

Former German secret police HQ is being transformed into luxury flats

Prices start from £344,783.



BY NATALIE CORNISH NOV 28, 2018



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

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28TH NOVEMBER 2018

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CIRCULATION
2,750,000

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AVE £3,000



Looking at the interiors of 2052 Industrie Lofts in [Berlin](#), you could be forgiven for thinking this is a new build. But, dig a little deeper, and you'll find this grand old [German building](#) has a hidden past.



Gotlindestrasse once struck fear into the hearts of East Berliners, as the headquarters of the Secret Police or Stasi. The Stasi's main function was to spy on the citizens of East Germany, rooting out dissidents of the regime. This building was once their telephone nerve centre, where secure phone lines would connect officials to their Communist masters in the Soviet Union. At the same time, the Secret Police would monitor calls into the country from here.



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The Stasi was officially disbanded in 1990, after the fall of [the Berlin Wall](#). Now this Brutalist ministerial building is set to be transformed into a collection of 50 modern loft-style apartments.

Modern touches, such as four metre wrap around floor-to-ceiling windows, open-plan living/dining area, roll-top bath, underground parking and spacious terraces providing stunning vistas of the Berlin city skyline, aim to tempt young professionals to snap up an apartment in the historic complex from €389,900. There'll also be 10 duplexes up for grabs, spread over the newly-constructed upper two floors, as the largest private residential terraces in Berlin.



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The interiors will be industrial in style, featuring real wood parquet flooring, polished cement screed, untreated reinforced concrete, easy-care porcelain stoneware tiles and exposed wall mounted copper housed cables.

And the building's past may well be a selling point for history buffs. Although it has come as a shock to the architects working on the development.

Patrick Stromeier, an [architect](#) with Ulrich Borgert Braun & Schlockermann, said: 'At first there was very little in the public domain on this building and what it was used for, so we applied to the Stasi archives.



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'Then lo and behold, stuff started turning up. Among other things, we discovered that there were these huge underground chambers and massive telephone trunk lines running in and out of the building.

'It's essentially a reinforced concrete and beam construction, built like a bunker. If it took a direct hit, the infrastructure would be kept upright for as long as possible.'

2052 Industrie Lofts is on the market with agents [Bewocon](#).

Take a tour...



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