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Bauakademie Academy of Architecture

by Karl Friedrich Schinkel

Association for the Promotion of the Academy of Architecture
Förderverein für die Schinkelsche Bauakademie

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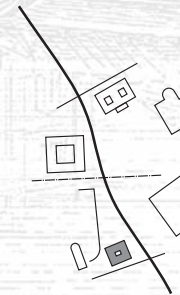
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FÖRDERVEREIN BAUAKADEMIE



The Bauakademie (Academy of Architecture), built opposite the Royal Palace by Karl Friedrich Schinkel between 1832 and 1836, was a beautiful and most important building in the centre of Berlin. Furthermore it became the prototype for the future exposed-brick buildings in Prussia, whereas its extraordinary construction and building techniques pointed the way to modern architecture in general.

The Bauakademie was the last of the group of buildings that accomplished Schinkel's concept of urban development, the so-called Kupfergraben landscape, a landscape garden interspersed with cubical elements. From far, the building presented itself as a cube with structured façades: eight window bays with tripartite windows between colossal piers, four storeys, each marked by moulding courses, and two portals on the north side. Bands of glazed tiles enlivened the face of the building, which was covered with the very finest tiles. The iconographic programme – terra cotta relief panels under the windowsills depicting "moments in the development of architecture" (Schinkel) – were the same on all sides. In its technology and its aesthetic aspect, the Bauakademie is held to be the model of the multi-storeyed factory of the 19th century in Germany.

The building was badly damaged by bombs on February 3, 1945, but reconstruction work began soon after the war. Unfortunately the re-planning of the 'socialist' urban centre led to a building stop and, in spite of international and national protests, to its demolition in the 1960s, when its site was required for the Foreign Office of the then GDR. Since that building, too, was pulled down in 1995/96, the site has, in fact, stayed free for rebuilding the Academy.

The Association for the Promotion of Schinkel's Academy of Architecture (Förderverein Bauakademie) has committed itself to promoting the rebuilding of the Academy by publishing the results of its work and by exhibitions, in collaboration with the 'Study Group on the Usage and Financing of the Future Reconstruction of the Bauakademie' as well as with the 'Committee New Academy of Architecture'.

In short, the aim of the Association is to support:

- the rebuilding of the Academy of Architecture with its original historic façade
- and build a modern interior that is determined by its function as an international congress centre with an emphasis on architectural innovation to link it with the former institution 'Bauakademie'.

What matters most is that a culturally and historically important building with a multi-functional interior is restored to the City and its future generations, that the Kupfergraben landscape is re-established, and a centre for architecture and urban development is created. This centre should be both an historical link as well as a forum for the further development of Schinkel's ideas and the institution of the Academy of Architecture and thus justify Berlin's international reputation of being a city of studies with long-term effect.

In March 2001, a project based on the proposals of the Study Group* was exhibited by the Interessengemeinschaft Bauakademie at the MIPIM Cannes (2001).

So far, the Association has published its output under the title *Mythos Bauakademie*** and has been in touch with the government and with people who are interested in the future usage of the building.

Cover: Model façade of the Academy of Architecture, view from the square of the Royal Palace. Berlin-Mitte, Schinkelplatz with Friedrich Werdersche Church and Foreign Office. Idea, project, planning 1992-1999, and photo 2002 by Dipl.-Ing. Horst Draheim

Page 2: Academy of Architecture with Schinkel Square (photo a. 1930 by Messbildanstalt / IKB).

* In co-operation with Skanska Bau-Holding GmbH, Drees und Sommer Projektmanagement, RKW Rhode, Kellermann, Wawrowsky – Architektur + Städtebau, Düsseldorf / Berlin.

** **Mythos Bauakademie:** Wie und für wen soll die Bauakademie wieder aufgebaut werden? Podiumsdiskussion am 12.10.1995 in der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Moderation Frank Augustin, Förderverein Bauakademie, 35 S. Berlin 1996 (Panel discussion).

Mythos Bauakademie: Das Ausstellungsprojekt/Förderverein Bauakademie. 41 S. Berlin 1996. 2. Aufl. 29 S. Berlin 1997/98 (Exhibition project).

Mythos Bauakademie: Die Schinkelsche Bauakademie und ihre Bedeutung für die Mitte Berlins. Hrsg. von Frank Augustin / Förderverein Bauakademie, 232 S. Berlin 1997 (A volume of essays).

Mythos Bauakademie, Ausstellungskatalog: Die Schinkelsche Bauakademie und ihre Bedeutung für die Mitte Berlins; Hrsg. von Doris Fouquet-Plümacher / Förderverein Bauakademie, 153 S. Berlin 1998 (An exhibition catalogue).

Several information sheets in German, English and French.

Output of the Study Group Utilization and Financing of the Rebuilt Bauakademie': Blueprints and Summary (not published, s. website).

Page 3: The left portal of the Academy, now former Schinkelklause (photo: 03/2000 by Renate Schoele).

Page 4: Virtual Bauakademie from the website (design by RKW).



Translation: Lisbeth Aeppli