The architecture of IBZ Berlin and its Otto Steidle building at Rüdesheimer Platz

Otto-Steidle-building, Berlin-Wilmersdorf

At first glance, the Otto Steidle building with its 78 flats appears to be a typical Berlin tenement. At closer reconsideration you can notice characteristics that are far from ordinary premises: space for personal meetings, communication and togetherness. IBZ Berlin's architect Steidle tried to express and realize the coexistence of community and leasure space in one building.

Simultaneously and according to his credo and belief that single houses do not distinct a city but the city determines its houses, Steidle designed the IBZ Berlin following its sourrounding, notably the Rüdesheimer Platz and the bordering district Rheinisches Viertel. As a result, IBZ Berlin was successfully integrated in an organically established district without abandening and neglecting his claim to create distinct space and architecture.

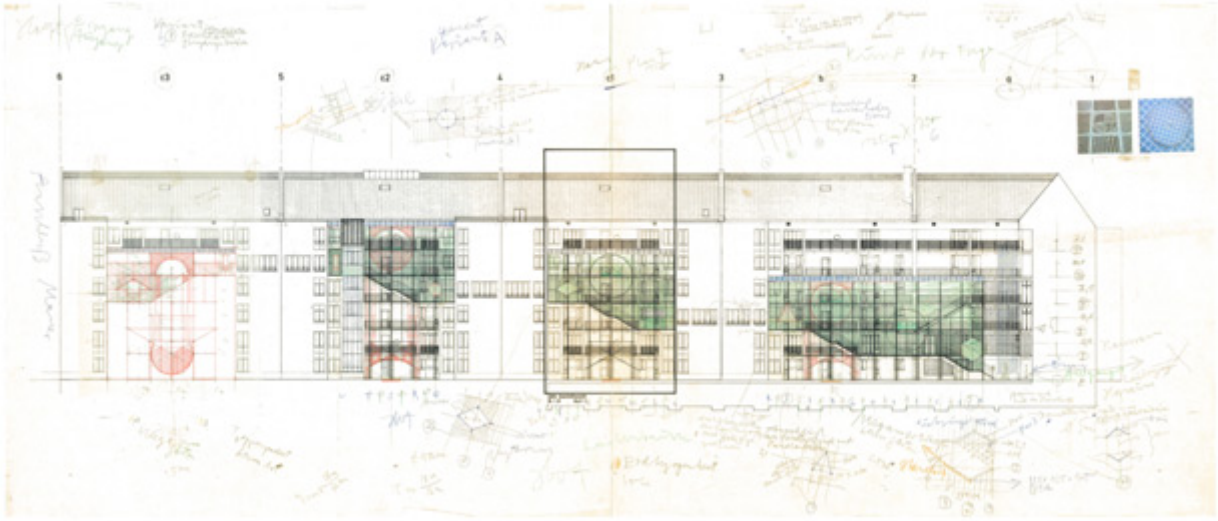
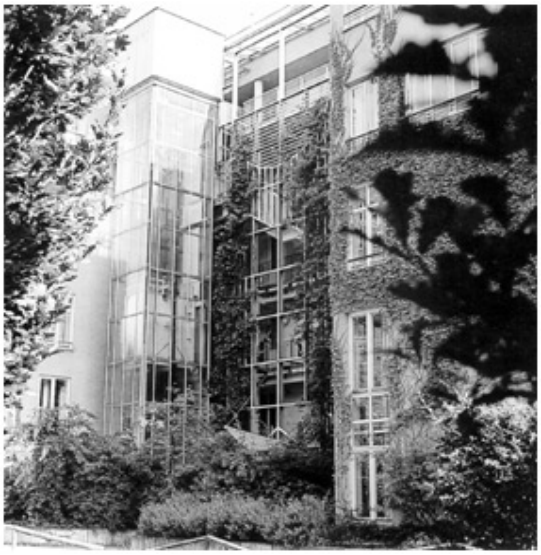
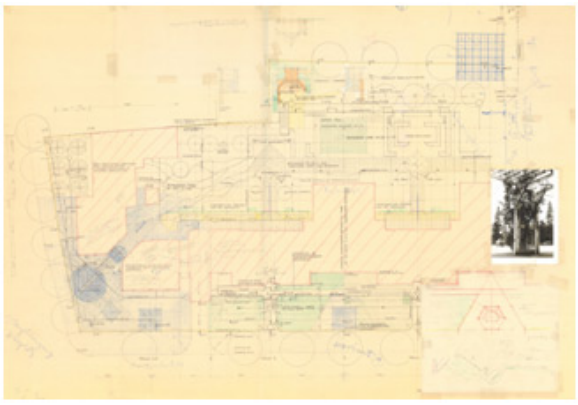
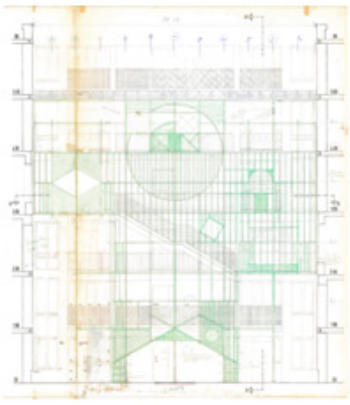
The funding of € 13m was facilitated and secured by Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung and Volkswagen Trust. In 1978 the archticture competition was started. Well-known architects like Schneider-Wessling, Gottfried Böhm, Hans Müller, Julius Posener and Rolf Rave were nominated for the jury. Berlin's architect Hinrich Baller, Winnetou Kampmann, Manfred Schiedhelm and the architecture office Planungskollektiv Nr. 1 were invited to participate in the competition.

The jury savored the evolution of the architectural heritage and principles of Otto Steidle's entry to the competition. Above all, Steidle was honoured for the sites development as well as the circulation within the building by a stepped road at its

back and for the flats' floor plans. The common rooms and recreation spaces were highly valued although the land's utilizsation was tripled. Nevertheless, on account of building regulations Otto Steidle was only asked to re-engineer the staircases.

The arcade and notably the tendril create an atmosphere of intimacy and privacy. The tendril and the colour design was created by Berlin based artist and Otto Steidle's long-lasting friend of Erich Wiesner. The landscape gardening of IBZ Berlin and its planner Peter Latz designed the front garden, the courtyard garden and the roof. In evidence, the front garden refers to the historic garden and landscaping of Rüdesheimer Platz.

Otto Steidle's remarkable floor plans are one of the most destinguishible characteristics of the building. No floor plan and flat of IBZ Berlin equals another. The living rooms are designed as open and transparent spaces, and most of them are equipped with closed balconies to the south. In fact, bedrooms are small, but room-high glass walls enable views to the living rooms and point the impression of splendour.



All living rooms are equipped with storage space that might be used as compartment or deposit. The smaller apartments are arragend to Ahrweiler Strasse. As to meet other tenants, residents of smaller apartments can share three common kitchens as additional living rooms and venues.