



This is the second monograph on Hugo Häring and the first one in English. The first one which was published in German only – Jürgen Joedicke and Heinrich Lauterbach, *Hugo Häring. Schriften, Entwürfe, Bauten*, Stuttgart, 1965 – is out of print for many years.

Peter Blundell Jones

Hugo Häring – The Organic versus the Geometric

With a postscript by Margot Aschenbrenner. 232 pp. with 270 ill., 233 x 284,5 mm, hard-cover, English
ISBN 978-3-930698-91-2
Euro 78.00, sfr 138.00, £ 52.00, US \$ 89.00, \$A 148.00

Although he built relatively little and has hitherto remained somewhat overlooked, Hugo Häring was a key figure of the Modern Movement, first as secretary of the Ring, the principal organisation for Modernists in the 1920s, and second as the main theorist for the Organic stream in German architecture which is best known through the work of Hans Scharoun, to whom Häring was mentor.

Born in Biberach in 1882 and trained at the Technische Hochschule in Stuttgart under Theodor Fischer, Häring's career as a Modernist began when he moved to Berlin in 1921. There he was befriended by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, whose office he was invited to share, and this became a centre of debate for the new direction in architecture. The two architects set up the Ring, which by 1926 included every German Modernist of note. Its members dominated the famous Weißenhofsiedlung of 1927, for which Mies was artistic director, and its success also prepared the way for the CIAM congresses, which Häring attended as Ring representative.

Despite their political collaboration, Häring and Mies pursued projects in increasingly opposed directions, clarifying each other's position by contrast. Mies pursued general solutions and repeated types, advocating rational construction and flexibility of use, while Häring sought the utmost specificity to function and place – which meant that each building, even each element of a building, deserved to develop its own individual form. The key example was Gut Garkau near Lübeck of 1924/25, with its cowshed of pear-shaped plan devised around the requirements and rituals of farming. While Mies's universalism led directly to the development of the International Style typified in the world-wide glass office block, Häring's call for specificity had strong parallels in the work and theory of architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Alvar Aalto, and can be considered part of an alternative Organic tradition.

Peter Blundell Jones, Professor of Architecture at the University of Sheffield, has long been concerned with this field and has written extensively about it, including a substantial work on Hans Scharoun. The present book is not just a biography of Häring, but an unusually detailed analysis of his architectural work, including many unbuilt projects which have never before been published. It also includes an account of Häring's theory, with translated extracts from his many writings which have not hitherto been available in English. Through setting Häring within his historical context, and differentiating his position from those of figures such as Mies, Le Corbusier and Hannes Meyer, Blundell Jones suggests a radical reframing of the early Modern Movement.

Distributors

Brockhaus Commission
Kreidlerstraße 9
D-70806 Kornwestheim
Germany
tel. +49-7154-1327-33
fax +49-7154-1327-13
menges@brocom.de

Buchzentrum AG
Industriestraße Ost 10
CH-4614 Hägendorf
tel. +41-062 209 26 26
fax +41-062 209 26 27
kundendienst@buchzentrum.ch

Gazelle Book Services
White Cross Mills
Hightown
Lancaster LA1 4XS
United Kingdom
tel. +44-1524-68765
fax +44-1524-63232
sales@gazellebooks.co.uk

National Book Network
15200 NBN Way
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
USA
tel. +1-800-4626420
fax +1-800-3384550
custserv@nbnbooks.com