

Group 1 : AUDIOGUIDES

Hansaviertel, history of the quarter and the Bauhaus architecture

Hey, architect fans and welcome to Berlin. Thank you to be here. Today we are talking about the Hansaviertel. You've probably heard about the international Building exhibition called Interbau in 1957. In this time, the Hansaviertel you can see today was constructed by different international architects.

During the post war era, after the old Hansaviertel was bombed and destroyed in World War II the exhibition was considered to be the model for a modern city and to be a home for the lower and middle class. The new houses offered space for about 4000-5000 inhabitants. 500.000 people had lost their homes during the war.

The need for housing lead to a competition in 1957 with 53 architects from 13 different countries and it was an opportunity for them to improve their architecture skills. All of them used the "New construction" way, the Bauhaus style. Bauhaus is a style, combining a wide range of design disciplines together, such as architecture, art and industrial design. It was an idea of using the most available space with strict geometry and right angled forms and without ornamentation. Every structure has a use and the colours are primary tones, blue, yellow and red. Famous architects like Walter Gropius, Luciano Baldessari or Oscar Niemeyer planned 35 objects including a church, a cinema, a library and a Kindergarden. There are three large groups of residential buildings in the southern part of the Hansaviertel: The first group consists of six so called point blocks or solitary high-rise buildings. The second group, so-called "row houses" or slab high-rise buildings and the third group comprises the one-and two-storey houses.

In 1995 the Interbau exhibition was dedicated a memorial and you can still visit the houses or even live in them.

BALDESSARI-HAUS (*Bartingallee 5*)

This building was constructed in 1950s by Luciano Baldessari, he was born in Rovereto (TN), Italy, in 1896. After studying painting with Luigi Comel in Rovereto, Baldessari studied at Milan's politecnico, completing his degree as architect in 1922. He worked as a set designer and painter in Berlin from 1922 to 1926. In his career he worked in New York, Italy, and other European Countries. He died in Milan in 1982.



The very rational concept behind this building's design arranges apartments around a cross: You can see from the second to the seventeenth floor there are four larger apartments on the

outside and four smaller apartments on the inside. In the two shafts that are given light via the glass bricks on the rears of the recessed loggias, the stairwells and secondary rooms are provided with natural light and air. This high-rise building have 17 floors and 131 apartments. It is based on a rectangular form with curved side. All apartments have a loggia. Slab and pillars of reinforced concrete as bearing elements with curtain wall facade. Bright facades on the east and west sides with ceramic tiles.

HASSENPFUG-HAUS (*Bartingallee 9*)

This building was constructed in 1950s by Gustav Hassenpflug. He was born in Düsseldorf in 1907. Hassenpflug studied at the Bauhaus under Hannes Meyer and Mart Stam. He worked with urban planning group Ernst May in Moscow, and from 1931 to 1945 he



worked as a freelance architect and designer in Berlin. From 1950 to 1956 he was director of the Landeskunstschule and later Hochschule der Künste, Hamburg, and from 1956 to 1972 he was professor for building and development at Munich's Technische Hochschule. He died in Munich in 1977.

Two key ideas define the planning and construction of Gustav Hassenpflug's building in Hansaviertel: the serial construction of largely prefabricated parts and the creation of free apartment floor plans. It was erected without scaffolding. In the corner apartments, except for the kitchen and bathrooms, the walls could be placed according to the wishes of the residents, since the construction is without bearing walls. Hassenpflug suggested six different floor plans to meet the differing spatial needs of families. This high-rise building have 16 storeys with 76 apartments. On the top floor five studio apartments with terrace access surrounding the building.

HAUS LOPEZ/BEAUDOUIN (*Bartingallee 11-13*)

This building was constructed in 1950s, by Raymond Lopez, he was born in Montrouge, France in 1904. Lopez studied at ecole nationale superieure des beaux-arts, held professorship at ecole speciale d'architecture and ecole nationale des Ponts et des Chaussees, in Paris. He visited a lot of European nations like an urban planner. He had for a long time a collaboration with Eugene Beaudouin. He died in 1966 in Paris.



Eugene Beaudouin was born in 1898 in Paris. He studied at ecole nationale superieure des beaux-arts in Paris. He became a professor at the University of Geneva. He died in Paris in 1983.

In this building there are 16 floors and 87 apartments:

- Cross wall construction with supporting concrete walls of the entrance tract.
- Outer walls of reinforced crushed-brick concrete.
- Facade structure with metal profiles, white enameled balustrade elements, light blue window frames.