



The coat of arms of the borough of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf is composed under the Berlin Wall crown with the bear from the arms of the former borough of Charlottenburg in the lower part and the former borough of Wilmersdorf in the upper part.

The two shields on the towers of the blue castle gate point to the founders of Charlottenburg, Prussia's King Frederick I and his wife Sophie Charlotte, the namesake of the former city of Charlottenburg.

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### Literature

- Berthold Grzywatz: Das Rathaus Charlottenburg. Zur Geschichte eines bürgerlichen Monumentalbaus. Berlin 1989
- Berthold Grzywatz: Die Rathäuser Charlottenburgs. Berlin 1991
- Gisela Scholtze: Die drei Rathäuser der Stadt Charlottenburg, Berlin 1986
- Bezirksamt Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf - Pressestelle (Hg): 300 Jahre Charlottenburg - Von Charlottes Schloss zur Berliner City. Jubiläumsbuch Berlin 2005

# Rathaus Charlottenburg



Photo: Klaus Hartmann

Construction time: 1899-1905

Opening: 20.5.1905

Architects: Heinrich Reinhardt & Georg Süßenguth

Tower height: 89 Meter

Extension building (Heinrich-Schulz-Bibliothek)

Construction time: 1911-1916

Architect: Heinrich Seeling

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With the opening of the Town Hall on 20/05/1905 the 220-year celebration of the City of Charlottenburg also began. The extension building, in which today the Heinrich-Schulz-Bibliothek is housed, was built from 1911 to 1916 for the savings bank "Sparkasse".

The town hall is a monumental five-winged complex in Rustika (Humpelquader) with a 89 m high tower dominating. Allegedly, Kaiser Wilhelm II should have refused to drive past the new town hall on the way to Schloss Charlottenburg, because the tower overtops the castle's dome.

The facade design is modeled in strict Art Nouveau forms with rich ornament plastic and figurative jewellery of the opulence of medieval town halls. In addition to ornamentation, a series of caricatures carved in stone and carved in wood also address work ethic and the struggle for existence.

Heavy war damage arose in the last years of the Second World War from 1943 to 1945. Hans Günther led the restoration from 1947 to 1958. Of the banqueting and meeting halls, only the Municipal Meeting Hall (now the Minna Cauer Hall) is preserved in its original form. In 1988, the roof was recovered.

On the second floor there is a memorial hall for the fallen of the world wars and the victims of the Nazi tyranny and a photo gallery of resistance fighters and victims of the Nazi regime. In the Lily-Braun room hang the portraits of Charlottenburg's mayors as well as of the later female and male district mayors since the foundation of Greater Berlin in 1920 when the former town of Charlottenburg became a borough of Berlin. Due to another Reform Act reducing the number of boroughs from 20 to 12, Charlottenburg and the neighbouring borough of Wilmersdorf are now united to the new borough of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf since 2001.

The Magistrates' Room in the basement, designed by Wilhelm Kimbel in 1914, is today used as an intarsia hall by the registry office for wedding ceremonies.

On 07/12/2005 two paintings were unveiled on the third floor in front of the festival hall: Entrepreneur Hans Wall donated the larger-than-life oil painting "Sophie Charlotte", painted by Gabriela Ri-

bow-Worresk for the jubilee year, to the municipal for the 300th anniversary of Charlottenburg.

At the same time, next to "Sophie Charlotte", the 2.00 x 1.50 m acrylic painting "Bonjour Charlotte" was unveiled. It was created by Uwe Müller-Fabian in 1995 and was made available to the municipal by a sponsor as a permanent loan.

From 14/10/ until 26/10/2008, the city hall Charlottenburg was first included in the Festival of Lights. Following this, an own lighting concept was developed. Since then, the town hall has been illuminated at night.

The tower of the town hall is not open to the public due to security reasons. On the occasion of "the Day of the Open Monument" (to take place on September), an access is exceptionally possible at your own risk after having registered by telephone at the office of the mayor.

The Town Hall Charlottenburg is the seat of the mayor, his four colleagues of the board (the municipal councillors), their departments and the council committee. Large parts of the Department Urban Development, Building and Environment and the Department Civil Services, Economic and Regulatory Affairs as well as parts of the Department of Social Affairs and Health and the Department Youth, family, education, sport and culture have its seats in the service building at Hohenzollerndamm 174 - 177, 10713 Berlin.

### Halls

Festsaal, BVV-Saal und Bürgersaal (3rd floor),  
Minna-Cauer-Saal, Gertrud-Bäumer-Saal, Helene-Lange-Saal und Lily-Braun-Saal (2nd floor)

Bezirk