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CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
IN BOSTON  
100 Brattle Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108-3003



Photocopies of  
our original documents  
have to be provided

















2. We decided to focus on Scotland -  
as Scotland has a very good  
record on climate change  
and energy efficiency  
and we wanted to learn  
from them.  
3. We focused on:  
a) Energy efficiency  
b) Renewable energy  
c) Sustainable transport  
d) Circular economy

Report on the visit to Scotland

The following report provides an overview of the key findings from the visit to Scotland, focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport, and the circular economy.

**Energy Efficiency:** Scotland has made significant progress in energy efficiency, particularly in the residential sector. The government has implemented a range of measures, including energy performance certificates (EPCs) and energy efficiency grants, to encourage homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. This has led to a reduction in energy consumption and a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

**Renewable Energy:** Scotland is a global leader in renewable energy, with a significant portion of its electricity generated from renewable sources. The country has invested heavily in wind power, solar power, and hydroelectric power. The government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy, aiming to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

**Sustainable Transport:** Scotland is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through sustainable transport. The government has invested in public transportation, including buses and trains, and has encouraged the use of electric vehicles. The country has also implemented policies to encourage cycling and walking, such as cycle lanes and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

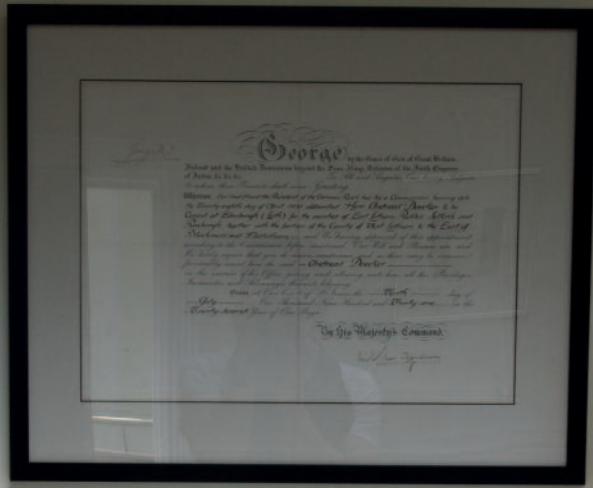
**Circular Economy:** Scotland is leading the way in the circular economy, with a focus on waste reduction and recycling. The government has implemented policies to encourage businesses to adopt circular economy principles, such as waste minimization and recycling. The country has also invested in research and development to develop new technologies for the circular economy.

**Conclusion:** The visit to Scotland provided valuable insights into the country's approach to climate change and energy efficiency. The government's focus on renewable energy, sustainable transport, and the circular economy is commendable, and can serve as a model for other countries. The visit also highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.









The work of the photographer Oliver Godow combines the best of two worlds. A German photographer with a British sensibility, his interest in structures and the legacy of photographic typologies is firmly rooted in the traditions of his home country. His treatment of subject matter, use of colour and not the least the wry sense of humour of his works display the influence of the country he trained in.

Born in Lübeck, Germany, Godow studied at both Bournemouth & Poole College of Art and Glasgow School of Art. Having lived and worked abroad, his photographs show a keen interest in cultural detail, particularly as discernible in the architecture of institutions. Using only natural light and always working on site, Godow documents the interior of universities, museums and other cultural institutions with a nearly ethnographic view. Instead of merely relaying the standardised iconographies of power found in such places, his photographic gaze reveals the fringes, details, and asides; they are candid observations that allow the beholder to view everyday spaces in a different light.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of German Consular presence in Edinburgh, Oliver Godow worked with the team of the German Consulate General at 16 Eglington Crescent, Edinburgh. With its richly adorned, triple panelled doors, elaborate interiors and leaded glass, the building is a splendid piece of Victorian architecture. But it has been converted; no longer a stately private home, it has become the public representation of the Federal Republic of Germany, housing part of the administration of a modern, transparent democracy.

Godow's images show the traces of the building's transition and its use: two flags strut forth from the façade of the consulate. They are political indicators of commitment to national representation and European multilateralism. But, just as the building is part of a unified architectural unit, they are firmly integrated into the civil framework of their surrounding culture and history.

Inside, visitors can find ornate woodwork and cornicing. But the ornamentation, once intended to impress and awe, is offset by the evidence of their everyday use: a weighty fireplace accommodates information brochures and forms for visitors; heavy drapes no longer form the background to private salons, but to the workplaces of public servants. And while everything is neat, tidy and very orderly, we are in a regular office and can easily see signs of everyday life: next to a phone, with a map of administrative constituencies in the background, two pieces of fruit brightly peek out of an image otherwise dominated by the well-known beiges and greys of regular office life, subtly illuminated by soft light. It is this command of colour and light that makes Oliver Godow's work stand out; it is this photographic gaze that allows a form of transparency into a public building. In other pictures, the blue dash of a European flag enlivens the regal red of an official stairwell; the same stairs are flooded with light from above in yet another photograph. Highlighting the coming of the building's architecture as well as the details of its regular use, Godow's photographs allow the beholder to look anew at a familiar space.

**D**ie Arbeiten des Fotografen Oliver Godow bringen das Beste zweier Welten mit sich. Als deutscher Fotograf mit britischem Blick ist sein Interesse an Strukturen und photographischen Typologien der Tradition seines Heimatlandes geschuldet. Seine Komposition, sein Sinn für Farbe, und nicht zuletzt sein Humor zeigen den Einfluss des Landes seiner Ausbildung.

Der gebürtige Lübecker Godow studierte sowohl am Bournemouth & Poole College of Art als auch an der Glasgow School of Art. Als Deutscher im Ausland zeugt seine Fotografie von einem starken Interesse an kulturellen Details, insbesondere denjenigen institutioneller Architektur. Godow dokumentiert die Innenräume von Universitäten, Museen oder anderen kulturellen Einrichtungen mit geradezu ethnografischem Blick, ausschließlich bei natürlichem Licht und stets direkt vor Ort. Anstatt jedoch die vorhandene Ikonografie der Macht in diesen Orten lediglich abzubilden, konzentriert Godows Kamera sich auf die Enthüllung der Details, Abseiten und Randzonen: Ihre Darstellung erlaubt dem Beobachter, alltägliche Räume neu zu hinterfragen.

Anähnlich des 50jährigen Jubiläums der deutschen Konsularischen Vertretung in Edinburgh arbeitete Oliver Godow mit der Belegschaft des Generalkonsulats in 16 Eglington Crescent, Edinburgh, zusammen. Mit seinen reich verzierten, dreiflügeligen Eingangstüren, seinem opulenten Raumschmuck und den eindrucksvollen Bleiglaselementen ist das Gebäude des Konsulats ein Prachtstück Viktorianischer Bürgerarchitektur. Allerdings ist es im Laufe der Jahre umgenutzt worden: Nicht länger privates Wohnhaus, repräsentiert es nun die Bundesrepublik Deutschland und beherbergt Teil des Verwaltungsapparates einer modernen, transparenten Demokratie.

Godows Bilder zeigen die Spuren dieser Umnutzung und des heutigen Gebrauchs des Gebäudes: Zwei Fahren streben dem Besucher vom Gebäude aus entgegen. Sie sind politisches Symbol von sowohl nationaler Identität als auch europäischer Vielfalt. So wie das Konsulatsgebäude fest in seinem architektonischen Kontext eingebettet ist, sind auch diese Symbole vor ihrem interkulturellen Hintergrund und Geschichte zu verstehen.

Im Inneren des Gebäudes kann der Besucher zisellierte Holzarbeiten und feine Stukkaturen ausmachen. Aber die Bauornamentik, einst mit der Absicht gefertigt, zu beeindrucken und zu überwältigen, wird vom neuen Arbeitsalltag in der Balance gehalten: Der gewichtige Kamin ist Hintergrund für einen Informationsständler; die schweren Vorhänge des Salons rahmen keine privaten Soireen, sondern ermöglichen die Arbeit des öffentlichen Diensts. Inmitten der sorgsamen, aufgeräumten Ordnung des Arbeitsplatzes sind die Zeichen des Alltäglichen zu finden: neben einem Telefon, in sanftem Licht unterhalb einer Pinwandkarte, schaut buntes Frühstückssobst aus dem Einheitsbeige der Amtsstube hervor. Es sind diese subtilen Kompositionen von Licht, Farbe und Stimmung, die Oliver Godows Arbeiten hervorstechen lassen; es ist dieser fotografische Blick, der einen Einblick in den öffentlichen Dienst erlaubt. In anderen Bildern belebt das strahlende Blau einer europäischen Fahne das ernste Rot eines offiziellen Treppenhauses; dieselben Treppen führen in einem weiteren Foto lichtdurchflutet in die Höhe. Mit Ihrem Blick für das Detail der Architektur wie auch das der Nutzung derselben erlauben es Godows Fotografien, vertraute Räume in neuem Licht zu betrachten.

Daniel Herrmann, Curator Scottish National Galleries Edinburgh



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Edinburgh

Oliver Godow  
The 16 Eglington Crescent Set 2009

