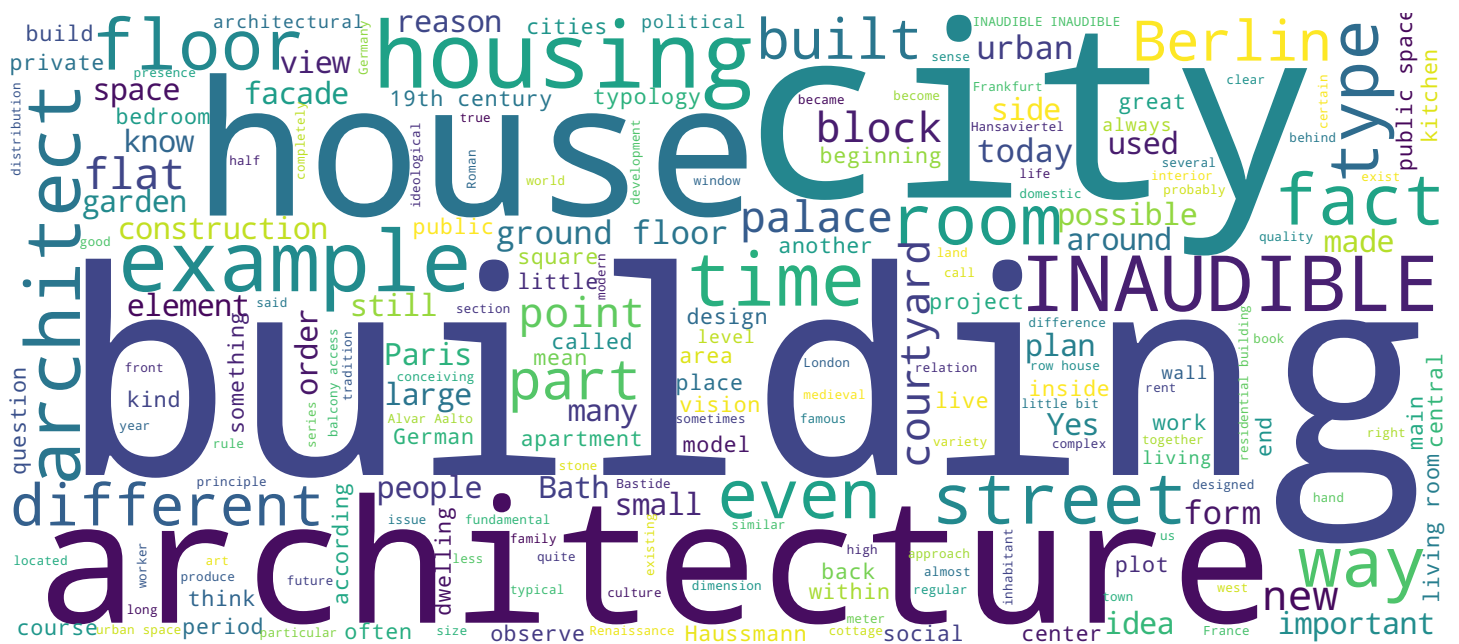


a Housing and Cities course video



EPFL





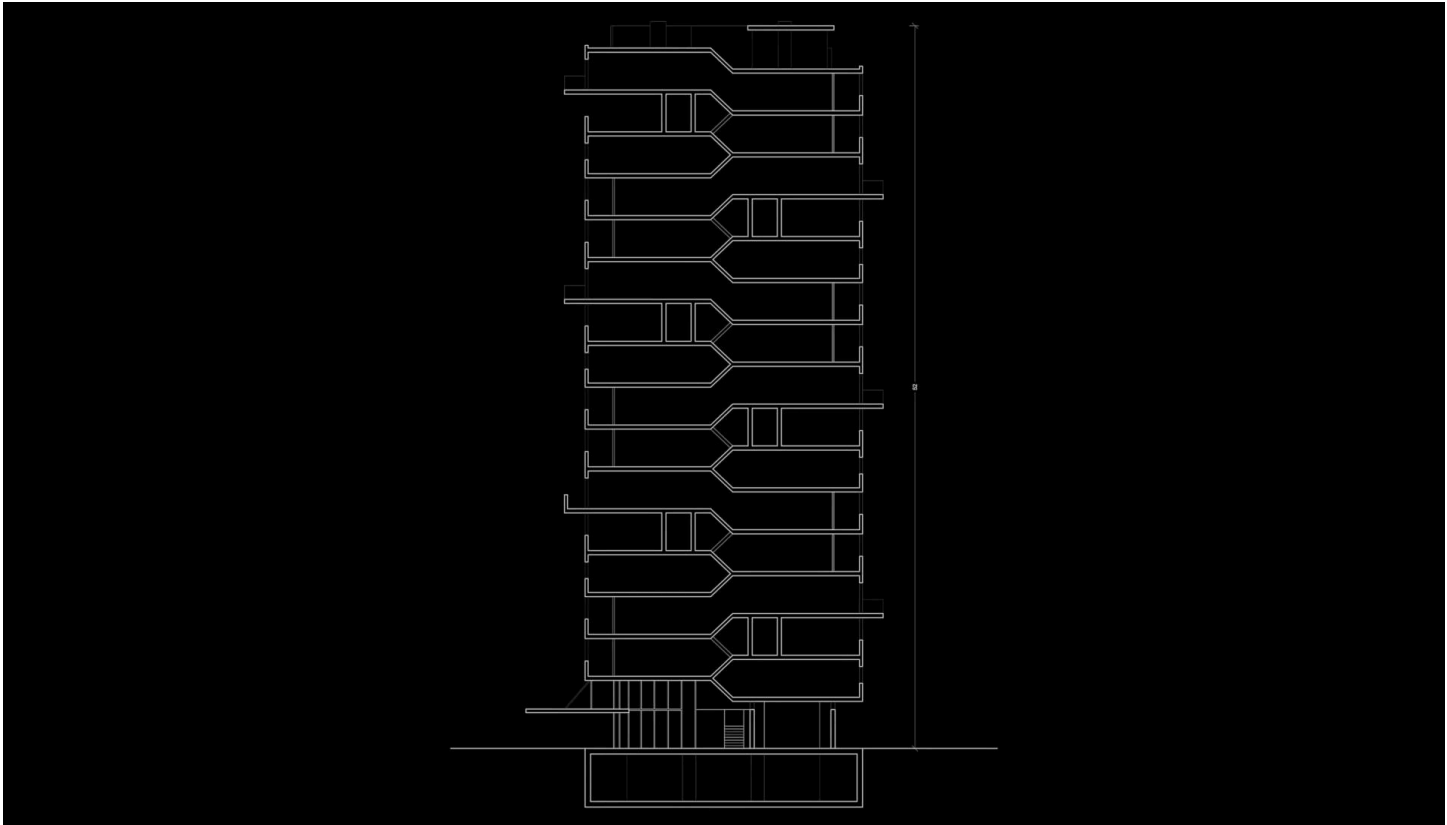
In Berlin west, the vision of an airy restructured city is too cold, turning its back on the tradition of the 19th century rented barracks the Mietkasern. This vision found expression in the International Building Exhibition Interbau, in 1957, the first after the war. For this exhibition, a group of model residential buildings was constructed entirely from scratch on the ruins of the old bourgeois quarter, Hansaviertel, on the northern border of the Tiergarten park. This new type of site shows an example of the city of tomorrow, removing most traces of the old neighborhood. Residential buildings and public facilities were freely placed in a space dominated by organized nature such as playgrounds and sports areas and the library courtyard. A strategy referring back to Sharon's concept of the urban landscape. The different building orientations visible in the site plan suggest the variety of typological experiments within the complex. The new Hansaviertel has three thousand flats and different types of buildings, towers, slabs, row houses and combined forms.

Notes

Summary

0m 24s





Under the direction of the Berlin Senate 53 renowned international architects were each selected to design one of the residential buildings within the landscape ensemble; for example Oscar Niemeyer, Alvar Aalto, Walter Gropius, Johannes Van den Broek, and Yakob Bakema and and Kay Fisker to name a few. Interbau was a new way to approach the problems of architecture in the city. Both national and international architects were involved in building the new quarter. The German definition of Hochpunkthaus house. There's a single tower of the 15 meters in height, a residential tower. This is one of the six towers on the site designed by Dutch architect Yohannes Van den Broek and Yakob Bakema. The architectural elements of their building is still highly contemporary. The tower has an American concept meaning the superposition of identical floors. This tower has a compact volume with a base of 20 by 24 meters but the variety of flat types is achieved through careful articulation of the section. In section, the floors which are more compact than those of the Unité d'habitation are staggered in order to connect the bedrooms to the living room.

Notes

Summary

1m 43s





This arrangement allows for typological variation linked to the orientation. Each floor has a total of 10 flats organized around the vertical circulation and which together form two linked blocks. The floor plan is more or less square inspired by a courtyard house with a central multi-purpose room which is both a space of circulation and a communal space. These balconies extend from the living room toward the exterior and are accessible from the main bedroom and the adjacent dining room. These balconies are intended to foster an intimate and subdued atmosphere. The quality of this type is certainly linked to the interior arrangement, because it transposes the qualities of a single family house into a flat. This approach is very similar to our contemporary one. Although the building was realized 50 years ago, the angle between the two blocks plus the offset of each balcony breaks down the horizontality and the mass of the composition. As for the previous tower, the entry hall has a particularly significant architectural feature. The building is elevated and ramps lead to a covered passage that crosses at center. The laundry and the drying rooms as well as storage rooms are in the basement, and rubber chutes are provided on every floor.

Notes

Summary

4m 39s



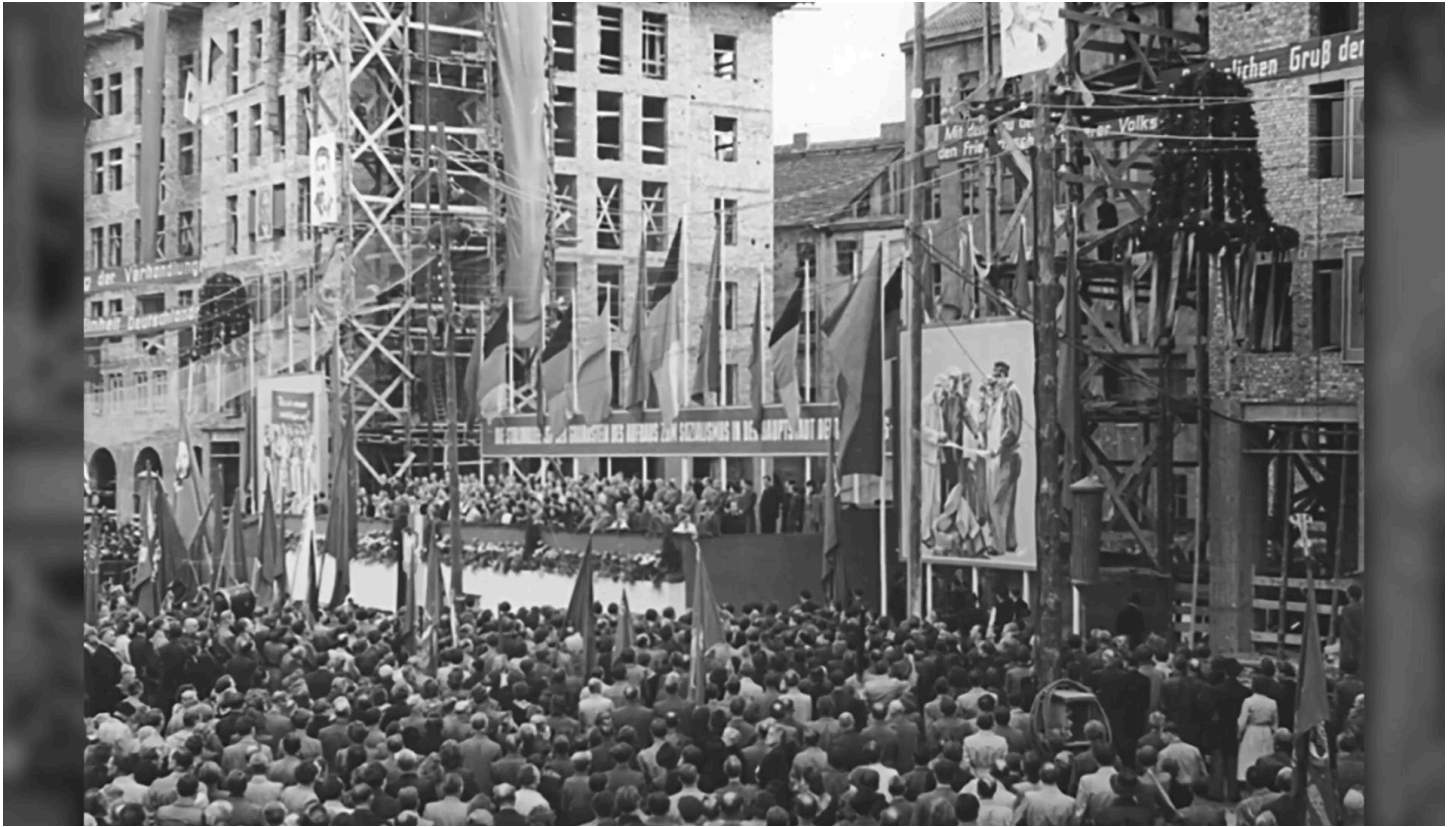


These examples demonstrate the interest in different flat types and volumetric organization. The Danish architect Kay Fisker developed a building with balcony access made up of layered maisonette. The three storied part has one duplex and a small single storey flat above. The four storied part has two duplexes on top of each other. Each duplex has access directly from the ground floor with an independent entrance. The kitchen and lounge around the ground floor, the bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. This system is repeated for the four story part where the entrance to the maisonette is located on the third floor using balcony access. Also in this part, the ground floor is elevated to accommodate the cell as below. Dark colors are used for the horizontal facade numbers articulated by the White vertical ones. The ground floor is separated from the exterior space by the elevator lodges. This example demonstrates Interbaus experimentation with Mischbebauung; that is the mix of building types and volumes, high and low forming a unity. The duplex row houses with balcony access by architect Paul Baumgarten is more experimental, not only in the sense of the typology, but also in the use of materials and the unprecedented principles of assembly.

Notes

Summary





The building is made up of small flats over two floors, with access on one side from a common strip balcony. The plan is divided into bedrooms on the ground floor, with a kitchen and living areas on the upper level. The adjoining units are clearly expressed on the facade through a volumetric extension on the upper floor and the private gardens between. the Hansaviertel also had public buildings placed in the park as single objects. The Academy of Arts by Werner Dückmann, the Hansaviertel metro station and the church by Ludwig Lemmer which is representative of the late 1950s. This exhibition demonstrates the ambition to experiment with typology, construction and building form and reconstruction. New techniques enable the realization of an architecture that distances itself from the European pre-war tradition. If we compare the approaches of these two systems today, Stalinallee and Hansaviertel with the necessary distance to observe more than the ideology. The fundamental difference is that Stalinallee possesses a will and capacity to construct the type of urban space linked to a European tradition of monumentalism and the necessity to transform a part of the city into a true instrument of political propaganda.

Notes

Summary

7m 47s





On the other hand, in the Hansaviertel, we observe a form of modern housing experiment which gives the architect more individual scope, but where the urban composition is based on what we would call the dissolution of the city. Both these examples are highly significant for European history. They demonstrate two different ways of conceiving the city and housing where although position and ideological distance could exist in the same city. This is one of the reasons why the city of Berlin is still highly relevant today. The reason why Berlin is fundamentally clear for understanding these debates is the fact that in a very limited surface, we can observe like in one to one laboratory two opposite ways of conceiving the city and also of conceiving the daily space, the housing types or prototypes. Probably, beyond any ideological à priori position, Berlin offers today a possible vision about the city of the future. The city of the future is probably the city where one can meet in a very condensed, compressed space in many different ways of conceiving urban spaces, public spaces and private ones.

Notes

Summary



9m 19s



acknowledgements

the MOOC team would like to thank the residents of Berlin for their warm welcome, as well as the people who have generously allowed us to use their image and video contributions

Naturally Berlin is not only the only city where experiments have been done in this period concerning housing, because in many European countries we can find meaningful experiences in this domain; in Italy, in France, in Great Britain, and if we can generalize a little bit, one of the most important new character of these housing complexes is the dimension, the bigness. That's the reason why, very often, we use the expression of mega structure, in order to define the Corviale in Rome or the satellite cities in France or the famous Robin Hood Gardens realised by Smith in London. In Berlin, we can consider that there is a beginning of something new and today in the architectural debate finally, we are still dealing with this opposition. The new idea is the fact that these two positions are not definitively opposite. They can merge one to the other and probably this is the most important richness of european cities.

Notes

Summary

11m 01s

