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## Full Documentation Fiche 2009

Composed by national working party of: Germany

### Bonn, Chancellor's Bungalow

0. Picture of building/ group of buildings/ urban scheme/ landscape/ garden



Depicted item: Bonn, Chancellor's Bungalow  
Source: Tomas Riehle, Köln  
Date: 2009

## **1. Identity of building/ group of buildings/ group of buildings/ landscape/garden**

### **1.1 Data for identification**

Current name: Chancellor's Bungalow

Former/original/variant name: residential and reception building for the German Chancellor

Number(s) and name(s) of street(s): 139-141, Adenauerallee

Town: Bonn

Province/state: North Rhine-Westphalia

Postcode: 53113

Country: Germany

National topographical grid reference:

Current typology: REC

Former/original/variant typology: ADM/RES

Comments on typology: -

### **1.2 Status of protection**

Protected by: Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia / City of Bonn

Grade: monument

Date: 2001

### **1.3 Visually or functionally related building(s)/site(s)**

Name(s) of surrounding area/building(s):

Villa Hammerschmidt, Palais Schaumburg

Visual relations:

The building is situated without attracting attention in a park almost hidden by trees.

Functional relations:

The Chancellor's Bungalow forms a functional unit with the Villa Hammerschmidt and the Palais Schaumburg. Neo-classical Villa Hammerschmidt (1867) has been the official residence of the German Presidents since 1950 and the second domicile of the German President since 1994. Neo-classical Palais Schaumburg (1860) has been the official residence of the German Chancellor since 1949 and the second domicile since 1999. Both buildings are situated in a park along the Rhine River. The Chancellor's Bungalow was to focus on modernity in this surrounding. The building was the residence of the Chancellor and provided room for small events and casual meetings.

The ensemble of important buildings of the young German democracy was completed by the nearby-situated high-rise building for members of parliament of West Germany (architect: Egon Eiermann, 1969).

## **2. History of building(s) etc.**

### **2.1 Chronology**

*Note if the dates are exactly known (e) or approximately estimated = circa (c) or (±)*

Commission or competition date: October 1963

Design period(s):

Start of site work: November 1963

Completion/inauguration: 12<sup>th</sup> November 1964

### **2.2 Summary of development**

Commission brief:

German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard initiated that the treasury department (existing until 1969) of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) commissioned architect Sep Ruf to develop plans for the Bungalow. In those days Sep Ruf was celebrated on national and international level for the composition of the German Pavilion at the Brussels World Exhibition in 1958 (Architects: Sep Ruf and Egon Eiermann). Because of the humble and modern design of the Pavilion, he became qualified for further sovereign construction projects. In addition, Sep Ruf and Ludwig Erhard were friends and neighbors. Ruf had built the Erhard House next to his own on the banks of Lake Tegern.

Design brief:

The Chancellor's Bungalow consists of two quadratic, single-story atrium houses under a flat, cantilevered roof. The bigger and higher part of the building was planned for official representation matters and the smaller part comprised the living space of the Chancellor. The building is characterized by fully glazed walls. Only the private living space was sheltered by some brick walls. The floor plan of the representative area is open and flexible. Openness and transparency, basic forms and noble materiality specify the modern design.

Building/construction:

The load-bearing construction consists of a steel-skeleton. The roof is constructed of trapezoidal sheet metal. The walls are brick-laid and some wooden inside walls are moveable. Italian Travertine was used for the flooring inside and outside. Wall panels are composed of Palisander and the cladding of the ceiling is made of Brazilian Pine.

Completed situation:

### **2.3 Relevant persons/organizations**

Original owner(s)/patron(s): Commissioner: Federal Republic of Germany. Awarding authority: Treasury department (existing until 1969) of the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by assistant Secretary of State Hans Rossig. Construction management by subordinated administration: Building Management of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Architect: Sep Ruf

Landscape/garden designer(s): Hermann Mattern

Consulting engineer(s):

Building contractor(s):

## **2. 4 Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site**

Name: Association: event(s): period:

Sculptors: Bernhard Heiliger, Fritz Koenig, Paul Dierkes

Furniture: Herman-Miller Collection (design by Charles and Ray Eames)

The names of the German Chancellors Ludwig Erhard, Hans-Georg Kiesinger, Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt, Helmut Kohl und Gerhard Schröder are more or less associated with the building.

## **2. 5 Summary of important changes after completion**

The German Chancellors Ludwig Erhard, Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, Helmut Schmidt, and Helmut Kohl used the Bungalow and customized it to their own ideas, Willy Brandt und Gerhard Schröder did not live there.

1) Type of change: alteration

Date: 1966

Circumstances/reasons for change: Kurt-Georg Kiesinger moved in

Effects of changes: new design of the private living space, for example cladding of the ceiling with plasterboard and white coating of the wooden surface of built-in cupboards

Persons/organizations involved Chancellor Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, interior architect Herta-Maria Witzemann

2) Type of change: addition

Date: 1977

Circumstances/reasons For change: more safeguarding because of menace by terrorists of "Red Army Fraction" (RAF) during „German Autumn“ 1977

Effects of changes: A bulletproofed glass-wall in direction to the Rhine River

Persons/organizations involved Chancellor Helmut Schmidt

3) Type of change: Alteration

Date(s): from 1982 on

Circumstances/reasons for change: Helmut Kohl moved in

Effects of changes: New design in the representative area: cladding of the brick walls with silk wall covering, new big lamps, heavy and nested curtains, massive upholstered furniture instead of the airy furniture from the Miller Collection

Persons/organizations involved: Chancellor Helmut Kohl

### **3. Description of building(s) etc.**

#### **3.1 Site/building character**

*Summarize main character and give notes on surviving site/building(s)/part(s) of area. If a site: principle features and zones of influence; main elements in spatial composition. If a building: main features, construction and materials.*

##### *Exterior:*

The bungalow is situated in an extensive park on the banks of the Rhine River. A part of the area next to the building is screened by a wall of slate from the Eiffel region and was used as access yard. The existing park was altered by plans from landscape architect Hermann Mattern. The glass-walls of the Bungalow create a very close relationship between architecture and landscape. The garden next to the building is designed accordingly.. Sculptures in the garden complete the ensemble. „Maternitas“ by Bernhard Heiliger and „Figurenbaum“ by Fritz Koenig already have been presented 1958 in the World Exhibition in Brussels in 1958. „Die drei Stelen“and „Rundling“have been created by Paul Dierkes.

##### *Facade:*

The facade of the representative part of the building consists mostly of floor-to-ceiling glass-walls. The private living space is enclosed by screens of brick walls, but windows and doors are also floor-to-ceiling glass. The load-bearing props of the steel skeleton construction are inside the building and mostly hidden. The roof seems to hover above the building and holds together the parts of the bungalow

##### *Interior:*

Selected materials such as Travertine or Palisander give a noble feature to the open and transparent bungalow. Color and surfaces of the materials characterize the design. Pieces of Art as tapestry by Woty Werner and the picture “Die Schmiede des Vulkan“by Alexander Camaro have been selected by Architect Sep Ruf and have been part of the configuration. The furniture came from the Herman Miller Collection and comprised chairs and sofas designed by Charles and Ray Eames. In addition, the „Time-Life Chair“, which was styled for the new Time-Life Building in New York, was applied.

##### *Construction:*

The modern construction as steel skeleton allows a flexible floor plan and adjustment to different requirements in the representative part of the bungalow. Further typical features of modern movement architecture are separating construction from partition or enclosing walls and using built-in cupboards. One reason for the pronounced modern structure and design of the building is the ambition to distinguish the open and human architecture of the democracy of the young Federal Republic from the massive and oppressive architecture of the National Socialist Regime.

### **3. 2 Current use**

Of whole building/site:

Today the Chancellors Bungalow serves as museum and offers space for several activities such as lectures and debates, discussion with contemporary witnesses or musical events.

of principal components (*if applicable*):-

### **3. 3 Present (physical) condition**

Of whole building/site:

The Chancellors Bungalow has been comprehensively revitalized by the Wüstenrot Foundation in the years 2006-2009 and is in very good condition. Basis for the revitalization work was a detailed and profound analysis of the technical, historical and aesthetical aspects of the building. The main renovation work was to repair the roof and other parts of the building, to expose the surfaces of wooden and brick walls and to rebuild the technical installation. It was a special challenge to bring back the original architectural impact and to show the historical relevance of the place. At the same time, some alterations of the residents have been conserved to keep the contemporary history alive. Therefore the reshaping of the private living space by Herta-Maria Witzemann and the alterations in the representative area during the government of Helmut Kohl have been preserved. Long-term systematically conservation and maintenance were part of the revitalization.

Of principal components (*if applicable*):

Of other elements (*if applicable*):

Of surrounding area (*if applicable*):

Comments:

### **3. 4 Note(s) on context, indicating potential developments**

Indicate, if known, potential developments relevant for the conservation/threats of the building/site

## **4. Evaluation**

*Give the scientific reasons for selection for docomomo documentation*

### ***Intrinsic value***

#### **4. 1 technical evaluation:**

The design of the Chancellor's Bungalow is defined by clearness and conciseness of the construction, which also enables the integration of modern features such as built-in cupboards and flexible walls. In addition, the technical installations, for instance floor heating and ventilation systems have been in line with modern requirements. The consequence of the steel-skeleton as load-bearing construction leads to an open and transparent building.

#### **4. 2 Social evaluation:**

The modern design of the Bungalow serves as document for democracy and cosmopolitanism of the young German Federal Republic. Openness, lightness and elegance are regarded as elements of democratic architecture. This was mentioned for example by Adolf Arndt in his speech "Demokratie als Bauherr" (democracy as awarding authority) 1961.

#### **4. 3 Cultural and aesthetic evaluation:**

Open floor plan and factual elegance, transparency and close contact between inside and outside, form the design of the building. These features and the use of the bungalow for informal meetings are in accordance with the idea of a makeshift: In the constitution of the FRG was determined that, until the German reunification, the City of Bonn serves as Capitol as provisional arrangement. The idea of modernity, democracy and makeshift is embodied in this noble and plain architecture which expresses serenity and grandeur. The general public discussed the architecture quite controversial, but the experts on national and international level judged very positive.

#### ***Comparative significance***

#### **4. 4 Canonical status (local, national, international)**

Unlike other political residences such as 10 Downing Street in London, Elysee Palace in Paris or White House in Washington the Chancellors Bungalow was a newly planned building in the beginning of the FRG. Furthermore, the bungalow is an exception because it mainly served for informal meetings and Palais Schaumburg was used for most of the government business. Therefore, the building was a new type and the architectural ideas could serve the requirements for representation of a democratic and modern state. The design of the bungalow is inspired by the modern international architecture. Sep Ruf had been travelling to USA and was impressed by buildings of Richard Neutra who also gave lectures in Munich. In this aspect, the Chancellors Bungalow also shows the influence of America on the modern German architecture after World War II.

#### **4. 5 historic and reference values:**

The design of the Chancellors Bungalow is connected with the tradition of modern architecture during the Weimarer Republic in Germany and wants to distinguish from the massive stone architecture which is typical for representative government building during the National Socialist Regime.

The Bungalow stands together with a group of buildings planned by the federal government in Bonn. After the National Socialist Regime and World War II, these buildings demonstrate a new democratic and cosmopolitan self-conception of the Federal Republic of Germany in modern design. On an international level, the humble, precise and airy architecture of the German Pavilion at the World Exhibition in Brussels in 1958 was accepted as a positive signal from Germany. Other examples for this kind of design for federal buildings are the alteration of the pedagogic academy in Bonn to "Federal House" (Bundeshaus,

architect: Hans Schwippert, 1949) or the Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht, architect: Paul Baumgarten, 1969)

## 5. Documentation

### 5.1 Archives/written records/correspondence etc. (state location/ address):

Archiv und Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Fotoarchiv Paul Swiridoff  
Architekturmuseum der Technischen Universität München, München

### 5.2 Principal publications (in chronological order):

Arndt, Adolf: Demokratie als Bauherr, Wiesbaden 1961  
Steingräber, Erich; Swiridoff, Paul: Der Bungalow, Pfullingen 1967  
Wichmann, Hans: Sep Ruf. Bauten und Projekte, Stuttgart 1986  
Körner, Burkhardt: Der Kanzlerbungalow von Sep Ruf in Bonn, in: Bonner Geschichtsblätter Bd. 49/59 (1999/2000), S. 507-613  
Nerdinger, Winfried, Meissner, Irene (Ed.): Sep Ruf 1908-1982 – Moderne mit Tradition, Katalog zur Ausstellung der Pinakothek der Moderne, München 2008  
Adlbert, Georg: Der Kanzlerbungalow. Erhaltung, Instandsetzung, Neunutzung, Stuttgart 2009  
Schätzke, Andreas u. a.: Sep Ruf. Kanzlerbungalow, Bonn, Stuttgart 2009 (Edition Axel Menges, opus 72)  
Wüstenrot Stiftung und Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der BRD (Ed.): Kanzlerbungalow, München 2009

### 5.3 Visual material (state location/ address)

Original visual records/drawings/photographs/others: recent Photographs and  
survey drawings: film/video/other sources:



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. Entrance west  
Source: Copyright: Archive/Museum Würth Künzelsau, photographer: Paul Swiridoff  
Date: 1964



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. Foyer including wardrobe  
 Source: Copyright: Archive/Museum Würth Künzelsau, photographer: Paul Swiridoff  
 date: 1964



Depicted item: Bonn, Chancellor's Bungalow, floor plan 1964  
 source: design: Sep Ruf, drawing: Burkhardt und Schumacher, Braunschweig  
 date: design 1964, drawing 2009



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. Entrance  
Source: Andreas Schwarting, Dresden  
Date: 2009



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. Room for reception and music (again 1964 condition: area Ludwig Erhard) in the background dining-room (still 1982 condition: area Helmut Kohl)  
Source: Andreas Schwarting, Dresden date: 2009



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. Atrium: close relationship between inside and outside  
Source: Andreas Schwarting, Dresden  
Date: 2009



Depicted item: Chancellor's Bungalow. House and Garden  
Source: Andreas Schwarting, Dresden  
Date: 2009

## 5. 4 list documents included in supplementary dossier

### 6. Fiche report

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Date of report: December 2009

Examination by DOCOMOMO national section

Approval by working party co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name):

Monika Markgraf

Sign and date: December 2009

#### Examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R

Name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:

comment(s):

sign and date:

ISC/R approval: date:

working party/ref. n°:

NAi ref. n°:

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