# **CITTÀ E GUERRA**

DIFESE, DISTRUZIONI, PERMANENZE
DELLE MEMORIE E DELL'IMMAGINE URBANA

# **CITY AND WAR**

MILITARY DEFENCES, RUINS, PERMANENCES
OF URBAN MEMORIES AND IMAGES



# TRACCE E PATRIMONI

Raffaele Amore, Maria Ines Pascariello, Alessandra Veropalumbo

Federico II University Press



# CITTÀ E GUERRA CITY AND WAR

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OF URBAN MEMORIES AND IMAGES

# Tomo secondo Tracce e patrimoni

a cura di Raffaele Amore, Maria Ines Pascariello, Alessandra Veropalumbo collaborazione alla curatela: Mariangela Terracciano

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Restoration works in Germany after World War II between material reintegration and memory of places. Hans Döllgast, Josef Wiedemann and their relationship to ruins

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#### **Abstract**

The destruction occasioned by World War II (WWII) made Germany sadly known for the desolation affecting its cities and the severe destruction occurred to monuments and historic urban fabrics. This destruction was followed by exemplary reconstructions and reintegrations. Particularly, the case of the post-WWII recovery of the city of Munich will be investigated in this paper by using as illustrative examples the restoration projects by Hans Döllgast and his pupil Josef Wiedemann. These embody methodological principles currently in use in our practice of today and are showing a remarkable awareness of the classical world and the concept of ruin linked to this.

#### Keywords

Ruins, Germany, Reintegration, Memory

#### Introduction

Hans Döllgast (1891-1974), a figure still under investigated in Europe, was trained at the Technische Hochschule München, where he later became a professor of Architectural Design and Interior Architecture. He was raised in Burgheim, the ancient *Parrodurum, castrum,* located at the border of the Roman Empire on the Roman Danubian *limes*, about 100 km from Munich. In contrast with the prevailing intellectual climate of the post-WWII recovery of Germany, which was inclined to reevaluate ancient mythology, he felt linked to classical culture – thus, to the romantic idea of remains.

His fascination with remains is data back to his childhood. However, this grew exponentially during his early years of study at the Technische Hochschule München. This thanks to the drive provided by two of his teachers, the brothers Friedrich (1852-1921) and August (1843-1917) von Thiersch. Particularly, and firstly, they transmitted to him the language of simplified forms bond to historic designs and redeveloped so to conceive buildings looking towards contemporaneity. Further, the approach of an architect-archaeologist has been taught to him. The *Bauforschung*, which is the technical and constructive history of buildings beside their historical and artistic features.

It is well known that as earlier as in 1913, Hans Döllgast drew up his first project on antiques. He graphically reconstructed two villas described by Pliny the Younger in the *Epistulae*: the first was *Laurentina*, reported in the letter to his friend Gallo and located in Castel Porziano, the other one was outlined in the letter to his friend Apollinaris, and this was located near *Tifernum Tiberinum*, today Città di Castello [Döllgast 1960].

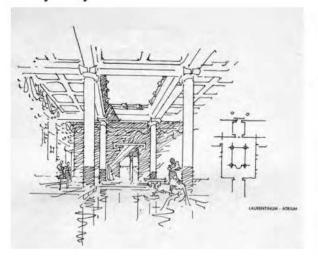
Further, in 1926 his honeymoon to Italy made home to portray Rome as a vibrant city in which the ruins were not museum like pieces out of their context but active elements of the urban system. This was used and converted by him into an architectural language where added parts

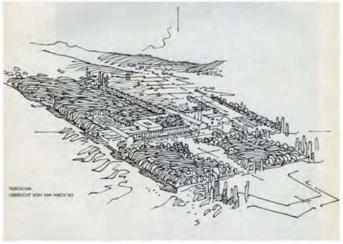
and superimposed ones, the new in the old, seemed to personify his vision of the city of spirit [Peter, Wimmer 1998, 9].

Attention to details and simplification of forms was also transmitted to him by both Richard Riemerschmid (1868-1957) and Peter Behrens (1878-1940), who was among the founders of the *Deutscher Werbund* and director of the *Kunstgewerbeschule* of Munich and Dusseldorf, respectively. Then, in the years 1920s, Hans Döllgast by working as a young architect in the *ateliers* of these two masters, had occasion to absorb the cultural lesson of the *Arts and Crafts*. Josef Theodor Wiedemann (1910-2001), he also studied at the Technische Hochschule, having among his teachers Hans Döllgast with whom he established a relationship based on a shared vision for the intervention on the existent. In 1955, he held the chair of "Design and conservation of monuments".

The fascination and study of Roman ruins strongly influenced the architectural language of Döllgast. The poetics of the Bavarian master started right from the ruin, here, understood as a memory of the war trauma, and regarded in a much broader concept of design spanning between the protection of the past and the conservation of traces of war so to pass them to the future as a sign of warning.

By analyzing the case of the reconstruction of the Alte Pinakothek, the church of St. Bonifaz and the Glipthothek and other interventions carried out by the two architects in Munich, we will describe their design sensitivity, their interest in the preservation of monuments, their relationship with historical events and the urban context by highlighting the familiar feeling conveyed by them.





1: Hans Döllgast, reconstruction of the two villas described by Pliny the young in the Epistulae. From Döllgast 1960.

# 1. The "New Munich" and the design of museum architecture in the 19th century A urban plan for the capital of the Bavarian Kingdom

In 1806, Bavaria became a kingdom under the pressure of Napoleonic geopolitics. In 1818, it was the only state in Germany to have a written constitution and a parliament. The ambitious cultural policy of the Wittelsbach dynasty aimed to acquire a prestigious position among the German and European royal houses, intending to make Munich a new Athens – as this was regarded in its greater times.

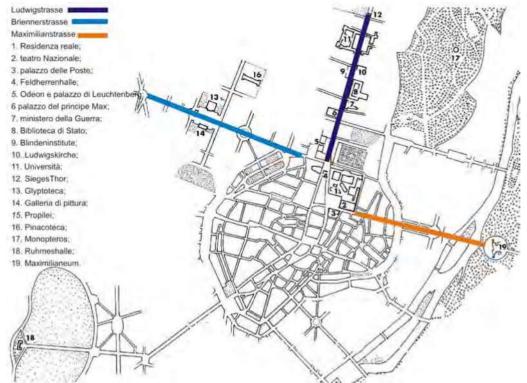
In 1808, Karl von Fischer drew up the expansion plan for the city of Munich, which with a contribution by Leo von Klenze (1784-1864) would, then, be implemented over sixty years.

The project for the new urban plan was based on a classical revival architectural language, which was implemented by the help of an alternation of representative buildings that were progressing in pairs, and acting as hubs, which were set into a system of squares spanning between rectilinear axes. Here, a series of museums was designed as a mark of erudition.

Regarding this, in 1884, Camillo Boito wrote the following: «Munich [...] is a gallery of colossal architectural models, a permanent exhibition of art objects. [...] The monumental buildings [are] placed in the streets or squares for the education of the young and the erudition of people» [Sica 1976, 420-421].

In this context, the museum is understood as the maximum expression of civil architecture and is closely related to plans of magnificence, urban decorum and social growth.

The Enlightenment synthesis of museum projects is documented by the book *Précis des lessons d'Architecture* published between 1802-1809 by Durand (1760-1834), understood as a reference manual for building types and study. Durand refers to Boullée (1728-1799) model, which is redeveloped by him by retaining symmetry and colonnades into his newly proposed reinterpretation of Boullèe design, all the while presenting a more feasible design scheme for circulation. Durand museum type is a square in which a Greek cross is placed the arms branch away from a central rotunda, a pivot of the composition that at first glance, it seems to be borrowed by the design of the Pantheon and intended for assemblies of citizens and scholars so to underline the public value of the institution. The exhibition halls are illuminated with semicircular windows of thermal derivation, placed high up for good lighting.



2: The Munich expansion plan after 1808. Reworking from Sica 1976.

The original idea for one of the focuses of the new urban plan of the city of Munich, Königplatz was to integrate green spaces and monuments inspired by classicism. Königplatz is placed at the centre of the new quote of expansion of the city – referred to as Maxvorstadt. Here, Klenze envisioned and built Propylaea and a Glyptothek depicting a first idea of a National Collection

of Ancient Objects, which will be later created by G. F. Ziebland.

The Glyptothek was commissioned and financed by *Kronprinz* Ludwig (1786-1868) who, in 1812, along with other precious pieces, purchased the sculptures of the pediment of the Aphaia temple in Aegina.

In 1816, Leo Von Klenze was appointed Hofbauintendant. Here, he proposed three constructive alternatives. The building was completed in 1830 in accordance with Renaissance aesthetics. The Roman *domus* and the Renaissance and Baroque palaces were, in fact, the historical reference for the exhibition spaces.

The museum was organized around a well-defined collection, which was conceived as a *Gesamtkunstwerk* [ed: *Total work of art*] combined with architecture and interior spaces. Particularly, decorations and the staging of works of art were conceived so to obtain an «ultimate presentation» of these able to empathically solicit visitors [Basso Peressut, 2015, 34-35]. Each room had decoration, lighting and an arrangement explicitly designed for the works of art on display – thus, defining a specific iconographic relationship between sculpture and environment. This does not end with the container-content link and creates a new starting point in the museum's history.

Moreover, Klenze 's idea of the gallery was connected to the social function of art: «...a museum is a place where art treasures are shown to all kinds of visitors so to create pleasure for them and make the objects valuable» [Basso Peressut 1985, 62].

He reinterprets the Durandian scheme in his building by reducing this in scale and making some changes. Two rotundas are placed at the composition's corners, and the colonnade is resized. The building shows a square-like plan with a large courtyard and a single axis of symmetry along the entrances, reproducing the façade of an Ionic temple. The walls, on the sides of the colonnade, have aedicules with statues, which also continue along the side facades. Halls were lit by the help of natural light coming from lunettes placed at ceilings and set watching towards the inner courtyard.

Wiedemann's intervention was carried out after the extensive destruction caused by the allied bombings. This changed the relationship between inside and outside, and between containers and sculptures originally created by Klenze. In a nutshell, he expressed the original space and damages caused by war with a reworking action similar to what his master achieved for the nearby Alte Pinakothek.

#### 2. A new concept of museums "for people's erudition and pleasure"

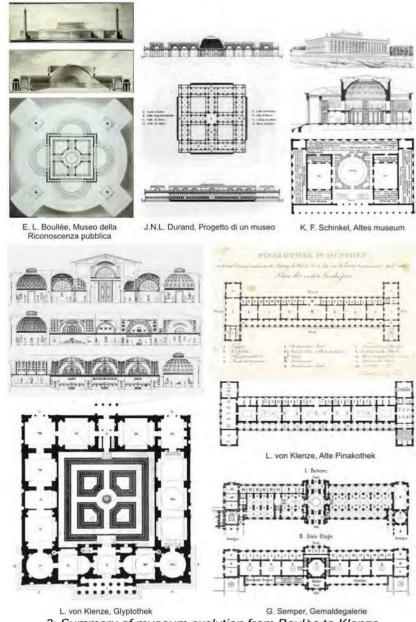
After Schinkel Altes Museum, a milestone into the design of "public" museums, the typology proposed by Durand is explicitly used across Germany.

Another museum of the 19th century, which was influencing generations of designers, was the Alte Pinakothek designed by Leo von Klenze. Here, further to an exhibition of sculptures, a picture gallery was needed in Munich, as for the case of London and Berlin. The project became executive in 1823, following Klenze 's visit to various Italian galleries. It was inaugurated in 1836.

The Alte Pinakothek, with its sixteenth-century design language lacking decoration, possesses twenty-five bays, from west to east, and ends with four slightly protruding wings. The entrance and stairs were conceived at the eastern end. However, this will be modified by Döllgast during his restoration works - following the disproportionate collapse of the central part due to bombing.

A library, storage rooms and rooms for painting were planned on the ground floor. While, rooms for the permanent exhibition of paintings were planned at the upper floor.

The relevant innovation was to divide the building into three longitudinal bodies, which were defining a new building type developed from the reworking of noble palaces. The intermediate body illuminated by large skylights was accommodating big canvases. While, the northern body consisting of smaller rooms, was intended for miniature paintings. Opposite to this the south body designed so to resemble the shape of a loggia, a sequence of vaulted and frescoed rooms. A corridor about 130 meters long conceived with similitude to Raphael's Loggias at the Vatican that gave access to all rooms. This type of arrangement became the epitome of good practice in museum design inspiring generations of museum designers (i.e. the Gemaldegalerie in Dresden, by Gottfried Semper, built in 1847-55).



3: Summary of museum evolution from Boulèe to Klenze

#### 3. Döllgast and the ruin

Döllgast unlike many architects of his time was able to build with ruins, interpreting their preexistence as an element of value to be included into a new design that respects the past. In this respect, it is worth the case to mention the article written by Döllgast for the Journal paper retour. Here, Döllgast expressed his fascination with ruins as follow: "...A building must have been quite striking if its simple torso was still having such an impact." In his works, he has given to this toros a new and, at the same time, powerful form [Stock, Stockman, 2018, 26]. From 1946 onwards, Döllgast had to fight for the preservation of the Alte Pinakothek. A new general plan was put forward for the Maxvorstadt district. This was filling the ruined building of the Alte Pinakothek (year, 1947) into a demolishing programme. He was launching, along with his students, an appeal to save the building (year, 1951) and finally in 1952 Döllgast was appointed chief architect for the reconstruction of the Alte Pinakothek implementing his ideas over a time span of five years. Döllgast 's intervention was completed in 1957. This cannot be defined as a restoration work "only". It, on the one hand, proposes a minimal and simplified reintegrative intervention of the external appearance of elevations, which was conducted by reusing bricks coming from various damaged buildings and pilled up at the widening in front of the south elevation.

On the other hand, it possesses a huge impact on the overall design concept of the building as it modifies the internal typological and distributive structure of this by moving the entrance hall to the north – thus, introducing a monumental staircase in turn of the loggia.

The loggia was an iconic element conceived by Klenze as powerfully symbolic and was intended to give access to individual exhibition rooms positioned in a row. This collapsed during bombing and was replaced by a double-height space where a mirrored staircase with symmetrical ramps was accommodated. This new distribution layout moves the entrance to the exhibition to the first floor and makes visitors to proceed in succession from room to room and from the main rooms accessing the side ones located at heading bodies. The use of skylights, another characterizing element of Klenze design, is also significantly reduced.

The explosion crater reshaping the southern façade depicted a laceration, a feature that interrupted Klenze design architectural continuity. Döllgast solution was the result of successive hypotheses and reflections starting from a basic idea – similar to a "rigatino" technique for paintings – of combining reintegration with "chromatic differentiation" as this can be observed in the drawings and maquette preserved at the TUM archive<sup>1</sup>, and whose outcome is still visible on façades as an appreciable result. The potential unity of Klenze's project is reestablished. However, the simplification of forms, the use of concrete and tubular steel on the façade denotes a search for a new language.

Some choices in the simplification of forms and the use of bricks, even if made diachronically, find application not only in the façade of "Cà Granda" at via Sforza by Liliana Grassi (year, 1967) but also in the most recent intervention by David Chipperfield Architects and Julian Harrap Architects for the partial reconstruction and restoration of the Neues Museum of Berlin. The two projects reconfigure the lost unity by examining the relationship between the existing and new constructions and the urban space. However, the further expansion designed by Alexander Schwarz at Chipperfield Architects on the Kupfergraben is somewhat oversized compared to the pre-existing volume destroyed by the war. However, it presents itself to a larger public as a modern reinterpretation of this.

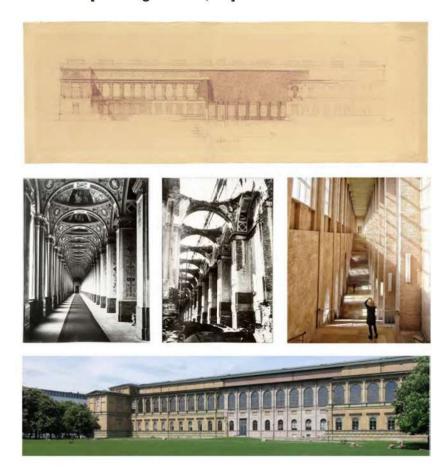
The projects by Döllgast and the one by Chipperfield Architects differ in the relationship in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Technische Universität München, ArchitekturmuseumArchiv

which the distribution of the internal spaces matches pre-existing typologies. If Chipperfield Architects reconstruct the entrance staircase in simplified forms and contemporary materials in the exact location in which it was originally located, Döllgast in the positioning of the vertical connection determines a new typological-spatial conformation. Further, the use of material - beyond its damaged condition - conceived by Döllgast for practical matters of budgeting was resulting in extensive restoration works which from the 1970s onwards were crucial for bringing the building to public fruition. In fact, it became necessary to restore façades, as part of the bricks reused from the rubble had crumbled, and parts of the original cornice were damaged. Döllgast's magnificent "patchwork" remained visible but during restoration works was redeveloped to a set extent [Stock, Stockman, 2018, 20].

Winfried Nerdinger explained the very particular way in which Döllgast was used to work: "A mastery of technical tradition without archaicising craftsmanship; a natural approach to historical and traditional forms without historicism, an exploration of new matter and modern forms" without modernism" [Nerdinger 1987, 20].



4: Munich, Alte Pinakothek. One of Döllgast's design hypotheses for the south front; the transformation of the loggia into a space for the new staircase; the current state of the south facade. TUM, Technische Universität München, ArchitekturmuseumArchiv.

The basilica of Sankt Bonifaz, in Karlstraße, was designed by Georg Friedrich Ziebland (1800-1873) at the same time as the adjacent Antikensammlung overlooking Königplatz. The worksite began in 1837, and the consecration took place in 1850. The new building was successful received by people, – thus, meeting the contemporary test in aesthetic standards of societies

and arousing admiration throughout Germany. The church was about 76 meters long ending with an apse and having a five bay cross-sectional profile progressing with the help of massive marble columns spanning between bays. Heinrich Maria von Hess paintings and a ceiling with decorated wood trusses was giving completion to the decorative apparatus at architectural surfaces. The exterior was made out of bricks, pilasters punctuated the side facades, and an entrance porch was made up of eight arches.

During the Second World War, the church was badly damaged by bombing due to its proximity to the Königplatz. Most surviving ruins were located in the southern area, with the entrance porch, the ending apse and the bell tower still standing.

Döllgast's project was the result of an extended meditation, where second thoughts and open talks with stakeholders and cultural interlocutors, among them Robert Vorhölzer, leads, once again, to a typological transformation of the pre-war organism<sup>2</sup>.

The first project, quite different from what was later realized, preserved the spatiality of the basilica before the air raids, including the apse. In a second version, elements of change were the shorter length of the nave and the creation of a courtyard with a double portico placed between the entrance colonnade on Karlstraße and the new façade. A courtyard intended not only as a typological solution derived from knowledge of the early Christian Basilica systems, but also as a place around which to deploy the monastic lodgings. From this one originates a variant, with a central plan hall and a quadriportico on the south side, that had strong similarities with the project thought up by Valadier in 1823 for the reconstruction of San Paolo outside the walls in Rome. A subsequent hypothesis, studied by Wiedemann, who was working on the adjacent refectory and the nearby Glyptotheque simultaneously, contemplated the possibility of a complete rebuilding of the original Ziebland layout by keeping the pre-existing porch as the only fragment.

At last The basilica was reduced to about half of its original length, and rebuilt on the site of the best-preserved southern part, creating a space with a square plan and placing two small chapels and two sacristies in the four corners. All decoration was avoided, and the brick texture was covered with whitewash, resulting in an interior of impressive clarity. It takes strong similarities to some places of worship created by Rudolf Schwarz, an appreciated designer of new churches like Döllgast can be observed. The northern part was completed with the creation of an open stone garden; a space for meditation.

After the conclusion of the works began a slow alteration of Döllgast 's masterpiece. The fabric was progressively modified, creating a new iconographic program considered more suitable for the current liturgical needs and, gradually, the austere and candid interior was transformed into a rich and colorful hall, where little recalls to the perils of the war. Apart from the exposed roof structure, the character of the space today is primarily lost due to the numerous changes that have been taking place over time. However, damaged columns can still be appreciated in the interiors, along with their concrete reintegrations.

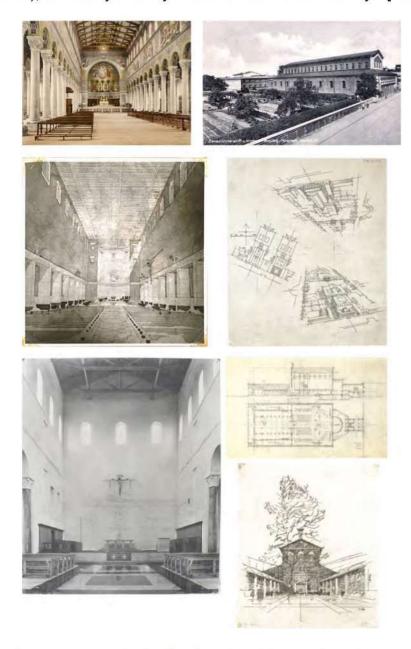
Döllgast design, how this was conceived by him, can still be observed on the outside, where some juxtapositions of old remains and new additions are visible, where reused bricks with new mortar joints were partly applied for the reintegration of missing parts.

The post-war need to economize on materials has helped to characterize his sober poetics. Michael Gaenßler, who has studied his works closely, says in this regard: "The precise striving for maximum economy in his post-war buildings in Munich is developed in a formal vocabulary,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Technische Universität München, ArchitekturmuseumArchiv.

in which materials and structural elements used and combined, referred to the wall surfaces (concrete, iron, wood), are always strictly visible and used tectonically." [Gaenßler 1987, 194].



5: Munich, Sankt Bonifaz. Evolution of the basilica from the original configuration, through the various design hypotheses put forward by Döllgast, up to the realized solution. TUM, Technische Universität München, ArchitekturmuseumArchiv.

#### 4.Wiedemann

The Siegestor, designed by Friedrich von Gärtner (1791-1847) in 1843-47, taking the Arch of Constantine in Rome as a model, marked the northern limit of Ludwigstrasse. After the conflict, its ruin stood out on the horizon, with the attic floor destroyed and the sculptures fallen and broken. Safety measures followed with some provisional works until the intervention decision was made. Wiedemann expressed his thoughts on the matter in a note: «For the repair to be

sensible, wounds can be healed by leaving scars, as a dutiful reminder of a horrible event. [...] We accept Siegestor as it is, with its wounds [...]». [Signorelli, 2018, 125-127].

The restoration of the Glyptothek had a different story than the intervention of the triumphal arch. Nevertheless, some intervention choices can be found in the sentences quoted above. The project for Klenze's building lasted over a decade, with a debate that started in 1961 involving historians, professionals and public opinion. What proposed by Wiedemann splits apart his fellow citizens between those who considered this an intervention that paid little attention to the richness of the original building and those who, instead, considered it as an attempt to rebuild it by making history – thus, concerning both for the preservation of memory of the past and of that sense of belonging to its own time.

The *Landesbauamt* intervened in the north portico and on the gap opened in the façade by bombs by following the principle of "how it was and where it was". Wiedemann expressed a negative judgment on this. In the wake of Hans Döllgast's interventions, the pre-existing building became a starting point to base the new one, opening up some experiments in treating surfaces and internal forms.

The reconstruction project conceived by Wiedemann modified the spatial relationship between rooms, the internal courtyard and the lighting system of the rooms. The intervention, radical in some respects, erased the iconographic program conceived by Klenze while retaining some traces of the war event and of the original structure. By subtracting and adding some but influential signs, the Bavarian architect transformed the perception of the monument. The entire plaster was reduced to the extent of showing bricks at walls, which were then painted in a light shade to evoke the ruin and spaces derived from classical antiquity. The rooms were equipped with sober furnishings. The original lunette windows facing the courtyard were lengthened until they reached the new floor. The courtyard level was raised to that of the internal rooms, realizing a transformation of the original typology similar to what happened in the Alte Pinakothek. In this way, the gallery's layout was changed, and the perception of the building was modified. The introverted exhibition itinerary opened up to the physical and visual crossing. and the courtyard became an internal square. The function of Klenze's overall concept has been preserved, but much of the content has changed. Having abandoned the scheme associated with the decoration, the didactic and chronological arrangement of the previous layout was rejected by actively avoiding for linking specific sculptures to certain rooms [Knell, Kruft 1972, 432]. In defining the new criteria for the design choices, the intent was to underline the historical-material loss and the sense of war trauma.

#### Conclusions

The works of Döllgast and Wiedemann re-elaborate the ruin and reconstitute an architectural unity of the monument that is often different from the one preceding the destruction of the war, watching to the past without any interest in its replication. Their architectures are new but start from a intense study of the past and collect its many instances.

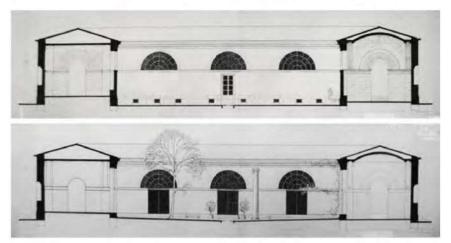
The new parts, rebuilt selectively, are compared with each other to the surviving ruins of the historic building; reaching a new synthesis with different forms of ornament. The typological-spatial organization of the architecture is changed, and sometimes technical and intervention choices don't retain parts and elements. However, in any case, the dialogue between new and old is always aimed to conserving the remains that survived the bombing.















6: Munich, Glyptothek. The Total Work of Art by von Klenze (Eginetic Room and Roman Room) [Knell, Kruft 1972]; war destruction (main facade and Bacchus room) [Knell, Kruft 1972]; section with the solution implemented by Wiedemann in comparison with the pre-existing one, TUM, Technische Universität München, ArchitekturmuseumArchiv; the current state of the interior and fittings, Wikimedia

Both had the intuition and ability not to erase the war wounds suffered by the fabrics they had to work on, showing attention to the consolidated historical value and the new one introduced by the war events. Döllgast, in particular, shared a distinctively modern attitude towards the historical monument as defined by Alois Riegl. For him, reconstruction was not an independent creative practice but part of the repair process, a characteristic of the value of the old.

Both designers worked so not to reject modernity, but by blending the present and the past with a view towards the future. They did not reject memory or the passage of time, they were giving to this a new value in the present time linked to the old and the new in its true unity, even in the face of a traumatic event such as war. [Carbonara 2011, 99].

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