



Opus 55

Peter Kulka, Bosch Haus Heidehof, Stuttgart

With an introduction by Wolfgang Pehnt and photographs by Peter Walser. 60 pp. with 76 ill., 280 x 300 mm, hard-cover, German/English

ISBN 3-930698-55-2

Euro 36.00, sfr 56.00, £ 24.90, US\$ 39.90, \$A 68.00

Early in the 20th century, Robert Bosch, the founder of the Stuttgart technological business, built a large villa on the hills east of the city. It was half Palladian, half in the reform style of the period before the First World War. The building was to meet the head of the company's need for prestige, and to provide a private refuge thanks to the pleasant qualities of its large park and open position. The foundation of the same name is now housed in the Villa Bosch, but the space available has not been adequate for some time. As the company also needed rooms for seminars and other events, a decision was taken to build new accommodation next to the villa.

Seven well-known teams took part in a restricted competition, including Tadao Ando, Richard Meier and Richard Rogers. The commission went to Peter Kulka, based in Cologne and Dresden. He found a convincing solution to the problem of leaving the dominance of the old building untouched and at the same time making the foundation's new accommodation attractive in its own right. He came up with a second »villa« slightly below the first one, precise in its volume and minimalist in its resources. The building responds impressively to the challenges of the topography, the landscape around it and its neighbouring building.

Kulka's work combines transparency with physical presence, structural austerity with poetry. This *villa suburbana* represents a milestone in his career. Kulka, born in 1937, was a pupil of Selman Selmanagic and worked with Hermann Henselmann, Hans Scharoun and in various partnerships before setting up his own practice in 1979. He has been seen as a member of the German architectural avant-garde since his Dresden parliament building (1991-94).

Wolfgang Pehnt, who teaches architectural history at the Ruhr University in Bochum, is the author of many publications on 19th- and 20th-century architecture; in addition to his standard work on Expressionist architecture he has published, among others, monographs on Gottfried Böhm, Karljosef Schattner and Rudolf Schwarz. The very first volume of the Opus series, about Rudolf Steiner's Goetheanum, is also by him. Peter Walser is not only an architect as his first profession, but also works as a sought-after designer and architectural photographer. He has already appeared in the Opus series with the volume on Balthasar Neumann's pilgrimage church in Neresheim.

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Peter Kulka Bosch Haus Heidehof, Stuttgart

Zu Anfang des 20. Jahrhunderts hatte sich Robert Bosch, der Gründer des Stuttgarter Technologieunternehmens, auf den Höhen östlich der Stadt eine Villa gebaut, halb palladianisch, halb im Reformstil der Zeit vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg. Der Bau diente den repräsentativen Verpflichtungen des Firmenchefs und bot zugleich mit den Annehmlichkeiten seines großen Parks und seiner freien Lage ein privates Refugium. In der Villa Bosch residiert heute die Stiftung gleichen Namens, für die jedoch der zur Verfügung stehende Platz schon seit längerer Zeit nicht mehr ausreichte. Da das Unternehmen darüber hinaus Räume für Seminare und andere Veranstaltungen benötigte, entschloß man sich, neben der Villa einen Neubau zu errichten.

An einem begrenzten Wettbewerb nahmen sieben prominente Teams teil, darunter Tadao Ando, Richard Meier und Richard Rogers. Der Auftrag ging an den in Köln und Dresden ansässigen Architekten Peter Kulka. Für die Aufgabe, die Dominanz des Altbaus nicht anzutasten und zugleich dem Neubau eine eigene Ausstrahlung zu sichern, fand Kulka eine überzeugende Lösung. Es entstand eine zweite, tiefer gelegene »Villa«, präzise in den Volumen und minimalistisch in den Mitteln. Auf die Herausforderungen der Topographie, die Blickachsen, die landschaftliche Umgebung und die bauliche Nachbarschaft reagiert der Bau souverän.

Kulkas Werk vereint Transparenz mit physischer Präsenz, konstruktive Sachlichkeit mit Poesie. In seinem Werk stellt diese Villa suburbana einen Meilenstein dar. Kulka, Jahrgang 1937, war Schüler von Selman Selmanagić und hat bei Hermann Henselmann, Hans Scharoun und in verschiedenen Partnerschaften gearbeitet, bevor er 1979 sein eigenes Büro gründete. Spätestens seit dem Dresdener Landtagsgebäude (1991–94) zählt er zur Avantgarde der deutschen Architektur.

Wolfgang Peht, der an der Ruhr-Universität Bochum Architekturgeschichte lehrt, ist Autor zahlreicher Publikationen zur Baukunst des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts; neben seinem Standardwerk über die Architektur des Expressionismus brachte er unter anderem Monographien über Gottfried Böhm, Karljosef Schattner und Rudolf Schwarz heraus. Auch der allererste Band der Reihe Opus, über Rudolf Steiners Goetheanum, stammt von ihm. Peter Walsler arbeitet nicht nur in seinem ersten Beruf als Architekt, sondern ist auch als weithin gesuchter Designer und Architekturphotograph tätig. In der Opus-Reihe war er bereits mit dem Band über die Wallfahrtskirche in Neresheim von Balthasar Neumann vertreten.





11, 12. Das landschaftsgärtnerisch gestaltete Dach der Zufahrtsrampe der Tiefgarage.
13. Der Platanenhain und die Nordostecke des Gebäudes.

11, 12. The landscaped roof of access ramp to the underground car park.
13. The plane-tree grove and the northeast corner of the building.





14. Blick über das Atrium auf den Eingangsbereich.
15, 16. Blick in die Eingangsebene mit der alle drei Hauptgeschosse verbindenden Treppenanlage.

14. View of the entrance area across the atrium.
15, 16. View of the entrance level with the stairs connecting all three main storeys.

