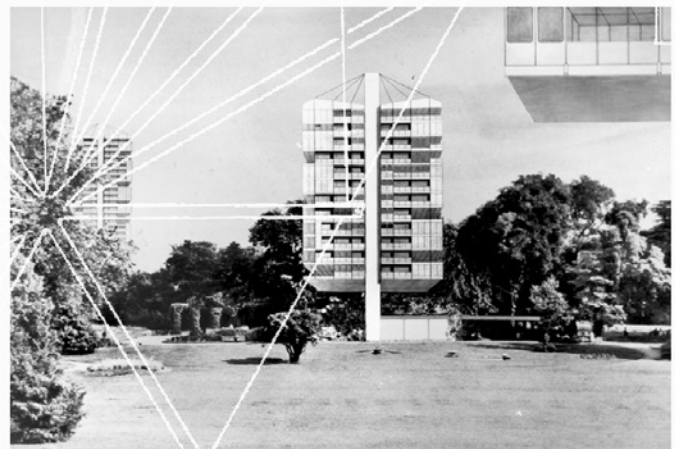
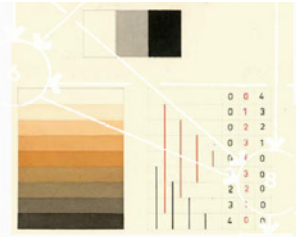


**Out now!**  
**The first publication**  
**of the Building Department**  
**at the HfG Ulm**

fig 1



## The first publication of the Building Department at the HfG Ulm

It's a small sensation: For the first time ever, the HfG-Archiv / Museum Ulm gives a presentation on the Building Department at the HfG (1953–1968)! A book and an exhibition pay tribute to its evolution, its studies and designs, with the Goethe University Frankfurt and the TU Darmstadt as cooperation partners. More about the book:

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.

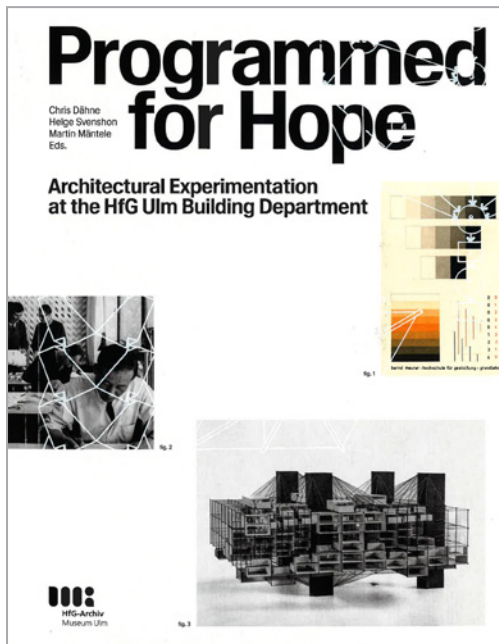
*The essays illustrate the department's evolution from a design-focused architectural perspective to a process- and product-oriented approach to creating a technological future.*

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 (Eds.)

English  
368 pages  
Softcover with stamping  
Approx. 500 photos  
8.3 × 10.6 in  
EAN 9783899864311

"This book traces the legacy of the Department Building at the Ulm School of Design, where experimentation and intellectual rigor redefined modern architecture. Rooted in critical thinking and knowledge exchange, it brought together design, science, and creativity to address architecture's complex challenges. Today, the open spirit of Ulm

feels more urgent than ever, reshaping how we inhabit and imagine the future of our data-driven world."

Georg Vrachliotis, Head of the Architecture Department, TU Delft

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