



**University for
Sustainable Development
Eberswalde**

University Library

Information sheet on the newly constructed library

General

In April 1999, the newly built campus library, constructed on the property on Schicklerstraße was completed and handed over by the Department of Planning and Building Inspection Strausberg. The property is situated in the town centre of Eberswalde and has grown historically with its development (*Alte Forstakademie* 'Old Academy of Forestry' 1792, *Neue Forstakademie* 'New Academy of Forestry' 1876, Remise 1892, Administration Building 1912, Kollmann Building 1930, aso.). The Swiss architectural office **Herzog & de Meuron** was commissioned for the lecture building of the Faculty of Sustainable Business and the reconstruction of the campus library.

Due to the concept of urban planning, the property was to become a cohesive unit. Therefore, buildings were positioned directly on the property's borders and corners. The buildings themselves are modern, distinct and solitary items. The reconstructed three-floor library has a floor area of app. 36m x 14m. It is connected to the old library building via vitreous vestibule.

The new construction contains the public areas of the campus library (loan desk, magazine stock, reading lounge, catalogues, and open access holdings). The non-public old stock of items published before 1900, as well as the archives remain in the old building.

Construction and building site

The unfavorable subsoil in connection with a high groundwater level required specific measures for the construction. Full displacement piles (ø 56cm, length: 7.5 to 12m), on which a base plate of waterproof ferroconcrete (WU-ferroconcrete) was mounted, were employed to overcome those challenges.

The load-bearing structure of the new building consists of a "ferroconcrete-staves-bolt-system", as well as prefabricated plates for the outer walls. The floor ceilings are made of semi-precast elements. This makes the floors entirely transparent, interrupted only by two inner cores, in which the stairways and lavatories are located. The arrangement of shelves and work desks creates separately secluded reading booths.

A special feature of the building is its façade, which is entirely covered with images all around. Those are, in fact, "curtain walls" made of concrete. Via a specifically designed process, photo scenes were worked into said concrete walls. Ribbon windows, running above the shelves, serve ventilation, lighting, and function as flues. Those are equipped with photo motives as well. Only the vision panels of the reading booths are left blank. The motives were selected by artist **Thomas Ruff**.

In 1999, the building was awarded the Architectural Prize of the State of Brandenburg.