

Outstanding New Public Model RR Layout in Germany

Many readers may have heard about the [Miniature Wonderland](#) HO scale layout in Hamburg, Germany. It is indeed a marvel, and anyone visiting northern Germany is advised to put it on their itinerary. [After you click on the link, above, be sure to click on the little British flag icon on the top right, to get the website in English.] Now there is another German public HO scale layout to rival the Wonderland, this located at the southwestern end of Germany, as part of a new toy museum. The museum just opened in June, 2015, and builds on a massive collection of Ferdinand Porsche's grandson, Hans-Peter. The museum is called the [Hans-Peter Porsche Traumwerk](#) (Dreamwork), and is located just off the autobahn near the border to Austria, west of Salzburg. The town is called Anger (rhymes with *longer*, not *hanger*) – see Google Maps.

The museum's website [link above] doesn't present much of the layout itself, and shows no layout plan, but a recent visit produced several photos, which I share here. The layout has about a much area as the CMRM, but significantly more length of track. One of the most impressive, no, *mind-blowing* features of the layout is what they have done for backdrops on the walls above the scenery. On all the walls around the layout room the sky is projected using an array of digital projectors. The output from the projectors is so well trimmed and coordinated that no seams between projections can be seen, and they precisely start at the top of the scenery border, no matter how complex the profile. The sky then becomes a living object in 360 degrees, with moving clouds, and at "night" moving moon (see Figure 4) and rotating star patterns. Nighttime is simulated in the layout room every 17 minutes.

The track and rolling stock is Marklin, using track with very subtle contact points in the middle of the rail. Marklin donated much of the equipment, I don't know how much, probably most. Outside the layout room on all sides is spread the toy museum, displaying a wide variety of old toys, tins, and ship and car models formerly sold by Marklin. Check Figure 7, which shows a toy ship once sold by Marklin, which actually runs on a tiny steam engine.

There is an immense staging track array one level below the main lower level of the layout, which is shown in some places with cutouts. One massive model bridge (Figure 1) spans a passageway under which one can walk. Like the Miniatur Wunderland, it is computer controlled, and includes some moving automobiles on roads in various places, as well as moving ski lifts. The areas modelled include Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Incidentally, there is a riding garden railway in the back, and a restaurant is included in the museum (which I recommend highly – first class, no hot dog stand this...).

Figure 1. Here's a scale model bridge under which visitors can walk.



Figure 2. Another bridge, modelled from a real one in the Tyrol.



Figure 3. Another view, this time from an observation gallery on the mezzanine. Note the projectors which supply background above the scenery, all around the room walls.



Figure 4. A night scene, all projected onto the sky by projectors.



Figure 5. More scenes from the layout. A modern beergarden in the foreground (what else?). Note the extensive overhead wiring. Very realistic in detail, but not functional.



Figure 6. One example of the old toys in the museum. This shows an all-metal car kit formerly sold by Marklin, which one puts together with screws, producing the chassis and body shown at the bottom.



Figure 7. This is a steamship model sold decades ago by Marklin, which actually runs on steam. It is less than 2 feet long.

