

## **Spatial expression of a liberated spirit**

Text in "BTU Profil" on the occasion the university library's IKMZ opening ceremony held at BTU Cottbus on 04.02.2004

With the new btu-library building Herzog & de Meuron & Partners have realised a piece of exceptional rigour and conclusiveness.

The building represents the state of the art in university library buildings. Characteristic of the design is the large shell which wraps around the bulk of books. The free-floating, organic form offers a strong experience which liberates the mind: the freedom of mind finds it's formal expression.

The building is a shining example of building culture. The process of realisation and the struggling search for quality by a small group of dedicated people bear testimony to the fact that real cultural achievements are rarely the product of non-critical attitudes of broad majorities.

The development of the university campus towards the town centre was carried out by purpose, but this has lead to the current division of the campus by Karl-Marx-street. This temporarily postponed problem requires a swift solution, as the acute danger for life and health of visitors to the library is clearly evident.

The spatial poetry of the library pointing beyond all practicality of the "information centre" affects everyone. Passers by as well as extensive users will be touched by positive impulses. The severity of the campus experience has now found a cheering counterpart. The rational environment of engineering is credibly enriched. The lighting concept creates a solemn atmosphere and forms an accentuating addition to the campus.

Daylight falling through printed glass panels produces abundance of light inside. Coloured surfaces act as light reflectors and emit an atmosphere cheerfulness near to baroque .

Without a flight of exaggeration the new library building of the BTU may be thus regarded as new landmark of our alma mater and for the entire city. We are proud of our new centre.

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