



## **FOTOGRAFISKA** Berlin, Germany

**Exhibitions, eateries, and performance spaces shape this new gallery in a historic former art squat.**

studio aisslinger has cleverly preserved the unique history of Berlin's Kunsthaus Tacheles in this momentous repurposing. Built in 1909 as a department store, then later occupied by artists in the 1990s to prevent its demolition, the gargantuan structure is deeply intertwined with Berlin's history of art and activism. The building is now the home of Fotografiska Berlin, the fourth iteration of the museum. The firm transformed the 60,000-square-foot (5,600-square-meter) space—including six floors and its rooftop terrace—into a multi-use structure. In addition to the museum, it accommodates Café Bar and a bakery on the first floor, upscale restaurant Verōnika on the fifth, and the restaurant's sister bar Clara on the floor above. Verōnika has space for 180 guests and features

velvet-upholstered benches, soft lighting, and a large, freestanding bar. One long private room sits in the center: surrounded by a graffitied wall and connected at one end to the kitchen, the windowless space is an intimate area for groups of up to 14. Downstairs on the second floor, the former theater now serves as a multipurpose venue hall for concerts and performances. Café Bar is designed as a cozy neighborhood destination with simple yet elegant combinations of colors and materials. In the museum's gift shop, a checkerboard floor exaggerates the already expansive space. Many parts of the building feature historic graffiti, and rather than compete with this rich patina, studio aisslinger devised interiors that complement it. A cement staircase, for example, covered in decades of paint and various markings winds its way up through the building, while white bars of gallery-style lighting showcase the heritage art.