



# ... amidst "Berlinische Architektur"

- 2009 Competition for a "Unity and Freedom" memorial on the foundations of the Wilhelmine Prussian national memorial
- 2008 Competition for the "Humboldt Forum" with the facades of the Berliner castle, which was won by Franco Stella
- 2006 February: Start of the demolition of the former "Palast der Republik"
- start. 2005 Construction of "Townhouses" at Friedrichswerder
- 2004 Temporary use of the former Palast der Republik by "Volkspalast", "White cube", German Council of Industrialists und McKinsey
- 2003 Reconstruction of the "Alte Kommandantur", Unter den Linden 1, as representative headquarter of the Bertelsmann Corporation
- 2002 The German Bundestag votes for the reconstruction of the Berliner Schloss in the form of a "Humboldt Forum"
- 2001 Social Democratic/Socialist coalition senate under Klaus Wowereit
- 1996 Planwerk Innenstadt
- 1994 - Wilhelm von Boddien commissions a 1:1 scale model of the Castle at the Schlossplatz.  
- Marx-Engels Square is renamed Schlossplatz
- 1993 Competition for Alexanderplatz, which was won by Hans Kollhoff

For example, we should ask ourselves, what Richard Rogers' "Flexible" has to do with Berlin; "Flexible Framework" is empiricism, but Berlin is a city of idealism. Some people don't understand that. Something is being implanted into Berlin here which stems from another philosophical environment.

Looking on our own history, we have to do the critical work of de- and re-mythologization. The work on the myth of the "Berlinischen" (the Berlinerish) can hopefully contribute to the development of the necessary fictions and guiding principles without which nothing identical can really emerge in architecture and urban planning.

The "Nazi"-verdict still affects us today. Whoever builds with tried and trusted construction materials like natural stone or wood is considered reactionary. If he then constructs solid and well-detailed buildings out of these materials, he will be seen as almost totalitarian. And when the plans are laid out clear and geometrical and the facades are uniform and ordered austere, it doesn't take long until he will be defamed as a fascist.

Up until the 1920ies the architecture of the German Reich was characterized by extremely high quality [...] The same is valid for the architecture stemming from the time of national socialism, which admittedly celebrated a stiff and megalomaniac classicism in its public and representative buildings, but which nonetheless left behind a legacy of rather solidly detailed buildings.

Our world is, and there can't be any doubt about that, a world of rising chaos.

"The Michelangelo from London" - Axthelm

Richard Rogers

Architect, was invited by a group of investors to present an alternative design for Potsdamer Platz

That was the most horrid experience of my life. We were supposed to show our proposal, -- Hillmer und Sattler had shown theirs -- and then the proposals were to be discussed. We barely got a chance to present our design. One might consider me a bad architect; but there were 20 German architects and we did not receive a single vote [...] That frightened me.

- 1991 - competition for Potsdamer Platz which has been won by Hillmer und Sattler
- 1990 - Social Democratic-Conservative coalition senate under Eberhard Diepgen (CDU)  
- German re-unification
- 1989 - fall of the Berlin wall  
- Social Democratic-Green coalition senate under Walter Momper (SPD)

The destiny of the city's image, that became apparent through this and through the utterly brutal way the selection was made, turns out to be of the most petty-bourgeois, old-fashioned, unrealistic, banal, provincial and most of all dilettante kind: a horrible waste of an opportunity which has been unrivalled in 20th century Europe. What could have become a climax is doomed to become an enormous disappointment.

Rem Koolhaas

Architect took part in the IBA student of Oswald Matthias Ungers

- 1987 IBA New 1987 "critical reconstruction"

- 1984 IBA Old 1984 "careful urban renewal"

Oswald Matthias Ungers

influential German Architect taught at TU Berlin during the 1960ies exponent of the German rationalist school

Rationalismus

Moeller van den Bruck  
The Prussian Style (1916)

Neorazionalismo

Architect Chairman of IBA alt

Hardt-Waltherr Haemer

Hans Stimmann

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Hans Kollhoff  
Architect  
Masterplan Alexanderplatz

Fritz Neumeier  
Architectural Theoretician  
Professor at TU Berlin  
Collaborates with Hans Kollhoff

Professor at the ETH Zürich  
Chairman of the board of the Schloss-competition

Vittorio Lampugnani

Paul Kleihues  
Architect  
Chairman of IBA Neu

set-back stories, maximum eave height 35 m ("Milan traditional building height") plus up to four floors underground

I am a Berliner and as such a metropolitan. My architecture is a metropolitan architecture. I am also Prussian and as such I have purist, rational and increasingly minimalist aesthetic views. My architecture is purist, which means, it is clear, simple, precise, honest. For me less is more, less is better, for me less is everything. With this attitude I am not standing alone, but belong within the tradition of Berlin architecture.

Hillmer und Sattler

Architects  
Winners of the competition for Potsdamer Platz

Berlin traditional building height: 21 Meter

"Berlinische" Architektur

investor-friendly superblock, concealed through underground connections

Juergen Sawade

Architect  
Assistent of Ungers from 1966 to 1969

closed building block

different facades suggest plurality

During the 1950ies Berliners started a quest for their identity: some turned to America, some to the Soviet Union, later God knows where else. In any case, it had to be awfully international. This was the wrong path. Berliners need to take their own themes seriously again.

I'm not a dictator of taste, just because I have the capacity to distinguish good architecture from bad.

disciplined, Prussian, constrained colors, made of stone, straight rather than curved

new 1987 "critical reconstruction"

old 1984 "careful urban renewal"

Internationale Bauausstellung (IBA)

