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Minimum Documentation Fiche 2007

International working party for
documentation and conservation

of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the
modern movement

composed by national/regional working party of:

0.1 Picture of building/site



Depicted item: Universitätshochhaus
Source: Juliane Vierich
Date: 2007

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	db code
1. Identity of building/group of building	
1.1 Current name of building: Cityhochhaus	3
1.2 Variant or former name: Universitätshochhaus	4
1.3 Number & name of street: Augustusplatz 9	5
1.4 Town: Leipzig	6
1.5 Province/state: Saxony	7
1.6 Zip code: 04109	8
1.7 Country: Germany	9
1.8 National grid reference:	10
1.9 Classification/typology: EDC	11
1.10 Protection status & date: listed monument since 2000.	12
2 History of building	
2.1 original brief/purpose: The former university tower accommodated the administration and the rectorate of Leipzig University (sector social studies).	13
2.2 Dates: commission/completion: In 1968 a new building ensemble for the University of Leipzig was erected on the site of the former University Church, which was demolished in 1968 for that reason. It was at time of the third school reform of the former GDR (German Democratic Republic). The city of Leipzig wanted to implement the content of the new reform into the architecture of a new university complex. With the height of 142.5 metres and 34 storeys the university tower was the tallest building in Leipzig. It was designed by the architect Hermann Henselmann and built between 1968 and 1972.	14
2.3 Architectural and other designers: Architect: Hermann Henselmann	15
2.4 Others associated with building: A.G.Gross, H.Ullmann (urban planning) H.Ullmann E.Göschel, V.Sieg, R.Skoda (project management)	16
2.5 Significant alterations with dates: The building was completely renovated between 1999 and 2002 by the German architect Peter Kulka (architecture studios in Cologne and Dresden), and is now rented to private tenants including the public broadcaster MDR and the Panorama restaurant. Peter Kulka designed a new façade with cover panels made of granite. In addition to the renovation Kulka architects also created a new building for the MDR between the former university tower and the Gewandhaus.	17
2.6 Current use: The high rise building was bought by the "Areal Estate AG" and is now used by the Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk – a german broadcast company – as an office building. Besides this there is a Panorama Restaurant in the uppermost levels. The roof is equipped with a viewing platform.	18
2.7 Current condition: Because of the renovation from 1999 until 2002 the current condition is excellent.	19
3 Description	
3.1 general description The new building complex for Leipzig University consisted of six parts: * main building	20

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- * course building
- * canteen
- * lecture auditorium
- * high-rise building

The 29-storey building has the shape of an open book and symbolizes on the one hand the usage as an educational building on the other hand it shows the old tradition of the city of Leipzig (city of books). The high-rise building is the town's landmark. The façade consisted of aluminium covered panels that gave the building a shiny appearance.

3.2	Construction: The reinforced concrete construction took place in sliding scarf building method.	21
3.3	Context: Henselmann was appointed head architect for the city of Berlin in 1953 and held various town planning positions until his retirement. After Stalin's death and the rehabilitation of Modernism, Henselmann returned to his earlier concerns, designing flagship buildings for East Berlin such as the Haus des Lehrers (House of Teachers) and the Congress Hall and the housing complex of Leninplatz. Plans for a 'Signal Tower' drafted in 1958 became early drafts for the vast Fernsehturm, finished in 1969. Other late projects in a modernist and high rise style included the cylindrical Jen-Tower in Jena and the tower for the Leipzig University in the shape of an open book. Henselmann's later projects gave a modern, technocratic face to the German Democratic Republic, akin to the skyscrapers being built at the time in Frankfurt.	22
4	Evaluation	
4.1	Technical: The sliding scarf building method was a new technique in that time. By using this method the construction was more efficient and faster.	23
4.2	Social --- no data	24
4.3	Cultural & Aesthetic: The shape of an open book was a symbol for the usage as an educational building and also for the representation of the GDR's third school reform. Historical: The high-rise building designed by Hermann Henselmann was one of the most important buildings erected in the time of the GDR. It is representative for the architecture of educational buildings and shapes the silhouette of the city of Leipzig. The idea of a monolithic tower as an "Urban crown" was developed by Bruno Taut, during his time as city architect in Magdeburg in the 1920s.	25
4.4	General assessment: At 142.5 metres, the City-Hochhaus (High-Rise Building) is the tallest building in the city of Leipzig and its landmark. Designed by GDR architect Hermann Henselmann in the shape of an open book, and built between 1968 and 1972, it was originally part of the University of Leipzig campus. The building is a very good reference for the rehabilitation of Modernism in the late 1960s and early 1970s during the time of the GDR.	26
4.5		27
5	Documentation	
5.1	principal references: Hocquél, W., Leipzig - Baumeister und Bauten, Von der Romanik bis zur Gegenwart; Leipzig, VEB Tourist, Passage-Verlag; 1990, S. 209–210 Topfstedt, Thomas: Städtebau in der DDR 1955-1971, Leipzig 1988 Nerdinger, Winfried: Architekturführer Deutschland, 20. Jahrhundert, Basel 1996	28

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5.2 Visual material attached:

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5.3 rapporteur/date: **Juliane Vierich , June 2007**

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6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

Wp/ref. no:

NAI ref. no:

comments:

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Depicted item: Karl-Marx-Platz (Augustusplatz)

Source: http://axes.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/~zerbst/uni_hist/aug1968.htm

Date:



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