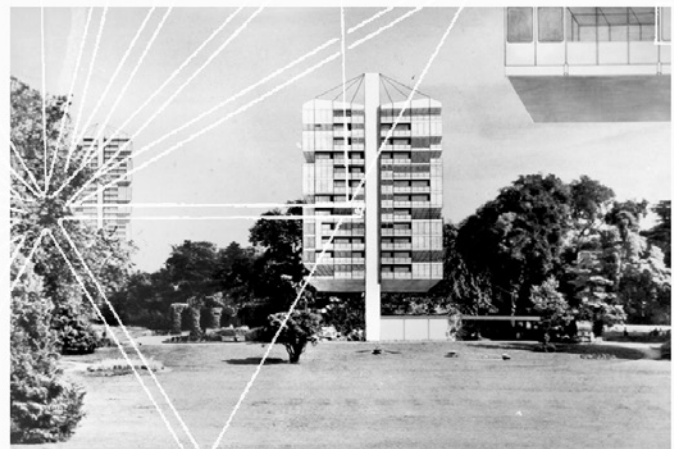
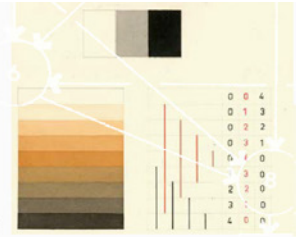


Out now!
The first publication
of the Building Department
at the HfG Ulm

fig 1



Die erste Veröffentlichung über die Bauabteilung der HfG Ulm

Eine kleine Sensation: Erstmals präsentiert das HfG-Archiv / Museum Ulm die Bauabteilung der Hochschule (1953–1968)! Deren Entwicklung, Studien und Designs werden mit Buch und Ausstellung gewürdigt. Kooperationspartner sind die Goethe-Universität Frankfurt und die TU Darmstadt. Mehr zum Buch:

This accompanying book to the exhibition represents the first comprehensive and systematic study of the Building Department at the HfG Ulm. Based on the rich resources of the HfG-Archiv, it provides an in-depth overview of the history, teaching methods, and forward-thinking concepts of this previously under-researched department.

The Preface features a visual Chronology tracing the department's evolution from 1953 to 1968. Shaped by the architects Max Bill, Konrad Wachsmann, and Herbert Ohl, the department underwent a remarkable transformation: from "Architecture and Town Planning" to "Building" (1958), culminating in its final focus on "Industrialised Building" (1962). Key terms that accompanied this transformation are explained in a dedicated Glossary.

The first comprehensive and systematic study of the Building Department at the HfG Ulm.

The Essays section includes contemporary contributions, most of which stem from ongoing research projects. These essays draw extensively on the HfG-Archiv's wealth of study materials, teaching documentation, and biographical records, offering new insights into this pivotal department.

Max Bill's central role in the founding and direction of the HfG is discussed by Martin Mäntele, highlighting how Bill's methodological and design-driven approach left a lasting impact on the school – despite later conflicts that led to his departure from Ulm.

The innovative construction methods inspired by Konrad Wachsmann's guest lectureship at the HfG Ulm (1955–1957) are analysed by Soetje Beermann. The former's steel curtain wall system, developed with Armco, was never industrially implemented but remains a seminal contribution to industrialised construction.

Cybernetics, information theory, and systems analysis shaped the curriculum, while international guest lecturers enriched its interdisciplinary scope.

Chris Dähne examines the transformation of architectural education at the HfG from practical craftsmanship to scientific and theoretical approaches. Cybernetics, information theory, and systems analysis shaped the curriculum, while international guest lecturers enriched its interdisciplinary scope.

Francesco Maranelli and Pierfrancesco Califano explore Giuseppe Ciribini's concepts of standardisation and industrial building planning. These ideas significantly influenced both the HfG and the Italian architectural discourse on industrialisation.

Herbert Ohl's integral building construction and ring-cell construction, which Helge Svenshon investigates, brought together technological optimisation, flexible construction methods, and industrial manufacturing in an innovative architectural framework.

The focus of Joaquín Medina Warmburg's contribution is Herbert Ohl's "Urban Development System with Modular Spatial Segments" from the 1970s. This project combined industrial prefabrication with flexibility, demonstrating Ohl's efforts to integrate architecture with systems theory.

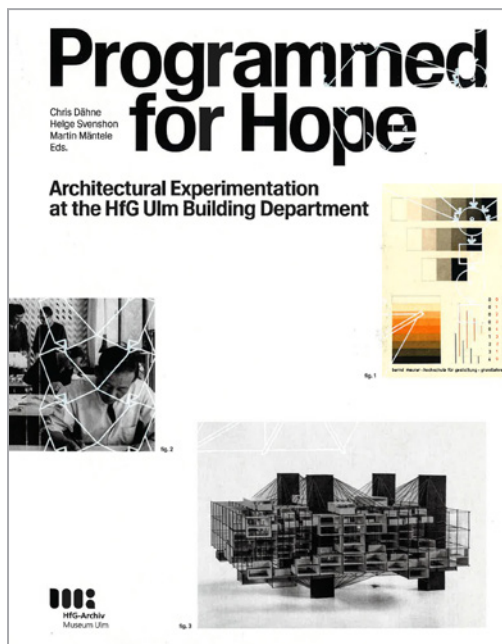
The essays illustrate the department's evolution from a design-focused architectural perspective to a process- and product-oriented approach to creating a technological future.

Claude Schnaidt's influential role at the Parisian Institut de l'Environnement is explored by Rafael Amato and Teresa Häußler. Taking its cue from the model of the HfG, the institute combined social engagement with interdisciplinary design methods.

The essays illustrate the department's evolution from a design-focused architectural perspective to a process- and product-oriented approach to creating a technological future. This shift is documented through a Reconstruction of the Curriculum on the basis of 15 years of student work. The curriculum highlights the pedagogical and methodological changes in teaching while also charting the development of the faculty.

At the book's conclusion, we present short profiles of key Lecturers and Workshop Lecturers and the 150 Students who shaped the department. Their work, which transformed the Building Department into a laboratory for experimental architectural concepts, is summarised in a Visual Index that serves as an archival reference tool.

Chris Dähne, Helge Svenshon



**Programmed for Hope –
Architectural Experimentation at the
HfG Ulm Building Department**

Hfg-Archiv / Museum Ulm
Chris Dähne
Helge Svenshon
Martin Mäntele (Hg.)

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„Dieses Buch verfolgt das Erbe der Bauabteilung der Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm, an der Experimentierfreude und intellektuelle Kompromisslosigkeit die moderne Architektur neu definierten. Tief verwurzelt in kritischem Denken und dem Austausch von Wissen, führte sie Design, Wissenschaft und Kreativität zusammen, um sich den komplexen Herausforderungen der Architektur zu stellen.“

Heute erscheint der freigeistige Ulmer Ansatz wichtiger denn je, wo wir die Art, wie wir unsere datengesteuerte Welt bewohnen und uns deren Zukunft vorstellen wollen, neu definieren.“

Georg Vrachliotis, Fakultätsleiter Architektur,
TU Delft

[Leseprobe \(PDF\)](#)