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Mehr Licht

Wettbewerb Kunst am Bau
Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus
German Federal Parliament
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The courtyards of the Band des Bundes (The Federal Strip) constitute an interzone between public space and the city on the one hand and the representative and administrative spaces of the German parliament. Guarded off by an inconspicuous glass balustrade they are primarily non-functional spaces - yet of generous dimensions. In front of the regular multilayered grid of the metal-glass façade, and encased by the sculptural rhythm of the concrete beams columns and walls, the space dissolves into a state of suspended proportionality.

Mehr Licht is a sculpture that is a representative element in this interstitial space. A decorative element of salons, foyers, anterooms, or convention halls the chandelier takes self-conscious advantage of the opulent availability of space; this chandelier is assembled from large pieces of urban furniture; conventional streetlights agglomerated into an elegantly luminous object.

The usually rigidly verticality of the streetlamps is annulled, the lamp posts here form a lively array of different directions, emanating light from a common centre and reciprocally reflecting into the centre. The centre piece is a collection of foundations which sculpturally form an agglomerated star, a little planet. The lampposts in themselves become rays of an outreaching dynamic while conjunctively the assembly of different fixtures creates a diffuse sphere of light. While the electric lighting comes on only during the conventional hours of public lighting, the simple, yet iconic shapes and forms of the street lamps suggest light also during the day. The coating with a light brazen-metallic finishing formally unites the chandelier and fits it like a furnishing into the more subtle toned context of the building.



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The endowment of the parliamentary space of the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüder-House with public furniture recurs to the communal, shared responsibility within and for public space. Streetlights represent and enable public communality. The chandelier, assembled from various sizes and categories of the civic amenity streetlight multiplies these spheres of societal interest, reduplicating political representation in the use of public furniture. The off-public, administrative space of the Northern Courtyard is fitted with radiating public sculptures, in the truest sense of Goethe's last words admonishing enlightened clarity and transparency.

More light! – "Mehr Licht!"



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