

Back to the Future – Reconstruction and Revitalization of the BIKINI House in the Centre of Berlin

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Abstract

The BIKINI House, originally completed in 1957, is a listed building complex consisting of five buildings in the center of the West-City of Berlin, adjacent to the renowned Gedächtniskirche and the zoo. The entire ensemble was recently refurbished as a shopping mall, hotel and multi-screen cinema. The revitalization of the listed building complex is based on high standards of energy efficiency for energetically optimized buildings and on sophisticated design having to be realized against tight deadlines, which resulted in innovative constructional design details being developed, amongst others due to the quick construction work. The BIKINI House was completely gutted during the refurbishment and was rebuilt except for the bare concrete work. The new shopping mall connected with the historic building has a 240 m wide-span roof structure, which is a big artwork. This steel construction has a sheet thickness of 160 mm like a design construction for large bridges.

Keywords: Innovative design, steel construction, WU-structure, water impermeable concrete.



Figure 1. BIKINI Berlin. Complex of five listed buildings, carefully revitalized to meet modern shopping and entertainment demands