# WuWA

Wrocław Werkbund exhibition in Wrocław

**Living and Work Space**A black and white photograph taking up over half of the cover. The interior of one of the apartments in the WuWa Housing Development. Two large, bright windows on the right. A small table and two chairs under the windows. Two doors on the dark-painted wall on the left. Open terrace door in the background. A young woman is sitting in a wicker chair.

Black and white photograph. A single-family house at ul. Zielonego Dębu 17. A single-storey building with a basement, a small superstructure and a flat roof. Small windows in the façade. White façade. Rounded wall at the building entrance. 

# The most characteristic feature

of the WuWA housing estate is its variety of flats and houses for different social groups: the presented accommodation was conceived for both high and low-income users. The “house-community” project by Adolf Rading (house no. 7) or the hotel for singles and childless couples (house no. 31) are prime examples of the innovative solutions relating to the on-going discussion about which form that accommodation should take. In addition to this, new prevailing social tendencies concerning the professional engagement of women and the necessity to provide childcare resulted in the design and construction of a kindergarten and a small store for the estate.

# The architects planned

the landscape for communal use and presented propositions for the development of the garden. Representatives of Housewives’ Association also actively participated in the preparation of the architectural concept and home decoration. The process of construction took only three months. The authors of the WuWA estate proved that new technologies and their appropriate application can bring new values, and demonstrated that artistic values and technical thinking are not mutually exclusive.

# WuWA was one of the six model

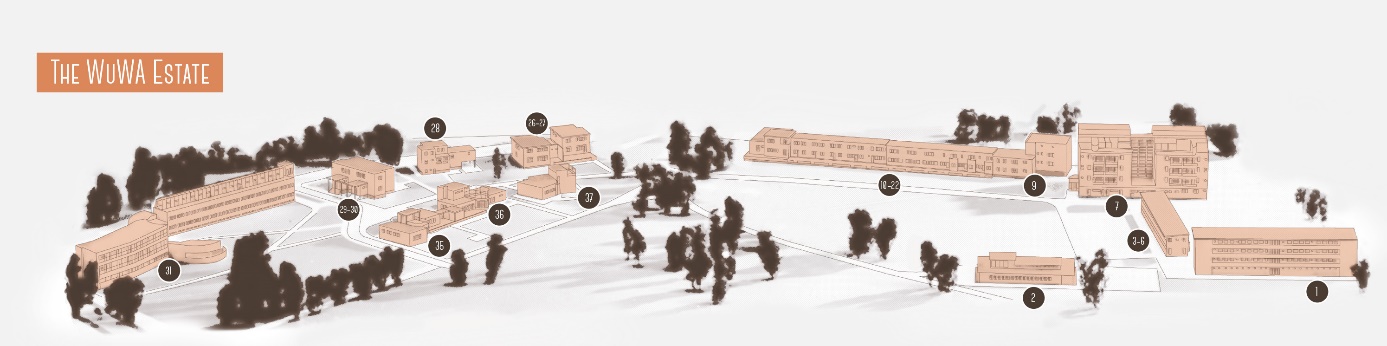
housing estates by the Werkbund, built in Europe at the turn of the twenties of the last century. An innovative look at the urbanisation process, city overpopulation, and society’s expectations in terms of living conditions and ability to deliver the latest technologies in construction – these were the challenging aspects of the post-war period that urban planners and architects had to face. The model housing estates were to present a totally new approach, free from traditional thinking, in the field of construction which would change its users forever. These estates were an experiment of particular importance and its effects influenced the development of modern architecture of the twentieth century.

# The WuWA housing estate was

a part of the “Living and Working Space” Exhibition, opened on June 15th, 1929. Adolf Rading and Heinrich Lauterbach were the authors of the urban planning concept. Particular houses were located in landscapes to provide the residents sufficient access to air, light, and sun. The houses were designed by architects belonging to the Silesian section of the Werkbund. Their aim was to create using easy-to-copy technologies, small and medium-sized flats which would be functional, comfortable, with central heating and running water, and at the same time available to an average consumer.

# Thus the WuWA housing estate

is a unique complex of cultural heritage on a world scale. Luckily it has survived up till now in an almost unchanged condition. Besides its location near the Centennial Hall, the Zoo, Szczytnicki Park and the Japanese Garden, it makes for a very attractive tourist spot. In June 2014, the WuWA housing estate is celebrating its 85th anniversary, and even though it requires renovation, the very idea of a model housing estate is still fresh and is attracting lots of interest. What is more, the solutions presented by the authors are not only contemporary, but also inspirational for the youngest generations of architects and urban planners.





## Gallery-access block of flats (1)

Address: No. 2 Tramwajowa Street

Surface area: 12 flats – 48 m2, 6 flats – 60 m2

Designers: Paul Heim (1879–1963), Albert Kempter (1883–ca.1941)

Construction: reinforced concrete framework filled with slag bricks

Current use: residential house

**Kindergarten for sixty children** (2)

Address: No. 18 Wróblewskiego Street

Surface area: 296.3 m2

Designers: Paul Heim (1879–1963), Albert Kempter (1883–ca.1941)

Construction: “Doecker” system by “Christoph & Unmack A.G.” – system of prefabricated wooden panels for easy installation at the construction site

Current use: Burnt down in 2006, rebuilt in 2013 as the training center of the Lower Silesia Chamber of Architects.

**Multi-family terraced house** (3-6)

Address: No. 2a Tramwajowa Street

Surface area: 2 flats – 60 m2, 4 flats – 45 m2, 2 flats – 70 m2

Designer: Gustav Wolf (1887–1963)

Construction: timber framework (beams 10×12 cm) with internal and external “Heraklith” chipboard facing

Current use: residential house

**Multi-family terraced house** (7)

Address: No. 2b Tramwajowa Street

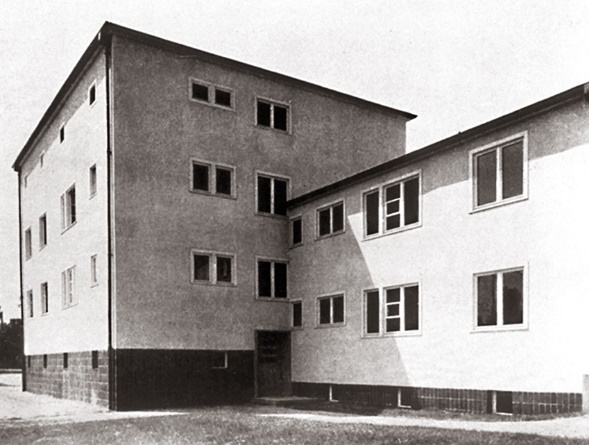
Surface area: 24 flats – 57 m2

Designer: Adolf Rading (1888–1957)

Construction: steel framework (space between the pillars 4×3.5 m) filled with “Schima” gas-concrete panels (16×30×50 cm)

Current use: The Wrocław University “Pancernik” halls of residents. The building was largely rebuilt.

**Multi-family block of flats** (9)

Address: No. 4 Tramwajowa Street

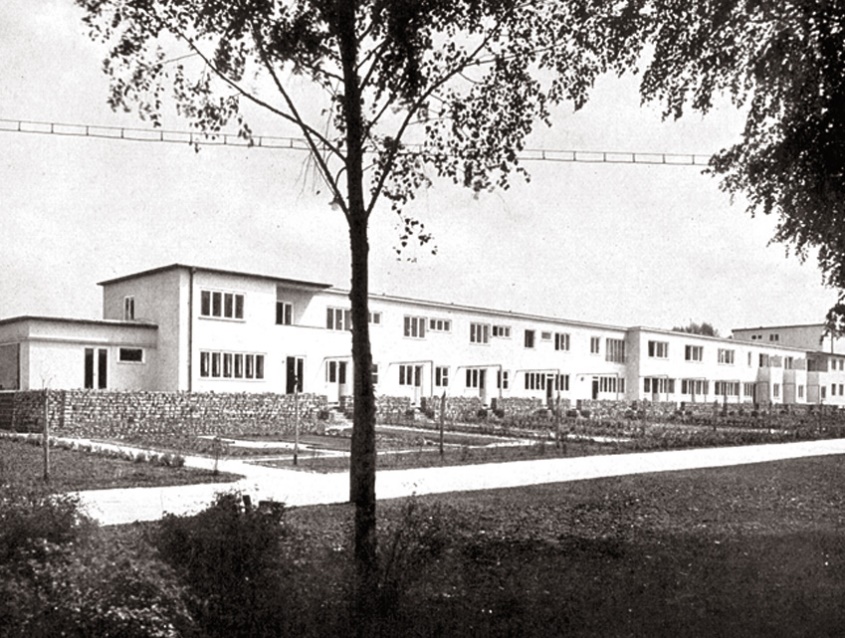
Surface area: 4 flats – 45.5 m2, 4 flats – 62 m2

Designer: Emil Lange (1884–1968)

Construction: “Spiegel” steel framework filled with gas concrete “Schima” panels (50×30–40×15 cm)

Current use: residential house

**Single-family terraced houses** (10-22)

Address: No. 6–30 Tramwajowa Street

Surface area: 3 flats – 86 m2 (no. 10–12), 3 flats – 91 m2 (no. 13–15), 2 flats – 86.07 m2 (no. 16–17), 3 flats – 78 m2 (no. 18–20), 1 flat – 148.86 m2 (no. 21), 1 flat – 94.2 m2 (no. 22)

Designers: Ludwig Moshamer (no. 10–12), Heinrich Lauterbach (no. 13–15), Moritz Hadda (no. 16–17), Paul Häusler (no. 18–20), Theo Effenberger (no. 21–22)

Construction: reinforced concrete framework filled with cellular concrete hollow bricks (12×14×25 cm) (no. 10–12), wall constructed of slag bricks (load bearing walls between the sections, 25 cm thick) (no. 13–15), reinforced concrete framework filled with 25 cm thick ferro-concrete hollow bricks (no. 16–17), ceramic brick wall, 25 cm thick (no. 18–20), “Kilgus” technology – two vertical slag concrete panels with a gap between them, in places of greater load-bearing, walls filled with concrete and steel inserts (no. 21–22)

Current use: residential houses

**Semi-detached house with garages** (26-27)

Address: No. 11–13 Dembowskiego Street

Surface area: 2 flats – 185 m2

Designer: Theo Effenberger (1882–1968)

Construction: “Leipziger” technology – two skinned walls constructed of hollow bricks and concrete “Portophor” tie bricks

Current use: residential house

**Detached house with garages** (28)

Address: No. 9 Dembowskiego Street

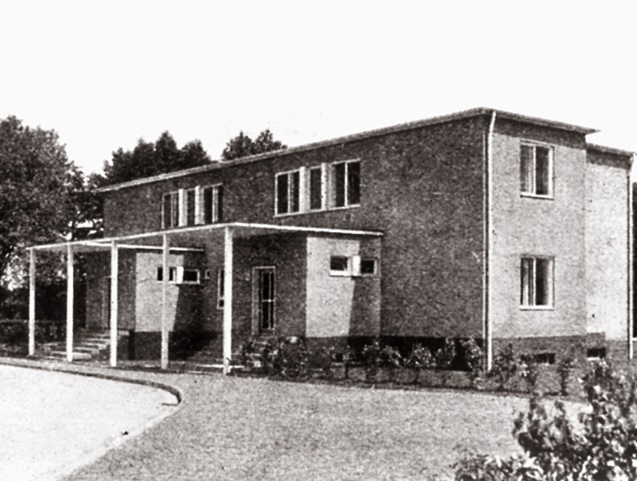
Surface area: 149 m2

Designer: Emil Lange (1884–1968)

Construction: steel framework filled with 17 cm thick gas concrete “Schima” panels

Current use: residential house

**Semi-detached house** (29-30)

Address: No. 23–25 Zielonego Dębu Street

Surface area: 2 flats – 148 m2

Designer: Paul Häusler (date unknown)

Construction: two layer, 44 cm thick brick (25×12 cm) wall, gap between two layer brick skins filled with slag

Current use: residential house

**The hostel for singles and childless couples** (31) 

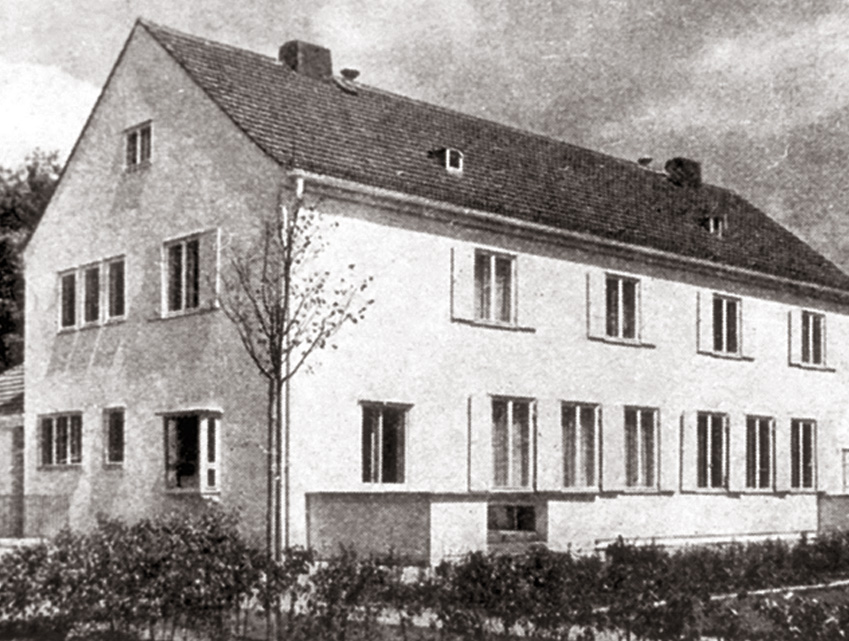
Address: No. 9 Kopernika Street

Surface area: 16 flats – 37 m2, 32 flats – 27 m2

Designer: Hans Scharoun (1893–1972)

Construction: ferro-concrete framework (“house of cards” type – “Karteblattbauweise”), applied on “wet”, spaces between frame pillars 3 m and 3.5 m

Current use: hotel

**Detached house** (32-33)

Address: No. 7/8 Kopernika Street

Surface area: 165 m2 and 189 m2

Designer: Gustav Wolf (1887–1963)

Construction: timber framework with inner and outer chipboard “Tekton” facing

Current use: non-existent

**Detached house** (35)

Address: No. 17 Zielonego Dębu Street

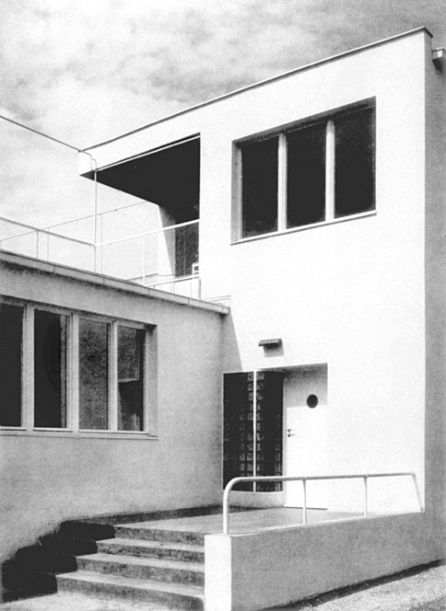
Surface area: 180 m2

Designer: Heinrich Lauterbach (1893–1976)

Construction: 44 cm thick brick wall

Current use: residential house

**Detached house** (36)

Address: No. 19 Zielonego Dębu Street

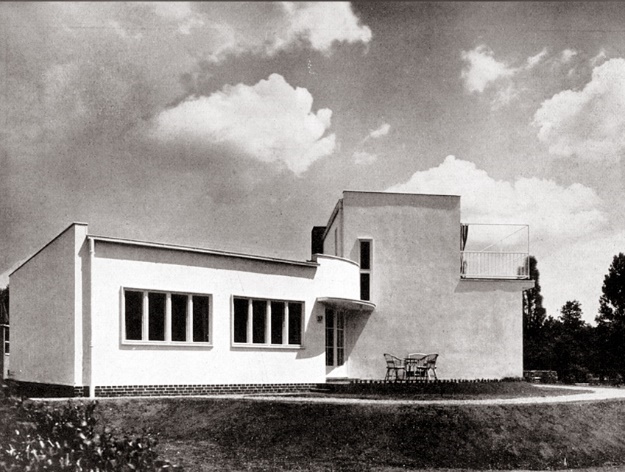
Surface area: 202 m2

Designer: Moritz Hadda (1887–ca. 1942)

Construction: two layer, 44 cm thick brick wall

Current use: residential house

**Detached house** (37)

Address: No. 21 Zielonego Dębu Street

Surface area: 149 m2

Designer: Ludwig Moshamer (1885–1946)

Construction: two layer, 44 cm thick brick wall

Current use: residential house