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Eckhard Gerber

Konzept
+ *Atmosphäre*

Ausstellung
Exhibition

23.11.18 – 03.02.19

Baukunstarchiv NRW
Dortmund

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Press Release

05.10.2018

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On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Prof. Eckhard Gerber, the Baukunstarchiv NRW in Dortmund hosts an exhibition entitled “Konzept + Atmosphäre” from 23 November 2018 to 3 February 2019. The exhibition includes ten completed projects of his practice, Gerber Architects, that bring to life different architectural atmospheres as well as six additional projects that are currently being worked on and provide an exclusive insight into the concept phase. The program is complemented by public round-table discussions in parallel to the exhibition. In the first of these discussions, Prof. Eckhard Gerber meets Prof. Volkwin Marg of gmp Architects on 28 November 2018 (further dates and discussion partners will be announced nearer the time). The exhibition will be opened on 23 November 2018 at 10:00 o'clock in the inner courtyard of the Baukunstarchiv NRW in the presence of Ullrich Sierau (Lord Mayor of Dortmund), Prof. Jörn Walter (former Oberbaudirektor of Hamburg), Barbara Ettlinger-Brinckmann (President of the BAK), Heiner Farwick (President of the BDA) and Prof. Wolfgang Sonne, Chair of History and Theory of Architecture and Managing Director of the Baukunstarchiv NRW in Dortmund.

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How does an architectural idea become a place of emotion? What are the details of the abstract concept phase of the architectural design process? How does the photographer capture the tangible spatial atmosphere that is the result of such a concept? The “Concept + Atmosphere” exhibition hosted by the Baukunstarchiv NRW from 23 November 2018 to 3 February 2019 takes a close look at the work carried out in the architects' practice of Gerber Architects and, using selected projects, tries to throw light on this process and other issues.

The exhibition has been organized on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Prof. Eckhard Gerber on 13 October 2018, who was born in Oberhain in Thuringia and escaped to the Federal Republic of Germany in 1958, where he proceeded to study in Braunschweig and, in 1966, directly after qualifying, founded “Werkgemeinschaft 66” in Meschede. Thirteen years later, Prof. Gerber established Gerber Architects in Dortmund, which is well known both nationally and internationally. Today the practice is represented by additional offices in Hamburg, Berlin, Riyadh and Shanghai and employs 180 members of staff. Prof. Gerber's career of more than 50 years also includes his teaching; he taught for over 30 years as professor at Essen and Wuppertal universities.

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In 2017 he received two visiting professorships in China, at the Harbin Institute of Technology and at the Dalian University of Technology School of architecture and Fine Arts.

Important projects by Gerber Architects include the RWE Tower in Dortmund, the conversion of the Federal Ministry for Transport building and the King Salman Science Oasis in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia that is currently under construction, and include the ten buildings presented in the “Concept + Atmosphere” exhibition which, each in its own way, illustrate the practice’s approach to design. These projects include, amongst others: the conversion of the building of the former Union brewery into the “Dortmund U – Centre for Art and Creativity”, the King Fahad National Library in Riyadh, the Biology Department of Dresden Technical University and the conversion and extension of Eckhard Gerber’s own residence next to his architect’s studio at Tönnishof in Dortmund.

The exhibition brings to life for the visitor the architectural atmosphere of the selected buildings. At the same time, these buildings can also be viewed from the perspective of the architect – in the form of architectural models. In spite of the modern trend towards digitalization, models are a key medium for Prof. Gerber and his team that help to capture and substantiate the building. In addition, the exhibition shows six projects that are currently being worked on at the various locations of the practice at home and abroad; renderings and drawings provide an exclusive insight into the concept phase and the design process itself.

Specifically produced film interviews with Eckhard Gerber will be shown, in which the architect can be seen speaking about his work. The exhibition is complemented by public round-table discussions between Prof. Gerber and a guest; at the first of these events, on 28 November, Prof. Eckhard Gerber will meet with Prof. Volkwin Marg, founding partner of gmp Architects. Other dates will be announced nearer the time.

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2005
Biology Departments,
Dresden, Germany
© Gerber Architekten
Photo: Holger Stein





2013
King Fahad National Library
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
© Gerber Architekten
Photo: Christian Richters



2014
Dortmund U – Centre of
Art and Creativity
Dortmund, Germany
© Gerber Architekten
Foto: Christian Richters



2018
Office complex
Jinan, China
© Gerber Architekten



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Information

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Exhibition

Baukunstarchiv NRW
Concept + Atmosphere
23.11.2018 – 03.02.2019

Opening:
23 November, from 9:30 hours (by invitation only)
The exhibition is open to the public from 14:00 hours
Ostwall 7 | 44135 Dortmund

Opening times:
Tue-Wed-Fri-Sat-Sun, 14:00-17:00 hours
www.baukunstarchiv.nrw



Gerber Architekten