

INFO

Modernist architecture — including the World Heritage Site Berlin Modernism Housing Estates — has gained recognition; yet, research has focused more on architectural history and urban planning than on materiality. Although its conservation efforts are advancing, materials, aesthetic qualities, and the history of material change remain inadequately studied. Growing awareness of historical surfaces and new methods in material science are opening up interdisciplinary research paths.

The international conference “Materiality and Color in Modernist Architecture: From Science to Everyday Heritage Conservation Practice”, taking place May 7–9, 2026 at the Architektenkammer Berlin, brings together experts from all fields of heritage conservation — architects, conservator-restorers, heritage scientists, and art historians. The conference explores how historical knowledge, material research, and methodological approaches, can strengthen contemporary conservation practice of modernist architecture.

Join the dialogue between science and practice and help shape the future of heritage conservation.

The conference is being held in cooperation with the German National Committee of ICOMOS, the Berlin Heritage Authority, the Technical University of Munich, and the Dresden University of Fine Arts. It is supported by the Berlin Chamber of Architects.

At the same time, it marks the conclusion of a three-year DFG research project on the Berlin Modernist Housing Estates:
<https://www.arc.ed.tum.de/rkk/forschung/siedlungen-der-berliner-moderne/>

We look forward to welcoming you to our conference in Berlin.

LANGUAGE

The conference language is predominantly English. On Thursday, AI-assisted translation will be available, and on Friday afternoon (Session IV and the panel discussion), simultaneous German – English interpretation will be provided to ensure broad accessibility.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Materiality and Color in Modernist Architecture:

From Science to Everyday
Heritage Conservation Practice

May 07-09, 2026
Berlin

LOCATION

Architektenkammer Berlin
Alwin-Brandes-Saal, 5th floor
Alte Jakobstraße 149
10969 Berlin
Germany

Subway station: Hallesches Tor (lines U1,
U3 and U6), Bus stops: Zossener Brücke
and U Hallesches Tor (lines M41 and
248)



Thursday, May 07, 2026

10.00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

11.00 Welcome

Wiebke Ahues (Berlin), Christoph Rauhut (Berlin) & Ute Joksch (Berlin)

11.30 Introduction

Thomas Danzl (Munich)

12.00 Session I – Materiality and Color

Chair: Jana Hainbach (Munich)

- Aluminum, Concrete, Linoleum, Scagliola: Otto Wagner's Savings Bank (1904-06) as Built Negotiation between Traditional Crafts and Industrial Materials | Katharina Fuchs (Vienna)
- A Ceiling Woven in Stucco | Anna Boomgaarden (Vienna)

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00 Preparing for Modernism: The Birth of 'Ready-made' Architectural Paints | Phillipa McDonnell (Lincoln)

- Loos with Color: Material Analysis and Facade Reconstruction at Haus Rufer | Franka Bindernagel (Vienna)
- What's Cooking? La Cuisine Atelier Le Corbusier, Type 1 | Julia Demeter & Tim Bechthold (Munich)

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 Session II – Methodological Criticism

Chair: Christoph Herm (Dresden)

- Keynote: Color – Materiality – Methodological Approach | Steffen Laue (Potsdam)
- A Celebration of Le Corbusier's Color Palette in South-East London - Pullman Court | Helen Hughes (London)
- Standardized Metadata as a Basis for Analyzing Historical Object Changes | Kristina Fischer & Julia Rössel (Marburg)

17.30 Discussion & Summary

Chair: Zeynep Alp (Dresden, Munich)

19.00 Optional – Evening Event

Friday, May 08, 2026

9.00 Session III – Monument Preservation and Conservation - Restoration

Chair: Christoph Rauhut (Berlin)

- Keynote: Materiality and Color : Activities at the Berlin Heritage Authority | York Rieffel (Berlin)
- Color in the "Hufeisen" Estate – Practical Application of Restoration Investigation | Anke Hirsch & Angela Mitschke (Berlin)
- Restoration and Modernization of Ceciliengärten Housing Estate Entrances | Julica Ebeling & Eliza Seifert (Berlin)

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Casa sobre el Arroyo and Casa Estudio para Artistas | Flavia Rinaldi (Buenos Aires)

- TBA

12.30 Lunch Break

13.30 Session IV – Berlin Modernism Housing Estates – New Results – New Perspectives

Chair: Jan Raue (Potsdam)

- Restoration History | Jana Hainbach (Munich)
- Material Analysis Methods | Zeynep Alp (Dresden, Munich)
- Materiality and Color | Zeynep Alp & Jana Hainbach (Munich)

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Introduction and Participative Discussion – Methodological Guidelines for Investigating and Documenting the Materiality and Color of Modernist Architecture | Christoph Herm (Dresden)

16.30 Panel Discussion – From Science to Everyday Conservation Practice Chair: Thomas Danzl (Munich)

Julia Bojaryn (Löbau), Fabian Brenne (Berlin), Elisabeth Merk (Munich) & Christoph Rauhut (Berlin)

18.00 Aperitif

Saturday, May 09, 2026

Guided Tours in German or English to Berlin Modernism Housing Estates 11.00-14.00



Registration

registration link:

<https://eveeno.com/MaterialityAndColorConference>

Registration deadline: April 30, 2026. Participation is limited, and seats will be assigned in the order registrations are received.

The registration fee (80€ regular / 30€ students) includes all catering during the conference, including lunch and coffee breaks. To conclude the first day, we invite you to join us for a social evening at BRLO Brwhouse (Schöneberger Straße 16, 10963 Berlin). For an optional fee of 45€, you can enjoy a selection from the BRLO food outlets and a flat-rate beverage package.

CONTACT

materialityandcolor.rkk@ed.tum.de