

## 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, the Dresden University of Fine Arts and the Berlin Chamber of Architects.

Guided tours are supported by the ‘Akademie der Künste’ and the ‘Freunde und Förderer der Hufeisensiedlung Berlin-Britz e.V.’.

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 English, except for the Friday panel discussion, which is in German. On Thursday and Friday morning, AI-assisted translation will be available (German subtitles), and on Friday afternoon (Session IV and the panel discussion), simultaneous German–English interpretation will be provided to ensure broad accessibility.



**May 07-09, 2026**  
**Berlin**



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# Materiality and Color in Modernist Architecture:

From Science to Everyday  
Heritage Conservation Practice

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)

- Keynote: 'Materials made in Italy'. A Knowledge Approach for the Conservation of 'Modern' Architecture | Antonello Pagliuca (Matera)
- Preparing for Modernism: The Birth of 'Ready-made' Architectural Paints | Phillipa McDonnell (Lincoln)

**13.00 Lunch Break**

**14.00 Aluminum, Concrete, Linoleum, Scagliola: Otto Wagner's Savings Bank as Built Negotiation between Traditional Crafts and Industrial Materials | Katharina Fuchs (Vienna)**

- A Ceiling Woven in Stucco | Anna Boomgaard (Klosterneuburg)
- 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 – Get-together at BRLO Brwhouse**

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 & Sebastian-Felix Ernst (Berlin)

**10.30 Coffee Break**

**11.00 Loos with Color: Material Analysis and Facade Reconstruction at Haus Rufer | Franka Bindernagel (Vienna)**

- Casa sobre el Arroyo and Casa Estudio para Artistas | Flavia Rinaldi (Buenos Aires)
- Beyond Repair: The Absence of Madrid Guidelines in Croatian Modernist Restoration | Sandra Uskoković (Dubrovnik)

**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)
- Methodological Guideline for Investigating and Documenting the Materiality and Color of Modernist Architecture | Christoph Herm (Dresden)

**15.30 Coffee Break**

**16.00 Participative Discussion – Methodological Guideline**

**16.45 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

**10 & 10.30**

Display Depot 'Akademie der Künste', Pariser Platz 4

**11.30-14.00**

Projects and Initiatives at the 'Hufeisen' Estate | Ben Buschfeld (Berlin)  
'Infostation' Fritz-Reuter-Allee 44

**11.30 - 14.00**

'Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf' extension of the UNESCO WHS  
Sabine Ambrosius (Berlin)  
'U Onkel Toms Hütte' Onkel-Tom Straße 99



# 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.

If you would like to register only for Session IV, please send an email to [materialityandcolor.rkk@ed.tum.de](mailto:materialityandcolor.rkk@ed.tum.de)

**This event is accredited by the Berlin Chamber of Architects and is valued at a total of 14 teaching units!**

Contact: [materialityandcolor.rkk@ed.tum.de](mailto:materialityandcolor.rkk@ed.tum.de)