Welterbestätten des 20. Jahrhunderts – Defizite und Risiken aus europäischer Sicht

World Heritage Sites of the 20th Century – Gaps and Risk from a European Point of View

Internationale Fachtagung des Deutschen Nationalkomitees von ICOMOS in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Landesdenkmalamt Berlin und dem ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage
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WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF THE 20TH CENTURY – GAPS AND RISK FROM A EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW


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Naturally wäre es nahe liegend gewesen, bei einer ICOMOS-Tagung zum Welterbe des 20. Jahrhunderts in Berlin wieder-

The European Heritage Days 2007 in Berlin were dedicated to the "Heritage of the Post-war Period". The second Sunday in September offered a fitting keynote for the opening of our four-day conference. Under the title World Heritage Sites of the 20th Century – Gaps and Risks from a European Point of View this conference was designed to bring together heritage experts and enthusiasts from all over the world. Organizers of the conference were the German National Committee of ICOMOS in co-operation with the newly founded International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage and the Berlin Monument Authority. With over 30 speakers and more than 200 participants the conference was very well attended. It began in Berlin's town hall and continued across the road in the Altes Stadthaus, followed by trips to Hans Poelzig's "Kino Babylon", the Berlin transport authority's underground car shed of BVG at Warschauer Brücke, and the Bauhaus Archive. Day excursions in Berlin and to Dessau rounded off the programme with a visit to 20th century heritage buildings.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification Berlin has hosted ICOMOS events on several occasions. The presentation on Berlin's Museumsinsel of "Heritage at Risk" (ICOMOS World Report on Monuments and Sites in Danger – H@R), which has been published by ICOMOS International since 2000 and was presented to the media in connection with 18 April, the International Day for Monuments and Sites, was one of these events. At times the German capital even served the German National Committee of ICOMOS as its main HQ and also as a venue for conferences on topical issues. In retrospect it appears that the focus tended to be on the heritage of the 20th century. Clearly Berlin's universally known role in the 20th century predesigned the city to act as a forum for a cross-border exchange of experience in conservation. Most of the conferences which ICOMOS Germany and the Berlin Monument Authority convened, often in tandem with the Senate's Department of Urban Development, were in fact concerned with the highly controversial heritage of the 20th century. In 1993, Iconoclastism in Eastern Europe. The Monuments of the Socialist Era in a Time of Upheaval provided material for controversy in the Embassy of the Russian Federation, the former Soviet embassy in Unter den Linden. In 1996, we went to the Berlin Architektenkammer (Architects' Association) in the Karl Marx Allee (formerly Stalinallee) to examine the question of Stalinist Architecture under Monument Protection? And in 2001, in the German Sport Forum, on the site where the 1936 Olympic Games were held, the theme of Historic Sports Grounds and Conservation was on the agenda, also an architecture category that only became "modern" in the last century.

An obvious theme for an ICOMOS conference on 20th century World Heritage in Berlin would of course have been the city's fateful historical role as a centre of Nazi architecture


Am Anfang standen die Präsentation und Diskussion von Zeugnissen des Sozialen Wohnungsbau, der ja im vergangenen Jahrhundert europaweit Verbreitung gefunden und als neue Bauauf-


Als besondere Höhepunkte wurden die abendliche U-Bahnreise auf den ältesten U-Bahnstrecken von Berlin in dankbarer Erinnerung behalten, ebenso den Abendbesuch des – nach Entwurf von Walter Gropius entstandenen – Bauhaus Archiv-Museum für Gestaltung, wofür wir dem Vorstand der monuments and historic traffic facilities in metropolitan areas, two heritage categories that have so far been hardly reflected in World Heritage discussions or the national tentative lists. Similar gaps include cinema architecture, buildings documenting the history of radio and television, the already mentioned structural and garden facilities for sporting events and the modern Olympic movement, and historic air traffic infrastructure. The second day was no longer primarily devoted to individual types of architecture and heritage categories of the 20th century, but presented a cross section of topics and partnership projects involving this new range of tasks. On the one hand the idea was to examine and promote the possibilities of improved co-operation in cross-border research and documentation of these historic records of the 20th century. On the other hand we wanted to explore new ways of marketing and the international networking of initiatives relating to the Modernist heritage.

In addition to the initial statements of the undersigned, the conference was opened with a number of messages of greeting, for which we owe special thanks to Ingeborg Junge-Reyer, Mayor and Senator for Urban Development, Berlin; Professor Jens Goebel, Minister of State and President of the German National Committee for Monument Protection (DNK); Regula Lücker, Berlin's Director of Urban Development; Professor Mariette Kuiipers, representing the Board of DOCOMOMO International (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement); Professor Michael Mende, representing the TICCIH (International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage); Dr. Michelle Berenfeld, representing the WMF (World Monuments Fund); and Nina Nedelykow, representing the UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes). Furthermore the organizers of the conference and the publishers of this documentation owe a debt of gratitude to all agencies and individuals, without whose kind support this project would never have got off the ground. The German Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media supported the project financially, up to and including the printing of this documentation, and the Berlin Senate's Department of Urban Development gave the organizers their active backing as well as considerable financial funding right from the outset. For this we express our cordial personal thanks to the staff of the Senate responsible for International Relations, Communications and Monument Protection. The organization and implementation of the conference was in the capable hands of Christa Ringkamp and Sandra Ballerstedt at the HORTEC Office and Barbara Bemninger and Elke Kurka of the EU and International Section of the Berlin Senate's Department of Urban Development, who also provided logistical and linguistic support.

In particular we shall retain grateful memories of the evening trips on the oldest stretches of the Berlin U-Bahn; the evening visit to the Bauhaus Archive Museum for Design – built on the basis of designs by Walter Gropius – for which we express special thanks to the Berlin transport authority (BVG), and Dr. Annemarie Jaeggi, the director of the museum. Our thanks go to all those who facilitated our excursions to the

Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet
ICOMOS Deutsches Nationalkomitee
Präsident von ICOMOS International

Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard
ICOMOS International Wissenschaftliches Komitee für das Erbe des 20. Jahrhunderts
Co-Vorsitzende

Prof. Dr. Jörg Haspel
Landesdenkmalamt Berlin
Direktor und Landeskonservator

Bauhaus sites in Dessau and the monuments of the Modern Movement in Berlin: especially to Katrin Lesser for her hospitality in the Brita Hufeland House; to Dr. Hans Achim Grube (Vattenfall Europe, Berlin) for his hospitality and guided tour of the Wilhelmshöhe transformer station of the Berlin utility BEWAG; to Sigrid Asseng (Local Monument Protection Authority, Pankow) for accompanying us through the Carl Legien Estate; to Claudia Tempel (Berliner Bau- und Wohnungsgenossenschaft von 1892 e.G.) and Paul Jschke (Brenne-Architekten) for the visit to the Schillerpark Estate; and to Monika Markgraf of the Bauhaus Foundation Dessau for her kind offer to let us view that World Heritage site and for looking after us all so well when we got there.

The Wüstenrot Foundation has on various occasions involved itself in the preservation of outstanding monuments of the 20th century in Germany, including the Bauhaus sites. The publishers would also like to thank the Wüstenrot Foundation and its Executive Director, Georg Adlbert, for their kind support of the present publication.

10 http://www.katrin-lesser.de/index.htm
11 http://www.bhw.de/1892.de/
12 http://www.brenne-architekten.de/