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## Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

International working party for  
**documentation and conservation**

of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the  
**modern movement**

composed by national/regional working party of: Germany

### 0.1 Picture of building/site



depicted item: HfG and Ulm Cathedral  
source: Otl Aicher  
date:1955

	db code
<b>1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden</b>	
1.1 Current name of building: HfG (Hochschule für Gestaltung) Ulm	3
1.2 Variant or former name:---	4
1.3 Number & name of street: Basteistraße. 46	5
1.4 Town: Ulm	6
1.5 Province/state: Baden-Württemberg	7
1.6 Zip code: 89073	8
1.7 Country: Germany	9
1.8 National grid reference:	10
1.9 Classification/typology: EDC University	11
1.10 Protection status & date: listed monument since 1970s	12

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<b>2</b>	<b>History of building</b>	
2.1	Original brief/purpose: University of Design	13
2.2	Dates: commission/completion: 1953-1955	14
2.3	Architectural and other designers: Max Bill (1908-1994)	15
2.4	Others associated with building: Fred Hochstrasser	16
2.5	Significant alterations with dates: constant effort to preserve and repair the usability	17
2.6	Current use: Archive, Museum, used for conferences as well as by the University of Ulm	18
2.7	Current condition: good condition	19
<b>3</b>	<b>Description</b>	
3.1	General description: The campus for the University of Design was designed by Max Bill, a former Bauhaus student, to symbolize the educational as well as aesthetical approach of the school. It can truly be seen as a successful effort to transport the Bauhaus ideas into post-war Germany and develop them further in order to fit the new challenges and needs of the society. Despite its short active period the school has greatly influenced the way design is perceived and taught and has laid the foundation for what is known as German Design such as Braun design.	20
3.2	Construction: Reinforced Concrete Frame Construction. The exposed concrete on all exterior walls and visible interior walls is coated with a fine concrete framework. The doors and windows are made of laminated wood.	21
3.3	Context: The complex consists of student accommodations, lecturer accommodations, studios, workshops, a refectory with self-service counter and self-service bar, a main lecture hall and necessary utility rooms. The main parts of the building are connected by a long passageway.	22
<b>4</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	
	Technical: The building of the HfG Ulm is one of the first reinforced concrete frame constructions in Germany. The exposed concrete as well as the wooden windows are dominating features. The workshops were interconnected and open to allow an interdisciplinary working environment. The interior design and the furniture were designed to fit the flexible layout of the complex as well as the materials.	23
4.1		
	Social: The integration of student and lecturer accommodations into a schooling environment stands for a democratic, comprehensive and team oriented approach. The community feeling also becomes visible in the refectory which offers a self-service bar and self-service counter. This is where students and teachers met, discussed and celebrated together. It was a space for living, socializing, working, and teaching The students as well as the renown teachers where coming from all over the world to be part of the project and to carry the ideas into their home countries.	24
4.2		
	Cultural & Aesthetic: The building as such set standards in terms of the integration of various functions into one building complex by paying close attention to the given geographical conditions. It is located outside of town yet is widely visible and is towering over the city of Ulm. The shapes and materials visualizes a modern and open minded Germany and therefore helped to overcome the horrors of World War II.	25
4.3		

«an aerial picture. like a model of a town. at the front black forest scenery in front of a white building, cubic, flat. crystals with windows, many windows, as if a right angle has been fitted into a

slope in a set of building blocks. behind that in the haze, untidy, gray in gray, the tangled city. over it, like a shadow on the shining ribbon of the Danube, the mass of the cathedral, far away, disappearing. transient. the past is behind us. ahead, white, the blocks of the future. a glorious castle of the future.» «...and there is no one sight the same as another. walking round the school is to set it in motion. there is no point where a central façade could be built, from every point around the school the dimensions seem to be structured differently, but the final picture always appears to be complete. nowhere is there a concentration of volume and nowhere is a center recognizable. with the exception of the four-story inhabitable tower no building exceeds two stories. they climb the slope. the dominating impression: gracefulness, movement, ambiguity...» Bernd Rübénach: der rechte winkel von ulm (the right angle of ulm). Radio essay 1959. Darmstadt 1987.

- Historical: The building housed the Hochschule für Gestaltung (University of Design) between 1955 and 1968. The founders Inge Scholl, Otl Aicher and Max Bill tried to follow in the footsteps of the Bauhaus school of design by adapting the educational principles and by developing them further. The idea was to use the chance after World War II for a new start in design and society. 26  
The school was funded by the state of Baden-Württemberg as well as by the Marshall Plan. Due to internal difficulties as well as financial and political problems, the school was closed after heavy protests in 1968.
- 4.4
- 4.5 General assessment: The complex reflects the school's teaching concept of the integration of work and life in a unique way. It stands for innovation, change, constant modification and a new approach to organization in general. Bill uses the analogy of a village by offering everything the students and teachers might need right on location. It therefore has to be seen as the outstanding post-war "Gesamtkunstwerk" in Germany and stands as a role model for complex and comprehensive educational buildings. 27
- 5 Documentation**
- 5.1 principal references: 28  
- [www.hfg-archiv.ulm.de](http://www.hfg-archiv.ulm.de)  
- Ulmer Museum/HfG Archiv (Hrsg.): ulmer modelle – modelle nach ulm, Ulm 2003  
- Spitz, Rene: der blick in den vordergrund. Die Politische Geschichte der Hochschule für Gestaltung, Stuttgart 2002  
- Quijano, Marcela: hfg ulm: programm wird bau, Ulm 2002
- 5.2 visual material attached: aerial view, building complex, current condition, refectory 29
- 5.3 rapporteur/date: Sandra Scheer/June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 30

## 6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

Wp/ref. no:

NAI ref. no:

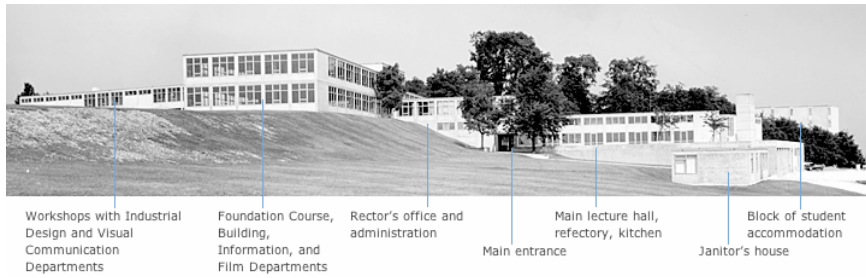
comments:

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depicted item: Main view  
 source: Ernst Hahn  
 date: unknown



depicted item: Back view  
 source: Jonas Nehrlich, Bauhaus University Weimar  
 date: 2003



depicted item: Refectory in the HfG building  
 source: Ulrich Burandt  
 date: ca. 1956

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