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Otto Apel and Hannsgeorg Beckert, Gilbert Becker

Indoor Swimming-bath in Mainz
(pages 435–440)

Planning begun: October 1959
Building begun: September 1960
Period of construction: 19 months

In the course of the festivities to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of the foundation of Mainz, the first indoor swimming-bath to be built there since the time of the Romans was opened (14 April, 1962).
The site chosen seemed to be a suitable one despite its narrowness and the difficulty of finding firm ground for the foundation, because the fact that it was next to the already existing open-air baths made it possible for them both to be centrally supervised and joined in summer.
As the swimming-bath is in a new residential district near the university, slipper and remedial baths have not been provided.
In the region around Mainz there are several competitive pools and for this reason no expensive grandstands and platforms have been built. The final programme adopted is capable of being used as a prototype for a swimming-bath for sport and recreational purposes and will meet any town's requirements.

Capacity

The swimming-bath has been planned for a town of 150 000 inhabitants. It is expected that it will be used by 375,000 people in a year. The following, therefore, have been planned:

66 cabins
190 lockers
10 personal cabins
180 places in the common changing-rooms, $^2/_3$ of which are for men and $^1/_3$ for women.

Project

Full use has been made of the sloping land. The basement contains the entrance hall and the rooms for plant, the upper level contains the changing-rooms and the pool. The entrance is below the road and the pool is favourably sited facing south-west at the height of the lawns round the open-air swimming-pool.

The checkpoint is at the beginning of the entrance hall and movement subsequently is automatic.

The section containing the changing-rooms and showers is blind on the exterior. Light comes from skylight domes and a central inner courtyard.

Equipment

A 15×25 m multi-purpose pool ranging in depth from 1.10 to 3.5 m.
A 7.5×15 m pool for tuition.

As they have been sited one after the other, the large pool begins with a relatively deep section. In order to obtain a gentler shape for the bottom no 5 m diving-board was installed. This makes the hall seem agreeably high and helps towards good acoustic properties and the cutting down on costs.

400 seats can be placed round the pool when competitions are being held; these seats are accessible from a separate entrance.

Materials

All pools, floors und walls have been faced with ceramic products. Every ceiling is in the form of an arrangement of light metal slats in order to insulate and reduce noise.

Colours

These are discreet: light grey for the floors, chocolate brown for the partition walls, white for the ceilings; the outer walls of the changing-rooms are bright red to stress the spaciousness of volume.
Movement and dazzle on the water make it impossible to use a multitude of colours in a swimming-bath. It is for this reason that the colours are discreet. What are necessary are large areas of colour and strong contrasts.

Technical details

Volume of large pool	920 m^3
Time taken to change water completely	5 hours
Volume of tuitional pool	110 m^3
Time taken to change water completely	2 hours

Open filter with 3 chambers and 45 m^2 filtration surface.

Ventilation

3 areas:
a) Swimming-bath:
Continuous circuit system – air taken along the glazed surfaces, intake through the ceiling.

b) Showers:
Intake and exhaust via the ceiling.

c) Changing-rooms:
Closed circuit system – intake of air at the ceiling, taken off at the lockers. In summer ventilation is effected naturally. For this purpose the glazed walls of the inner courtyard have been made in the form of sliding doors through which the air can enter – this is then taken off at the ceiling, using apparatus for this purpose. This ventilation produces little or no draughts. The pool requires 2,400,000 Kcal/h for heating, ventilation and the warming of water.

Heating

2 coke burners,
1 oil burner.

Lighting

The ceiling and walls of the swimming-bath are lit indirectly with a light strip working in conjunction with the ventilation channels. Swimming is therefore dazzle-free.

Cost of construction

Preparatory work on site	52,000.– DM
Construction of building	2,907,000.– DM
Equipment and plant	1,135,000.– DM
Work outside	190,000.– DM
Subsidiary construction costs	410,000.– DM
Apparatus and maintenance appliances	71,000.– DM
	4,765,000.– DM

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