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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:

Historic photograph with gateways, the dyeing mill in the foreground, production halls and boiler houses in the background.

source: Drachenberg, Abb. 121 (Mendelsohn 1930)

date: 1930

	db code
1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden	
1.1 current name of building: Mendelsohnhalle oder Hutfabrik (hat factory)	3
1.2 variant or former name: Hutfabrik von Friedrich Steinberg, Herrmann & Co. (hat factory of Friedrich Steinberg, Herrmann & Co.)	4
1.3 number & name of street: Industriestraße 2	5
1.4 Town: Luckenwalde	6
1.5 Province/state: Brandenburg	7
1.6 Zip code: D-14943	8
1.7 Country: Germany	9
1.8 national grid reference:	10
1.9 classification/typology: IND Textile factory	11
1.10 protection status & date: The facility is a registered monument since 1976/77.	12

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2 History of building

- 2.1 original brief/purpose: Textile factory 13
- 2.2 dates: commission/completion:Design: 1921, Construction: 1921-1923 14
Mendelsohn developed two different projects for the hat factory in Luckenwalde. At first he was commissioned with the extension of the existing hat factory of Herrmann & Co in 1919. In 1920 he worked out a project for an annex on the Potsdamer Strasse which was not executed. After the merging of Herrmann with his competitor Steinberg in January of 1921, Mendelsohn was commissioned to design a new building on the industrial site. The plans for the factory were subsequently turned in for approval in November of 1921. The project for the boiler and the machine house was approved in August of 1922, the gateways followed in December. The construction started in 1921. Just before completion a major fire destroyed the wooden roof construction in February of 1923, the concrete frame trusses remained unscathed. The factory was finally finished in the summer of 1923, the final commissioning took place in June. The mass-production of hats began in 1924. (All facts taken from Drachenberg)
- 2.3 Architectural and other designers: 15
Erich Mendelsohn (1887-1953)
- 2.4 others associated with building: - 16
- 2.5 significant alterations with dates: 17
Hats were produced here until 1932. After this the halls were vacant until 1935. In 1934 the factory was sold to the Norddeutsche Maschinenbau AG after the Herrmann family had left Hitler-Germany because of their Jewish origin. The Norddeutsche Maschinenbau AG produced canons for airplanes and antiaircraft weapons between 1935 and 1945. The hat-shaped roof was removed in 1935 and changes inside the halls were carried out. The roofs of the gateways were removed in 1936 and replaced with a simple concrete plate. In 1941 buildings were added on the east and west of the dyeing mill following the design of Paul Renner. The Red Army used the halls between 1945 and 1955. The dismantled machines were brought to Russia as reparations. Between 1957 and 1990 the buildings were used by the VEB Wälzlagerwerk Luckenwalde. During this time the original steel windows were replaced with wooden ones in 1958-60, the heights of the sills were changed. 1962-64 the boiler and the machine house were severely altered. After the German reunification the factory was taken over by the FAG Kugelfischer which, however, did close again in 1992. The building has been vacant ever since. In 2000 the business family Ayad purchased the factory. With the support of the Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz (German Foundation for the Protection of Monuments) the roofs and the skylights are currently restored and renewed. It is planned to reconstruct the hat roof and to use the dyeing mill as a museum.
- 2.6 current use: 18
Vacant, securing and repairing measures are currently carried out.
- 2.7 current condition: 19
The bearing concrete construction is in good condition. The production halls are in a better condition than the dyeing mill because of the new roofs. The casing and the roof covering are missing on half of the dyeing mill.

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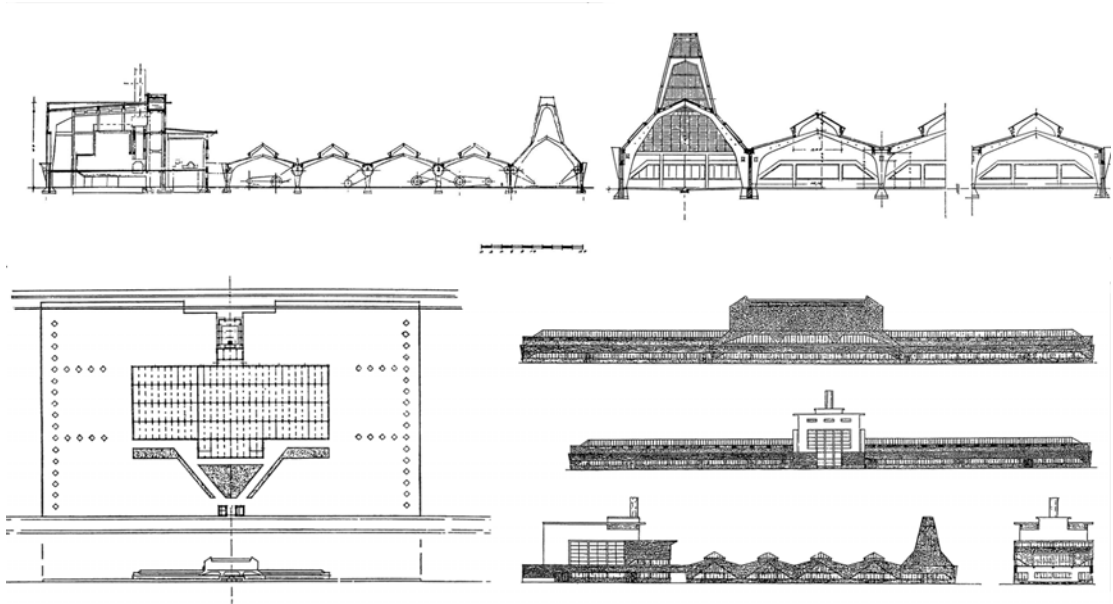
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3	Description	
3.1	General description	20
	<p>The whole site is 4.7 ha big, whereas the factory itself covers a ground area of 10,000m². The strictly symmetrical composition of the facility consists of the dyeing mill which originally had a shaft-shaped roof (not preserved), four production halls and the boiler house with chimney. The dyeing mill and the boiler house stand as the dominant heights in the front and back of the facility and are forming a contrast to the horizontal orientation of the halls. The site was closed up by a brick wall with two gateways. The far protruding concrete roofs make the gateways appear as a unit. (Roofs and the surrounding wall are not preserved).</p> <p>Two production processes – for hair and for woolen hats – took place inside the production halls, both were separated along the symmetry axis.</p> <p>The composition was dominated by the high, hat-shaped roof of the dyeing mill. The roof was constructed to lead the poisonous fumes upwards and outside with the help of special ventilation flaps.</p> <p>The facades are characterized by the expressionistic design details for example by the diagonal lines of some of the windows and on the corners of the building, the relief of the masonry and the up and down swelling window sills.</p>	
3.2	Construction	21
	<p>Bearing elements: reinforced concrete frame trusses</p> <p>Walls: Masonry</p> <p>Roofs: Construction of wooden pin-joint-arch trusses resting on reinforced concrete frame trusses roof covering made of Ruberoid (roofing fabric)</p>	
3.3	Context	22
	-	
4	Evaluation	
	<p>Technical</p> <p>The hat factory has several technical innovative features: The roof shape of the dyeing mill with its installed airing system was a novelty. The bearing reinforced concrete construction was also a specialty in the industrial architecture of the time. Steel frame works resting on bearing outer walls and steel supports on the inside were the more common construction method. The combination of reinforced concrete, wood and glass is regarded as peculiarity as well because of the different properties of the materials.</p>	
4.1		23
	-	
4.2	Social	24
	<p>The good airing system improved the working conditions for the workers.</p> <p>Cultural & Aesthetic</p> <p>Erich Mendelsohn designed the factory shortly after the Einstein Tower. For the first time he gives up the curved forms and turns towards strict straight and sharp lines.</p>	
4.3		25
	<p>The hat of the factory was not only technically innovative but also functioned as an advertisement for the product and therefore became a symbol for the factory and for the city of Luckenwalde.</p> <p>Historical:</p> <p>The project became famous worldwide because of its natural airing system in the dyeing mill. The principle has been repeated several times all over the world for example at the “Krasnoe Znamja” in Leningrad (Erich Mendelsohn) 1925.</p>	
4.4		26

4.5	<p>General assessment:</p> <p>The hat factory is a recognized masterpiece by the researchers of modern architecture. It can, however, also be regarded a monument for expressionistic architecture. The factory plays an important role in the history of the town and area of Luckenwalde and Brandenburg as well as in the history of industrial architecture in the beginning of the 20th century. It also illustrates an important step in the development of Mendelsohn's artistic career.</p>	27
5 Documentation		
5.1	<p>principal references.</p> <p>DRACHENBERG, Thomas, Die Baugeschichte der Stadt Luckenwalde, Worms; 1999; S.81-95 ISBN 3-88331-077-8. Mit dazugehörigem Katalog auf CD-Rom, S. 15-32, ISBN 3-88462-168-8 (Die meisten Angaben wurden dieser Quelle entnommen.)</p> <p>BARKOW, Frank, Ruins of modernity. Erich Mendelsohn's hat factory in Luckenwalde, London; 1998, ISBN 1-870890-82-5</p> <p>JUNG, Karin Carmen/WORBS, Dietrich, Funktionelle Dynamik. Die Hutfabrik Steinberg Herrmann & Co. in Luckenwalde von Erich Mendelsohn. In: Bauwelt 83(17.Jan.1992)3, S. 116-121.</p> <p>KÜHN VON KAEHNE, Gerald/ KÖHLER, Dagmar/ LEBEK, Christoph u.a., Ehemalige Hutfabrik Steinberg Herrmann u. Co. Von Erich Mendelsohn in den Jahren 1921-23 erbaut. Bd. 1: Archivarbeit. Bestandsdokumentation. Restaurierungskonzept. Bd. 2: Baualtersplan. Pläne Hallenoberlichter. Historische Pläne; Potsdam; 1991/1992 (Gutachten).</p> <p>KÜHN VON KAEHNE, Gerald/ KÖHLER, Dagmar/ LEBEK, Christoph u.a., Luckenwalde. Die ehemalige Hutfabrik Friedrich Steinberg. Herrmann & Co. von Erich Mendelsohn, In: Brandenburgische Denkmalpflege 1(1992)1, S. 75-84.</p>	28
5.2	<p>visual material attached</p>	29



Groundplan, sections and elevations
 Quelle Drachenberg, Abb. 119 (Wasmuths Monatshefte 1924/8)
 1921/ 22.



Inside view of the production hall, Photo: Diana Zitzmann, Mai 2006



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Dyeing mill and annex (right), Diana Zitzmann, Mai 2006



Inside view of the dyeing mill, Diana Zitzmann, Mai 2006

5.3 Rapporteur/date:
Diana Zitzmann (diana-zitzmann@gmx.de), Juli 2006

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6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

Wp/ref. no:

comments:

NAI ref. no:

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