

Concrete volumes are fused with an old piano factory to create David Chipperfield's Berlin office

David Chipperfield's Berlin team added four concrete blocks to a former piano factory in Mitte to create their studio (+ slideshow).



Photograph by Simon Menges

David Chipperfield first offered a glimpse of his firm's new building, completed in late 2013, as part of the Where Architects Live exhibition in Milan last April.



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The renovated and extended complex serves as both a home and studio for the British architect.



Photograph by Simon Menges

Located at 696 Joachimstraße, the site had been bombed during the war. This meant two of the original buildings had been eradicated, leaving a five-storey block at the rear of the plot and a single-storey block that had been added later.



Photograph by Ute Zscharnt

The architects sought to reestablish the same sense of enclosure as the original buildings had created on the site. To achieve this, they closed off the street facade and framed a sequence of semi-private courtyards with the addition of four new building volumes.



Photograph by Ute Zscharnt

"They are suspended in ambivalence between restoring the situation from before the war damage and a new idea of a block interior," said a statement from David Chipperfield Architects, who also recently completed a copper-clad office block in China.



Photograph by Simon Menges

"Simple cubic volumes form independent structures, which can be perceived from different perspectives, while continuing the history of a typical courtyard structure and transforming it into a flowing exterior space," they added.



Photograph by Ute Zscharnt

The largest of the new additions is the four-storey structure that fronts the street. This building houses an exhibition gallery and events spaces, as well as Chipperfield's own three-level apartment.



Photograph by Ute Zscharnt

Concrete walls have been left unfinished, and are punctured on the facade by six large windows. These have been deliberately offset at each storey to add variety to the interior spaces.



Two more four-storey blocks adjoin the old piano factory building, which dates back to 1895. These create extra space for meetings and offices, leaving the old building to house the majority of the studios.



Photograph by Davide Pizzigoni

The final addition is a two-level garden block that serves as a staff canteen.

"Together with the garden courtyard, the canteen creates a semi-public location for socialising and



Internal finishes are kept as minimal as possible, reflecting the style that the studio has become known for. Polished screed serves as flooring and doors are made from hand-painted wooden panels, while a number of surfaces are picked out in veined marble.

Project credits:

Architect: David Chipperfield Architects

Partners: Alexander Schwarz – Design Director, Mark Randel – Managing Director

Project architects: Marcus Mathias, Lukas Schwind

Project team: Ulrike Eberhardt, Gesche Gerber, Sascha Jung, Sandra Morar, Christof Piaskowski, Thomas Schöpf

Landscape architect: Wirtz International N.V., Schoten capatti staubach, Berlin

Structural engineer: Reiner von Polheim, Berlin

Services engineer: PIN – planende ingenieure gmbh, Berlin

Building physics: Müller BBM, Berlin

Fire protection consultant: Peter Stanek, Berlin

Site supervision: Carola Schäfers Architekten BDA, Berlin

Quantity surveyor: PGA Architekten, Berlin

Construction documentation: David Chipperfield Architects, Berlin

Structural work: Dreßler Bau GmbH, Dresden



Site plan – [click for larger image](#)