



ICOMOS Workshop 2023
3-5 April - BTU Cottbus

A three day long workshop located in Cottbus with a focus on the architectural heritage of the GDR, taking the case study of the Stadthalle.

Apply for participation by scanning the QR-Code and carefully filling out your application. The workshop will be limited to 20 talented individuals, based on their applications.

For questions please email: epwg@icomos.de

Final outcomes will be presented at ICOMOS Socialist Modernism in Eastern Europe Workshop on 20th April.



STADTHALLE COTTBUS

SOCIALIST ARCHITECTURE OF THE GDR

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ICOMOS EP Workshop 2023

3–5 April 2023, Cottbus

Historic buildings and sites help reinforce social cohesion and consolidate values and theories that frame heritage. In this regard, the workshop addresses socialist architecture in the typological development of East German cities, using the example of the Stadthalle Cottbus and its immediate surroundings. It aims to analyse and discuss the positive and cohesive power of shared cultural heritage and values with the aim of strengthening the social fabric of Cottbus.

The Stadthalle was created as part of a comprehensive redesign of the core city in the style of the socialist city. In GDR times such buildings could sometimes only be built under adventurous conditions. For a long time, among other things due to a chronic shortage of materials, the people of Cottbus saw but a huge hole in the city centre, which they named "Open-cast mining centre". When finished in 1975, it stood as a large event hall in the city of Cottbus and it is still the largest building of its kind in the federal state of Brandenburg. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, there were discussions if GDR-time socialist buildings should be maintained in their form, demolished or if new buildings of more spectacular architecture should be built in their place. In the case of the Stadthalle, its architectural features such as acoustic ceiling and ceiling lights in the upper foyer, facade elements and the coloured frieze at the back of the hall were retained in the course of an extensive renovation. Other public buildings of GDR origin faced a different fate.

For this reason, we would like to investigate the relation between the citizens of Cottbus and their built heritage from GDR times, specifically the Stadthalle, to understand the connection people have with this contentious structure.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants. The outcome of the workshop will be presented at the workshop "Socialist Modernism in Central and Eastern Europe" (20 April).

To apply, please scan the QR Code or enter the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCVbwzjks8GavMMzgul4mSMY8R-AGQVz0J012Bu_LknhVzAg/viewform?fbzx=-6416471212350873743yn