

Centennial Hall in Wrocław - challenges of construction and preservation

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Abstract We will begin with a discussion of the historic circumstances in which Centennial Hall in Wrocław (formerly German Breslau) was constructed, paying particular attention to the technical challenges and discussions that accompanied the erection of this modernist masterpiece, inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2006. At the moment of its opening in 1913, Centennial Hall, designed by the German architect Max Berg, featured the largest dome in the world and was built from a highly innovative construction material - reinforced concrete. In the second part of our presentation, we will discuss the current revitalization efforts valued at over 50 million Euro, aimed at the preservation of this important public-use site for the 21st century. In this second part of our presentation, we will outline two main issues: 1. conservation techniques used in the revitalization efforts; 2. management and decision-making processes connected to historic preservation.

Keywords Centennial Hall, concrete, preservation, management