LIBRARY OF THE EBERSWALDE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

ARCHITECT:
H & dM
JACQUES HERZOG
PIERRE DE MEURON

CLIENT:
LAND BRANDENBURG

REALISATION:
1997-1999

LOCATION:
EBERSWALDE, GERMANY
The library of the Eberswalde Technical School stands unique amongst the 19th century construction of its neighbors and yet does not disturb its surroundings with its simple yet elegant rectangular structure.

H & dM used the idea of a simple cube to be non-representative and have the building signify a source of knowledge and equality. The impact on the viewer is purely visceral and this building must lack any central idea or philosophy as can also be seen by the use of images. Outside, they use non-converging repetition or serial progression as a way to express movement of information.
The facade is probably the most memorable of the building as it is covered with a skin of precast concrete panels and glass, all printed with newspaper images collected by the artist Thomas Ruff, through a serigraphic process which includes different times of drying chemicals on the concrete surface to correspond to different gradations of the photographic negative.

The images vary per height. At the entrance level are images of man and technology. Above, are images of painting linked with themes such as love, mortality, and intellect. Finally, the top represents historic events, technology, and knowledge.
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The library of the Eberswalde Technical School is composed of several basic parts. First, it has three concrete floors. Floors 2 and 3 are identical. Second, the floors are supported vertically with concrete columns and circulation and utility shafts that run through the floors, creating a free plan. Third, the skin is non-structural, composed of precast printed concrete and printed glass supported by clips attached to the face. Fourth, the interior is lined with wooden shelves from floor to ceiling.