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Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse

Inventing Berlin

Architecture, Politics and Cultural Memory
in the New/Old German Capital Post-1989

 Springer

Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse
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*For my parents, who never stopped
believing in me.*

Preface

When I moved to Berlin in summer of 2007, the Palace of the Republic was under deconstruction not even three kilometers from my apartment. I passed through the socialist city center on my daily walks from Prenzlauer Berg to my language school in Mitte, completely unaware of the changes that the city had undergone in the previous 17 years and the role that Berlin would play in my future.

As I began my independent doctoral research at the Humboldt University some years later, I was plagued by a great number of questions about the reunification of East and West Germany, stemming from in the year I had just spent living and studying in Saxony-Anhalt. With these questions in mind, I wrote an exposé and found an adviser. In 2010, I did not expect the complexity that I ended up finding—my research covered topics as diverse as semiotics, architectural sociology, urban planning, cultural geography, memory studies, and political science. Along the way, I began to piece together the answers to questions about architecture, stigma, belonging, identity, and foreignness, a process which continued well after my defense.

This book is the result of nearly 10 years of research. The distance of time and a dozen years of German-language immersion have afforded me a new degree of nuance and a deeper understanding than was possible after only 3 years of independent doctoral research. I am grateful for this opportunity to expand on my earlier work and have taken full advantage of the chance to undertake a closer reading of primary sources and German-language literature for this book.

This research benefitted from the talented researchers whose work fed into and informed this book. Emily Pugh's definitive work on architecture and urban planning in divided Berlin was an amazing resource, as was Karin Lenhart's detailed examination of urban development politics in Berlin-Mitte after the fall of the Wall. I will always be grateful to Brian Ladd for his approachable and well-written account, *The Ghosts of Berlin*, which was one of the first books I read about the city. Hannes Bahrman and Christoph Link's *Am Ziel Vorbei* is a wonderful resource for getting a snapshot of nearly every social, political and economic aspect of life 15 years after reunification. And Maoz Azaryahu's inspiring work on toponymic inscription helped me take my analysis to the next level. I am further

indebted to the fine scholarship of Arnold Bartetzky and Mariusz Czepczyński, who I am honored to call colleagues. Mariusz was even gracious enough to read and comment on portions of this manuscript, for which I thank him.

This journey has been accompanied and assisted by a number of people. I'd like to thank my interview partners in the doctoral research from which this book grew and the many helpful city employees, archivists and librarians who have patiently answered my many questions and helped steer me towards the right sources.

I would not have been able to complete this project without the support of many friends and colleagues. I'd like to thank my collective members, Martin Schwegmann, Markus Kip, Agnes Müller, and Majken Bieniok. You four were the best doctoral self-help group I could have asked for. My thanks also go to Stephanie Morgenstern, who offered me my first close look at East Germany, for which I am ever grateful. Yvonne Bräunlich kept my head on straight through months of empirical research. Marie Huber helped me see things from the other side of the Wall and helpfully volunteered to read and comment on portions of this manuscript. Rebecca Pates inspired me with her work on the "symbolic foreigner" and helped me better understand power relations from the perspective of political theory. Simon Koch assisted me with gathering and visualizing the spatial data in this book, including cataloging and mapping street name changes, creating the wonderful maps in the book, and helpfully contacting the Berlin monument protection office for details about which buildings were listed when. I will always be grateful to Anne Ahnis, who helped me finish what I started. And my thanks also go to the anonymous reviewers who helped improve this text through their helpful comments. Finally, this book would not have been possible without my amazing husband, Niko, whose patience and support helped see me through even the toughest writing days.

I dedicate this work to my parents, who never stopped believing that I had this book in me.

Berlin, Germany
July 2019

Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse

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About the Author

Dr. Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse is an urban researcher, independent policy adviser, and author with a concentration on integrated post-industrial urban development, specifically: culture and creative industries, real estate market dynamics, intermediate and adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, citizen participation, bottom-up urban development, and urban commons. She has also published widely about symbolism in architecture. Together with her research collective, the Urban Research Group, she published the edited volume “Urban Commons: Moving beyond State and Market” in 2015. Her most recent book, “*Städtewandel durch Kultur*” (Urban Development through Culture), commissioned by the Thuringia State Center for Political Education, was published in 2017. A further book, *The Urban Commons Cookbook*, will be released in 2020.

Funded in part by a two-year German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship, she relocated to Germany in 2007 to pursue a MA in landscape architecture at the Hochschule Anhalt, which she completed in 2010. In 2013, after three years of independent interdisciplinary research, she successfully defended her doctorate in cultural geography at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. This book represents the continuation of her research about the city.

Abbreviations

CDU	German Christian Democrat Party (<i>Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands</i>)
CIAM	Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne
FAZ	Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany; German: <i>Bundesrepublik Deutschland</i>)
GDR	German Democratic Republic (East Germany; German: <i>Deutsche Demokratische Republik</i>)
IBA	International Building Exhibition (<i>Internationale Bauausstellung</i>)
SED	Socialist Unity Party (<i>Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands</i>)
SPD	German Social Democrat Party (<i>Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands</i>)

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