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The Public in the Berlin Square Architecture

Fünf Beispiele der baulichen Repräsentation einer gesellschaftlichen Konstruktion

Abstract

The public contains many aspects: public property, public authority, public opinion, public interest, public life and public space, to name the most important. The latter are mentioned often in the context of architecture. The relation of the public and architecture solidifies obviously in public squares. Particularly here, the specific understanding of the public in a certain societal époque is articulated. Square design and its modifications as well as the discourse onto this subject are references of the quality and the transformation of the public. This article aims to contribute to the understanding of the time-dependent dialectics of the public and the private sphere in Germany, analyzing Berlin square architecture. Five examples extend the horizon of the investigation from the Empire until the present age. The objects of the research are *Königsplatz* (today *Platz der Republik*), *Alexanderplatz* (during the Weimar Republic and the GDR), *Lustgarten* and *Potsdamer Platz*.

Keywords

Public Space, Urban Design, Political Aesthetics