

The Grand Hotel Cosmopolis – Alternatives to the mass accommodation in Germany

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In the middle of Augsburg's city center, there is a building whose brightly painted facade is already visible from afar. It attracts attention: *Grand Hotel Cosmopolis* is written in large letters above the door, and a red carpet invites you to enter the building. According to its own statements, the project is a social sculpture that creates living space in the form of a hotel for guests with and without asylum. Officially, this building is the site of the *Gemeinschaftsunterkunft Springergässchen 5*, a shared accommodation for refugees. The project is one of the oldest attempts to organize a counter-model to the widespread dreary and isolating form of group accommodation for refugees. Such group accommodations often house several hundred people, with up to eight people per room. Sanitary facilities are shared. Independent cooking is often neither possible nor allowed. These cramped living conditions are not only accompanied by a lack of privacy, they also mean isolation, segregation and marginalization with regard to the host society. In contrast, projects such as the *Grand Hotel Cosmopolis* attempt to facilitate a more self-determined everyday life and better integration into urban society. To this end, the project combines a hostel, studios, accommodation for refugees and rooms for cultural events in the building of a former retirement home. The rooms have been designed with attention to detail by artists: On the first floor there is also a cozy café, where vintage furniture and a self-built bar invite neighbors to linger. In the meantime, the Grandhotel is no longer alone with this idea: In Germany, Berlin's *Refugio*, Munich's *Bellevue di Monaco* and Kassel's *Sandershaus* are just a few of a growing number of projects, using creativity and civil society involvement to provide open arrival infrastructures.

Find out more:

Homepage of the Grand Hotel Cosmopolis, Augsburg: <https://grandhotel-cosmopolis.org/de/>



Homepage of the SandersHaus, Kassel: <https://www.sandershaus.de/>

Homepage of the Refugio, Berlin: <https://refugio.berlin/>

References

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