Introduction

*Anna-Lisa Müller, University of Bremen and
Werner Reichmann, University of Konstanz*

This volume consists of ten chapters. Each of them can be read and discussed individually, but reading several or all of them will bring benefits, in particular a greater understanding of the central theme of the volume. Chapters 1 and 10 have a slightly different role in and for the volume than the other chapters. The first chapter introduces the theme by posing the reader a puzzle. It tells the story of the German Intelligence Service (BND) moving its headquarters from Pullach in southern Germany to Berlin and asks what this move reveals about the role of architecture in and for (German) society. It then introduces what we call the fried-egg model of architecture, which is our attempt to conceptualize the interrelation of four concepts central to this volume: social context, space, materiality and architecture. With the help of this model, we formulate definitions of terms the volume's contributors elaborate on in their individual chapters. These chapters are empirical studies and theoretical considerations of the central theme of this volume. In Chapter 10 we take on the task posed by this volume – constituting a sociology of architecture using science and technology studies – and outline both a sociology of architecture and a methodology for future empirical studies in this field.

Please be aware that in the following chapters all empirical data that were originally in a language other than English were translated by the respective authors. To avoid repetition, we have refrained from mentioning this fact in the individual chapters.