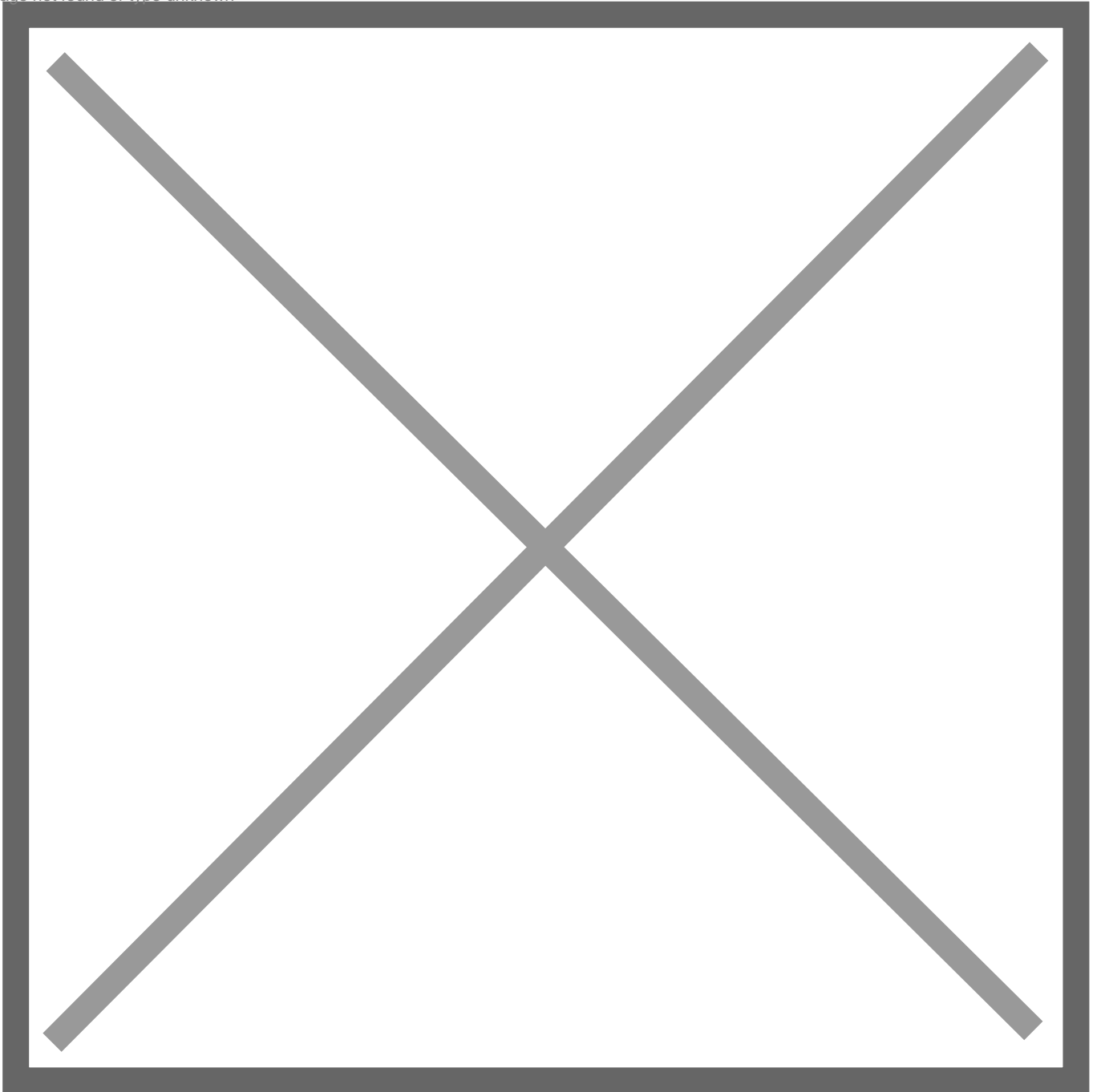


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HfG - Archiv Ulm [HfG Archives Ulm]

Germany

Am Hochsträß 8
Baden-Württemberg (State), Tübingen (Admin.
Region) 89081 Ulm

Commission

1953

Completion

1955

Original name

HfG Hochschule für gestaltung Ulm [Ulm School of Design]

Original use

Education/Centre for higher education

Current use

Culture/leisure/tourism/museum - archive

Architects

Max Bill

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete, Facade cladding

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame

Description

In the 1950s, a group of artists and designers led by Max Bill and Otl Aicher decided to found a school that would take over from the defunct Bauhaus and contribute to the reconstruction efforts in a nation devastated by war. Like the case of its predecessor, the curriculum was characterized by the desire to integrate the different artistic disciplines, the applied arts and design. In the Ulm school, however, the relationship between technology, science and design was emphasized. Max Bill himself, who had been a student at the Bauhaus, designed the building for the school. It responds to a habitual university program, including student and teacher residences within the complex. Fragmented volumes allow the building to adapt to a steep slope, and they emphasize the division of functions into “work, sleep and community”, inspired by monastic architecture, which was also adopted by the Bauhaus. A linear passageway serves as a backbone and ties the complex together. Its geometry is sometimes subject to the logic of the buildings, crossing through their interiors. At other times it breaks away, moving outside; in these cases, the buildings adapt to the geometry of the passageway, which takes the form of a porch.

The complex is characterized by organizational, formal and constructive rationality, with concrete being the dominant material, both outside and inside. A simple and rational structure, based on pillars and visible concrete beams, achieves an optimal aesthetic result while lending unity to the whole; it is articulated with solid concrete walls and wooden joinery that follows an exact repetitive modulation.

Links

[HfG Archiv Ulm Official Website](#)

[SOS Brutalism](#)

[Domus web](#)