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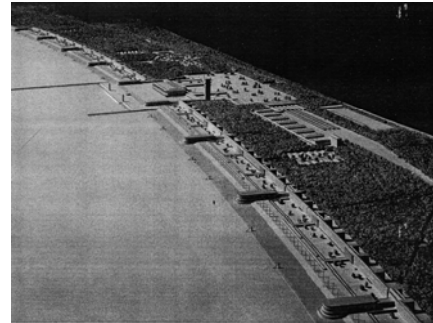
## Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

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: (1) Aerial View

source: www.wikipedia.de, taken from the internet: June, 23 2006

date: (undated)

depicted item: (2) Model photo of the project including the celebration hall by Putlitz

source: Baugilde 1936, issue 28, pg.819

date: 1936

	db code
<b>1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden</b>	
1.1 current name of building: Prora	3
1.2 variant or former name: KdF Seebad der Zwanzigtausend auf Rügen (Seaside resort for twenty thousand on the island of Rügen)	4
1.3 number & name of street: Objektstraße	5
1.4 Town: Binz auf Rügen, part of town Prora	6
1.5 Province/state: Rügen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	7
1.6 Zip code: D-18609	8
1.7 Country: Germany	9
1.8 national grid reference:	10
1.9 classification/typology: REC / URB (recreation facility with extensive infrastructure)	11
1.10 protection status & date: The complete structure is a registered monument since 1993.	12

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<b>2</b>	<b>History of building</b>	
2.1	original brief/purpose: Recreation facility for the NS-organization "Kraft durch Freude" („Strenght through Joy“) (KdF)	13
2.2	dates: commission/completion: Design 1935-39, Construction 1936-1939/1943 The NS-organization "Kraft durch Freude" (KdF) ("Strenght through Joy") planned to build five seaside resorts for 20,000 people each. Clements Klotz worked on the design for the first resort, located in the south of Binz, since 1935. After presenting his model at the national party convention of the NSDAP in September of 1935 he continued working on the design by adding the suggestions coming from Adolf Hitler and Robert Ley, head of the Deutsche Arbeiterfront (DAF) (German Workers Front) and the KdF. The competition organized in February of 1936 by the Reich office "Schönheit der Arbeit" ("The Beauty of Work") resulted in Clemens Klotz winning the first price. The decision was made without paying attention to the previous project. The design by Erich Putlitz's was chosen for the celebration hall. The foundation stone was laid on May 2, 1936, the construction began early 1937. Eight or nine companies worked simultaneously on the entire length of the hotel. The topping off ceremony of the first housing unit was celebrated in October 1938. With the beginning of the war the construction companies were removed and most of the works stopped. War and forced laborers continued the construction until 1942/43 only to a small extend. While the erection of the settlement for the employees and the HJ-work camp as well as a number of supply facilities (central power and heating facility and gardening) had already been completed, the accommodation blocks, only two sections of which had been built in one of the blocks, were still in their shell construction state. The community wing and the buildings for the celebration square were not finished yet. The construction of the indoor swimming pools and of many of the utility buildings had not even begun. (source: Reader 1991, pg. 214-215, <a href="http://www.prora-zentrum.de">www.prora-zentrum.de</a> , Brosowski, Rostock 2001, <a href="http://www.museum-prora.de">www.museum-prora.de</a> )	14
2.3	architectural and other designers: Clemens Klotz (1886-1969) designed the urban master plan and all buildings except for the celebration hall designed by Erich zu Putlitz (1892-1945) which has not been realized. In 1933, possibly because of his personal relationship to Rober Ley, Klotz was appointed as the "commissioned architect of the Reich's government for the erection of seminar buildings for the NSDAP and the DAF" (quoted from Brosowskij pg. 18). Putlitz was a member of the NSDAP since 1933. Several successful entries to competitions had recommended him for government buildings and the sports and convention hall in Rostock (1935).	15
2.4	others associated with building: Willi Heidrich worked as the head of the construction and coordinated the construction site. W. Tschörtner was the landscape architect.	16
2.5	Significant alterations with dates: The intended vacation activities have never taken place. In 1943/44 parts of the complex were used as a refugee camp for families from Hamburg. In 1944 a military hospital was installed as well as other facilities important for the war. The Soviet Army took over the site late 1945 and moved all already existing windows, heating and sanitary facilities to the Soviet Union by the middle of 1947. The complex was then used for looting materials. In 1948/49 the southern housing unit was blown up and cleared until 1953. The two most northern housing units were used for testing explosives. The GDR used the buildings	17

for military purposes since the 1950s which included installation of military barracks. The ruins of the northern blocks were used for combat exercises. Until 1989 Prora was declared a military prohibited area, in 1992 the last troupes were removed.

Since 1992 the federal finance authorities are looking for a new use. Cultural institutions and facilities for the youth moved in. In 1996 an expertise of the Berlin urban planning firm S.T.E.R.N. suggested to turn the complex into privately owned apartments and vacation homes as well as into hotels.

In 2004 and 2005 parts of the complex were sold which will result in the end of the currently established uses.

- 2.6 current use: 18  
The hotel buildings are only partially used for example by a documentation center and a museum. The employee's settlement is fully occupied.
- 2.7 current condition: 19  
Large parts of the complex are ruins of the shell construction; the two northern blocks were laid in ruins by the detonations. The other blocks are in good condition but are threatened to deteriorate caused by vacancy. The southern reception building is partially used, partially in ruins. The houses for the employees and some of the utility buildings still exist.
- 3 Description**
- 3.1 general description: 20  
The 4.5 km long, slightly bent block along the coast was intended to accommodate vacationers in 10,000 identical hotel rooms. The ground floors were dedicated for child-care, shops and apartments for employees. Wide passages to the beach and open resting halls separated the six-storey building into eight identical sections (five preserved, two more as ruins). The access to the rooms, which were all oriented towards the sea, was managed with single-hipped hallways. The staircases were located in crosswise oriented blocks in a distance of about 40 m. The laundry and toilet facilities were located in these six-storey buildings.  
The planned seaside resort was situated outside a small town and therefore consisted of the hotel complex as well as of the complete infrastructure with streets, a railway line with train station, apartments for 2000 employees and utility facilities, a power plant, a bakery and gardening and also a hospital and school. The hotel complex itself was designed symmetrically with a celebration square in the center. Besides the celebration hall for 20,000 people (later taken off the building program) and a parade square, the design included reception halls (the southern hall is preserved, the northern one is a ruin), administration buildings, a theater, a cinema and a viewing tower with cafe as well as two indoor swimming pools with artificial waves (not started).  
On the seaside the project planned 10 three-and-a-half-storey community buildings which were meant to reach out to the sea with their cylindrical ends (only some shell construction ruins are preserved) and which were positioned vertically to the accommodation buildings. The gastronomical facilities, reading and playing rooms, a bowling alley and pool hall as well as a covered terrace were meant to be inside these community buildings. The project was completed by the promenade on the shore and the quay with the pier for offshore ships.  
The buildings have a regular punctuated façade and low saddle-back roofs (15°). The entire complex is designed in an overall moderate-modern architectural language.
- 3.2 construction: 21  
Reinforced concrete skeleton, masonry work

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3.3	context: There are no direct paragons for the organization of this complex. Even the sanatorium and hotel buildings in fascist Italy were built in a considerably smaller scale.	22
<b>4</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	
	technical:	
4.1	Special attention was directed towards saving scarce building materials. Therefore the roof was built using thin concrete ceilings with hollow spaces. The project also included several special technical features in order to use the recreation complex at least eight months of the year: rooms with central heating, open resting halls with infrared lighting and two indoor swimming pools with artificial waves.	23
	social:	
4.	The rooms were small (2.5 m x 4.75 m) and furnished in a very simply way. The goal was to offer many workers families an affordable vacation. This, however, had nothing to do with a social intention but was aimed at effectively regenerating the population's readiness to work and fight. Ley 1935: "If we are able to rejuvenate every German once a year, I claim that the efficiency of the workers will not decline at the age of 40 but at the age of 70." (Ley quoted from <a href="http://www.museum-prora.de/prora.htm">www.museum-prora.de/prora.htm</a> , 10.08.2006). The similarity of the rooms with sea view appears to be a social goal; the seaside resort was, however, intentionally used as propaganda means in order to win followers with the help of symbolized social political goals.	24
	cultural & aesthetic:	
4.3	The design of the complex' functional organization was carried out in the functional language of form known for the "moderate Modernism". During the national socialist reign it was especially utility buildings including recreation facilities which focused on rationality and functionality that were built using this language of form. The planning of the huge unit was extremely complex. This is one reason for the international appreciation given to the seaside resort design at the time of its construction. This is proven by the fact that in 1937 Klotz was awarded the Grand Prix at the World Exhibition in Paris.	25
	historical:	
4.4	Prora is the only one of five planned seaside resorts which was actually built. Even though it was never completely finished, the gigantic complex is, after the "Reichsparteitagsgelände" (site for the national party conventions) in Nuremberg, the second largest closed architectural legacy of the national socialist area.	26
4.5	general assessment: The complex in Prora does not only bear witness of the development of the modern architecture during the Third Reich, but also stands as a document for the strategy of the national socialists of the 1930s to ideologically guide the population with organized recreation offers. The organization "Kraft durch Freude" ("Strenght through Joy") was part of the national socialistic propaganda machinery and the project for the KdF-seaside resort Prora was used for the national socialistic propaganda. The aims of Modernism to create the same conditions for identically arranged and oriented rooms and the establishing community complexes are characterizing the image of Prora as well as the monotony of the almost 5 km long beach front. The buildings division of the long rows of living quarters by protruding staircases and the design of special places of the complex like the position of the round buildings at the celebration and parade square are typical elements of Modernism. This makes the complex part of the transition zone between traditional, monumental and modern building.	27

## 5 Documentation

### 5.1 principal references

28

[www.dokumentationszentrum-prora.de](http://www.dokumentationszentrum-prora.de)

BENDER, Ewald: Wettbewerb für ein K.d.F.-Seebad auf Rügen. In: Baugilde 1936, Heft 28, S.819-828

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GEIßLER, Thomas; GRAMMEL, Ursula (Hrsg.): Prora. Seebad der Zwanzigtausend. Ideen für einen vergessenen Ort. Stuttgart 1998, ISBN 3-9305-4810-0

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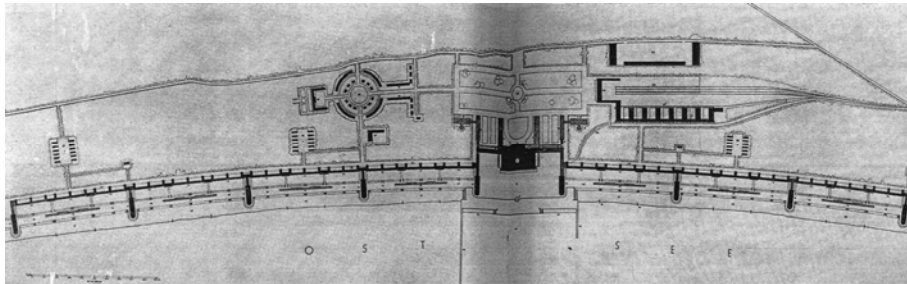
LICHTNAU, Bernfried: PRORA. Das erste KdF-Bad Deutschlands. (3. aktualisierte Aufl.) Peenemünde 1995, ISBN 3-9300-6633-5

ROSTOCK, Jürgen und ZADNICEK, Franz: Paradies Ruinen, Berlin 2001, ISBN 3-86153-149-6

ROSTOCK, Jürgen: Seebad der 20.000 in. Bauwelt 1992, Nr. 30, (S. 1682-1691)

### 5.2 visual material attached

29



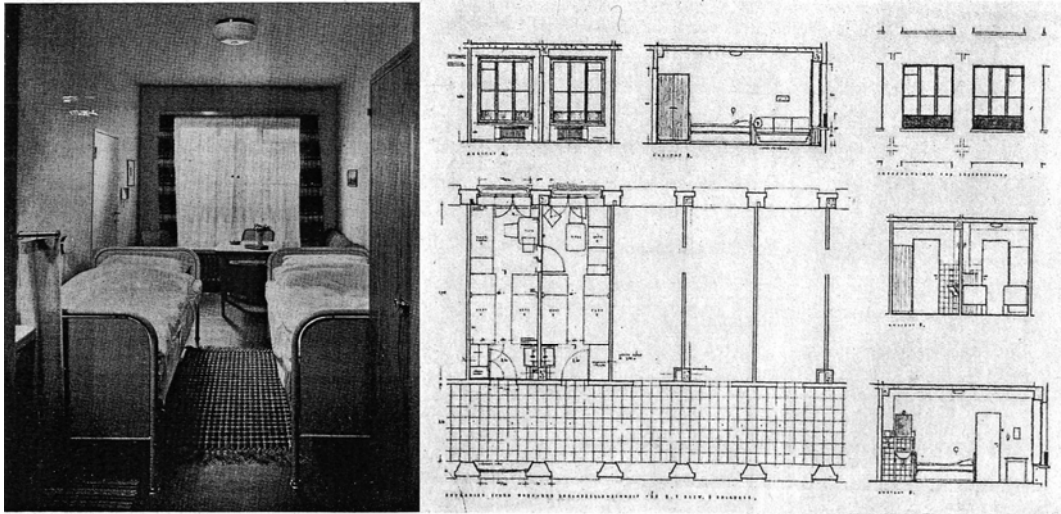
depicted item: Plan of the competition design by Clements Klotz  
source: Baugilde 1936, issue 28, pg.820f  
date: 1936

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depicted item: Room, Design by Clements Klotz  
 source: Baugilde 1936, issue 28, pg.823  
 date: 1936



View sea side  
 source: www.wikipedia.de, taken from the internet: June, 23 2006  
 date: 2004



View from the land side  
 source: www.wikipedia.de, taken from the internet: June, 23 2006  
 date: 2004

- 5.3 rapporteur/date:  
 Monika Markgraf (markgraf@bauhaus-dessau.de), Diana Zitzmann (diana-zitzmann@gmx.de),  
 Sandra Scheer (translation), August 2006

**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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