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Hodler + Nüesch,
Del Fabro + Gerosa

High-rise Building "Graphika", Zurich
(pages 380-382)

The Wydäckerring-Letzigraben complex consists of five buildings containing from two to four stories and comprises 90 apartments. 24 of these enjoy public subsidies.

On the basement level beneath the courtyard are situated the garages and workshops. The high-rise house contains 56 flats.

The cost of the latter breaks down as follows:

Construction	Fr. 2,166,400.--
Special foundation	Fr. 74,900.--
Landscaping	Fr. 181,200.--
Interests and fees	Fr. 140,000.--
Share in building site	Fr. 902,500.--
Total	Fr. 3,465,000.--

Cost per cubic metre Fr. 128.30

Rents for the flats amount to:

2 rooms with kitchen-living-room on 1st through 14th floors	Fr. 180.-- to 206.--
4 1/2 rooms on 1st through 14th floors	Fr. 225.-- to 264.--

The supporting element consists of special bricks for the high-rise building, thickness 25 cm on face plus insulation.

The interior walls are of identical brick 15 cm thick. The floor slabs are of solid concrete housing the radiant heating installations.

The parapets of the east and west faces are clad with corrugated Alu. The windows are double-paned with roll-up Alu blinds mounted outside. The face walls are rendered and dispersion painted. The central heating plant for the whole complex is located in the high-rise building.

Mies van der Rohe

Lake View Apartments in Chicago
(pages 383-384)

A 29-storey block of luxury flats is now being built in Chicago near Lake Michigan. The glazed ground floor,

which is identical with that of the Lakeshore Drive Apartments, consists solely of a hall leading to the lifts accessible from the car by way of a covered footpath to the vestibule. The hall contains the block for the four lifts, the installation channels and the emergency staircase. The first eleven storeys are given over to one and two-room flats set around a central core. The drawback with this lay-out is that some of the flats only look out towards the north. The entrance generally leads straight into the living-room by way of a corridor. These flats have kitchenettes that can be partitioned off with a sliding door. The bathroom and the dressing-room can be reached directly from the entrance. The three-room flats run from the 12th to the 18th floors. Generally speaking, the entrance leads directly into the living-room behind which are separate sleeping-quarters. The fittings are sumptuous: built-in cupboards, spacious bathrooms and extremely modern kitchens. The four-room flats are on the 19th to 30th floors. They are identical with the former but in addition there is a second bathroom. These flats have their own lifts. The tenants have the use of a swimming-bath.

Prof. Hans Volkart

Library of the Stuttgart Institute of Technology
(pages 389-396)

The original library was completely destroyed during the last war. The new structure is situated between the student residence and the Institute annexes, on the edge of a green zone and fronts on the municipal park. The very high buildings in the neighbourhood lack coherence. The new library was deliberately, for the sake of contrast, kept compact and low, in no case exceeding the height of the neighbouring trees.

The disadvantages of the site stem from the proximity of Kriegsbergstrasse on the north and Hegelplatz on the north-west, both being extremely noisy.

The lay-out was not determined alone by town-planning considerations, but, rather, the internal organization of the library rendered a horizontal disposition necessary. The need to remain flexible in order to be able to adapt to changing conditions determined the dimensions of the reading-rooms and stacks.

Plan

The different departments of the library-repositories, administration and visitors-were disposed on three floors one above the other.

The basement level contains the stacks and the technical installations. The library has a capacity of 600 000 books. The present inventory shows a figure of around 200 000 books freely circulating.

The administration offices are located on the ground floor, along with the Librarian's office, the exchange points and the dissertation room, the binding shop and photographic room.

Moreover, it was necessary to provide for 525 desks. They are distributed over the different reading-rooms.

The main entrance is approached from the south. The hall runs from east to west and contains the cloakrooms and a newspaper reading-room. The main stairs lead up to the reading-rooms on the first floor. A courtyard has been laid out to the right of the entrance; here is situated the display room, which can also be utilized as a lecture hall.

The first floor is the one open to visitors, those actually using the facilities. Here are located the various internal and external circulation services, the catalogues, with attached indexes. This area can be considered the information zone.

The reading-rooms are reached via a lateral check-point. To the south is located the main reading-room taking up two floors. It is subdivided into four special compartments. To the left of the entrance is the free library. It serves as a vestibule between the

reading-rooms and the stacks. Beside the main reading-room is the periodical section regularly containing 1800 copies.

Two stairways lead to the galleries. They connect the lower reading-rooms with the classical studies library to the general section containing periodicals covering the last ten years. Other special rooms for reading follow as well as other special purpose areas. On north are the stacks. As the need arises, they can be adapted to various uses.

The working-desks are thus arranged so that a user can choose where he wants or needs to work at any given time.

Finishing

The interior was kept subdued. The furnishings were worked out and finished in accordance with the latest trends for libraries.

Construction

The reinforced concrete construction rests on round pillars with diameter of 40 cm. The bays measure 5.60 metres. The thickness of the ribbed floor slabs, without stringers, is 42.5 cm. The faces have metal cladding.

Technical installations

Book control is effected by pneumatic communications via 14 stations. Books are transported on conveyor belts. The library is mechanically ventilated and air-conditioned. The humidity of the air in the stacks is maintained constantly between 40 and 60%. Glass walls ensure natural daylight illumination. Also sun-breaks and Alu blinds control the light.

Cost

The construction cost per cubic metre: DM 120,-. That of the finished building with landscaping, special installations, furnishings, equipment, etc.: DM 170,-. 1/3 of the total sum was covered by the Max Kade Foundation, New York. Director of the Library and Organizing Manager: Dr. Manfred Koschlig.

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