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## **Saving Buildings in Central and Eastern Europe IABSE Colloquium Berlin June 4 – 5, 1998**

### **Preface**

The need to maintain and preserve the existing building stock in Central and Eastern Europe is recognised as making good economic sense and as a cultural, ecological and political imperative. Ageing, increased loads (especially earthquakes), exposure to aggressive environmental factors and a lack of money for maintenance have resulted in the advanced deterioration of many panel buildings and other culturally and economically valuable structures in the region. Considerable financial and technical resources have been directed toward the effort to save these buildings. The Colloquium addresses both the technical and the economic implications of its theme. Strategic decisions must be made about repair, rehabilitation and/or replacement of buildings. The decision-making process requires accurate evaluation procedures, efficient repair methods and rational design criteria.

These considerations led to the organisation of the IABSE Colloquium on "Saving Buildings in Central and Eastern Europe." Complementing the technical programme of the Colloquium that is included in this publication, a variety of technical visits will illustrate the rehabilitation and modernisation measures that are being undertaken on prefabricated residential buildings in Berlin.

In addition to two Keynote Lectures presenting the situation in Brazil and in Russia, the oral presentations and posters are grouped into eight sessions:

- Evaluation of Deterioration of Buildings
- Structural Safety and Durability of Existing Buildings
- Cost Analysis and Planning
- Materials and Technology
- Repair and Rehabilitation Methods of Panel Buildings
- Repair and Rehabilitation Methods of Historical Buildings
- Energy Saving and Building Physics
- Assessment and Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings after Accidents

Two-page summaries of all papers and posters accepted by the Scientific Committee are printed in the IABSE REPORT Volume 77; the full papers, six pages of text and illustrations, are on a CD-ROM accompanying the Report. We think this way of disseminating information will prove to be efficient for participants and for other readers who wish to consult these proceedings in the future.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Scientific Committee and to the Organising Committee, chaired by Prof. G. Spaethe, as well as to the entire staff of the Institute for Rehabilitation and Modernisation of Buildings (IEMB) at the Technical University Berlin for their dedicated efforts in preparing this IABSE Colloquium.

We hope that the technical content of the Colloquium, as well as the formal and informal discussions at the event, will meet the participants' expectations.

Berlin, May 1998

Prof. Dr Bernd Hillemeier  
Chairman, Scientific Committee