

More space for communication thanks to the donation from ZELTWANGER

ZELTWANGER has donated 30,000 euros to the d.a.i. Tübingen. The Deutsch-Amerikanische Institut (German-American Institute) has used the money to completely renovate the Ann Arbor conference room. It is now complete and provides a space for cultural exchange.



Blue, white, red – the newly refurbished Ann Arbor Room is the perfect setting for German and American exchange.

Language learning, internal meetings, shared cooking, film presentations – all this is possible in the Ann Arbor Room at the d.a.i. Tübingen. The key point to this is exchange between and understanding of different cultures. This cause has been important to Ulrich Zeltwanger, founder and owner of the ZELTWANGER Group, for years, and the reason why ZELTWANGER chose to become involved in the d.a.i. The renovation took place over the summer and after a complete overhaul lasting around eight weeks, the conference room now provides more space and possibilities than before.

Renovation from the skirting to the ceiling

On-site visit. The outdated room has been completely modernized. "New floors, new ceiling, new electrics, the windows are the only things that haven't been changed," explains Dr. Ute Bechdorf, Director of the Institute. "The renovation of the Ann Arbor Room was an extensive project that could only be implemented so quickly and successfully with the unfailing help of the construction company." At the d.a.i, there are only short windows of time when no courses or events are taking place, but it was possible to carry out the work during the summer break without any major problems. "However, there have been some surprises along the way," smiles Bechdorf. "For example, we found straw under the ceiling." But all outdated construction methods could be rectified and the new room now looks welcoming and modern with the large kitchen, the PC workstations, an Apple TV, built-in USB and power connections, and air conditioning. A large white table sits in the center, which encourages German and American exchange with its bright blue and red chairs.

Space for partnership

The room has also been given a new name. Every other room at the d.a.i. is named after a city in the US. The renovation was a good opportunity to find a new namesake for the conference room. The name of the twin city of Tübingen, Ann Arbor in Michigan, was an obvious choice, not least because the d.a.i. is striving to establish new relationships with the city this year. The pictures on the walls of the room are colorful impressions of the university city in the Midwestern state of the US. The Tübingen photographer Ulrich Metz captured these images at night or in the early morning light and made them available to the institute.

Important visitor at the opening

Freshly renovated, newly fitted out, and suitably decorated, the room has now been officially opened. Numerous guests, including Gerlinde Kretschmann, the First Lady of Baden-Württemberg, attended the celebrations. It was also a special moment for Ulrich Zeltwanger: "By making our donation, we have taken responsibility and directly supported cultural exchange and understanding for one other. This can be felt in this room."

But the Ann Arbor Room isn't quite finished yet. "We still need sound absorbers, which will mean there is less echoing in here," explains Bechdorf. The d.a.i. is also still waiting for fiber optics for faster Internet. But they are still delighted about the positive response to the room so far. Above all else, Ute Bechdorf is grateful: "It wouldn't have been possible without ZELTWANGER."



Director Ute Bechdorf is glad that the conversion went so smoothly.



Whether it's for language courses or staff meetings – with the kitchen and smart TV, the room offers a whole host of new possibilities.

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