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Minimum Documentation Fiche 2011

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

depicted item: Urach, Haus auf der Alb, general view north-east and view southwest



source: Robert Holder / Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg
date: 1930

	db code
1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden	
1.1 Current name of building: Haus auf der Alb / Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg (State Centre for Political Education Baden-Württemberg)	3
1.2 Variant or former name: Haus auf der Alb.	4
1.3 Number & name of street: Hanner Steige 1	5
1.4 Town: Bad Urach	6
1.5 Province/state: Baden-Württemberg	7
1.6 Zip code: D - 72574	8
1.7 Country: Germany	9
1.8 National grid reference: latitude / longitude 48.48451 / 9.39987 = 48°2'4.236" / 9°23'59.5314"	10
1.9 Classification/typology: Health HLT	11
1.10 Protection status & date: Protected monument since 1983	12

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2	History of building	
2.1	Original brief/purpose: "Kaufmannserholungsheim" (recreation home for clerks)	13
2.2	Dates: Groundbreaking: 1916, basic plans: 1918 (Martin Elsaesser), new competition: 1928-1929 / completion: 1930	14
2.3	Architectural and other designers: design: Adolf G. Schneck (1883-1971), also furniture	15
2.4	Others associated with building: Principal: Dr. Georg Goldstein, chairman "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kaufmanns-Erholungsheime (DGK)"	16
2.5	Significant alterations with dates: 1940: seizure by "Deutsche Wehrmacht" for military hospital, baffle paint with a red cross on the roof / as from the 1970's heavy structural damage due to neglect / 1989-1992: refurbishment and small alterations according to the guidelines for historical monuments, conversion into a conference centre. In the end of the 80's the house was still in its original but bad condition. After finding a new occupant, the "State Centre for Political Education Baden-Württemberg", the building was refurbished for the new use as a conference centre from 1989 until 1992. To house the caretaker's apartment, kitchen supply warehouse and garage, an additional two-storey building was built in the extension of the north wing. Also, the dorm wing has been supplemented with a basement in order to make room for leisure activities (bowling and sauna). small bathrooms Small bathrooms were integrated into most of the bedrooms. The lounge and gym area gave way to a library and several rooms that are used by the guests at their leisure. Stones in the grass are reminiscent of the former swimming pool which was converted into lawn in 1990. Despite its conversion into a conference centre, the building has been preserved as far as possible in its original state. Also most of the original furniture is still preserved and in use – including a grand piano designed by Schneck. The reconstruction and extension of the building, projected by the "working group Nuertingen Weinbrenner Kuby Rehm Maier" (project manager: Dipl.-Ing. Hellmut Kuby, architect), was awarded the "Good Buildings Awards" by the Baden-Württemberg State Branch of the Association of German Architects (BDA) in 1993.	17
2.6	Current use: conference centre "Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg", 38 Stafflenbergstraße, 70184 Stuttgart	18
2.7	Current condition: good, renovation 1992, structure, windows and furniture in original state	19
3	Description	
3.1	General description: Initial planning for the construction of a recreation home for clerks in Urach date back to 1916. In 1918 the Stuttgart architect Martin Elsaesser gave plans for a four-storey building with 150 beds to the building authorities, however, he advised to delay the execution until after the war. After a new competition in 1928 Adolf G. Schneck, in collaboration with the client, Dr. George Goldstein, finally developed the concept for the recreation home for clerks including the furniture. The home is composed of four different areas of use: the living area with exclusively valley facing bedrooms for 109 guests, bathroom and toilet facilities was placed in a 60-meter-long four-storey dorm wing which leads in an obtuse angle to a two-storey housekeeping and administrative building ending with a stair tower in the junction. Community facilities such as dining room, lounge, amusement hall and gym are situated in a building resting on pillars on the downhill side in front of the	20

	administrative wing with a large terrace connecting all the wings. Almost all of the guest rooms open onto a balcony that runs completely along the valley-facing facade. The rooms were equipped with furniture designed by the architect himself each including a built-in closet, washbasin and bed. The swimming pool has always been an attraction at that site, after Worldwar II even for bathing guests from the town of Urach.	
3.2	Construction: Functional layout, conventional structure, plastered masonry, ribbed concrete floors, flat-roofed, single-glazed steel and wooden windows	21
3.3	Context: The recreation home for clerks is situated within beautiful scenery on a wooded slope of the Erms valley ("Ermstal") in Bad Urach in Baden-Wuerttemberg.	22
4	Evaluation	
4.1	Technical: As far as is known, no special technical or technological innovations were used. Nevertheless, the clear separation of functions and their recognizability in the formation of each structure show the exemplary implementation of the aims and principles of Modernism. By nesting individual parts of different scales and orientation into each other Schneck succeeded in creating building as a spatial sculpture where the form strictly follows the function.	23
4.2	Social: The principle, the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kaufmanns-Erholungsheime (DGK)", was a society which was founded in 1910 in order to allow clerks having an inexpensive holiday with health benefits. The Architect A.G. Schneck thought of the future occupants already on his first visit to the building site on a dreary autumn day. The guests should feel comfortable here and forget about any social differences. Schneck's goal was therefore to make every room of equal value. Each of the bright, cheerful room opens to a balcony overlooking the valley to the sun. The housekeeping and administrative offices are at the other end of the building. As a unifying element the common areas with leisure rooms and a terrace were placed between the two building tracts. Thus, the guests were given the opportunity to decide if they wanted to relax or to have fun which is a very modern aspect.	24
4.3	Cultural & Aesthetic: Important landmark in otherwise rural and picturesque scenery. Despite its modern form, it blends into the landscape without sticking out obtrusively.	25
4.4	Historical: The articulate, clean form of the flat-roofed building was an innovation for the hilloked area in the countryside of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Nevertheless, contemporary statements described the building as "dignified high-quality work" without any riotousness" and as a proof for a "sophisticated architectural and artistic spirit" (Die Bauzeitung 1930). The functional layout was up in the details convincing and trend-setting for similar buildings such as sanatoria and hospitals.	26
4.5	General assessment: The "Haus auf der Alb" is one of the most important and best maintained examples for health architecture in Germany. Although there maybe even more progressive examples in Europe, e.g. Sanatorium "Zonnestraal" in Hilversum, it is the restrained funktionalism of the building including its interior design and furniture which constitutes the outstanding value of the "Haus auf der Alb".	27

5 Documentation

- 5.1 Principal references: 28
- Das Haus auf der Alb bei Urach. Ein Ferienhaus für Handel und Industrie, in: Der Baumeister 1930, Heft 10, S. 379ff.
 - Das Haus auf der Alb, in: Die Bauzeitung 40/27, 1930, S. 23, 552.
 - Die Baugilde, 1930, Heft 20, S. 1877.
 - Eberhard Grunsky, Adolf G. Schnecks "Haus auf der Alb" bei Urach, in: Denkmalpflege in Baden-Württemberg 1982, S. 87.
 - D.W. Schmidt, Das Haus auf der Alb. Ein Denkmal des Funktionalismus in Württemberg, in: architectura 1993, S.200-222.
 - Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg (Informationstexte von Markus Hug auf www.hausaufderalb.de/, 2011/06/07.
 - Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg (Hrsg.)/ Karin-Anne Böttcher, Pfad durch die Geschichte zum Haus auf der Alb, Flyer der Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg, o.J.
 - Frank Werner, Noch zu retten? Noch zu retten!; in: Bauwelt 25/1981
 - Cornelius Tafel, Der Architekt Adolf Schneck. Wegbereiter der Moderne im Stuttgart der 20er Jahre; Diss. TU München 1991
 - HBA Reutlingen, „Das Haus auf der Alb“ in Bad Urach. Denkmal der Architekturmoderne; in: info bau 1-93
- 5.2 Visual material attached: 29
Photographs
- 5.3 Rapporteur/date: Bettina Lietz, June 2011 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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Visual material:



depicted item: Urach, Haus auf der Alb, view southwest
source: Robert Holder / Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg
date: 1930



depicted item: Urach, Haus auf der Alb, recreation room
source: Robert Holder / Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg
date: 1930



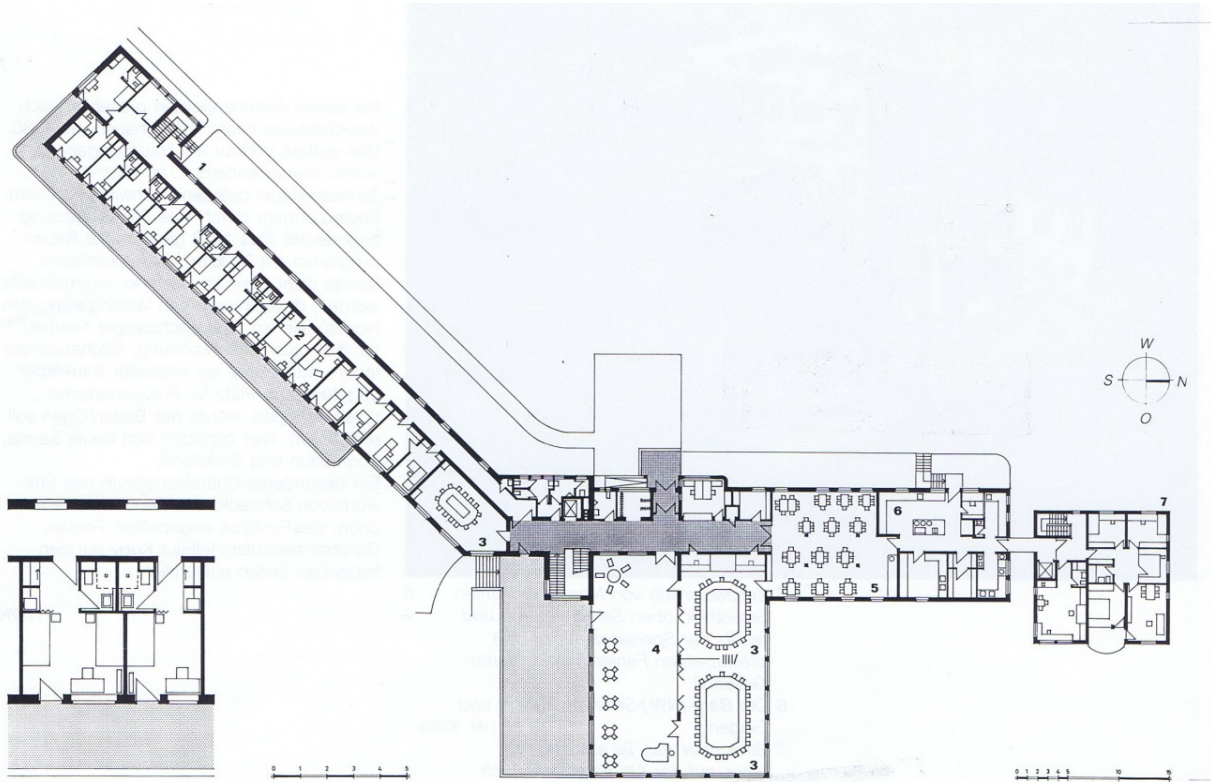
depicted item: Urach, Haus auf der Alb, dorm wing and terrace from north-east and stair tower and housekeeping and administrative building from north-east
source: Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg / Haus auf der Alb
date: 2008

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depicted item: Urach, Haus auf der Alb, floor plan refurbishment and extension
 source: Werkgemeinschaft Nürtingen – Weinbrenner, Kuby, Rehm, Maier
 date: 1992

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