

Building with conscience.



The future has an antiquarian feel

Erected from 1859 - 1862, the buildings of the "Old Artillery Barracks" in Schwerin are for the most part in good shape and are currently used by local authorities. The riding hall is a different matter: this hall was actually supposed to be converted into a sports hall – until the construction project was stopped, leaving a dilapidated brick ruin behind. It wasn't until a few decades later that this ruin was secured against demolition by the Landesdenkmalamt (State Office for the Protection of Historic Monuments) and presented with an unlike neighbor on the other side: a "Black Box" of glass which accommodates the State Archaeological Museum. Designed by the architects of the State Building Authority Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the monolithic, shining black cube exhibits neither windows nor any other visual differentiation apart from its entrance side. The building was constructed as a reinforced concrete construction with external walls of lightweight bricks, in front of which was installed a StoVentec[®] Glass ventilated rainscreen cladding system consisting of black enamelled glass. The contrast between the Black Box and the brick masonry could not be greater; at the same time, though, it combines the past and present to form an ensemble.

