

# Croatian Association of Fine Artists Gallery Prsten



HDLU – MEŠTROVIĆEV PAVILJON  
Dom hrvatskih likovnih umjetnika  
Trg žrtava fašizma 16, Zagreb

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# About HDLU

- HDLU - Croatian Association of Fine Artists / Hrvatsko Društvo Likovnih Umjetnika
- a nongovernmental, not-for-profit, and politically neutral union of professional fine artists from whole Croatia
- **1.900 visual artists** of all generations, working in all forms of expression and disciplines: painting, sculpture, new media, photography, performance
- **150-year tradition:** HDLU was established in 1868
- basic aims of HDLU: to support and encourage contemporary visual expression, to improve and protect the freedom of visual expression, to organize exhibitions, and to participate in the making of the laws and rules regulating visual arts production and the social rights of the artists.
- HDLU annually organizes or collaborates in the organization of approximately 40 exhibitions in four diversely profiled gallery programs



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# HDLU's seat building



- The seat of HDLU is the famous Meštrović Pavilion located on a beautiful square in central Zagreb
- Official name of the building is the **Home of Croatian Fine Artists**
- Building was built in 1938 based on design of a prominent and world-known Croatian sculptor, also at the time president of HDLU, Ivan Meštrović



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# History of Meštrović Pavilion

## Construction conditions

- In the 1930s HDLU intensively looked for a new exhibition area
- At the same time, larger financial support was provided for the Committee for Building a Monument for King Peter I the Liberator. The design of this royalist monument was commissioned to then leading Croatian artist and president of HDLU, Ivan Meštrović.
- Recognising the offered location as an attractive area for the new home of the art, the sculptor suggested that a grandiose building should be built instead of a sole sculpture, and that the monument to the king should be raised inside of the building, which was finally accepted



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# History of Meštrović Pavilion

Home of Visual Arts, 1938 - 1941

- The programme of the Home of Visual Arts, displaying numerous permanent and travelling exhibitions, began with the formal opening of the exhibition "A Half Century of Croatian Art" (December 1st, 1938).
- Unfortunately, that programme lasted only three years. Due to its monumental character and prominent location, the round pavilion attracted political representatives and thus changed its (profane and sacral) functions.



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# History of Meštrović Pavilion

The first Zagreb Mosque, 1941-1944

- During WW II, under a political regime, the building was converted to an Islam Mosque
- Three minarets and a water fountain are built
- Although the building ran as a mosque only for 1 year, the building is still nowadays referred to as *mosque* among Croatian people



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# History of Meštrović Pavilion

Museum of National Revolution, 1945 - 1992

- The minarets were demolished, and the house became the national Museum of National Revolution
- Adaptations were designed by architect V. Richter
- In the central hall two galleries and a staircase were added, and the glass dome was covered
- By his radical concept he negated and deconstructed the original circular ground-plan, and introduced a console balcony and central staircase and instead of a circle he created variations of a trapezium theme



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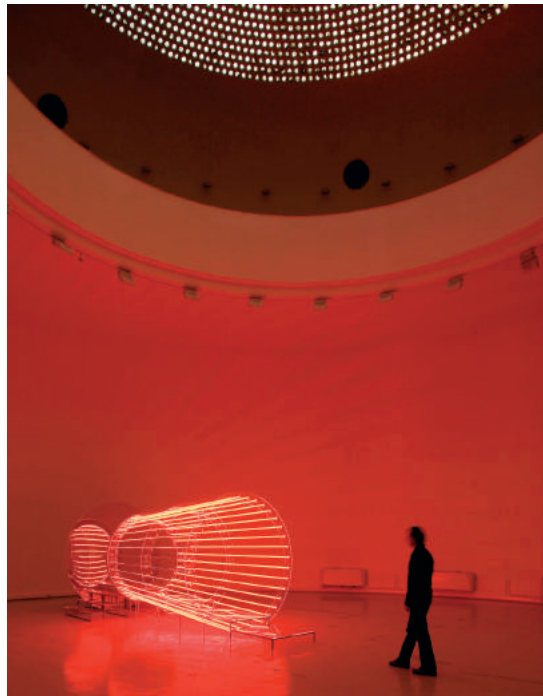


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# History of Meštrović Pavilion

Home of Croatian Fine Artists, 1993 - nowadays

- With the independence of Republic of Croatia, HDLU claimed and negotiated the return of the building to the artists
- In the 2000s, a major intervention was done, returning the architecture of the building to the state most similar to the original one
- Today, the pavilion is one of the most known and active centres of contemporary arts in Zagreb and Croatia



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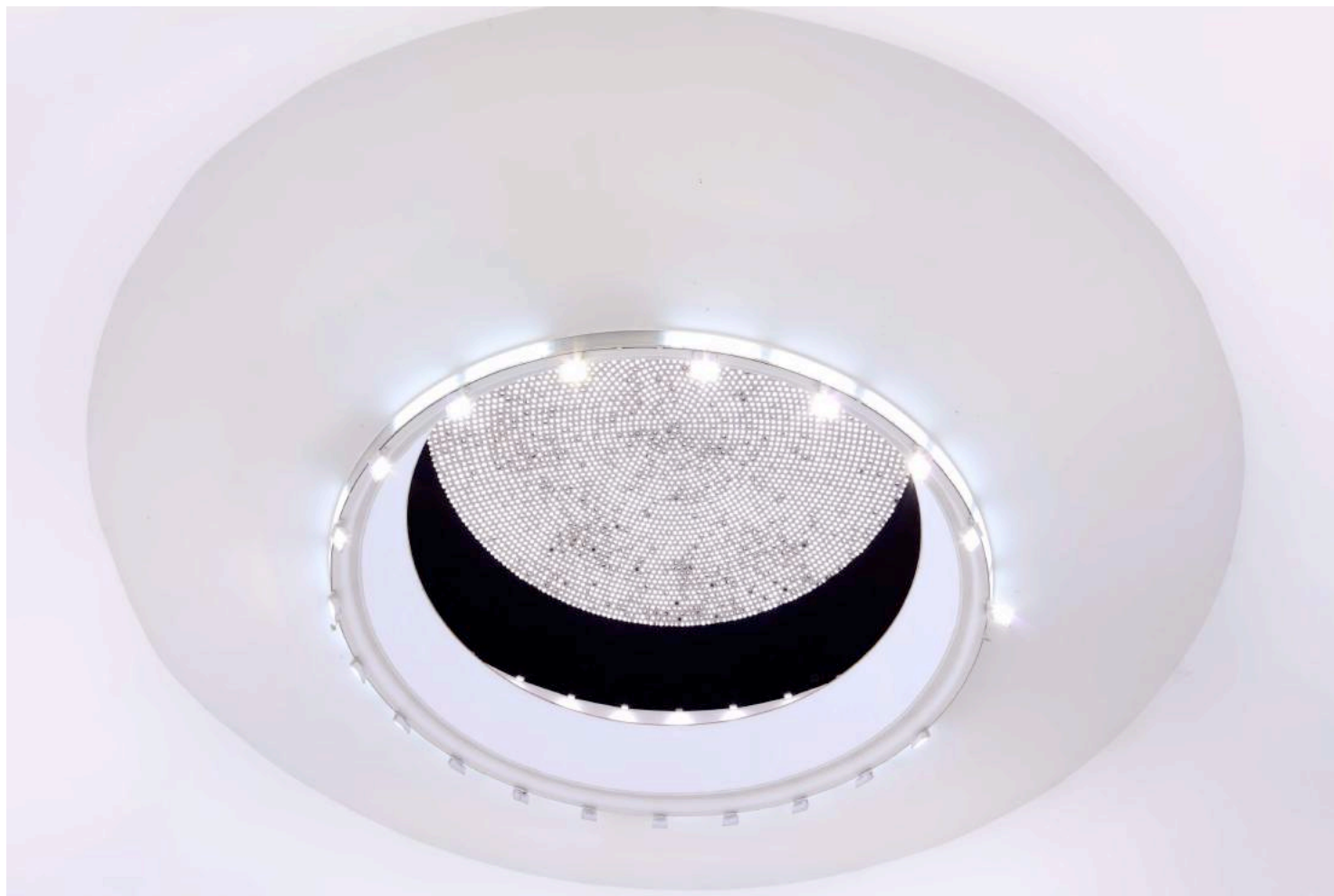
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# The Dome of Meštrović Pavillion



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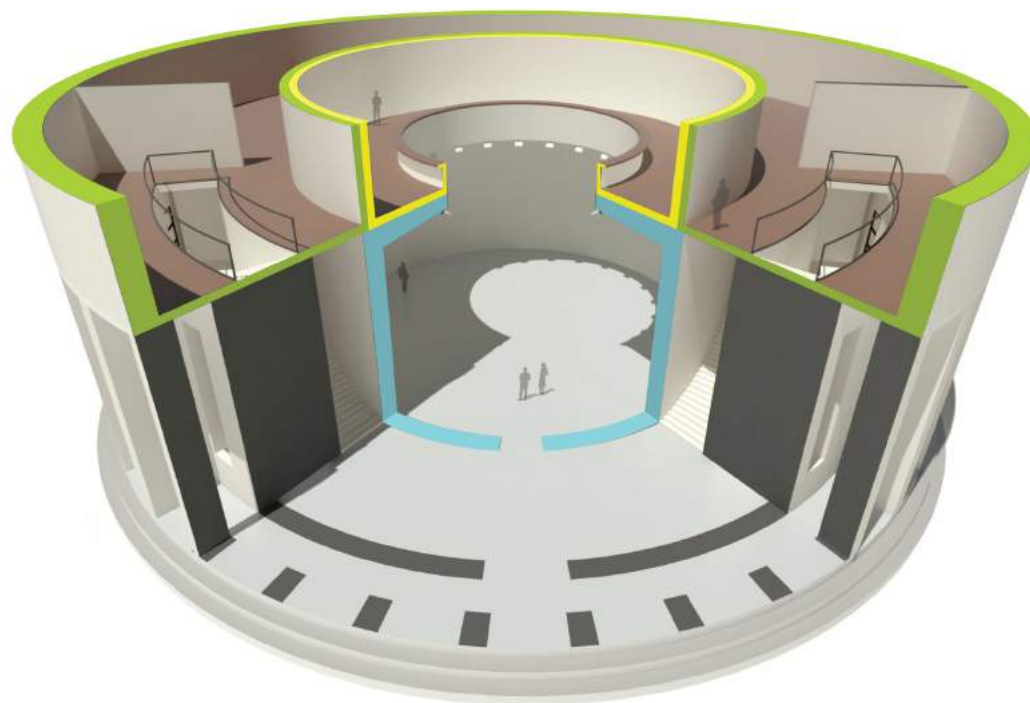
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# Galleries within Meštrović Pavilion



## GALLERY BAČVA

Surface: 264 m<sup>2</sup>

Height: 8 / 16,9 m



## GALLERY PRSTEN

Surface: 740 m<sup>2</sup>

Height: 3,56 m



## GALLERY PM

Surface: 171 m<sup>2</sup>

Height: 8 m



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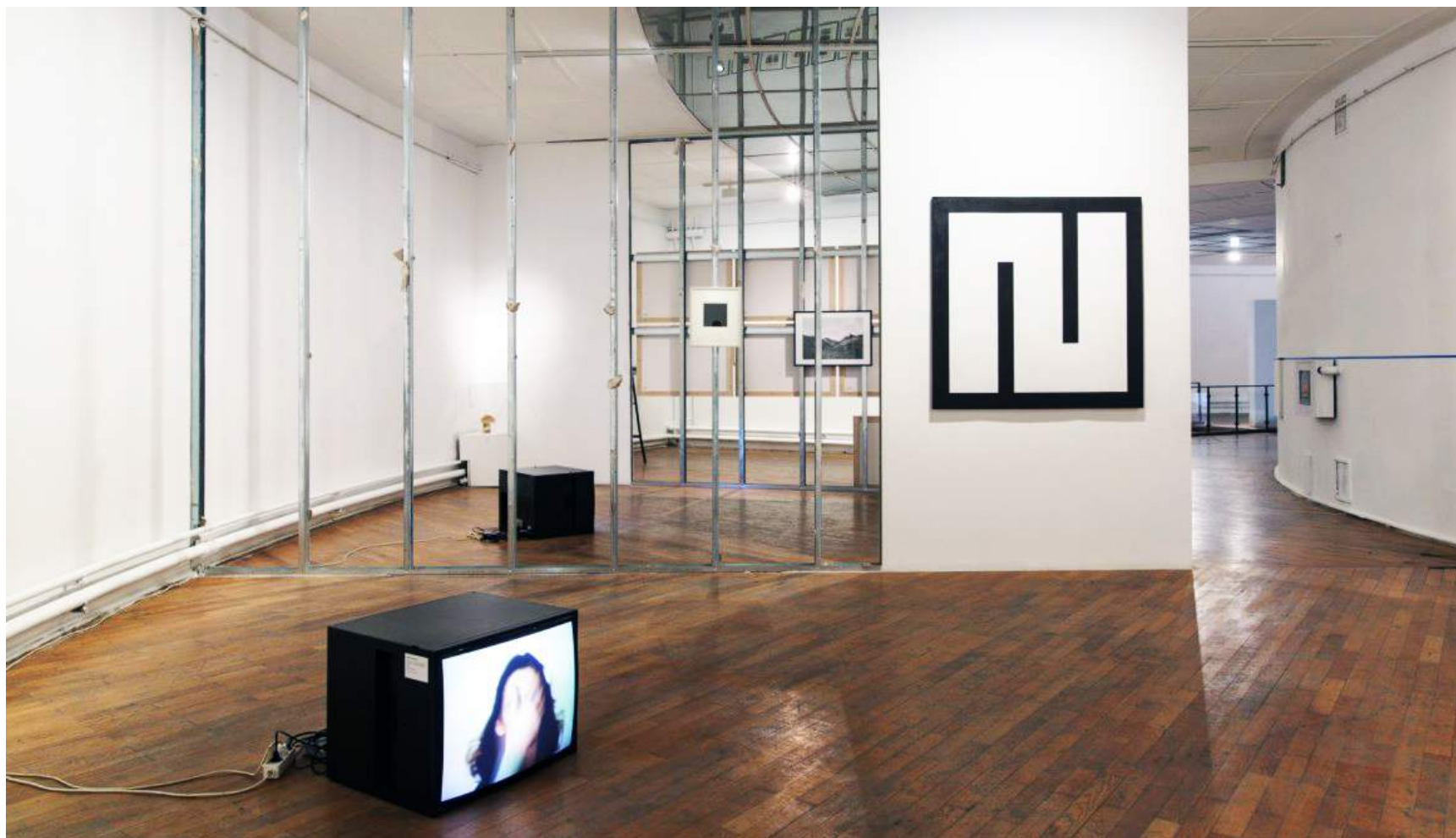
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Technical drawing of a circular gallery layout. The drawing shows a central circular area labeled "Gallery PM" and an outer ring labeled "Gallery Prsten". The layout includes several curved and straight sections with dimensions in millimeters (mm). Key dimensions include: 169, 119, 478, 530, 610, 380, 610, 1220, 830, 1400, 1309, 1220, 660, 610, 320, 320, 610, 610, 375, and 1400. The drawing is a top-down view of a circular structure with concentric rings and radial divisions.



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# Thank you for Your attention!



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