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Otto Ernst Schweizer, 1890–1965, architect, philosopher and teacher, had a crucial effect on the path of modern architecture with both his projects and his writings. He was trained in the school of Theodor Fischer, and made a name for himself both by his early works and competition entries in the Expressionist period, for example for the high-rise building in Friedrichstraße in Berlin or a new design for Münsterplatz in Ulm.

He gained international recognition with his buildings in Nuremberg in the late twenties, the Labour Exchange, the Planetarium, the sports facilities and the central Milchhof, with his stadium for the city of Vienna and his ideal design for a metropolis, developed as a reaction to Le Corbusier's »Ville contemporaine« and »Plan voisin de Paris«.

In the thirties, when he was forbidden to build, Schweizer, in the context of his teaching at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe, was concerned with a philosophy of architecture, with fundamental questions of building, which he was able to draw on after the war as suggestions for the redevelopment of cities that had been destroyed. In 1960 he built his last work, the Collegiate Building for the University of Freiburg, his "architectural large form", which again showed his spiritual attitude and the formal language that he had developed in the twenties and thirties, and that reached on into the new period after 1945 without losing its validity.

Immo Boyken is professor of building history and architectural theory in Konstanz. He is particularly interested in late 19th- and 20th-century architecture. He was highly involved in the monograph on Egon Eiermann, and has written on Heinz Tesar's Donau City church in Vienna (Opus 42), Egon Eiermann's German Embassy building in Washington (Opus 54), Otto Ernst Schweizer's Milchhof in Nuremberg (Opus 59), the German Pavilions at the 1958 Brussels World Fair by Egon Eiermann and Sep Ruf (Opus 62), and Otto Ernst Schweizer's Stadium in Vienna (Opus 75).

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