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Minimum Documentation Fiche 2009

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: Sächsischer Landtag Dresden (Regional Parliament Building in Dresden)



Picture 1: (left) Sächsischer Landtag Part A. Reused part, built in 1928-31

Picture 2: (right) Sächsischer Landtag Part B. New build for plenary hall in 1992-93

source: http://www.landtag.sachsen.de/de/architektur_kunst/rundgang.

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date: 2007

1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

current name of building:

- 1.1 Sächsischer Landtag Dresden (Regional Parliament Building in Dresden) – consisting of an old, reused building from 1928-31 (A) and a new building of the 1990s (B)

variant or former name:

- 1.2 A – building group for the department of finances

1.3 number & name of street:

Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz; 1 (A) and 2 (B)

1.4 Town: Dresden

1.5 Province/state: Saxony

1.6 Zip code: D-01067

1.7 Country: Germany

1.8 national grid reference:

1.9 Classification/typology: ADM

1.10 protection status & date: A - registered monument, B – no status

db
code

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2	History of building	
2.1	original brief/purpose:	13
	A: Originally build for the department of finances	
	B: (as today) Regional Parliament Building, plenary hall	
2.2	Dates: commission/completion:	14
	A: build: 1928-31	
	B: competition in 1991, construction of the new part: 1992-1993,	
	A: reconstruction for the new function as part of the parliament building: 1996-97	
2.3	Architectural and other designers:	15
	A: Barthold and Tiede (There are no other buildings from this architects in Dresden.)	
	A, reconstruction in 1996/97: Peter Kulka	
	B: Peter Kulka (*1937)	
2.4	others associated with building:	16
	A: -	
	B, project: Kurt Wimmer, Klaus Radau, Nelson Cravo-Cacoilo, Claus Anderhalten, Marcel Beckmann, Hubert Braunsch, Uwe Bernd Friedemann, Jochem Kastner, Ulrich Königs, Susanne Liese, Kathrin Messerschmidt, Silke Vera Mostert, Katja Pfeiffer, Konstantin Pichler ((2), p.83) (For a detailed list of people engaged in designing and building, see (2) p. 82ff)	
2.5	significant alterations with dates:	17
	A: In 1945 wing to river Elbe and wing to street Kleine Packhofstraße were destroyed	
	A: In 1996-97 the remaining wings were reconstructed for the parliament use.	
	B: none	
2.6	current use:	18
	Sächsischer Landtag (Regional Parliament of Saxony)	
	A: Offices and halls of the fractions, administration, cafeteria and library	
	B: In the "Elb-Wing" are the plenary hall and public areas. The Court-Wing and the "bridge" house offices. In the cellar there are rooms for the technical equipment and parking.	
2.7	current condition:	19
	Very good	
3	Description	
3.1	General description	20
	A:	
	The former department of finances, built from 1928-31 by the relatively unknown architects Barthold and Tiede, is a composition of several horizontal ashlar (5 storeys high), dominated by one vertical, 36m high "tower" (7 storeys). Partly destroyed during World War II from the block between the Holländische Straße/Devrientstraße/Kleine Packhofstraße/Neue Terrasse remained only the three wings. All facades are covered with rough plaster and punctuated regularly by windows. The openings have granite frames, lying on top of the plaster level and the roofs are a bit fore-coming. Formerly the facade of the main entrance was decorated with six larger-than-life figures symbolizing trade, industry, shipping, brain work, trade and agriculture, as well as with a huge imperial eagle. ((2), S. 68) These decorative elements are not conserved. The main door leads into a large 3-storey high entrance hall (22m x 12m), which is the most important interior. Conserved are the railings and handrails, the door framings of natural stone and the floor plates of travertine. There are hints that this plates originate from the Barcelona-Pavilion of Mies van de Rohe (1929) ((7),	

http://www.landtag.sachsen.de/de/architektur_kunst/rundgang/1484_1505.aspx). Between the columns the facade to the courtyard is entirely of glass. Originally it had an abstract design, but details about it are unknown. ((2), S.68) The interior structure of the other parts is simple and with its corridor-system typical for an administrative building. The design is shaped by the wooden veneered doors, the simple but noble fittings and the plain iron railings. There is no exaggerated representativeness.

In general the architecture of the old building can be described as comparatively simple and functional. This building is no example for modernism, but for "New Objectivity".

B

The conjunction between the building of the 1920s/30s and its in the 1990s built extension is formed by a concrete slab. The new building, designed by Peter Kulka, consists of two rectangular wings, the round plenary hall under a square roof in the corner, and a bridge combining the offices in one of the old wings with the ones in the new. It completes the block structure, destroyed during the WWII, forming a huge courtyard in the center and a small one in the back.

The public entrance from the new designed square "Bernhard-von-Lindenau" to the plenary-building is clearly stressed by a flying roof and a wide stair, leading to a platform and into the building. The same floor plates of grey-green natural stone are used outside and inside. Using the open stair, visitors can get to the "Bürgerfoyer" – "Foyer for the citizens" on the second floor – an exhibition area with a great view to the famous historic buildings and the river facade of Dresden. The visitors can enjoy the same view from the restaurant on the roof. To watch the work of the parliament, visitors have to follow the wing on the basement, until a glass wall opens up the view into the plenary hall and they reach a staircase to the visitor-tribune.

The plenary hall has glass facades and a curved and inclined wooden back wall. The fixed seats form a circle. The speaker's desk has a delicate and reduced design, which makes the hiding the speaker's body behind it impossible. In that way the idea of openness is developed up to the detail.

Peter Kulka creates with the parliament building no new dominant in the historic skyline and river facade of Dresden. Considering the height and volume of the new building, he subordinates it modestly to the building of Barthold and Thiede. On the other hand the architectural style is uncompromisingly modern. With the choice of steel and glass as materials and the continuous, not punctuated facade he creates a dynamic conceptual exchange with the historic monument, a contrast between openness and closeness.

3.2 Construction

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A, B: Foundation on piles

Difficult foundation, because of closeness to the river and because of eventual bombs

A: Generally carrying brick walls. In the entrance hall: concrete framework

B: Steel framework with reinforced concrete ceilings, glass facades

3.3 Context

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A

It is ne of only a few "high-storey" buildings in Dresden, constructed before the 2nd World war. Its architecture, gaining with few decorative elements but a high material culture economy and representativeness, is evaluated as a good example for the reasonable use of state finances in times of shortages ((2), S.68).

B

The architecture of the new building for the plenary hall bases on the German after-war prototypes for a democratic parliament. It was an explicit goal from the competition to the design-details to symbolize and realize democracy and democratic principles in architecture.

Some constructive details base on prototypes of modernism (four steel cross pillars carrying a steel roof reminds of Neue Nationalgalerie (Mies van der Rohe, 1965-58).

4 Evaluation

Technical

- 4.1 A: As far as known, no technical innovations have been uses. 23
B: No technical innovations, but on technically on a high level.
The goal of modernism, that function and construction should be visible, is attained.

Social

- B: The best view on the riverside facade of Dresden opens up from the public area in the new building. In this way this view is for all the people, not only for exclusive ones.
- 4.2 The design, from the transparency of the facades to the plainness of the speaker's desk, is a 24 symbol for transparency in policy. The arrangement of the seats in the plenary hall, the avoiding of a center, the guiding of the citizens into the building and the possible control of the parliament work by the citizens – are democratic principles, realized in architecture.

Cultural & Aesthetic

- A+ B: Dialog between "New Objectiveness" of 1930s and modernism of the 1990s.
- 4.3 Good example for how interesting architecture can be, as a dialog between historic monuments 25 and modern architecture

Historical:

- A: The building by Barthold and Tiede was used for different purposes. First for customs administration, then from 1953 till 1990 as headquarter of the government of the city of Dresden and of the regional government of the party SED for the area Dresden. After the
- 4.4 German reunion its typical administrative structure allowed the reuse for the new elected 26 democratic government.
B: This is the first new and especially for this purpose erected building for a regional parliament after reunion of Germany.

- 4.5 General assessment: 27
The Sächsischer Landtag belongs to the most important examples for parliament-architecture in Germany. The discourse, how "democratic architecture" for a democratic political system should look like, is here perfectly realized.
Being no example for classical modernism, this building nevertheless is an interesting example for the purposes of Docomomo, because the combination and contrast of the "New Objectiveness" of the old part and the modernism of the new part show continuity and development of the modern movement.

5 Documentation

- 5.1 principal references. 28

- (1) BRENDGENS, Guido: Demokratisches Bauen: Eine architekturtheoretische Diskursanalyse zu Parlamentsbauten in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Aachen : Shaker, 2008, ISBN: 978-3-8322-7301-9
(2) Der neue Sächsische Landtag, [hrsg. vom Sächsischen Staatministerium der

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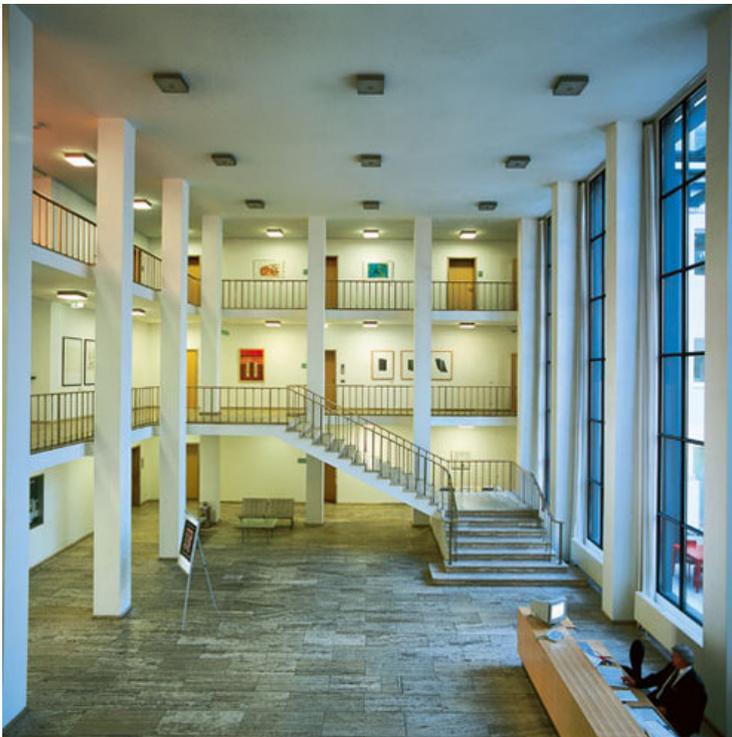
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- Finanzen in Zsarb. mit dem Sächsischen Landtag], Dresden 1994, ISBN: 3-928802-35-6
- (3) FLAGGE, Ingeborg: Dresden, Stadtführer zeitgenössischer Architektur. Das Beispiel, Darmstadt 2004, ISBN 3-935243-48-0..
 - (4) GANTZ, Holger: 100 Bauwerke in Dresden: Ein Wegweiser zu Bauwerken von historischem und baukünstlerischem Rang. Schnell und Steiner, Regensburg 1997, ISBN 3-7954-1111-4.
 - (5) LUPFER, Gilbert; STERRA, Berhard; WORNER, Martin (Hrsg.): Architekturführer Dresden, Dietrich Reimer Verlag, Berlin 1997, ISBN: 3-496-01179-3
 - (6) MAY, Walter; PAMPEL, Werner; KONRAD, Hans: Architekturführer DDR, Bezirk Dresden, VEB Verlag für Bauwesen, Berlin 1979
 - (7) <http://www.das-neue-dresden.de/landtag-sachsen.html>
 - (8) http://www.landtag.sachsen.de/de/architektur_kunst/projekt_landtag/index.aspx
 - (9) <http://www.peterkulka.de/likecms/likecms.php?site=site.html&dir=&nav=-1&p=1&pthema=list&pid=7>

5.2 visual material attached

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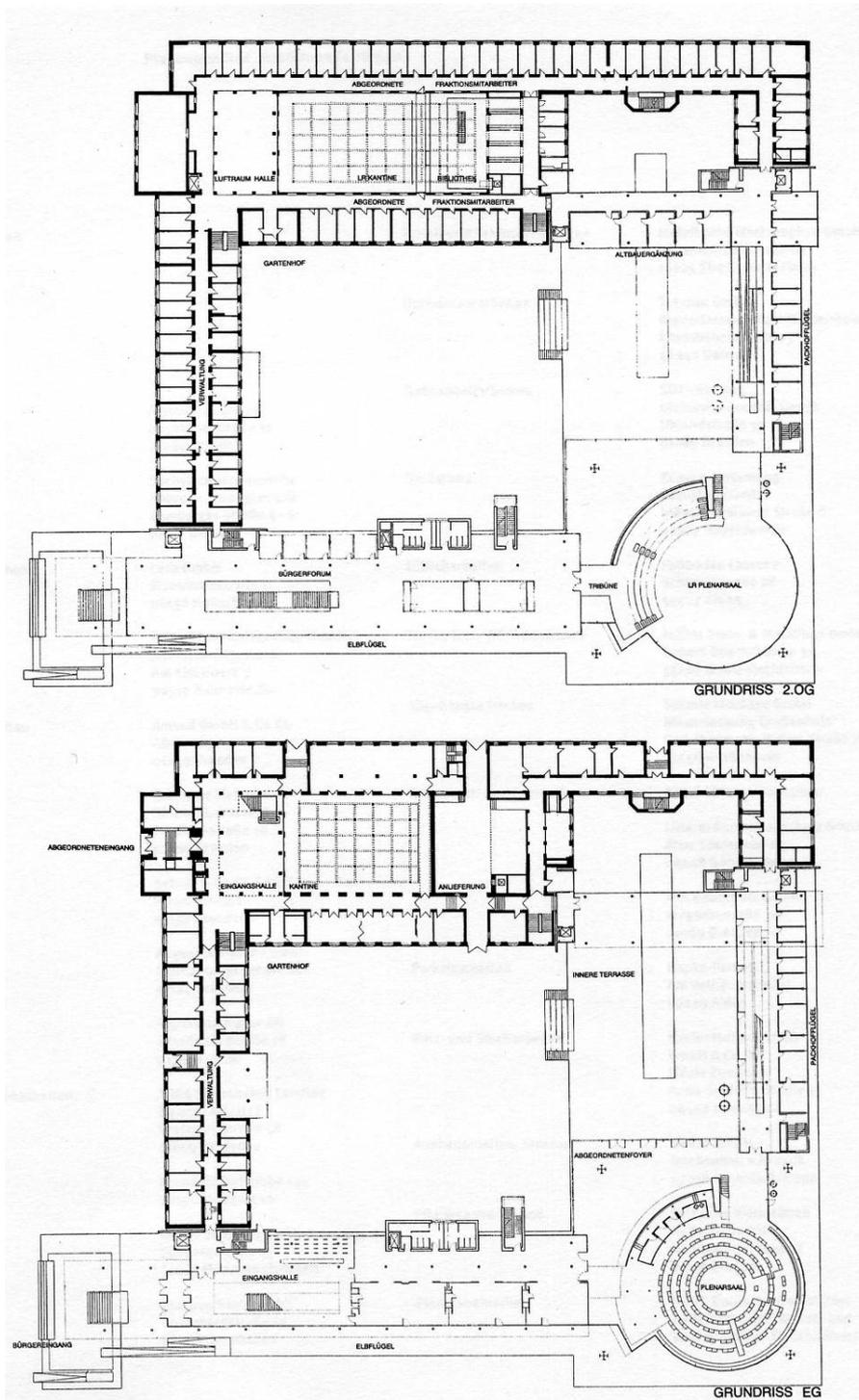
Picture 3: Entrance hall in the old building (A). Foto after reconstruction in the 1990s (Copyright 2007 Sächsischer Landtag). Source: http://www.landtag.sachsen.de/de/architektur_kunst/rundgang/index.aspx

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Picture 4: A+B, Ground floor, level 0 and 2. Source: (2), S.75

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Picture 5: The bridge combines the offices in the old building with the new wing. In the foreground: big courtyard, in the background: small courtyard and facade of old building. Photo: Diana Zitzmann 1999



Picture 6: In part B: Plenary hall, Diana Zitzmann 1999

For more pictures see:

http://www.landtag.sachsen.de/de/architektur_kunst/rundgang/index.aspx

- 5.3 Rapporteur/date:
Diana Zitzmann (diana-zitzmann@gmx.de), October 2009

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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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