

Learning from Modernism

Berlin, 28 and 29 November 2025

International conference ‘Modernism # Progressive Heritage’

as part of the ‘Triennale der Moderne 2025’ and ‘ETOM – European Triennial of Modernism’

On 28 and 29 November, Berlin will host the international ETOM2025pilot conference on the architectural and intellectual heritage of 20th-century modernism in Europe. This high-profile conference marks the conclusion of the ‘Triennale der Moderne 2025’ and the ‘ETOM2025pilot festival’.

The lectures by renowned experts from various European countries will address the question of how the built, cultural and social heritage of modernism can be better protected and made ‘productive’ for current and future challenges. To this end, the ideals of 20th-century modernism will be placed in relation to current political trends in individual countries of Central Europe. On the one hand, there is a threat of the dismantling of democratic and emancipatory standards that are associated with the transnational reform-oriented spirit of modernism and have become the core of the democratic value foundation. At the same time, a democratic society is the basis for sustainable resource protection through circular strategies and the cessation of environmentally harmful demolition of building fabric suitable for reuse.

Anti-democratic, backward-looking and protectionist political agendas exist worldwide today – and are particularly evident in Europe in the war against Ukraine. The theme of the event is to discuss values and risks as well as practical examples in order to strengthen joint solutions and cooperation at the European level. One focus will be on the European Union’s ‘New Green Deal’, which aims to make the EU climate-neutral and more resilient by 2050.

This brings into focus the appreciation, reuse and transformation of existing buildings, which experts have been calling for for a long time. The conference focuses on late post-war modernist and brutalist buildings in Europe, which represent democratic values and participation with public offerings in urban neighbourhoods. The venue for the event is fitting: the annex of the town hall in Berlin-Tempelhof – itself a Brutalist building – which is opening its doors for the conference as part of the Triennale der Moderne 2025 and the ETOM – European Triennial of Modernism.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Registration is required – please note that space is limited.

Programme and registration

[triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/etom2025pilot-conference/](https://www.triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/etom2025pilot-conference/)

Context and participants

The English-language transnational conference marks the culmination of this year’s ‘Triennale of Modernism 2025’, a supra-regional festival on modernist building culture and intellectual history with events in Dessau, Weimar and Berlin, and the pilot edition of the ‘European Triennial of Modernism (ETOM)’, which was presented for the first time at the ‘Triennale der Moderne 2022’. This initiative comprises around 40 partners from 15 countries and is an official lab project of the ‘New European Bauhaus’ (NEB) – called ‘ETOM NEB Lab’. Between the Triennale der Moderne in 2022 and 2025, annual international conferences took place in Berlin in 2023 and Halle in 2024. The conference is funded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Berlin State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments and supported by the district of Tempelhof-Schöneberg.

Speakers (in alphabetical order): Riin Alatalu, Franziska Bollerey, Lenka Burgerová, David Crowely, Ana Ivanovska Deskova, Joerg Gleiter, Jörg Haspel, Thomas Flierl, Monika Kicová, Wolfgang Knöbl, Andrea Londakova, Tino Mager, Ákos Moravánsky, Henrieta Moravčíková, Michał Murawski, Nataliia Mysak, Uta Pottgiesser, Dumitru Ruso, Irina Scherbakowa, Hubert Trammer, Sandra Uskokovic and other ETOM NEB Lab partners.

- Triennale der Moderne (Triennial of Modernism) in Berlin: [triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/berlin-programm/](https://www.triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/berlin-programm/)
- Projects within the ETOMpilot-Festival 2025: [triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/etom2025pilot-festival/](https://www.triennale-der-moderne.de/2025/etom2025pilot-festival/)

Curation, organisation and contact — The conference, part of the ETOM 2025 pilot festival, is presented by the ETOM NEB Lab. The transnational cooperation was initiated by BHROX bauhaus reuse / zukunftsgeraeusche and buschfeld.com in collaboration with KÉK – The Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, ICOMOS International, docomomo International, Slovak Design Centre and Estonian Academy of Arts.

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