



Autostadt, Wolfsburg

photo: Klemens Ortmeier

Director
Kristien Ring

Communication
Cornelia Schwarte

Köpenicker Str. 48/49
10179 Berlin-Mitte

Tel 030.27 87 99 28
Fax 030.27 87 99 15

pr@daz.de
www.daz.de

DAZ_FORUM

TYPICAL WOLFSBURG! The arising of a new city. 1938 - 2008

+++ On show at the DAZ is a review on seven decades of urban development and building in the city of Wolfsburg. Within seven chapters, covering seven building typologies from housing to landscape architecture, the exhibition focuses on the making of this modernist city. *Typical Wolfsburg!* presents the views of participating architects, clients as well as residents, and offers new perspectives on successful modernist architecture. +++

Exhibition: 23.01. until 08.03.2009 in the DAZ Scharoun Saal
Tue to Fri 12am - 7pm, Sat + Sun 2 - 7pm. Free entrance.

PRESS PREVIEW: 23.01.2009, 7.30 pm at DAZ Scharoun Saal

Opening on 23.01.2009 at DAZ Taut Saal:

Short Lectures: 6 pm

„Wolfsburg. A city changes its face.“ An interim conclusion after 10 years of urban renewal. (Lectures in German)

Opening: 8 pm

Speakers: Doris Gruber, Vizepräsidentin BDA
Monika Thomas, Stadtbaurätin der Stadt Wolfsburg

Supporting program

Short lectures: 23.01.2008, 6 pm at DAZ Taut Saal

„Wolfsburg. A city changes its face.“

An interim conclusion after 10 years of urban renewal.
(Lectures in German)

„Der neue Stadteingang am Bahnhof. Städtebauliche Konsequenzen der Neuausrichtung.“

Monika Thomas, Stadtbaurätin der Stadt Wolfsburg

„Stadt als Erlebnis. Der Stadtwechsel in der Einschätzung der Bewohner.“

Prof. Wulf Tessin, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Department
„Planungsbezogene Soziologie“

„Das Außenbild der Stadt Wolfsburg. Der Imagewandel aus Sicht der Experten.“

Mario S. Mensing, CIMA Beratung + Management GmbH

Chair: Uli Meyer, journalist and editor at BauNetz

Guided exhibition tour: 19.02.2009, 6 pm at DAZ Scharoun Saal

Nicole Froberg, Leiterin Forum Architektur der Stadt Wolfsburg

Film screening: 19.02.2009, 7.30 pm at DAZ Taut Saal

„Für den Schwung sind Sie zuständig“

Documentary about GDR - engineer Ulrich Müther, who built the planetarium Wolfsburg in 1983. The writer and director Margarete Fuchs will be present. (Film in German)

Day Excursion: 06.03.2009 in Wolfsburg

„70 years Wolfsburg. The arising of a ‘new’ city. 1938 – 2008‘.“

Program and registration forthcoming on www.daz.de (the number of participants is limited)



phæno

photo: Klemens Ortmeier

Berlin, January 2009. **The arising of a new city:** The DAZ presents a review on seven decades of urban development in the city of Wolfsburg. Unlike cities that have grown naturally over time, Wolfsburg looks back on shorter stages, which were closely connected and catalyzed by the industrial buildings of the Volkswagen factory. Unique in Germany, the city presents innumerable post-war architectural monuments with projects by Alvar Aalto, Hans Scharoun and Paul Baumgarten, as well as entire urban ensembles.

Today Wolfsburg is a unique and characteristic case of urban planning in Germany. The constitution of the city, originally founded as the residential area of the "Stadt des KdF-Wagens", progressed in very short stages. The exhibition is presented in seven chapters that relate to seven building types as seen through the eyes of the architects, the clients as well as its residents.

Industrial buildings. Initially the development of Wolfsburg was closely linked to the requirements of the development of the Volkswagen factory. This is why industrial architecture in Wolfsburg is primarily related to the VW-group: the high-rise headquarter, the workshops, the power station and the Autostadt. Public attention has tended to concentrate on the founding years after 1938 on one hand, and new buildings of the last decade on the other. The factory premises, covering an area almost as big as the entire residential city of Wolfsburg, developed into a town on its own over the last 70 years. There you find urban structures with offices, representative corporate buildings, leisure facilities as well as gastronomic facilities, educational institutions and shops in analogy to conventional cities.

Residential. Next to the industrial facilities, residential construction became the preoccupation for further urban development in order to fulfill the pressing need to accommodate the workers flocking to this hitherto untouched area. Building activity concentrated on housing for nearly 20 years. 15.000 people lived in the young city at the end of the World War Two, ten years later Wolfsburg had 50.000 residents with lots of them in temporary accommodation. In 1957, the year when the new *Hansaviertel* was completed in Berlin for the International Building Fair „Interbau“, the new district Detmerode was set up in Wolfsburg. It encapsulates the very rational approach of housing and urban planning of the early nineteen sixties.

Retail and commercial. The second step in the years following 1950, was to create a suitable environment for people in terms of facilities for shopping, education and their religious needs within a decentralized framework, where each district obtained its own small retail center. The first German shopping mall designed by Paul Baumgarten was opened in 1961 in this context. At the same time the urban environment for central Wolfsburg was developed. In 1950 first buildings arose along Porsche Straße, which forms a central axis between Klieversberg and the palace. It was transformed into a pedestrian area between 1977 and 1980, in line with a general trend in contemporary Germany at the time.

Educational. Schools and kindergartens for the exceptionally young population needed to be built in quick succession. Two of the most striking projects are the Heilig-Geist creche by Alvar Aalto and the Stephanus creche by Hans Scharoun, completed at the end of the 1960s. Both architects took the particular needs of children into consideration for their designs.

Religious. Until the mid nineteen 70s, more than 24 churches –Protestant as well as Catholic– had been built in the former National Socialist model city, which had not provided church buildings for obvious political reasons. Hence Wolfsburg now has an extraordinary range of post-war church buildings in Germany. Some highlights are the Heilig Geist and St Stephanus churches by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto.

Cultural. A new era of development was entered after 1965 with the erection of large scale cultural buildings, which have become definitive landmarks in Wolfsburg's city centre. Their inception was due to the overall aim not to create merely a labourers' settlement but an entirely „real“ city. The Arts Centre again designed by Alvar Aalto opened in 1962 and became as exemplary as Hans Scharoun's new theatre completed in 1973. The new VW theme park *Autostadt* completed in 2000 became the extension of the central axis through the city. And the residential city center was at long last connected with the manufacturing area via a new bridge across the Mittellandkanal. The new science exhibition center *phæno*, designed by London-based architect Zaha Hadid, has formed the urban counterpart to the *Autostadt* and another highlight of Wolfsburg's cultural buildings.

Landscaping. This has become the focus of urban development in Wolfsburg over the last ten years. The aim is to set up spatial unity between the various residential areas and to enhance Wolfsburg's potential as a tourist attraction and green city. The ample green spaces in the *Autostadt*, the themed park *Mobilität und Bewegung* inaugurated for the Landesgartenschau 2004, and the Sommerland, opened in 2006, have contributed to Wolfsburg's new identity as a city of leisure and experience.

The exhibition presents the various layers of 70 years of city development in Wolfsburg. They are still visible in the city today, as most buildings and the urban environment remain unspoiled and in their original state. Modern architecture has shaped the face of Wolfsburg and the city today embodies the characteristics of 20th and 21st century architecture. „*Typical Wolfsburg!*“ offers new perspectives on modern every-day architecture like the local church, the school or the kindergarten– in Wolfsburg as well as in your own neighbourhood.

An exhibition of the Stadt Wolfsburg, Forum Architektur for the city's 70th anniversary in collaboration with NEULAND Wohnungsgesellschaft, Sparkasse Gifhorn-Wolfsburg, Volkswagen Immobilien and Wolfsburg AG.
www.wolfsburg.de/70_jahre



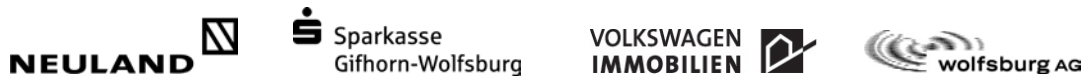
Press contact DAZ:

Cornelia Schwarte, pr@daz.de, Tel. 030- 27 87 99 28

Press contact Forum Architektur Wolfsburg:

Nicole Froberg, nicole.froberg@stadt.wolfsburg.de, Tel. 05361-28-1643

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