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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/site

depicted item: Deutsches Hygiene-Museum (German Hygiene Museum)



Picture 1: Main façade with entrance, 1930
source: <http://www.dhmd.de/index.php?id=1461>
Copyright Deutsches Hygiene-Museum
date: 1930

1. **Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden**
current name of building:
 - 1.1 Deutsches Hygiene-Museum (German Hygiene Museum)

db
code

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1.2	variant or former name: -	4
1.3	number & name of street: Lingnerplatz 1	5
1.4	Town: Dresden	6
1.5	Province/state: Saxony	7
1.6	Zip code: D-01069	8
1.7	Country: Germany	9
1.8	national grid reference:	10
1.9	Classification/typology: EDC, REC	11
1.10	protection status & date: registered monument	12
2	History of building	
2.1	original brief/purpose: museum and education 1) public enlightenment in the field of hygiene and health, improvement of general hygiene and health situation. Thus support of a positive social development, but of economic growth, too. 2) improvement of the expertise of specialists in the field of hygiene, diseases, nourishment, water supply, etc. by lectures and courses.	13
2.2	Dates: commission/completion ((1), pp.81ff, pp 139-142): 1911: During the I. International Hygiene-Exhibition the idea for a national hygiene museum was born. 1912: Karl Lingner publishes the "Denkschrift zur Errichtung eines National-Hygiene-Museums in Dresden" (Memorandum for the Erection of a National Museum for Hygiene in Dresden) 1920: architectural ideas competition. Different location and program, designs by Hans Scharoun, Paul Bonatz, Ludwig Wirth, Hans u. Wassili Luckhardt etc. 1926: definition of the building plot. September 1926: architect Wilhelm Kreis receives the call to start planning, 1926-1927 he works on the design. 7.-8. October 1927: laying of the foundation stone May 1930: completion 17. May 1930: opening of the first exhibition in the museum (II. International Exhibition for Hygiene).	14
2.3	Architectural and other designers: Architect: Wilhelm Kreis (1873-1955) Interior, furnishing: Gottlieb Michael (1886-1970)	15
2.4	others associated with building: Karl August Lingner (1961-1916): idea and basic concept for the museum, organisation, support and promotion in the public	16
2.5	significant alterations with dates:	17

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around 1933: deconstruction of most temporary buildings for the II. Hygiene-exhibition close the the museum (more information and pictures see (2)), because a "Gau-forum" was planed to be built.

1945: heavy damage to the building due to air raid. Mainly backward parts of the building suffered (wings around the court-yard and buildings inside the court-yard).

After WW II: rebuilt with alterations. Changes in the interior, mainly in the entrance area.

1957/58: insertion of congress and concert hall (Alexander Künzer) (photo see (5))

1992: competition for reconstruction and modernisation, winner: COOP Himmelb(l)au (Wien). 1994: beginning of reconstruction. Construction works on Southern frontal building (office and seminar rooms); implementation of a new entrance (COOP Himmelblau) (see picture 10),

1998: Kulka and Partner (Köln/Dresden) receive call for reconstruction and modernization (architects involved see (6)). 1999-2011: construction works aiming at the restoration of the original design idea, accompanied by the demolition of all later additions (e.g. congress hall by Künzer). Reopening of the foyer to the court-yard, reconstruction of glass ceilings for exhibition-grounds Additions for restaurant and shop, new one-storey building for a depot in the courtyard with terrace on the top.

- 2.6 current use: 18
Deutsches Hygiene Museum Dresden:
"a forum for science, culture and society": permanent and temporary exhibitions, collections, educational activities, conference centre
- 2.7 current condition: 19
Very good
- 3 Description**
- 3.1 General description (original situation) 20
Situating in the prolonged main axle of the park "Großer Garten", in the historical garden near of former prince palace of Johann Georg (destroyed during the 2nd World War). The garden was reorganised in the 1930s into a Public Park (Volkspark, "Blüher Park"). The green surrounding and the closeness to sport grounds were considered as well fitting to function and aim of the Hygiene-museum.
Building composition: symmetrical. Consists of a central part, two frontal buildings with two small inner courtyards each, and three backward wings forming a large inner courtyard. Originally there existed another building with an apsis for the main exhibition inside the big court-yard (destroyed during World War II).
Functions: Southern frontal building: library, administration, archiv, gym, flats, temporary exhibitions. Northern frontal building: administration, meeting chambers; central part: representativ halls and meeting rooms; yard-wings: studios/workshops of the museum on the ground-floor and exhibition halls on the first floor.
"Its monumental character comes from the cubistic central building whose facade is dominated by four pillars flanking the entrance hall and vestibule." (3)
- 3.2 Construction 21
Mixed construction: ferroconcrete frame with fillings of brick and sand-lime brick for the walls. Pillars, plinth, some flooring, frames around windows and doors: granite ((1), S.172)
Flat roofs with terraces on the frontal buildings.

Originally a wall of glass existed between the entrance hall and the yard. A, for this time, novel technology (hydraulic lifting) allowed the remote controlled movement of this glass wall. ((1), S.199)

3.3	Context	22
	The concept for the museum has been influenced by the characteristics of temporary exhibitions, occurring at the beginning of the 20 th century. ((1), S.406)	
4	Evaluation	
	Technical	
4.1	As far as known no innovations used, but construction technique was on a high level.	23
	Social	
	The museum itself and its history tell about the changing attitude of society towards man and body; it is therefore of a high value in the history of civilisation.	
4.2	The educational aim of the museum concerning hygiene is shown in its architecture. According to science in that time, sunlight and climate help against tuberculosis. The museum offers its visitors roof terraces, large windows, white walls and rooms for gymnastics. ((1), S.411)	24
	Cultural & Aesthetic	
	Mixture of traditional and modern design elements: stylistic elements of the modern movement: flat roof, large windows, white walls; traditional elements: representative entrance-situation, alignment, symmetry, hierarchy (1), S.410, S.412)	
4.3	The architecture reveals the principles/aims to combine representativeness and modernity, to create monumentality due reduction and to symbolise the theme hygiene.	25
	New/unusual concept for a museum: Whereas in typical museums cultural goods and rarities of ancient times and places were showcased, the aim of the Hygiene-Museum was the education of the people, the enlightenment in the field of hygiene and health. This concept fits to the democratisation of knowledge and education in the first years of the Weimar-Republic. (Klaus Vogel, cited in (5)). Light and white walls allow concentrating the attention on the exhibits.	
	Historical:	
	One of Dresdens most notable buildings of the 1920/30s	
4.4	Monument for museum-architecture of the Weimar-Republic: it is one of three new representative museum buildings of the Weimar-Republic (Deutsches Museum München, Reichsmuseum für Gesellschaft und Wirtschaftskunde in Düsseldorf).((1), S.406).	26
4.5	General assessment:	27
	Cultural-historical influence of hygiene and health, their importance in public discussions and perception in the 1920/30s shows in the history and architecture of the Hygiene-museum.	

5 Documentation

5.1 principal references.

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- (1) SCHULTE, Sabine: *Das Deutsche Hygiene-Museum in Dresden von Wilhelm Kreis. Biographie eines Museums der Weimarer Republik*. Dissertation, Bonn 2001, [urn:nbn:de:hbz:5-02407](http://nbn:de:hbz:5-02407) (http://hss.ulb.uni-bonn.de/2001/0240/0240_1.pdf)
- (2) VOGEL, Klaus: *Das Deutsche Hygiene-Museum Dresden. 1911 bis 1990*. Sandstein, Dresden 2003, ISBN 3-930382-99-7.
- (3) LUPFER, Gilbert; BECHTEL, Wybke: *Architekturführer Dresden = Architectural guide to Dresden*. Berlin; 1997: Reimer.
- (4) Official Website of the DHM: <http://www.dhmd.de/index.php?id=999>
- (5) <http://www.das-neue-dresden.de/deutsches-hygiene-museum.html>
- (6) Website of Kulka and Partner:
<http://www.peterkulka.de/likecms/likecms.php?site=site.html&dir=&nav=-1&p=1&pthema=list&pid=16>

5.2 visual material attached

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Picture 2:

Aerial Picture, around 2011.

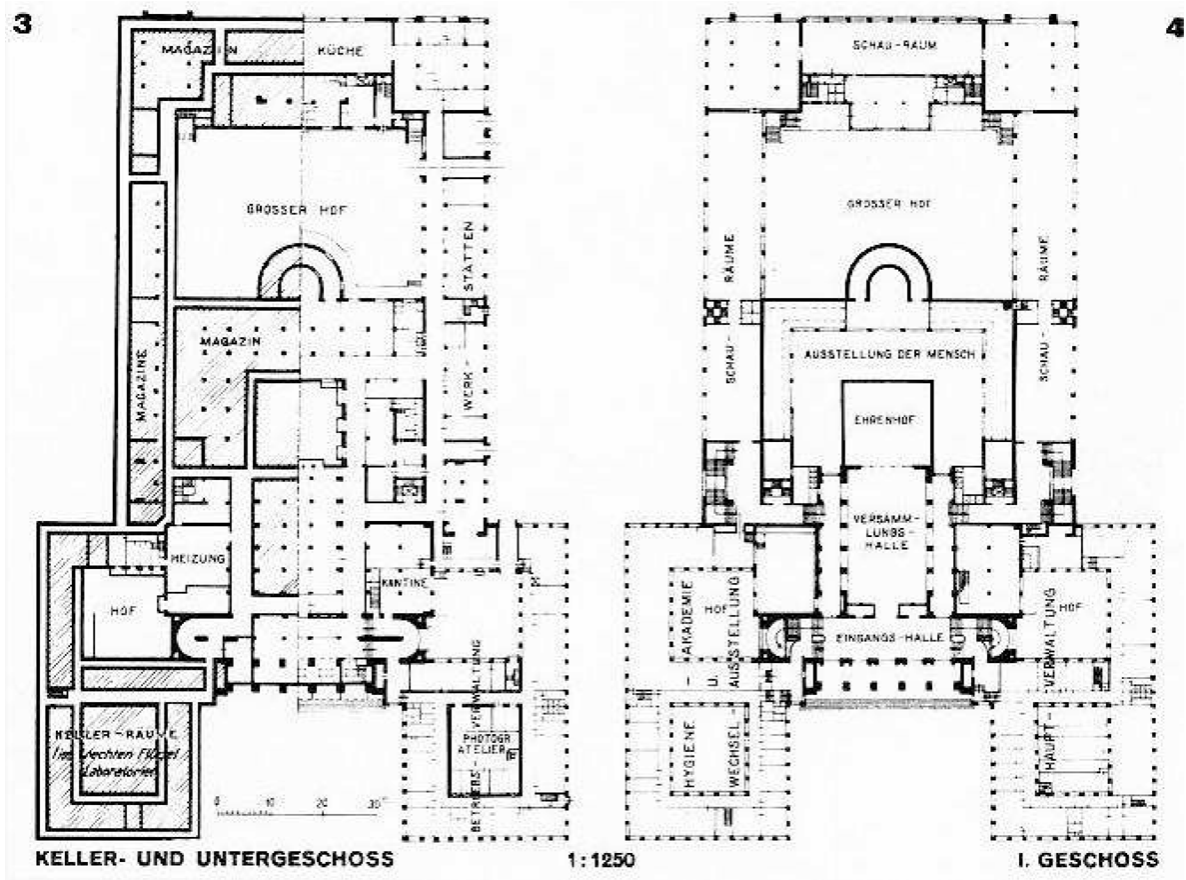
source: <http://stadtplan.dresden.de/>

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Picture 3:
 Floorplan: cellar and first floor. 1930s
 source: (1), Abb. VI/2



Picture 4:
 Main façade (south-east) with entrance in the central and frontal buildings to both sides.
 Diana Zitzmann, June 2011

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Picture 5:
Detail of main façade (south-east). After reconstruction
by Kulka & Partner with large glass window to courtyard.
Diana Zitzmann, June 2011



Picture 6:
Façade to the southwest. Left part: Backward part with exhibition
halls; center: Central part with staircase (round window); right:
Southern frontal building
Diana Zitzmann, June 2011

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Picture 7:
Back-façade (northwest).
Diana Zitzmann, June 2011



Picture 8:
Part of northeast façade with Northern frontal building.
Diana Zitzmann, June 2011

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Picture 9:
 Court-yard, View from the central part to the backward wings (view to northwest). After reconstruction, around 2010.
 source: Deutsches Hygiene-Museum



Picture 10:
 Southern frontal building with new glass gap by COOP Himmelb(lau)
 Diana Zitzmann, June 2011

5.3 Rapporteur/date:
 Diana Zitzmann (diana-zitzmann@gmx.de), June 2011

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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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