

# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

## International Research Studio on Architecture Photography

### "You can only know that which you have eyes to see"

#### Buildings and their images as sources of knowledge on German-French relations in the Saarland after 1945

The French occupation of Germany after the Second World War is regarded as an historic moment of particularly intensive exchange between the two countries, which was also reflected in their building activity. The Saarland, with its status as a 'Republic under the French Protectorate', represents a particularly rich area for Franco-German cooperation in the fields of architecture, heritage conservation and urban planning. The buildings of the French presence in the Saar were erected as part of a self-conscious effort to create a new, peaceful and secure Europe. Architecture served as a political instrument and was a direct expression of the historical and social developments of the time.

The built heritage of the past provides access to knowledge about history and society that textual sources alone cannot offer. To access this knowledge, a trained eye is required, because – in a reversal of Goethe's famous aphorism – "You can only know that which you have eyes to see". Architecture photography opens up the possibility of realizing the potential of buildings as historical sources and as media for academic research.

#### **Organisers:**

Ass. Prof. Ing. Volker Ziegler (ENSAS)  
Prof. Dr. Johanna Blokker (BTU)  
Dr. Antoine Beaudoin (BTU)  
Dr. Frank Rochow (BTU)

#### **In cooperation with:**

Prof. Dr. Ing. Ulrich Pantle (htw Saar)  
Dr. Mona Schrempf (htw Saar/arbakus)  
Axel Böcker (Landesdenkmalamt SL)  
Prof. em. Markus Otto (BTU)  
Mila Hacke (Berlin)  
Marco Kany (Saarbrücken)

#### **Location:**

Saarland University in Saarbrücken  
and online on WebEx

#### **Dates:**

2 and 9 September 2024 (online) and  
16 to 19 September 2024 (in Saarbrücken)

#### **Deadline: 31 July 2024**

The aim of the Research Studio is to create a place of exchange among emerging researchers in the fields of history, architecture, urban planning, heritage studies and architectural conservation. Through an intensive and interdisciplinary examination of buildings and their images, new paths to knowledge about the postwar period can be opened and explored. To this end, the still-extant buildings of the French presence in Saarbrücken will be photographed and their value as sources of knowledge analysed. Architecture photography is thus understood on the one hand as a useful technique for emerging academics to learn, and on the other as a fundamental resource for academic discourse that requires critical analysis and skillful presentation.

The Studio alternates between theoretical input from experts, group work and discussion, and site visits. In two preparatory online modules, interdisciplinary working groups will be formed and participants will choose case studies in Saarbrücken to examine in detail. On site, recognised experts from the fields of architectural and contemporary history, heritage conservation and architectural photography will provide an introduction to the

use of buildings as a knowledge resource and a medium for conducting and presenting academic research. The opportunity to gather hands-on practical experience in the field of architecture photography is prepared by a crash course led by a professional photographer. Studio participants will practice and test different technical, aesthetic and conceptual approaches. They will then separate into their groups to visit their chosen sites in Saarbrücken and generate portfolios of their own photographs documenting the case studies.

Following the Studio, a selection of the participants' photographs will be exhibited at the annual conference of the Deutscher Werkbund (Saarbrücken, 3-6 October 2024).

#### **Conditions for participation:**

Participation in the Research Studio is free of charge: Accommodation and catering costs for the participants in Saarbrücken as well as program costs will be covered by the organisers. Each participant is responsible for his/her/their own transportation to and from Saarbrücken. A digital camera (or mobile phone with camera) and a laptop are recommended for participation.

The Studio is aimed at emerging academics from the Master's to the postdoctoral levels, particularly from the fields of (contemporary) history, architecture, urban planning, heritage studies and architectural conservation. The working language is English; knowledge of German and/or French is an advantage. Certificates of participation will be issued upon completion of the Studio. Further information as well as a preliminary program can be found on the Studio website: <https://www.b-tu.de/fg-denkmalpflege/forschung/dfh-forschungsatelier>

Applications consisting of a CV and a motivation letter of no more than 3,000 characters outlining the relevance of the Studio for the applicant's own educational goals or research interests can be submitted to [forschungsatelier@b-tu.de](mailto:forschungsatelier@b-tu.de). The extended deadline for applications is **31 July 2024**: [forschungsatelier@b-tu.de](mailto:forschungsatelier@b-tu.de)

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(photos of the "Pingussonbau" in Saarbrücken: Marco Kany)

#### **Funding:**

Deutsch-Französische Hochschule,  
Saarbrücken

#### **Related Projects:**

DFG-funded project [Buildings of the Allied Occupation in Western Germany \(1945-55\): The heritage of democratisation in Germany's architectural landscape](#)

Exhibition [RESONANZEN. Architektur im Aufbruch zu Europa. Architectures aux origines de l'Europe 1945-1965](#)

Series « [Architektur und Raum](#) » des Instituts für aktuelle Kunst im Saarland (Saarlouis)