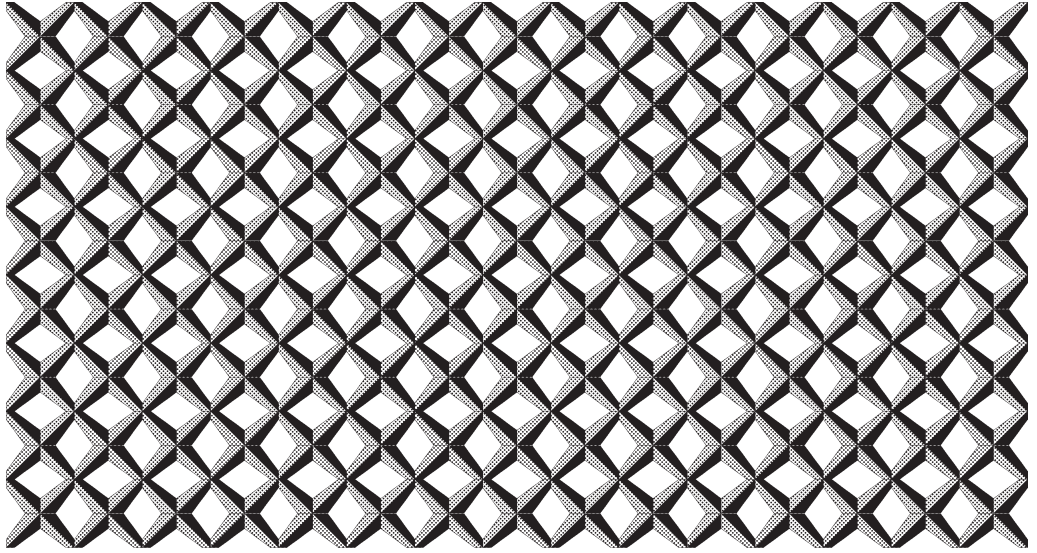


WHAT REMAINS?



In autumn of 2017 the Fachhochschule-building at Alter Markt, Potsdam shall be razed and with it the architectural traces of generations between 1945 and 1989 and ultimately their memory. Throughout the past 25 years only buildings from before 1945 have been considered pretty and worth preserving. The following list documents the process of eradication of GDR-architecture in Potsdam:

DEMOLISHED:

- 1 Roof of the bus terminal at Bassinplatz
- 2 “Schuhhaus” (old mall) at Platz der Einheit
- 3 „Haus des Reisens“ at Platz der Einheit
- 4 Ernst-Thälmann-Stadium near Hotel Mercure
- 5 „Markthalle“ at Breite Straße
- 6 Leisure club „Drushba“
- 7 Water Management Building, later family court
- 8 Shell construction of the new theatre at Alter Markt
- 9 Telecommunications centre at Am Kanal
- 10 Old fire department in Seelenbinder Straße
- 11 Globe in front of the city library with Karl Marx’ quote
- 12 Community centre “ORION” at Stern

DEMOLITION SCHEDULED:

13. Fachhochschule (FH) at Alter Markt
- 14 Apartment block Staudenhof
- 15 Hotel Mercure
- 16 Swimming pool on Brauhausberg
- 17 Restaurant “Minsk” on Brauhausberg
- 18 Computer centre in Breite Straße
- 19 Yacht club in Park Babelsberg
- 20 Beach club Babelsberg

SAVED:

- 1 Pionierhaus (Scouts’ house) – by public petition
- 2 Restaurant Charlottenhof by community initiative
Potsdam West

The comprehensive erasure of two generations' impact on urban development reaches from Bassinplatz to Brauhausberg. Destroying any traces of the latest architectural era and reconstructing the status quo ante of Prussian monarchy is warping the historical evolution of Potsdam. Alongside this are going vast privatisations of formerly public real estate.

All this is based on a City Council decision of 24th October 1990 (DS 060/2/90) which stated the aim of a 'gentle rapprochement to the characteristic, historically developed cityscape'. Well, 'Gentle' is not a term coming to mind when looking at the list above. While the original decision was supposed to prevent the utter destruction of the historical city centre it now serves as legitimization to an aesthetically reactionary demolition-fest second to none.

The buildings are denounced as 'aesthetically hideous' and 'scarcity architecture' (Günther Jauch, German TV-host). They are said to be a remodelling of the historical city centre ordered by the SED (ruling party of the GDR) and expression of their autocratic power. This line of reasoning, however, evokes the question as to what the Prussian City Palace and Garnisonkirche (now-destroyed former church of Potsdam's military garrison) would be, if not the ruling-class architecture of a monarchy infamous for its autocracy and militarism.

Recent initiatives are illustrating the broad public interest to preserve buildings like the Fachhochschule at Alter Markt and organise its continued use. That interest is dismissed with referral to the old City Council decision, even though almost 15.000 people signed a petition to prevent the demolition last year.

The FH-building has a multi-faceted spatial structure making it well suitable for further collective use. A place in the heart of the city for the people of the city.

WHAT TO DO?

SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED!

Modern needs not historic layouts!

Rescind the decision of 1990!

Preservation and continued use of the FH-building at Alter Markt!

No more privatisation of public real estate!

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