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Graduated architect, BDA/DWB

1990-1992 - lecturer at TFH Berlin (architecture)

1996-1999 member of state heritage council

1995 – 1999 advisory committee for reconstruction
Bauhaus Dessau

2000 – 2002 chairman of heritage foundation Berlin, since

1993 foundation member of DOCOMOMO Germany, since

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Since 2005 Federal Foundation Building Culture and
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Colour-space in Berlin's « Siedlungen » at the beginning of the 20th century

Modern architecture was a coloured architecture especially the architecture of the estates of the 20th century in Berlin. The confidence of Bruno Taut "colour is joy of living" was shared by in principle any architect irrespective of whether they felt obliged to expressionism, New Objectivity, "White" Modernism or a conservative architectural apprehension.

Colour was realised for an essential element to design a sophisticated urban space. The socially ambitious building projects to accommodate the broad masses of the people in line should be of high quality of life despite the constraints of the economic viability of typed housing. Colour means an artistic design as well as specific techniques of coating and the physical properties of its materiality. In the use of silicate paints three techniques were used. On the façade imbedded plaster was coated or plaster was painted after tying with silicate paint. A special position is held by the sgraffito technique. The architects tried to answer the necessary efforts of typing, standardisation and normalisation with a maximum variety in design. This included essentially all components. Staircases of multi-storied buildings were coated in a dedicated conception. Especially windows and doors got its individual scheme of colour for each building or group of houses: outward variation, inward identity for the residents.

War and post-war period resulted a loss of colour in two Germanys, both artistic colour scheme and knowledge about the materiality of colour. At least in the 1970th colour concepts and the materiality of the 20th century estates were rediscovered in West Berlin. Beginning with meticulous research at archives and exact site inventory for an assessment about Onkel-Tom-Estate in Berlin-Zehlendorf, provided the structured analysis of the gathered data required to recover the qualities of the building period. This method was optimized in many projects and well known as "Berlin Modell". For heritage purpose it is applied on any residential area till today. This happened to the estates in East Berlin after the turnaround, German reunification in 1990.

Colour as an element of architecture became experiential again to the interested public. The acceptance and appreciation of the buildings of the 20th century rose. In 2008 six residential areas were selected and in place of all estates listed to world heritage named Berlin Modernism Housing Estates.

Notices bibliographiques

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