

CHEMNITZ INSIDE:

UPGRADE + CONNECT



START SoSe 2025

AWARDED BY THE CHAMBER OF ARCHITECTS OF SAXONY WITH SUPPORT OF
THE CITY OF CHEMNITZ AND THE ASSOCIATION BAUKULTUR FÜR CHEMNITZ e.V.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS

Chemnitz
European-Capital
of Culture



EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2025



ARCHITECTS
CHAMBER
OF SAXONY

AS A CONTRIBUTION FOR THE
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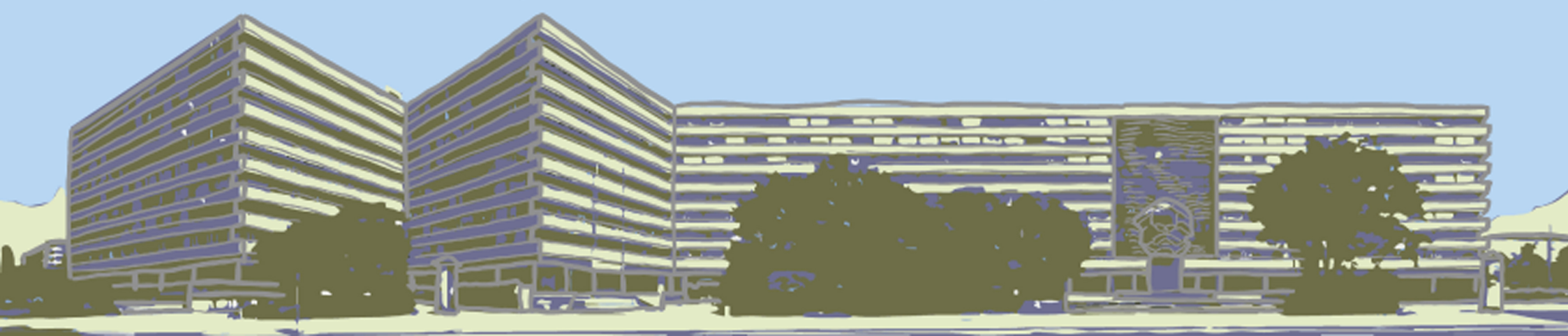
Chemnitz, a city in eastern Germany with over 880 years of history, is characterized by a fascinating architecture that encompasses a mix of historical buildings, socialist architecture, and contemporary structures. Large parts of the historic city center were heavily destroyed during World War II; however, significant architectural remnants of the city's historical and industrial development still exist today.

During the time of the German Democratic Republic (DDR), Chemnitz was renamed Karl-Marx-Stadt. During this period, numerous residential, commercial, and cultural buildings were constructed in the style of a modern and car-friendly socialist metropolis, along with wide streets, large squares, and monuments that continue to shape the city center. An outstanding example is the Karl-Marx Monument, a huge monument to the temporary namesake of the city and a symbol of socialism. The monument and the area in front of it have become a gathering place for cultural, political, and other events to this day.

With the reunification of Germany, not only was the city renamed Chemnitz, but also the realization of a new urban development framework plan began to densify and revitalize the city center. The city center received a new look with modern shopping centers, office buildings, and cultural facilities.

The current architecture in Chemnitz reflects the city's turbulent history from its industrial heyday to the challenges of the post-war period and the changes after reunification. Chemnitz represents an interesting and multifaceted urban landscape.

CHEMNITZ



The largest area of the inner-city competition area is occupied by a building ensemble, which was newly planned in the late 1960s and used until the mid-1980s as a party building and for the former district leadership of the Karl-Marx-Stadt district. Part of this ensemble is also the Karl-Marx Monument, one of the largest portrait busts in the world. The building ensemble behind the Karl-Marx head is now used as a government complex.

The area also includes other buildings such as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Chemnitz, the Heck-Art with gallery and restaurant, and a building of the Städtische Theater Chemnitz. Together, they enclose the courtyard of the area, which currently contains above-ground parking spaces and partially an underground garage and technical rooms.

The entire courtyard of the site currently does not show any meaningful use or design intention. The former party building, with its height of about 30 m and facade length of about 300 m, appears in the city area like a "wall."

Due to its location, the competition area represents an important interface between the immediate city center and the Theaterplatz with the art collections and the opera house. At the same time, it forms the transition from the city center to the adjacent Brühl district.

The competition area, covering an area of more than 50,000 m², has great potential for the establishment of attractive uses and thus for the upgrading of the city center. These uses can appeal to various target groups and generations of the Chemnitz population and also invite different people to the city center. Further aspects of the development of Chemnitz's city center, such as multifunctionality, adaptation to the consequences of climate change, mobility transition, sponge city concepts, experience and stay quality, non-profit offerings, as well as sports and cultural uses, should be considered in the design. The establishment of a venue for the successful basketball club NINERS and a pedestrian axis, which connects the city center (marketplace) with the university library (Alte Aktienspinnerei), is also an essential part of the competition task.

COMPETITION AREA

