



**Tchoban Foundation**  
Museum for  
Architectural Drawing

## Press release

Berlin 20.08.2018

### **Hans Poelzig. Projects for Berlin**

**Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing, Berlin**  
**Christinenstraße 18a, 10119 Berlin**

**Exhibition opening: 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 7p.m.**

**Press conference: 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 6p.m.**

**Exhibition dates: 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 - 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019**

**Opening times: Mon. - Fri. 2 – 7p.m., Sat. - Sun. 1 – 5p.m.**

**Ticket: 5 Euros, reduction: 3 Euros**

With this exhibition of drawings by Hans Poelzig, the Museum for Architectural Drawing in cooperation with the Architecture Museum of the Technical University Berlin present the work of an architect who, with Walter Gropius, Bruno Taut, Mies van der Rohe and Peter Behrens, was undoubtedly one of the most important German architects of the first half of the 20th century. His oeuvre was diverse as his personality was colourful: in parallel with his architecture, he painted and created stage designs and film sets. He was director of the School of Art and Design in Breslau and later taught at the Technical High School of Charlottenburg, Berlin.



Hans Poelzig was a masterly expressionist architect whose drawing style is characterised by powerful marks in charcoal and pastel. His early sketchbooks are less well known and, although they appear somewhat reserved and romantic, reveal his embryonic talent as a draftsman. Poelzig's many facets as an architect are evident not only in his use of varied styles and media but also in the diverse typologies of his buildings which range from small houses, cultural and administrative buildings to large urban planning projects.

Between the wars (1918-1933) before the National Socialists seized power, Berlin attracted many creative people from all over the world: Hans Poelzig's most important designs for the German capital date from this time.

Mies van der Rohe's unrealised design for a glass tower block on *Friedrichstrasse* is regarded as an icon of modern architecture. Hans Poelzig also participated in this competition and his design is no less spectacular: weighty, monumental, imposing in its presentation as a perspective view in charcoal.

Poelzig also designed the Babylon cinema, still in use today in Berlin Mitte.

One of Hans Poelzig's most famous projects in Berlin Mitte was the conversion of the Schumann Circus into the *Grosses Schauspielhaus*, where his expressionism was strongly embodied in the stalactite-like columns. It was demolished in 1988 when damage to its pile foundations could not be repaired.

In 1927, Poelzig's design for the broadcasting building, the *Rundfunkhaus* on *Masurenallee* close to today's *Theodor-Heuss-Platz*, was ahead of its time. This project presented the challenge of integrating radio studios with their sensitive technology within an administrative building. His masterly solution placed the production rooms in the core of the building surrounded by offices, thus sheltering the recording studios from street noise. The *Rundfunkhaus* with its decorative ground plan was conceived as part of the masterplan for a conference and exhibition centre and was intended to relate to a proposed oval conference hall, the so-called 'Poelzig Egg'.



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Industrial buildings were also part of the 'Berlin Collection'. These include Dr. Cassirer's cable works in Spandau which today house the archive rooms of the Berlin city museums.

Less well known but of equal interest are Poelzig's unrealised designs for the film studios in Gatow. The patterns of the façades resemble the interior decoration of one of Poelzig's best known projects, the I.G. Farben office building in Frankfurt am Main, today the Campus Westend of the Goethe University.

The exhibition is curated by Hans-Dieter Nägelke (Architecture Museum of the Technical University, Berlin) and Nadejda Bartels (Tchoban Foundation).

The works shown in the exhibition are on loan from the Architecture Museum of the Technical University, Berlin.

### **The Architecture Museum of the Technical University, Berlin**

The Architecture Museum of the Technical University, Berlin, is one of the oldest collections of its kind worldwide. Since its founding 125 years ago, the museum has undergone much transition, changing from a museum to an archive to a collection and in turn, back to a museum. Founded in 1885/86, the Architecture Museum was initially to extend the existing architectural collections, such as the Schinkel Museum, the collection of plaster casts and the Callenbach'sche Collection of models of buildings from the Middle Ages, with the drawing estate of Schinkel's students. Around 1900, the Architecture Museum merged the almost 20,000 architectural drawings made by 293 architects, 45 architectural models and almost 100 sketchbooks into its exhibition and study collection. From 1972, after losses made due to the Second World War as well as the transfer of the Schinkel Museum to the Berlin State Museum on the Museum Island, the collection could be run systematically as part of the university library with fixed employees and a budget. In the meantime, the collection has grown five-fold with an inventory of over 10,000 drawings. The collection has also been growing online since



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2004 and has had its own exhibition rooms where originals can be viewed since 2005. In becoming more visible and accessible to the general public, the President of the Technical University decided in 2006 to return it to its historical name, the Architecture Museum.

[www.architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de](http://www.architekturmuseum.ub.tu-berlin.de)

### **Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing**

Founded in 2009 by the passionate draftsman and collector of architectural drawings, Sergei Tchoban, the Tchoban Foundation with its substantial collection serves as a place of research into the history and nature of the architectural drawing. An extensive on-site library focussing on the field is open to experts and interested visitors alike. The overall aim of the foundation, in this digital age, is to bring the fantastic and emotionally-charged worlds of architectural drawing closer to a wider public through exhibitions.

[www.tchoban-foundation.de](http://www.tchoban-foundation.de)

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In the case of publication, we kindly request a proof copy.



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## Images



High-rise building at the railway station Friedrichstrasse, Berlin-Mitte  
Perspective view  
1921  
Charcoal on tracing paper  
109,9 x 77,5 cm



Exhibition grounds, Berlin-Charlottenburg  
Conference centre and the main restaurant  
Perspective view  
ca. 1927-31  
Chalk pastel on cardboard  
64,4 x 105,8 cm



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Exhibition grounds, Berlin-Charlottenburg  
Broadcast pavilion or exhibition tent  
Perspective view  
Ca. 1927-31  
Chalk pastel on cardboard  
101,7 x 129,2 cm



New design for the Bülow Square area (*Scheunenviertel*), Mitte, Berlin  
Babylon Cinema and housing  
Perspective view  
Ca. 1927-29  
Charcoal on tracing paper  
70,3 x 95,5 cm



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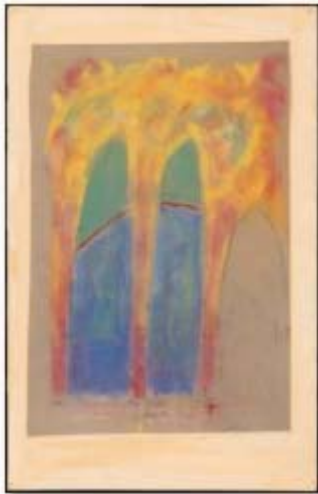
*Haus des Rundfunks*, Charlottenburg, Berlin  
Perspective view of *Masurenallee*  
Ca. 1928/29  
Charcoal on tracing paper  
72,7 x 147,9 cm



Interior study  
Perspective  
Undated  
Chalk pastel and pencil on paper on cardboard  
58,1 x 37,4 cm



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Interior study  
Perspective  
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Chalk pastel and pencil on paper on cardboard  
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All images are courtesy of the Architecture Museum of the Technical University, Berlin.