, a 3-story structure with a curved roof and soffit forming the main entry; Libeskind Auditorium that is based on a rectangular ground plan in which its walls are inclined and its roof forms a convex curve; and the 6-story Research Center with sloping walls and horizontal bands of windows placed in-between.

As visitors enter the building they will encounter the swooping volume of the seminar center and a triple height atrium awash in light that is ushered in by way of a half dozen skylights. Interior stairwells and bridges crisscross the volume revealing the complexity of the space. Exposed concrete and white canted walls are accentuated with rich walnut parquet flooring throughout the building. Within the lobby is a massive red geometric form that articulates the exterior of the Libeskind Auditorium and the main stair. Painted red walls run throughout the building to provide additional way-finding.

The seminar center provides more spaces for workshops, classes and seminars and the “Raum der Stille” (“Room of Silence”). The multi-confessional devotion and meditation room is a place for silence and reflection and features a wall with a handcrafted fractal pattern of custom cut aluminum tiles. Each tile is painted a pearlescent shade of white to enhance the experience of quiet reflection.

The auditorium provides flexible seating arrangements for different scenarios of use by the University as well as by the city of Lüneburg and the general public: 1100 people for lectures, and is adaptable for classical concerts or theater performances. Red cushion stacked seats line one wall and can be pulled out for the auditorium’s use. Warm-toned acoustical panels accented by softly lit crossing lines cover the auditorium walls.

The Research Center provides a variety of spaces for groups and single persons working and teaching, and a balcony on the top floors that overlooks the campus and building’s sloping green roofs, which cover the tops of the lower volumes of the building.

In the development of the design, student participation was integrated as part of a tradition of Leuphana University to engage students in the process of the changing University campus. In the

seminars held by Professor Libeskind and other teachers at the University, the students had the opportunity to gain insights into the complex questions of various design stages, to bring forward their own perspectives and develop solutions which found their way into the execution of the project. Along with the building's design, topics that the students engaged included landscape design, the way-finding system, and interior design. In addition the design for the multi-confessional devotion and meditation "Raum der Stille" room design was the subject of a seminar. Underlying this participation is the emphasis towards creating an educational space that allows for communication, creativity and an exchange of knowledge that is reflected in the design. RW+ acted as Architect of Record and provided the detail design, tender documentation and site supervision. Studio Libeskind provided artistic supervision during design and construction.

"The idea for this project was to create a hub that would inspire the students through multiple connected spaces, infused with natural light and exciting new geometries," said architect Daniel Libeskind. "It was a true creative collaboration by incorporating students ideas about program and design elements into the final design."

Sustainability was considered throughout the design and construction of the building. Its sustainable energy design was optimized in student seminars. It will operate at zero (and even negative) emissions, due to energy supply based on renewables and its outstanding energy efficiency. Green roofs, a grey water system further improve resource efficiency of the new Central Building. Thus, it is far beyond the EnEV (Energieeinsparverordnung = Energy-Saving Regulation) standard, which sets energy requirements for new buildings in Germany and is a demonstration project of the Bundeswirtschaftsministerium (Federal Ministry of Economy) for energy-optimized design.

The new building is located on the university's main campus in the southern part of Lüneburg. The university evolved from a pedagogical/teacher's college, which was founded in 1946. Today the main focuses are culture, education, economy and sustainability. More than 9,000 students are currently enrolled.

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About Daniel Libeskind/ Studio Libeskind

Studio Libeskind is an international architecture practice headquartered in New York City.

The Studio is involved in designing and realizing a diverse array of urban, cultural and commercial projects internationally. The Studio has completed buildings that range from museums and concert halls to convention centers, university buildings, hotels, shopping centers and residential towers.

Daniel and his partner Nina Libeskind established Studio Daniel Libeskind in Berlin, Germany, in 1989 after winning the competition to build the Jewish Museum Berlin. In February 2003, Studio Daniel Libeskind moved its headquarters from Berlin to New York City when Studio Libeskind was selected as the master planner for the World Trade Center redevelopment. [www.libeskind.com](http://www.libeskind.com)

#### About Leuphana University

Leuphana University of Lüneburg sees itself as a public university for the civil society of the 21st century. Its unique German-language study model consists of a college leading to a first qualifying degree, a graduate school interlinking masters' and doctoral programmes and the Professional School offering Continuing Professional Development courses. Four Science Initiatives characterise the university's subject-based spectrum: educational research / teacher training, management and entrepreneurship, culture research and sustainability research.

More than 9,000 young persons are currently studying at Leuphana. About 600 of Leuphana's 1,000 employees are academics, of whom 155 are professors. [www.leuphana.de](http://www.leuphana.de)