





THE EMBASSIES OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Berger + Parkkinen

The decision by the five Nordic countries to build their embassies jointly was the result of several years of co-operation and mutual trust. Despite the fact that the project was seen as a joint venture, each country had to express its sovereignty and individual culture in its respective building. The final approach brought to the project is the product of reflection as to how to represent both unity and individuality.

Five relatively small buildings in the increasingly built-up centre of Berlin might simply constitute a group of five separate villas set in the Tiergarten park landscape. No matter how attractive these buildings might be, this solution would not express the idea of community. We needed a larger element that would bind the composition together, enclose the national embassy buildings and represent the community. Therefore we began the project by defining the massing of the complex. The free form of the mass derives from the site boundary, the position of trees and the location, beside the Tiergarten park. The working process involved dividing the "critical mass" to create six separate volumes. The space between them became

the central outdoor plaza around which the embassy complex is organised.

An architectural competition was held in the respective countries to produce the final design for the five embassy buildings. We were commissioned to design the common building, to be responsible for the overall design of the block and to co-ordinate the project.

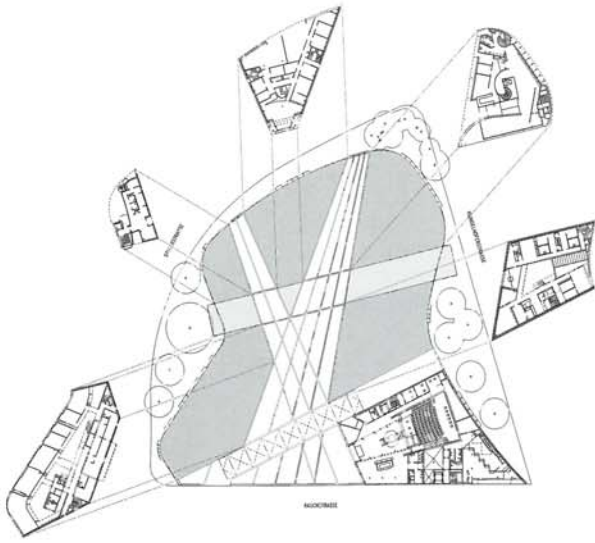
We developed a copper band that ties up the building mass. The band incorporates the six buildings within its boundary and forms an unbroken, independent element with a character of its own. Its flowing, uninterrupted movement introduces a new scale to the complex and transforms the six relatively small buildings into a single element on a scale with the urban context. The openings in the copper band reveal details of the inside. The band links and conceals elements, but only partly attracts attention to the multifaceted interior. It is itself a landscape form, through which individual buildings can be seen. The 15-metre-high and almost 250-metre-long band consists of some four thousand identical copper lamellae. Most of the surface is closed, but some of the lam-

ellae are opened out horizontally or at a 45-degree angle in response to the need for light, shade, ventilation and visibility, or for security reasons. We call this copper band a self-generated facade.

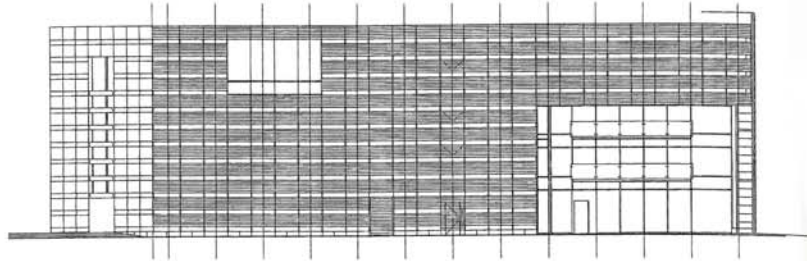
Fellehuset, the common building, forms the gate to the complex and functions as a meeting place for embassy staff, visitors and the people of Berlin alike. It is a centre for cultural exchange and information. To allow visitors freedom of movement, all the building's functions take place outside the internal security zone of the embassies. The plan of the building is organised around a central glazed atrium. A glazed staircase connects the different levels of the building. In addition to entrance facilities, the ground floor also houses the auditorium and the Consulates of the Nordic countries, which have a shared entrance on Rauchstrasse. On the first floor of the building, the atrium is surrounded by a zone of exhibition spaces, which will also be used for receptions, parties and other events. Conference rooms and the staff dining room are located in a secluded area above the exhibition spaces. / ALFRED BERGER & TIINA PARKKINEN



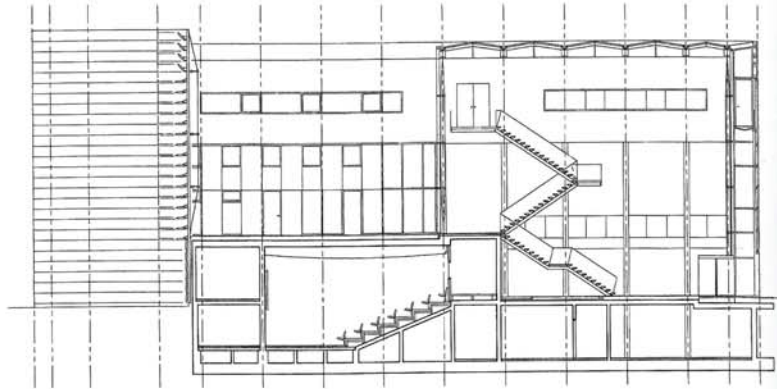
Embajadas de los países nórdicos - The embassies of the Nordic countries



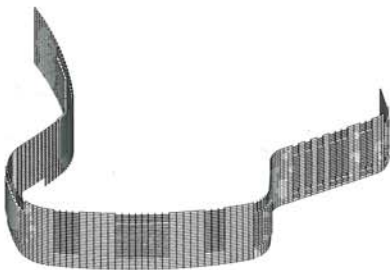
Pianta general - General plan | Escala - Scale 1:2000



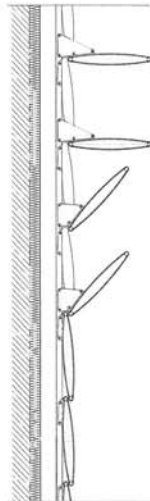
Felleshus. Alazado sur - South elevation



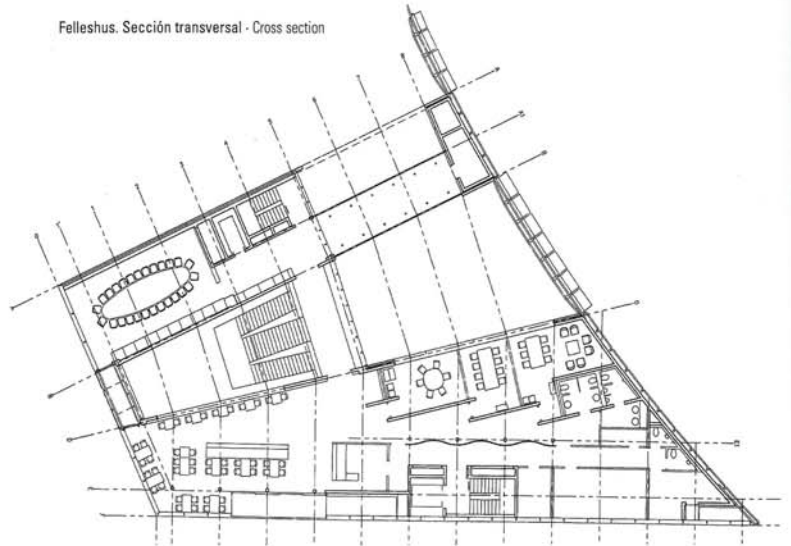
Felleshus. Sección transversal - Cross section



Banda de cobre - Copperband



Detalle del muro de cerramiento - Detail of the copperband



Felleshus. Planta segunda - Second floor plain

LOCALIZACIÓN - LOCATION: BERLÍN - BERLIN

Proyecto - Design date: 1995

Ejecución - Completion date: 1999

Promotor - Client: Ministerio de Vivienda y Construcción de Dinamarca - Danish Ministry of Housing and Building (Dinamarca - Denmark); Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores - Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Finlandia - Finland); Government Engineering Contracts (Islandia - Iceland); Statsbygg / Public Construction + Property (Noruega - Norway); Statens Fastighetsverk (Suecia - Sweden)

Arquitectos - Architects: Alfred Berger, Tiina Parkkinen

Equipo de proyecto - Project team: Margarete Dietrich, Antti Laiho, Ines Nivic, Kurt Sattler, Peter Thalbauer, Günther Unterfrauner, Ivan Zdenkovic

Colaboradores - Collaborators: Drees & Sommer GmbH (gestión del proyecto - project management); Pysall - Ruge Architekten (arquitectos asociados y dirección de obra - correspondence architects and site supervision)

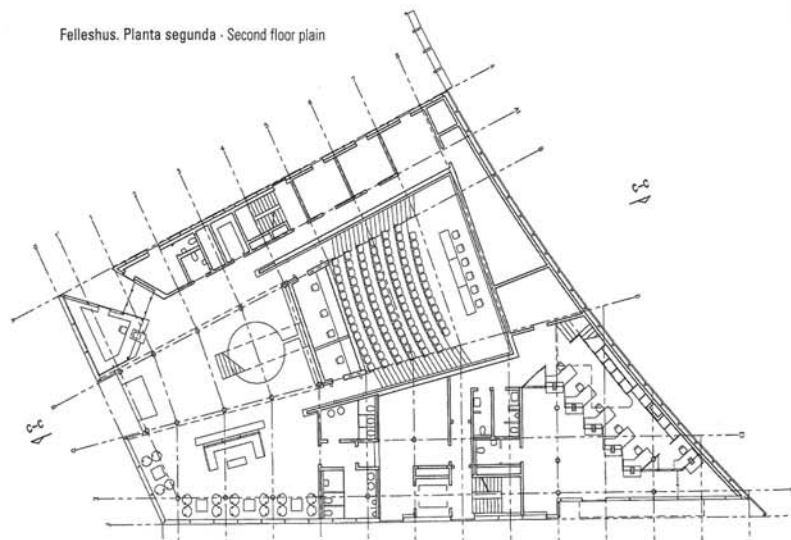
Arquitectos de las embajadas - Embassy architects: Nielsen, Nielsen & Nielsen A/S (Dinamarca - Denmark); VIIVA Arkkitehtuuri Oy (Finlandia - Finland); Palmar Kristmundsson (Islandia - Iceland);

Snohetta as (Noruega - Norway); Wingårdh Arkitektkontor AB (Suecia - Sweden)

Consultores - Consultants: IGH Ingenieurgesellschaft Höpfner mbH (estructura - structural engineers); DEWI Ingenieurbüro GmbH (fachada - facade engineering); George Sexton Associates (iluminación - lighting);

Landschaftsarchitekt Karsten Böcking (paisajismo - landscaping)

Fotografías - Photographs: Christian Richters, Jorge Mestre



Felleshus. Planta baja - Ground floor plan | Escala - Scale 1:500 | ↑ N