

The Building of the Information, Communication and Media Center (ICMC) / Informations-, Kommunikations- und Medienzentrum (IKMZ) of the Brandenburg Technical University / Brandenburgische Technische Universität (BTU) Cottbus

The ICMC/IKMZ-Building was designed by the Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron and finished, after a three year construction phase, in November 2004; it is a 32 meter high reinforced concrete construction covered by a double-shell, glass facade embossed with stylized graffiti. The ground plan of the building has a curved outline resembling a clover leaf which does not explicitly have front and back sides. The amazing external architecture continues internally with a spiral staircase extending from the 1st to the 6th floor, and a striking color scheme (in vibrant yellow, green, magenta, red, and blue) for parts of the floor covering and walls. In addition a further characteristic of the building is that within the ground plan none of the floor plans are the same. With the exception of the management and business areas (7th floor) and the technical and pool areas (1st and 2nd underground level) there are only a few truly separate areas. This allows a flexible and open concept for the use of the building which consciously allows for many work and communication forms for single users or user groups. The work and reading areas are in coves related to each of the floors, while the open access stacks of the library - floor related - arranged according to subject areas are located in the core of the building.

Biography – Dr. Andreas Degkwitz

Dr. Andreas Degkwitz is the Librarian and the Chief-Information-Officer of the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus. The university combined the central services for information, communication and media (library, computer-services, learning center and administrative data processing) on a common management and integrated the suppliers for these services to the integrated institution Information-, Communication- and Media-Center (ICMC/IKMZ) with around hundred staff members and a budget of nearly € 5 Mio (<http://www.tu-cottbus.de/ikmz>). In his former position (1998 – 2003) he was the deputy-director and the head of the computer-department of the library of Potsdam University. There he re-designed the IT-facilities and the electronic services of the library and at the same time he had the responsibility to implement a new library system for acquisition, cataloguing and circulation (OCLC/PICA). Another focus was a research project about the market for scientific information and the future role of its players (authors, editors, publisher, libraries, users etc.) will have in digital times (<http://www.epublications.de>). From 1991 to 1998 he worked as a junior consultant for library-affairs at the German Research Society / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The management of programs and projects funded by the German Research Society belongs to the mayor issues of his task combined with strategic planning for the technologically driven development of libraries and similar institutions.

List of publications - see:

<http://www.tu-cottbus.de/cms/fileadmin/uploads/ikmz/files/publikationsliste.pdf>