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The work of planning and execution went on for 8 years. The inauguration took place on September 11, 1962 in the presence of Dr. Lübke, President of the German Federal Republic.

Through all these years, the authorities were guided by but one thought: every historic building reflects an epoch, especially in this case. The war annihilated the city. This is why every ancient fabric ought to be maintained and preserved at all costs.

On the other hand, the requirements and exigencies of a rigid programme had to be complied with.

The visitor coming from the centre of town via Karmarschstrasse sees behind large trees the new seat of the Parliament. He passes along the portico running along the solid face of the new building. This face is brightened by 3 flagstaves representing the sun, the storm and the wind. These are the work of Prof. Weber of Brunswick. Even without flags, these three elements give the effect of sculpture. Farther on, the visitor is greeted by an open stairway leading to an interior courtyard measuring 15x25 m. and sited on the upper level. A fountain group accents this green plot. Around this courtyard are the corridors. That of the upper level has the form of a canopy.

The interior fittings of the building make the visitor forget that he is in an old structure. The construction method, the employment of the materials and the technical installations, as well as the disposition of the rooms are all the outgrowth of modern architectural thinking.

The different groups of rooms, such as the offices, the library, the executive suites, the reception room, to the left of the assembly room, are distributed around circular glazed corridors. The main assembly room is lighted by an adjustable skylight in the ceiling. From the President's seat and speaker's platform, the ceiling, where it is not open, follows a curve making for good acoustic effects. The seats are movable and are arranged in a semicircle. Since the sessions of the Parliament are conference and

discussion meetings, the public galleries have been installed in the form of separate boxes.

The presidential room is located in the old winter garden in classical style. This tract with its vast and lofty dimensions has been brought into a more normal proportion with the rest of the building by means of a suspended ceiling. It has, nevertheless, not lost any of its splendour, despite the distribution of the various necessary rooms, such as the entrance, studio, conference rooms and lounges. A second courtyard measuring 22x23 m. located at road level is surrounded by different offices going up for three floors. The old castle square is at the same level and the placing of the fence delimiting the family area has been preserved. Only the fence has been changed and replaced by a work of Kühn of Berlin. The portico is nearby.

A public restaurant has been installed in the parliamentary building. When Parliament is in session, the deputies have priority. The interior fittings of the restaurant, the prestige rooms of the Parliament, the lobby, the reception room, etc. were designed and executed by Prof. Oesterlen. The other rooms were entrusted to the local Office of Works, which was likewise put in charge of the whole construction project.

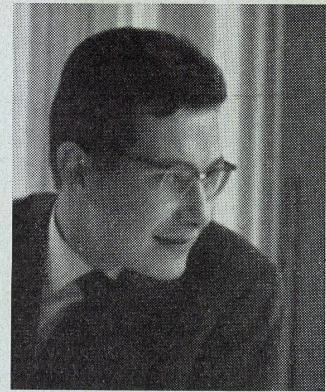
The question as to whether it is possible to combine two buildings of different epochs in a harmonious unity here receives a triumphant answer in the affirmative.

The greatest difficulty that came up in the planning stage was the adoption of an adequate scale between the already existing ruins and the exigencies of the new construction. It is for this reason perhaps that the heights of the rooms are too high. They are the outcome of an endeavour at balance and they correspond to the prestige effect that is required.

The construction cost released to the press at the time of inauguration, including landscaping and interior fittings, was DM 17.2 million.

Unsere Mitarbeiter:

Nos collaborateurs
Our collaborators



Frank Geiser

Geboren 1935 in Bern. 1956 Beginn des Studiums an der Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm. 1958 Aufenthalt im Institut für Städtebau und Landesplanung von Professor Erich Kühn, Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule, Aachen. 1958-1960 Stipendium der Geschwister-Scholl-Stiftung, Ulm. 1960 Diplomabschluss an der Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm und Rückkehr nach Bern. Aufbau und Leitung eines privaten Planungsbüros. Seit Ende 1961 freischaffend.

Biographische Notizen von:

Alfons Barth, siehe Heft 2/61
Prof. Walter Henn, siehe Heft 5/62
Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, siehe Heft 2/61



Hellmut Sopp

Geboren 1906 in Bielefeld. Studium in Münster, Göttingen, Freiburg (Breisgau) und München. Promovierte 1935 in Köln zum Dr. med. Nach psychiatrischer Ausbildung Spezialausbildung in der Psychotherapie. Nach Rückkehr aus Gefangenschaft Arbeit auf verschiedenen medizinischen Gebieten als Gutachter. Seit 1953 in Düsseldorf als selbständiger Industrierberater und als Berater bei Planung und Einrichtung von Bürogebäuden. Hauptgebiete sind Leistungspsychologie und Motivforschung.

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