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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: Langer Eugen, Centre of the United Nations Campus, Bonn (view from Post tower)



source: (www.Wikipedia.org, copyright free)

date: 2003

		db code
<b>1.</b>	<b>Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden</b>	
1.1	current name of building: UN Headquarter / Centre of the United Nations Campus	3
1.2	variant or former name: 'Langer Eugen' ('Big Eugene'), the former building for the members of parliament of West Germany. Less popular nicknames in German: Parlamentskerze,	4

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	parlamentarische Büromaschine, Bundeswolkenkratzer, Koloss am Rhein.	
1.3	number & name of street: Hermann-Ehlers-Straße 10	5
1.4	Town: Bonn	6
1.5	Province/state: North Rhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen)	7
1.6	zip code: D - 53113	8
1.7	Country: Germany	9
1.8	national grid reference: 50° 43' 5.87" N, 7° 7' 38.9" E	10
1.9	classification/typology: office building	11
1.10	protection status & date: protected building, since 1997	12
<b>2</b>	<b>History of building</b>	
2.1	original brief/purpose: office building for the members of parliament of West Germany (Abgeordnetenhaus des Deutschen Bundestages)	13
2.2	dates: commission/completion: 1965-1969 (official opening 19 February 1969)	14
2.3	Architectural and other designers: design: Egon Eiermann (1904-1970) in collaboration with Georg Pollich (project manager)	15
2.4	others associated with building: the Federal Building Office of West Germany (Bundesbaudirektion), responsible for overall planning	16
2.5	significant alterations with dates: 1978 addition of a external security staircase (external entrée to the restaurant of the top floor) 1989 upgrading of lifts with effects on original plain modernity intended by E. Eiermann, caused by luxurious furnishing. 1990's changeover from lightening with filament bulbs (conscious choice of E. Eiermann) to fluorescent lighting with effects on exterior image of the building at night. Over the intervening years other various technical modernizations took place, among other things of the HVAC technology and adding sally ports at the entrances. 2002-2006 restoration for new use by UN (in respect to building physics, building technique and energy-efficiency as well as asbestos abatement of the facade and additional fire security) by HPP, Hentrich-Petschnigg & Partner GmbH + Co. KG, project manager Fritz Altland. The restoration took place in coordination with monument conservators.	17
2.6	current use: Since April 2006 in use of eleven organisations of the UN. It is the center of the „UN-Campus“, opened 11-07-2006 by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General on the United Nations.	18
2.7	current condition: very good condition	19
<b>3</b>	<b>Description</b>	
3.1	'Langer Eugen', the former parliament building of West Germany in Bonn, the capital of the old Federal Republic is a high-rise building of 29 stories, which is 114 meters in height. The tower gets its name from Eugen Gerstenmeier, the President of the German parliament at the time of its construction. He – himself having a short stature - was a dedicated advocate of the highly controversial building. Bonn has had provisional character as capital of the Federal Republic, which was politically wanted, because Bonn should fulfill this function only up to the hoped reunification of Germany. Therefore the development of the area of government administration was limited to a minimum. However due to the enormous shortage of space and also to resolve the grievance of serious	20

deficit in the field of functional connections a planning group of the Federal Building Office worked out a future-oriented master planning (architects members as consultants: Paul Baumgarten, Egon Eierman and Sep Ruf) starting from 1962. In particular the accommodation of the members of parliament was unsatisfactory and also commission chambers were missing. This went so far that the political work was obstructed. Therefore this was the only building realized. Due to the practicability the new building for the members of parliament had to be built in the proximity of the "Bundestag" (building of the German Federal Parliament). But there only a relatively small and narrow property was available. The new building had to fulfill an enormous room program of offices for 450 delegates, 120 secretariats and 20 commission chambers, so that one had to build up. Establishing a high-rise building was met with massive defiance and resistance by the public. E. Eiermann, the architect of the building, would have preferred another solution also, embedded into an urban total planning with connection to other functions as library etc. However Eiermann tried to use the state of distress, despite the enormous height, to realize an elegant well-proportioned high-rise building. The circumferential and finely wrought white lattice-work equipped with horizontal slats (stationary sun protection) supplies an important contribution to this goal. The upper storeys for the commission chambers have a double height of 5.15 m, the offices beneath are 18 qm and have a height of 2.50 m. They are surrounded by generous spaced corridors for additional functions as waiting areas et cetera.

After the parliament moved back to its historical home of Berlin in the summer of 1999, 'Big Eugene' was put to interim use by various educational and cultural institutions. In May 2003, the Federal Cabinet decided to place the building at the disposal of the United Nations.

3.2 Construction: self-supporting steel framework with glass facades and bearing building core. The stories allow a free division of space, which helped by the re-use for the UN. For the window frames teakwood were used, uncommon for high-rise buildings (very lasting and therefore even today original). 21

3.3 Context: 'Langer Eugen' was at the time of his construction the only really high-rise building of Bonn and became a main landmark at the river Rhein. It is also the only realized new building of the master planning for the buildings of governments of Western Germany. 22

#### 4 Evaluation

4.1 Technical: With 29 floors and 114 m height an enormous room program on a small property has been realized. The building was at the time of his erection technical up-to-date equipped. However there were climate-problems caused by the generation of heat by the use of computers (not that common at that time and therefore an unexpected/ unknown phenomenon). 23

4.2 Social: The building with its transparency and visual lightness is a symbol of the new democratic system. Last but not least the building offered a restaurant (200 seats) on the top floor with a fantastic view not only for the politicians but also for the inhabitants of Bonn (open to the public on weekends and during recess of parliament), which shouldn't be underestimated in times which were not dominated by leisure/ recreational activities in abundance as nowadays. 24

4.3 Cultural & Aesthetic: As an important landmark of Bonn it is one of the 12 stations of "The way of Democracy." Furthermore the building was with his 114.7 m height 35 years the highest building of Bonn, nowadays surmounted by the headquarters of the Deutsche Post, called Post Tower (162.5 m, 2000-2002). 25

The two main functions – the offices of the members of parliament (3rd–17th floor) and the commission chambers (19th–28th floor) – are perceptible at the facades, between lays a technical zone. The interaction of the chosen materials (steel, wood, glass), together with the finely wrought white lattice-work equipped with horizontal slats (stationary sun protection) gives

	the building a light and transparent appearance. The plain postwar Modernism of the building is of an astonishing elegance and beauty. The building is also one of the rare examples of high-rise buildings of the oeuvre of E. Eiermann.	
4.4	Historical: "Big Eugen" is the only realized building of the master planning for the buildings of governments of Western Germany (planning starting from 1962), and stands for a modern postwar democratic system.	26
4.5	general assessment: "Big Eugen" is a typical example of Bonn's postwar building history, which is characterized by the fact that only the essential necessary could and would be built, because of the provisional arrangement as capital of Germany. Therefore also the composition concerning the town construction wouldn't be realized. Nevertheless Big Eugen is a contemporary witness and at the same time a symbol of this (architectural) era. From the reason of the monument conservationists: "With its renouncement of hierarchical elements in the facade design it is a descriptive example of the perception of democratic building in the young Bundesrepublik". And last but not least it is a piece of first-class multistoried building.	27
<b>5</b>	<b>Documentation</b>	
5.1	principal references: - Hildner, Claudia: Langer Eugen, Bonn - Mit Samthandschuhen. in: Metamorphose, Bauen im Bestand, 2007, nr. 3, pp. 22-27 (article) - Jaeggi, Annemarie (Ed.): Egon Eiermann (1904 - 1970): die Kontinuität der Moderne, Ostfildern-Ruit 2004, pp. 202-205 - Rossig, Johannes: Neubau eines Bürohauses für den Deutschen Bundestag. in: Die Bauverwaltung 1966, vol. 15, nr. 7, pp. 394-399 (article) - anon., Abgeordneten-Hochhaus in Bonn. in: Architektur + Wohnwelt, 1972, vol. 80, nr. 6, pp. 358 (article) - Galandi, Johannes: 20 Jahre Langer Eugen. in: Deutsche Bauzeitung 1989, vol. 123, nr. 8, pp. 70-76 (article) - Boyken, Immo / Wulf Schirmer (Ed.): Egon Eiermann 1904-1970. Bauen und Projekte, Stuttgart 1984, pp. 228-233 and 315 - <a href="http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langer_Eugen">http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langer_Eugen</a> [29-10-2009]	28
5.2	visual material attached: 1.+2. photograph of today's elevation (2003 and 2009), 3. sketch of the building by E. Eiermann, 4. photograph of the entrance 5. model of the overall planning, 6. siteplan 7. floorplans of the original use (a. 3 <sup>rd</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> floor member of parliament offices, b. 19 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> floor, comission chambers, c. 29 <sup>th</sup> floor restaurant ), 8. section	29
5.3	rappporteur/date: Dr. Ingrid Ostermann / October 2009	30

## 6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

Wp/ref. no:

NAI ref. no:

comments:

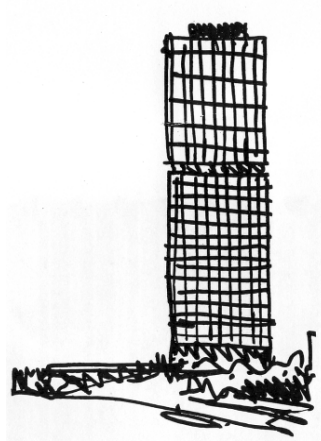
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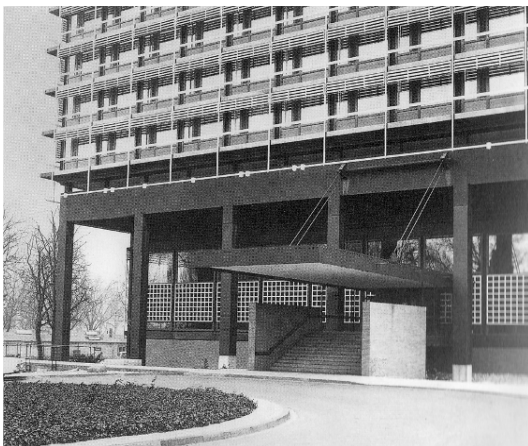
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**Visual material:**



(left) 2. depicted item: Langer Eugen, Centre of the United Nations Campus  
source: (Wikipedia.de, copyrightfree)  
date: 19 august 2009

(right) 3. depicted item: sketch of the building by E. Eiermann  
source: Architektur + Wohnwelt 1972, p. 359  
date: 1960's



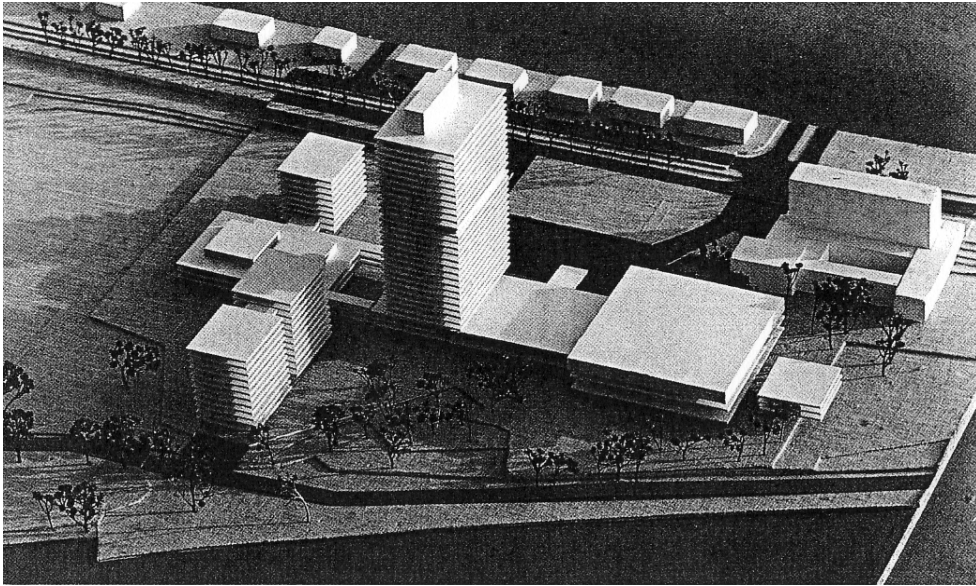
4. photograph of the entrance  
source: Jaeggi, A. (2004), p. 204 (copyright: Georg Pollich)  
date: unknown

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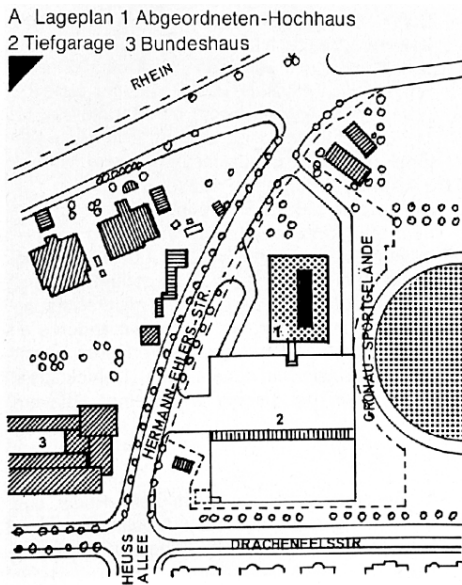
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5. depicted item: model of the overall planning (not realized, just Langer Eugen became realized)  
 source: db 1989, p. 71  
 date: 1960's



6. depicted item: site plan of Langer Eugen  
 source: Architektur + Wohnwelt 1972, p. 361

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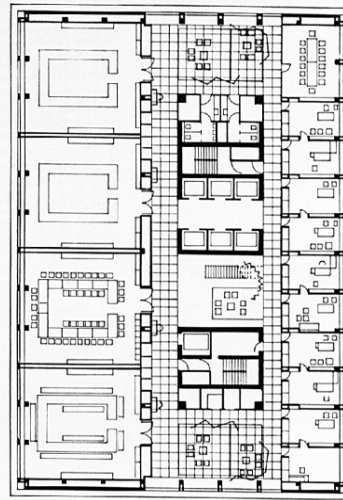
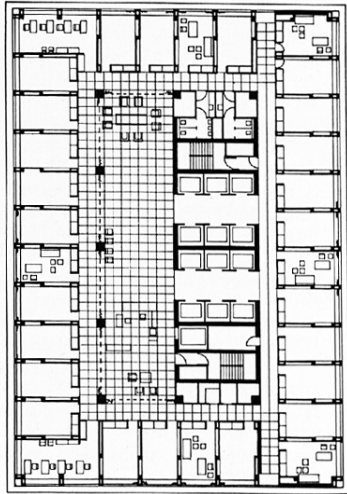
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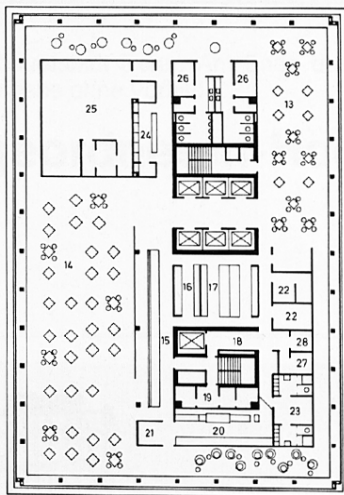
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D 3.-17. Obergeschoß, Abgeordnetenzimmer



E 19.-28. Obergeschoß, Ausschußsäle



F 29. Obergeschoß, Restaurant, Cafeteria

7a. depicted item: floor plan of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> floor, Member of Parliament offices

7b. depicted item: floor plan of 19<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> floor, commission chambers

7c. depicted item: floorplan of 29<sup>th</sup> floor, restaurant

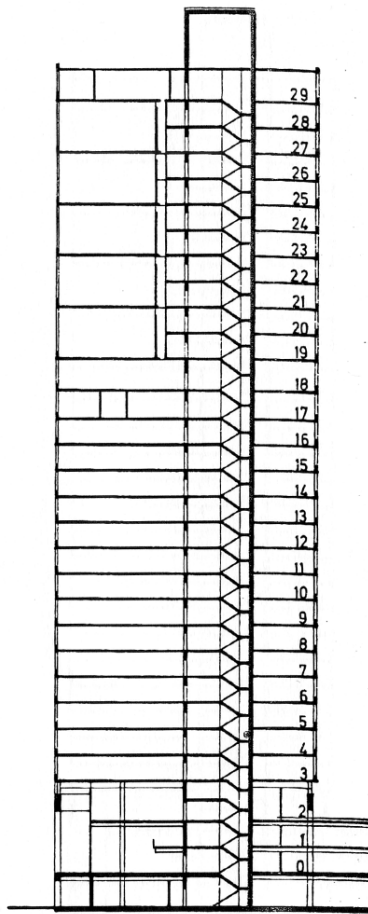
source: Architektur + Wohnwelt 1972, p. 361

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8. depicted item: section

source: Architektur + Wohnwelt 1972, p. 361

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