



The city modell in the atrium of the planning department



Visitor opening hours:
Monday – Friday: 8.30 am – 6.00 pm

Stadtplanungsamt Frankfurt am Main
Planungsdezernat „Atrium“
Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 10
60311 Frankfurt am Main

[www.stadtplanungsamt-frankfurt.de/permanent exhibitions](http://www.stadtplanungsamt-frankfurt.de/permanent%20exhibitions)

FRANKFURT AM MAIN CITY MODEL

The Model of Downtown Frankfurt – See the City in Detail

The foundations for the Model of Downtown Frankfurt were laid as early as 1960. Back then, a so-called working model was produced that consisted of many individual buildings in the downtown area; pieces have been added ever since and so the model has expanded. Today, the Model of Downtown Frankfurt is no longer just a working model – down through the years it has evolved into an impressive exhibition model that attracts many visitors to the City Planning Department's atrium.

The model presents a broad section of downtown Frankfurt on both sides of the River Main across a total area of 54 m² (9.60 x 5.60 m). The pinnacle of the city, namely the eye-catching high-rise cluster that forms the heart of the CBD and the city's skyline, is likewise part of the display. The model of downtown Frankfurt was built on a scale of 1:500, meaning every 2 mm of the model correspond to 1 m in reality. When constructing the underlying panels, given the minor differences in ground level in the area of the city concerned, the decision was taken to dispense with topography other than in the section depicting the northern riverbank, as this enabled the accurate representation of the ground-level access to the river at the Eiserner Steg footbridge. The rest of the model uses one and the same underlying level.

Urban planners, architects and investors all use the model to visualize urban development planning and to weigh up the pros and cons of specific aspects, for example how one building will cast a shadow over others.



The blue area presents the part of the city model

Model-making from Frankfurt's city planning office

The city planning office runs a model-making workshop with two employees, in which the various models for different plans (see below) are developed using a range of materials. All completed models are an exact scale representation in terms of their height and building area. The buildings are generally made from wood, perspex and modelling plastic. The plain, largely white, standardised colouring enables an objective assessment of new building projects.

In order to be able to represent building projects or projects that have already been realised correctly to scale, the work is undertaken in intensive discussion with a number of relevant offices, including building inspection (information source for construction documents) and the city surveying office. Nowadays the work can be completed in a very exact and efficient way, for example with the help of the city surveying office's Geographical Information System (GIS).

Diversity of the urban models

Some of the works recently completed are listed below:

- Site model, 1:200
 - „Frankensteiner Hof“ competition
 - „Historisches Museum“ competition
 - Developed competition/urban planning „Dom-Römerberg“ (former old town)The latter was displayed at various events and achieved great public interest. With a scale of 1:200, it is 2.00 x 2.00 m in size. Great value was also placed on a very detailed representation of the terrain in this scale.
- Site model, 1:500
 - „Technisches Rathaus“ competitionThe 20 competition participants each received a completed insert plate, which comprised the entire area to be built upon. The plates could then be incorporated into the site model at a later date. The scale meant that the drafts could also be included in the large city model if needed!

High-rise building development model

Besides the 1:500 city model, there are currently two additional models in the atrium of the planning department:

- Model of the high-rise building development plan to a scale of 1:2000 from 1998; developed for the FRANKFURT 2000 urban study by the Jourdan & Müller PAS architecture firm. The model is already well-travelled: It has been to Tokyo for „The Global City“ exhibition, to the MIPIM real estate exhibition in Cannes, and to the metropolises of London, Paris, Chicago, Berlin, New York and Shanghai.
- The model of the Frankensteiner Hof in Alt-Sachsenhausen, which is on display with a scale of 1:200, is the result of an architecture competition and, as such, has also been realised. The former urban drainage office was rebuilt into a community and advice centre, as well as an extension with community housing.

Opening hours & contact information

The three aforementioned models can be viewed in the atrium of the planning department during normal opening hours:

Mon.-Fri.: 8.30 am – 6.00 pm

You can contact the city planning office's modellers on:

- **Andreas Milcz**, Tel. 069/212-46614
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1 The model of Frankfurt is located in the atrium downstairs in the City Planning Dept. The atrium is an ideal place for it, as there is plenty of natural light and a lot of space to present the model to great effect.

2 The section of downtown presented in the model is sub-divided into 42 underlying panels. Scale: 1:500

3 The model is regularly reviewed to identify missing buildings or buildings that no longer correspond to reality, and the model is then updated accordingly.

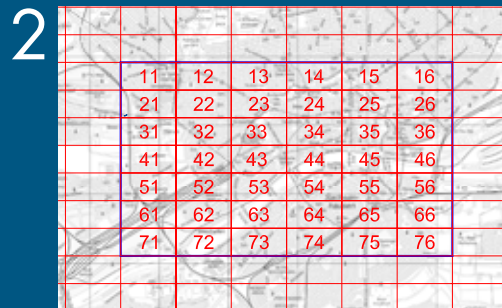
4 The site to be "built" is plotted on the map on the basis of the data from GIS (Geographic Information System) of the Municipal Surveyor's Office in Frankfurt). The GIS also served as the basis for the underlying panels.

5 The plans used when building the models are largely those contained in the building files in the Municipal Building Inspector's Office. Information on more recent buildings tends to be available in a digital format.

6 New buildings are then checked by the model-maker who compares the real building with the existing documentation (e.g., roof shapes, annexes, conversions, etc.).

7 The buildings are made of a special modelling plastic and then painted white. Grey is used for lines for the storeys and roofs.

8 The finished buildings are glued onto the underlying panels.



UPDATING THE MODEL OF DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT

