



Opus 51

Bolles + Wilson, NORD/LB, Magdeburg

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Julia Bolles-Wilson and Peter L. Wilson have built a large number of striking, thoroughly detailed cultural and commercial buildings in recent years, all sharing the characteristic that they stubbornly resist superficial stylistic categorization. Their buildings are articulated and positioned in an unmistakable way in their respective urban spaces, thanks to pointed breaks with rational space configurations, sculptural shapes for architectural silhouettes and the use of polychrome surfaces.

The concept for the new cathedral quarter in Magdeburg, which was just like creating a little town-within-a-town, is also based in the first instance on reinterpreting existing contexts on the western periphery of the highly sensitive cathedral square in Magdeburg. Sections are deliberately punched out of two compact blocks and then partly folded, thus creating an ensemble that can be read in various ways despite its lucid overall form. The spatial sequences are like stage sets, forming a basis for decoding the compositional strategy. Voluminous folds in the roofs break up the austere geometry of the façades below them, which are about twenty metres high, by acting like vectors to create new transverse links across the historic urban panorama.

The interior design is articulated as a three-dimensional, strictly regular and functional system, successively broken by pointed sequences of eventful spatial expansion. These look like cavities or open spaces cut out of the blocks. The pedestrian route through them is distantly reminiscent of a walk through English landscape gardens, offering strollers scenically composed sequences of condensed or slowed-down space that cut across both space and time, and also scenarios using compressed perspective.

Frank R. Werner was professor of history and theory of architecture at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart from 1990 to 1993, since 1993 he has been director of the Institut für Architekturgeschichte und Architekturtheorie at the Bergische Universität in Wuppertal. He studied painting, architecture and architectural history at the Kunsthakademie in Mainz, the Technische Hochschule in Hanover and Stuttgart University. After voluntary work with Pan Walther, Christian Richters studied communication design at the Folkwangschule in Essen. He is one of the most sought-after architectural photographers in Europe today. His photographs are to be found in publications like *The Architectural Review*, *Architecture*, *Bauwelt*, *Domus*, *El Croquis*, *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* and *Zodiac*.

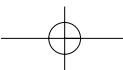
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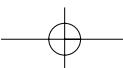
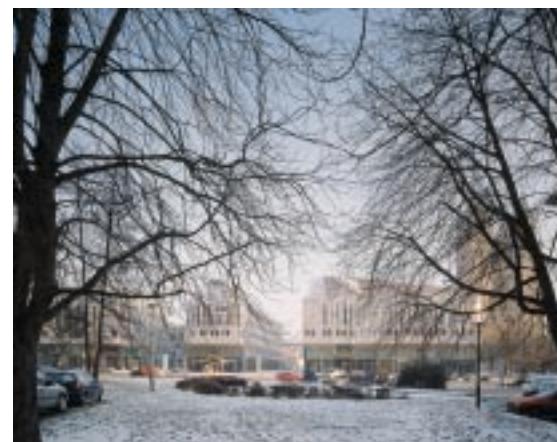
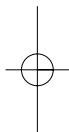
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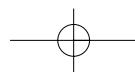
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1, 2. Gesamtansichten von Osten.
3. Gesamtansicht von Westen.

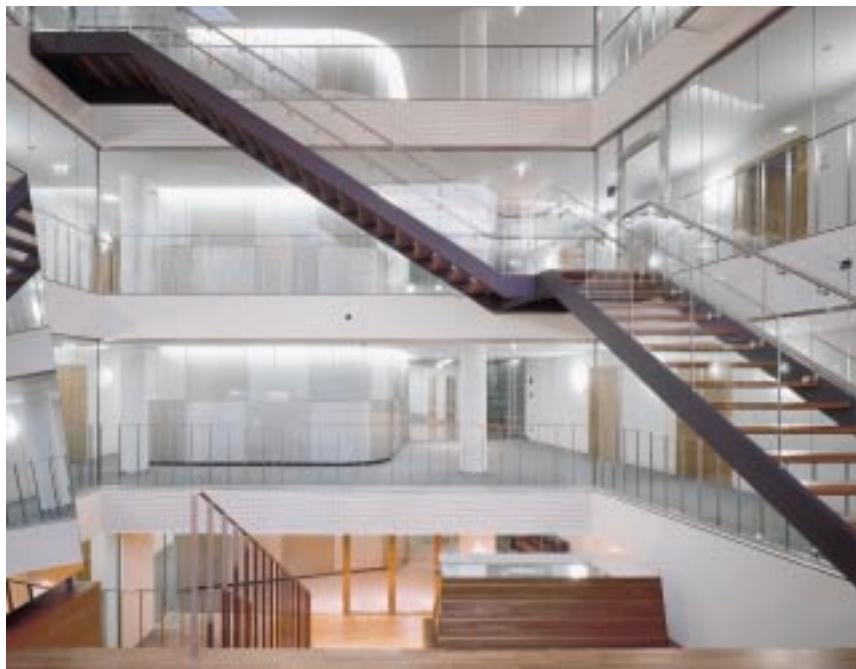
1, 2. General views from the east.
3. General view from the west.





22, 23. Das Atrium im nördlichen Flügel des Nordbaus mit einer Installation von Tamara Gricic.

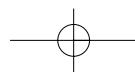
22, 23. The atrium in the northern wing of the north building with an installation by Tamara Gricic.



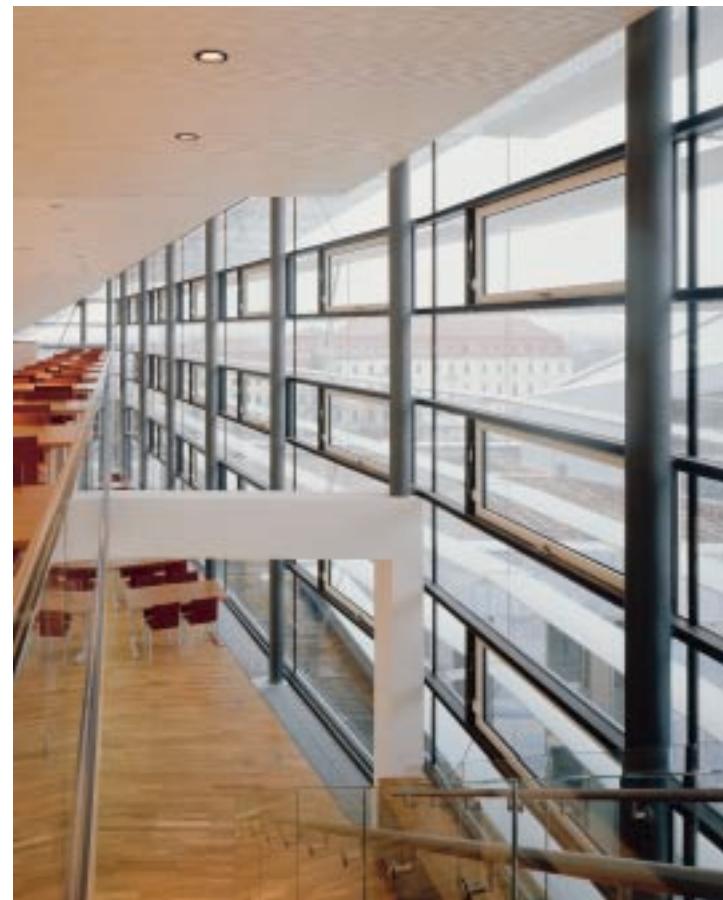
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26, 27. Die Cafeteria der NORD/LB im 5. und 6. Obergeschöß des Nordbaus in Richtung Osten.



26, 27. The NORD/LB cafeteria on the 5th and 6th floor of the north building looking east.