Architektur Markt/Marked Architecture: A New Marketplace for Dresden

by

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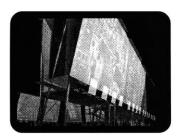
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Submitted to the Department of Architecture on January 21, 2000 in the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Architecture

This thesis is an investigation into the design and ideology of public space in the historical core of Dresden, more specifically, public space as it is related to history, commerce, and the monumental in architecture. The design of cities and buildings is always ideological, and the spaces within within which they sit and which they design—various physical, textual, electronic, media, and cyberspaces—are always marked and tainted by this ideology.



In the West, the design of cities is also linked to violence, and their construction always also represents their destruction. An astute awareness of this fact can produce Architectures and Spaces that can communicate some of what is invisible in any ideological action and representation, as architecture is both.

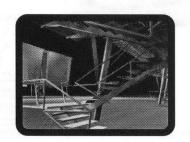
An essential part of this thesis is the research into the history of Dresden in Saxony in the former East Germany. After an intense investigation into the changing and evolving spatial and architectural makeup of the city, a site was chosen that was a locus for all the issues addressed.

The final component of the thesis is a programmatic theme that revolves around functions of the market space and the monument in cities. Historically, they both serve many different functions for all aspects of life in a city. The investigation will involve a design in which its conception, functions, and form are the direct result of and responses to the various types of spaces that cities occupy.

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MARKT ARKTEKTUR/ARCHITECTURE MARKED: A NEW MARKET FOR DRESDEN

CARTER deCOURSEY JOHNSON



fig.1: painting by Gemalde voi J. Ch. Junger portraying the burning of the Altmarkt and the destruction of the Kreuzekirche (upper left) following the Prussian bombardment of the city of Dresden.

DRESDEN SITE HISTORY

The history of Dresden, the principal city of Saxony, is a tumultuous history. The founding of the first settlement on the site of the modern city known as Dresden might have been as far back as the early twelfth century A.D., and since that time scarcely a century has passed without the occurrance of a major upheaval to thoroughly alter the spatial character, configuration, and/or size of the city. It has known one destruction after another, due to fire and war; at least three revolutions, due to advances in technology and to changes in ideology; and the fancy of many leaders each with a desire to leave his own mark and imprint on the city with countless building programs and rebuilding programs. As a result of this sort of repeatedly interrupted development of the city, it has taken on various identities throughout the centuries in which its past has been consistently inundated by the present.

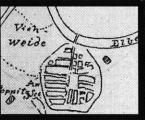




fig.2, 3: views of 13th century Dresden with its walls and block structure centered around the Altmarkt. The location of the Annenkirche to the northeast of the city, outside the walls and the late site of the Frauenkirche, thought to be the site of the earliest settlement of the area.

fig. 4: map of Alten Dresden, 1592, indicating the newer city walls replacing the earlier walls around the core and now including the Annenkirche and the newly formed Neumarkt.



fig. 5: three dimensional view of Dresden from 1270 showing the primary religious, court, and civic buildings inside the early walls, indicating a small walled settlement. fig. map of Dresden, 1529, indicating the rationally planned walled city organized around the Rathaus and the Altmarkt (red), and the irregularly planned settlement growing outside the walls around the Annenkirche (yellow).







fig. 6: Image of Dresden viewed from the southern walls 1519, prior to the construction at the end of the century of the second ring of walls.

Modern Dresden occupies a valley along both banks of the river Elbe: Alten Dresden on the south bank, centered around the Neumarkt and the Altmarkt; and the Neustadt to the north with it's focus around the market along the river bank. Interestingly, however, and belying their respective titles, the Neustadt is actually older than the Dresden lying to the south with its Roman grid, its orientation around a rigidly organized central market (Altmarkt) within a walled compound, and founded with a tollhouse that controlled access across the bridge along a busy trading route. What is now the core of the city, therefore, actually began as a device used for territorial and economic control which necessarily requires embattlements to protect its stake in such an imposition on the landscape. The city's core and its original walls, however, originally excluded what came

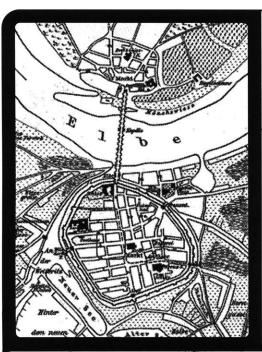


fig. 7: map of Dresden from 1500 still with its original walls that excluded both the Neustadt and the settlement toward the northeast of Alten Dresden, both with were later to be included within the second set of walls. This map also indicates the primary civic building at the city's civic center, the Altmarkt.

fig. 8: image from 1570 showing the bridge across the Elbe joining the walled Alten Dresden (right) and the Neustadt (left).



to be known as the Neumarkt within which resided the Frauenkirche. This site which housed an even earlier church is thought to have been the location of a settlement existing earlier than that which came to be known as the Neustadt. This part of Dresden was later incorporated within the city, as was the Neustadt, with the erection of newer larger walls around the settlements in the late sixteenth century.

In the middle of the seveenteenth century, much of the city was destroyed, having been occupied by the Prussians. It was shortly thereafter that the city embarked upon a very ambitious building programe that saw the erection of a number of important Baroque edifices along or near the southern bank of the Elbe, the Zwinger most notably, establishing a monumental face as an entrance into the city from from the river. From its multiple origins around the bend in the Elbe, Dresden had remade itself from a provincial trading outpost into a symbol of magnificence for all of Saxony.

fig. 9: map of Dresden from 1706, prior to the imperial building program and the Prussian bombardment and occupation of the city at mid-century. The old Rathaus (city hall) stands toward the north end of the Altmarkt in the city's core.

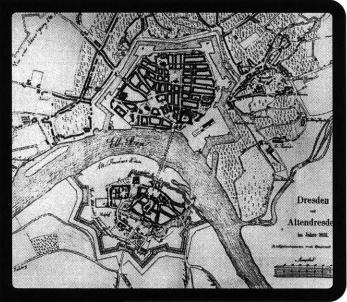


fig. 10: detail of 15th century etching of Dresden gatehouse through the city walls much like the tollgate a the river used to provide or deny access to the city and te exact payment thereby controlling trade through the region.





fig. 11: painting of Dresden (1650) by
Unterteil von Abb from the Neustadt across
the Elbe and showing the new city walls and
embattlements along the river's edge which
included the Neustadt as well as a settlement
previously outside the walls around what is
now the location of the Neumarkt and the
Frauenkirche.



fig. 12: map of the block structure of Dresden from 1651 just after the processional wall (yellow) was added to the schloss along the corridor path leading from the Bridge to the Neumarkt. The Rathaus (red), reputedly an outstanding Medieval civic architecture, in the Altmarkt.

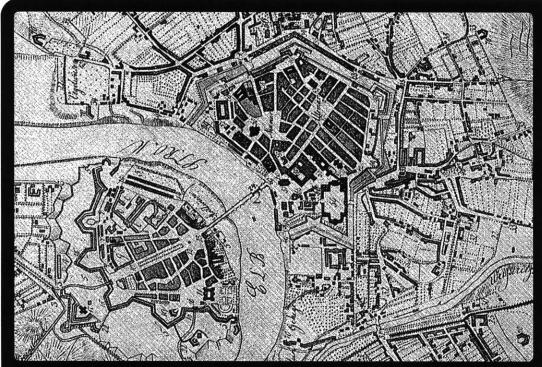


fig. 13: 1813 map of Dresden Neustadt and Alten Dresden just after the end of the French occupation and the removal of the walls around the city core. Shown is the figure ground of the city, including the Baroque architecture along the water's edge including the Zwinger (1), the Sopienkirche (2), and the Frauenkirche. This early nineteenth century map predates the railroad and the extensive changes wrought on the city as a result of rapid industrializa-



fig. 14: This 1706 map of the Elbe's south bank shows the Schloss (center) prior to the erection of the Sophienkirche (1), the Zwinger (2), and the Frauenkirche (3).

fig. 15: Painting by court painter from Italy, Benardo Belotto, of the bridge leading into Alten Dresden; Sophienkirche in the foreground, the Frauenkirche in the background.



fig. 16: A composite map of Dresden past and present showing development of the core of the city. The basemap represents the blocks and buildings before the firebombing with various shaded areas superimposed to indicate the changing shape and confiuration of the city. The small irregularly curving area represents the original walls and city core; the blue areasrepresent the location of the second generation of defensive walls, and the greyed areas represent the buildings, both newly and reconstructed, that have been built in the place of the old core since 1945.



fig. 17: The Sophienkirche, represented under construction (left) and the Frauenkirche (right), both built during the first half of the 18th century and here shown as details from paintings by Bernardo Belotto, were part of a whole series of Baroque buildings and constructions that helped transform the city into a treasure trove of art and architecture and solidify it as



fig. 18: Dresden, 1760, immediately after the Prussian bombardment of the city with the resulting destruction (shown above) in black, including the Kreuzekirche (red).

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were also as thoroughly transformative as previous times in Dresden's history. With the rapid industrialization and growth that eventually took place in the last century and the early part of this one which brought, perhaps most significantly, the railrood through the city, it became something else yet again. Clearly, however, no one single time changed the physical reality as much as World War II and the firebombing of Dresden's inner core. It was an event that completely eradicated what had been known as Dresden up until then. The history and traces of the past still live on in the new city built upon the soil of the old, both in the newly constructed and reconstructed buildings as well as in the collective memory of its past. It does not disappear, but intead layer upon layer accumulates, fragment upon fragment, trace upon trace. All evidence may disappear and remain invisible, but absence still marks the surface.



fig. 19: a map of prewarr Dresden's core before the bombing by the British and American warplanes.



THE ALTMARKT SITE

The Altmarkt lies in the center of the city's core and is the historical heart and essence of its existence. From Dresden's inception as a post constructed to defend economic, political and geographic interests, it marked the center of a certain power asserted onto the landscape and its inhabitants. It was an ideological space that marked and controlled a river crossing and a crossroads. It is here in the middle of the city's core that is the target site of this project.

By initiating the rebuilding of many of the city's cherished baroque, ninetheenth century, and medieval buildings, as well as through its reorganization of the city's spatial make-up, the DDR struggled to monumentalize its approach to history in order to naturalize its ideological connection to it. As such, the state was able to not only to

fig. 20: 13th century diagram of Dresden showing first walls around Alten Dresden, Dresden Neustadt, and the settlement beyond the walls to the Northeast. fig. 21: 15th century map of ddresden showing the Rathaus in the center at the Altmarkt.

fig. 22: 16th centry map with second set of walls around Alten Dresden, the Neustadt and expanded to contain the Neumarkt.



fig. 23: map of prewarr core of dresden with thetightly gridded strructure of the blocks and the narrow strreets showing the two main wider roads crossing at the Northwest corner of the Altmarkt.







fig. 24: late 16th century Dresden fig. 25: Dresden 1700 fig. 26: mid 18th century Dresden with monumental Baroque architecture in it's place



fig. 27: postwar map of Dresden indicating the severe alteration in spatial character due to the complete erosion of the block structure and the streets.

fig. 28: overlay of the pre-war map of Dresden with the post-war map showing the primary architecture reconstructed to the North but the overall expansion of all spaces and widening of the strreets. The Altmarkt at center is now three times its original size.







fig. 30: Diagram of the city core showing the primary automobile circulation (in red) around the core and through the widened Willsdruffer Strasse.

century, and which now are large highways.

physically restructure the daily lives of those living in Dresden and their relationship to its physical existence, but also to affect and invoke a new notion of space as infinite and flowing. Architecture existed within it, no longer defining it. Its radical re-shaping of the city-s infrastructure around the automobile and the rapid construction of quick and cheap housing for those who had been left homeless by the war and the bombing left little of the original spatial character of the old city core in tact.

The emphasis had shifted from urban spaces to more sub-urban experiences; from the pedestrian to the car, from spatial sequence to movement through space. It became an ad-hoc agglomeration of incomplete housing schemes. Wherever the newly planned architectural,



fig. 31: Aerial photograpf of the city's core and the Altmarkt. The North-South axis is clear, running from top to bottom. Here, the Altmarkt is shown being used as a parking lot and prior to the construction of buildings marking the edge at the south of the market. Very little block structure and street edge can be discerned.



fig. 32: The primary axes stil exist as in the city's historical core, but now widely expanded spatially, especially the eastwest Willsdruffer Strasse, the crossroads that lie to the Northwest of the Altmarkt.



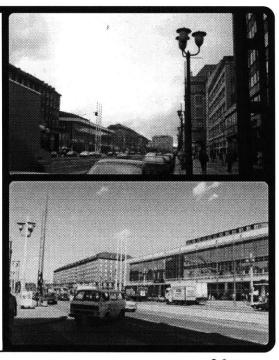
fig. 33: Here a photograph of the North-West axes from teh southwest of the Altmarkt with a new building being constructed and which begins to confine space in the street and market by defining a clear edge, not a popular or common modernist technique.

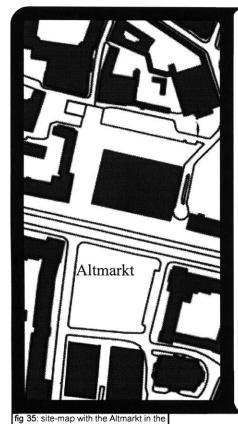


fig. 34: The Altmarkt shown above, three times the size of the original central space, with it's market active. The reconstructed Kreuzekirche lies in the center, and the Rathaus to the right in the ophoto

much less defined and abstracted version of what had existed prior to the bombing. Attention shifted, partly of necessity, to a more generalized and thereby abstraced notion of collective provision, and away from the specific individual experience. As such, the Altmarkt is remade into a much more monumental space for mass demonstration instead of a smaller place for religious, commercial, and civic activity. The state sought to construct an entirely new architectural and spatial experience that, like its North American counterpart alienated the individual in the name of providing for his/her needs.

Redevelopment in Dresden in the re-unified GermanRepublic in the 1990's continues on some of the moves begun by the previous regime, namely by continuing the reconstruction of the monuments of the past and initiating





additional reconstructions. Moreover, like the previous attempt to completely remake Dresden anew, this new regime's own building programme proposes and attempts to remake the city but this time by (re)covereing the past. The attempt is twofold: first, by utilizing New Urbanist planning techniques that recover the past's tradional building and spatial strategies in a renewed commitment to spatial definition for the individual experience; second, by (re)covering the recent modernist socialist architecture and planning, and thereby obscuring the past once again, but this time not in the clothes of something new and revolutionary. Rather, its presentation of itself, as are its strategies, is also covered by tradition and on the past. Such attempts, thus similiarly alienate the occupants from history and the past.

Embarking on a programme of infil, the modernist spatial and architectural ethos is concealed and, morreover, bolstered by a predominance of architectural references to



fig. 36: facing top: Looking east along Wilsdruffer Strasse toward the Kulturpalasz fig. 37: facing bottom: Looking northwest across Wilsdruffer Strasse from the northeast corner of the Altmarkt. fig. 38: top left: Looking east across the Altmarkt. fig. 39: top right: Looking southeast across the Altmarkt toward the Kreuzekirche. fig. 40: bottom left: Looking south along the east side of the Altmarkt. fig. 41: bottom right: Looking south along the west side of the

Altmarkt.



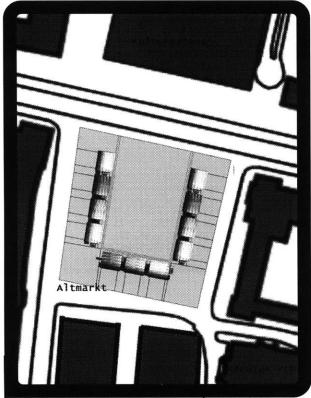


fig. 42: siteplan of the project/intervention with the screen apparati arranged around the central (re)covered excavation.

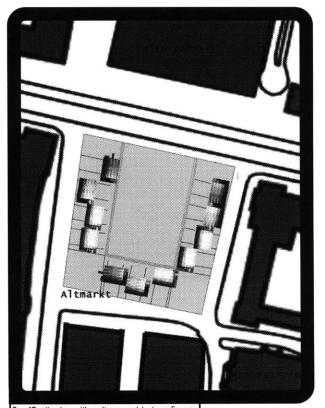


fig. 43: siteplan with a disassembled configuration of the apparati no longer addressing the excavation in the center or self-consciously addressing themselves in the arrangement as a coherent spatial edge.

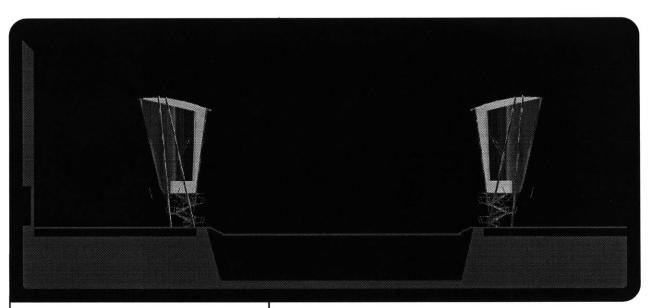


fig. 44: East-West site-section through the Altmarkt showing the excavation and the apparatti here assembled at its edge.

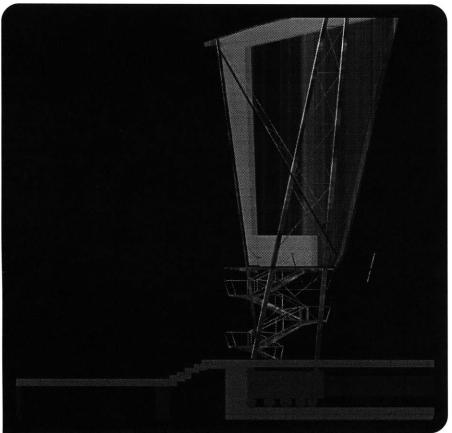


fig. 45: East-West seciton of one apparatus at the edge of the excavation with its stair ascending to the second level and the mechanized mobilization system below grade.

THE FINAL PROJECT

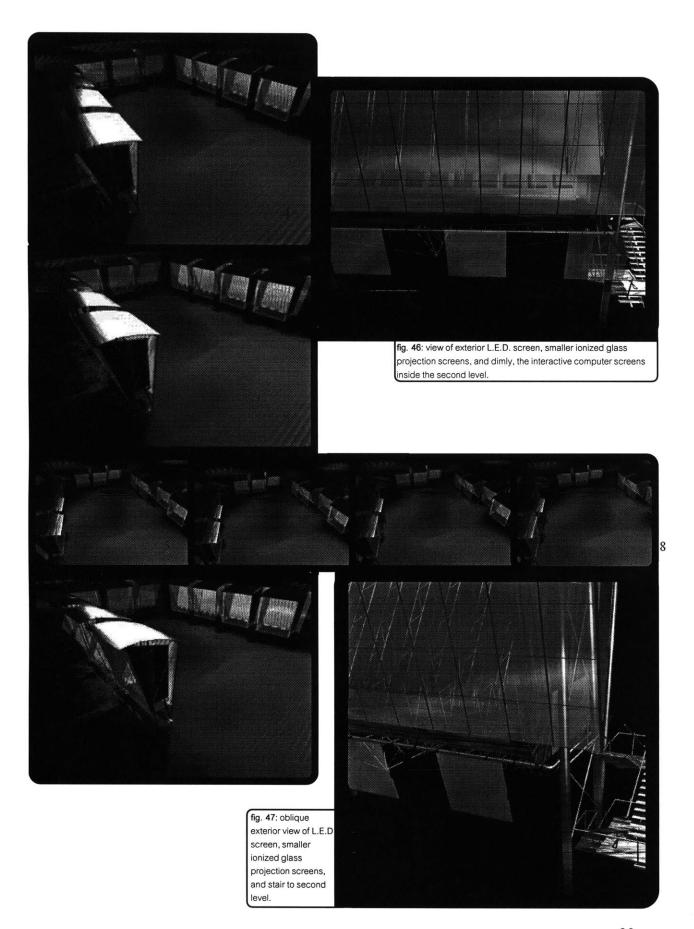
styles of the past centuries. This historical alienation, furthermore, is twofold: The programatic functions of building developments newly constructed and proposed for the city's core are overwhelmingly commercial and corporate. Owing to a reduction in population, and motivated to pursue development in the pursuit of residents and especially capital, the large majority of new development concerns itself primarily with the retail industry, tourism, or commerce. Rather than the traditional mix of residential, accompanied by the requisite retail and services, and commerce supported by industry, the newly ocnfigured and proposed core operates primarily as a tool to generate capital for remote corporate interests.

Viewed from this perspective, the newly refilled core is a hollow shell and the historicised architeure and and spatial

fig. 45: exterior facade of single apparatus showing large L.E.D. screen and smaller ionized glass projection screens below.

agendas as images to sell the past. The monuments reconstructed with the darkened and weathered original stones and masonry as well as pristine unweathered units, instead of representing a complicated aproach to a more complete history (replete with its destructive goals), dutifully serves to authenticate this new version of history, semingly to seamlessly connect past to present. This, like the previous epoch, in these great buildings, architecture, and urban planning of the present are monumentalized to represent the past.

Within the core of my proposal for a project in this site at the heart of the city of Dresden lives a similar urge to monumenalize, and thereby to edify and authenticate a particulary history. It is a similiar attempt



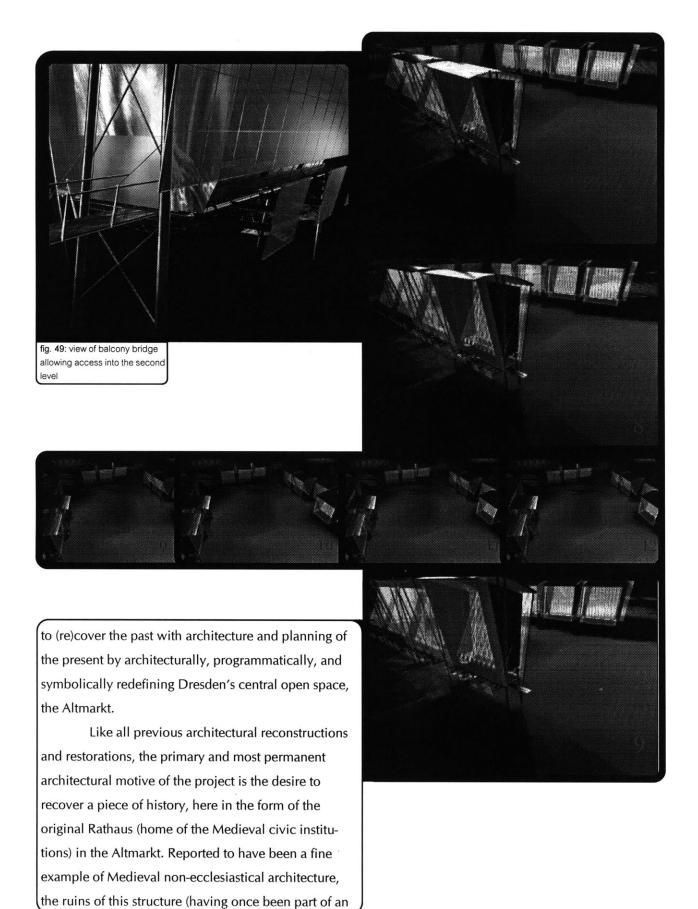
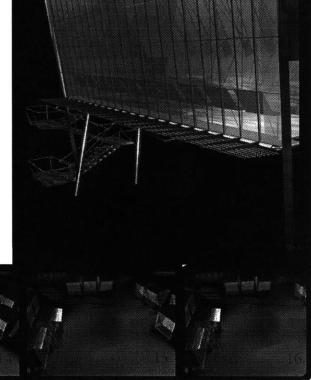


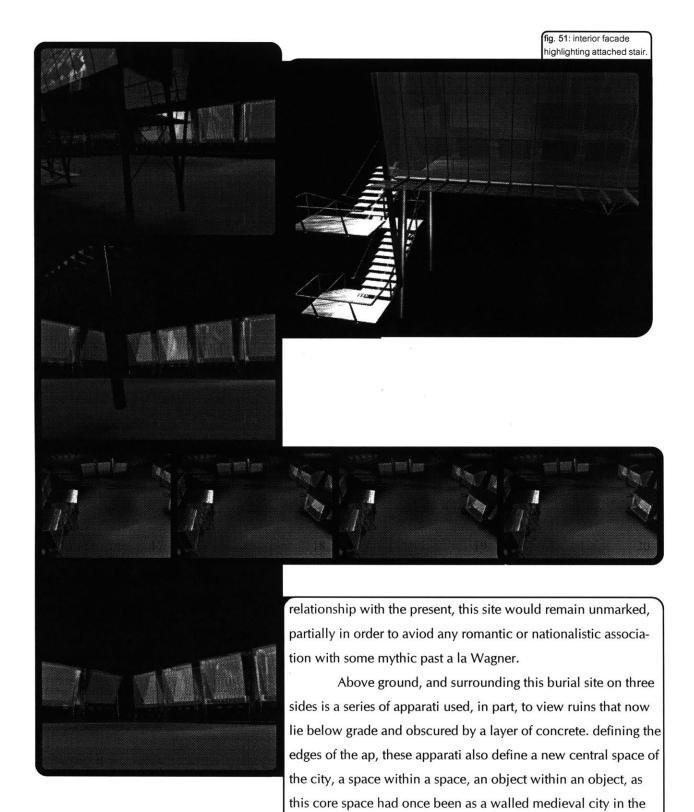


fig. 50: view of interior glass facade with large L.E.D. screen just inside and staircase to second level to the left.



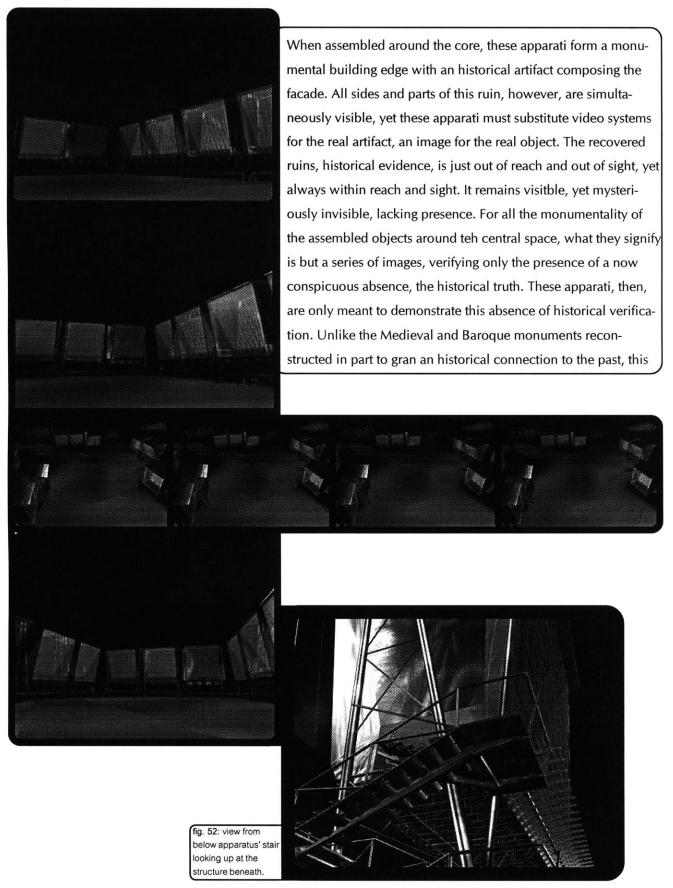
archeological investigation) is covered over beneath the surface of the market space.

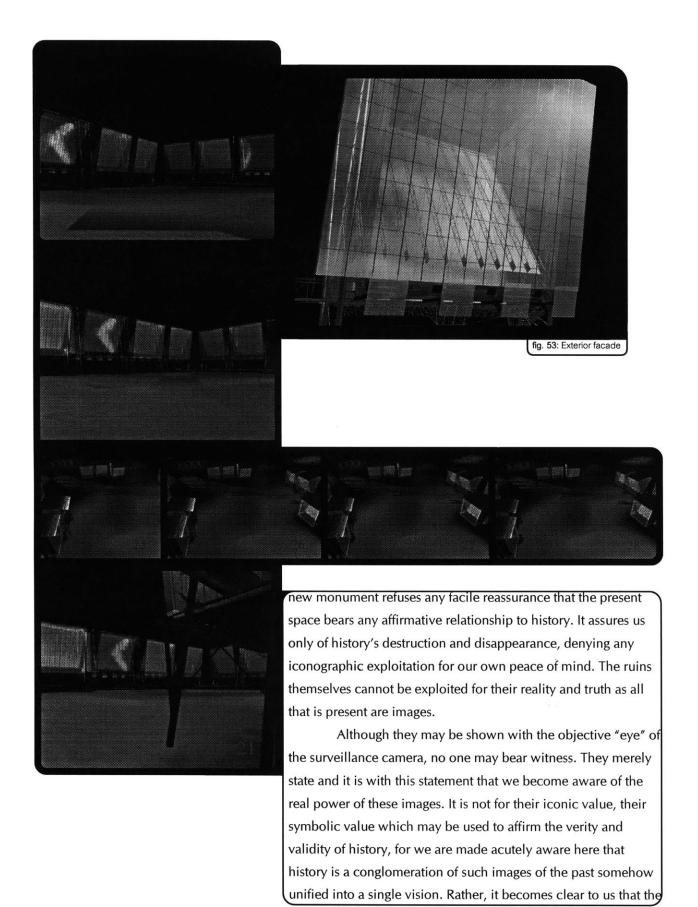
The heart of this project, therefore, would be to recover these ruins. But in order to avoid and criticize the 'official' appropriation of these ruins and in order to resist iconographic exploitation of them on the scale of the Zwinger ro the Frauenkirche by the current and successive regimes, once the ruins were re-excavated and recovered, they would once again be re-covered with a new ground surface. Unlike a conventional earthen burial, capped by a symbolic and descriptive marker with a continuous spatial, textual, symbolic

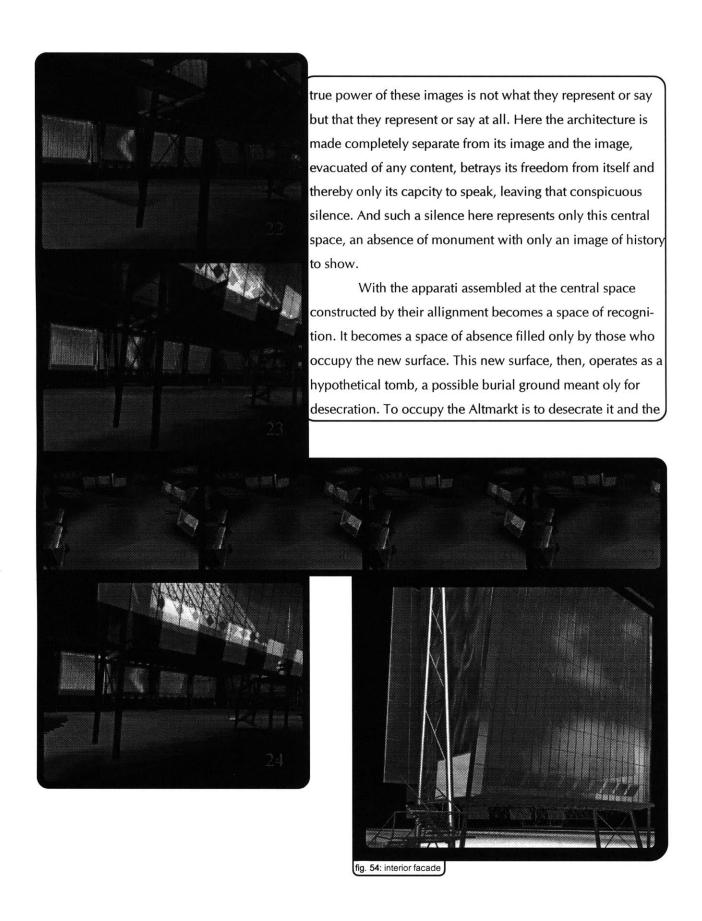


landscape with its central open space. They screen this new space from the rest of now much larger space of the Altmarkt, and really all of surburbanized Dresden, by allowing passage

below and sightlines through.



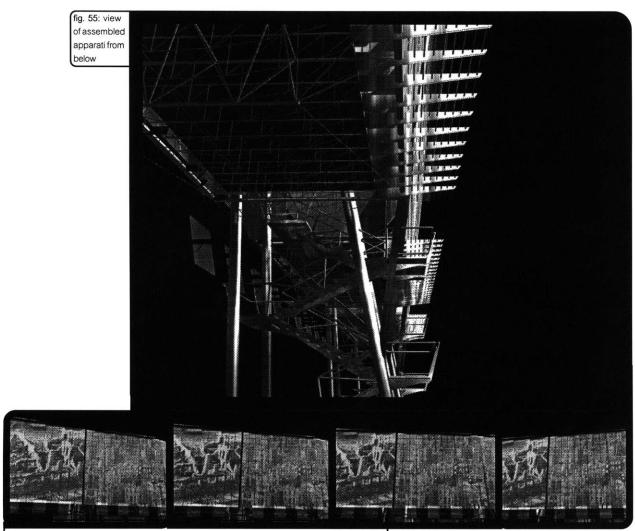






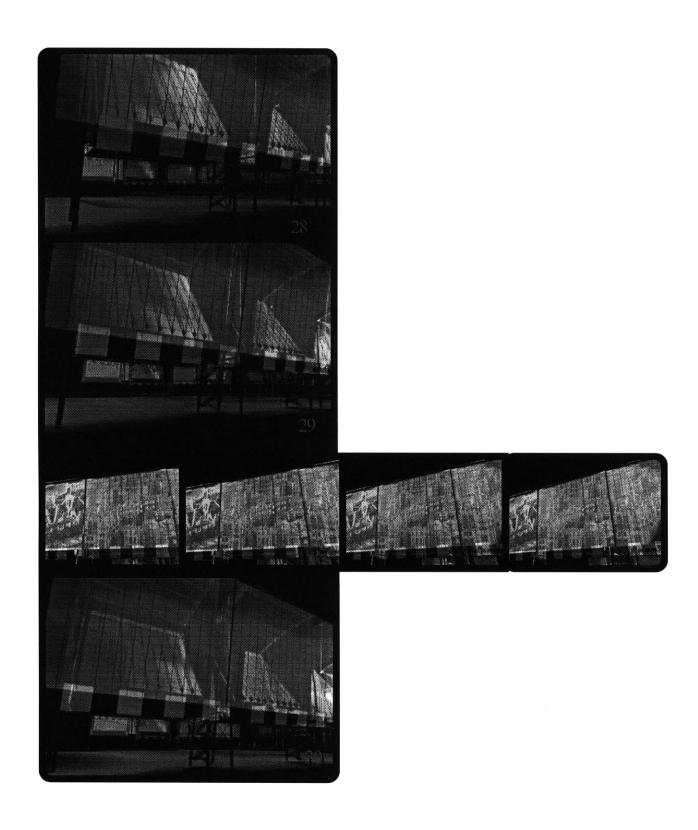


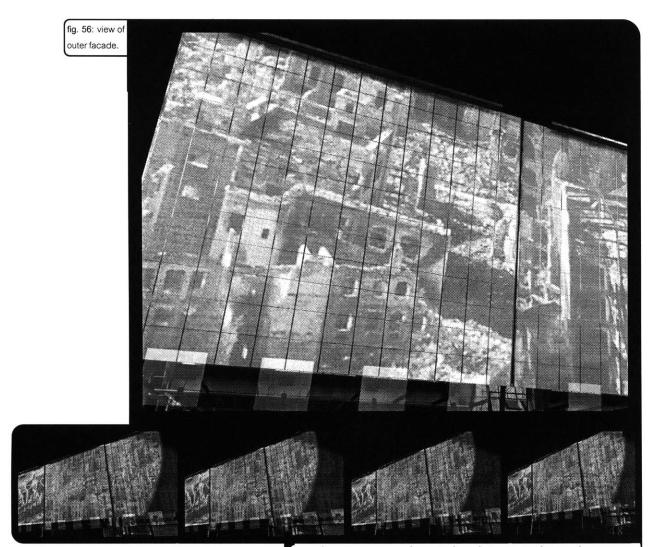




past, to act out a blasphemy of the sacred. The moment we observe or commemorate the history here, is that moment "History" is soiled and tarnished.

This space of daily life is a monument to history in the very instant it denies its own monumentality. Any romantic reassurance in some idyllic pre-fascist era as thes ruins may seem to promise is now made even more remot by the knowledge that "History" always belongs to someone. Disassembled, however, the space becomes less coherent an object and begins to decompose. Once an object in itself, the space itself now begins to compose objects, where it was once composed, as the apparati separate themselves from the allignment and assert tehir own individuality as objects. Intended partly as shelters and anchors for vendors, each apparatus extends over a large area to offer





foom for various vendors and and activities beneath. In addition to providing a covered outdoor space, for marketing purposes they may be moved by the vendors beneath to any spot along its track to some ideally suited location in the Altmarkt. Moreover, each apparatus is supplied with four smaller video projection screens to be used for advertising purposes both by the vendors and to be sold to other business and services throughout Dresden. Alongside and slightly below the images of the ruins, therefore, willb e the images of commerce.

The third programmatic function of teh apparatus is more didactic in nature. Due to the growing tourist interests in Dresden since reunification, and teh retail and commerce that serve, advocate, and promote its growth, each apparatus

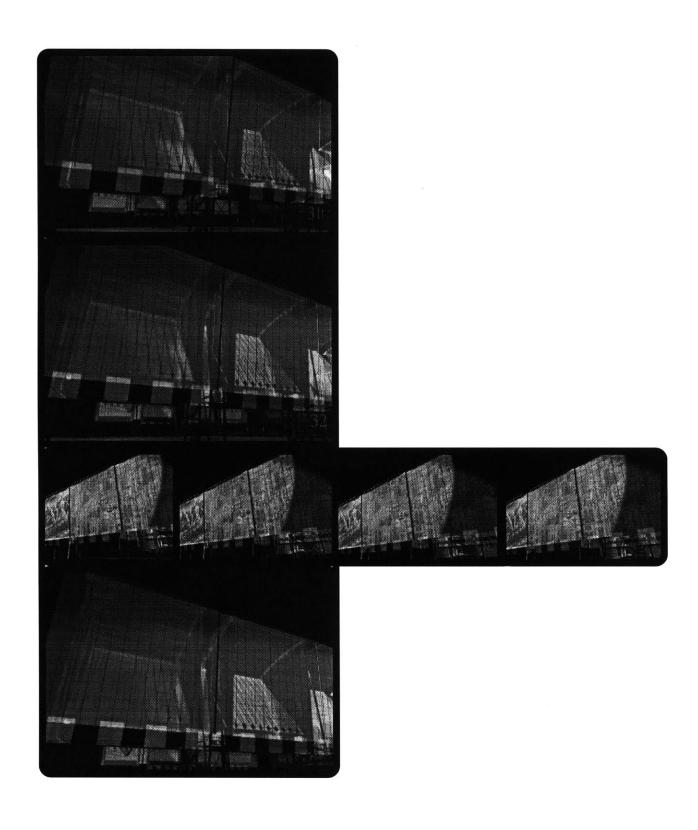
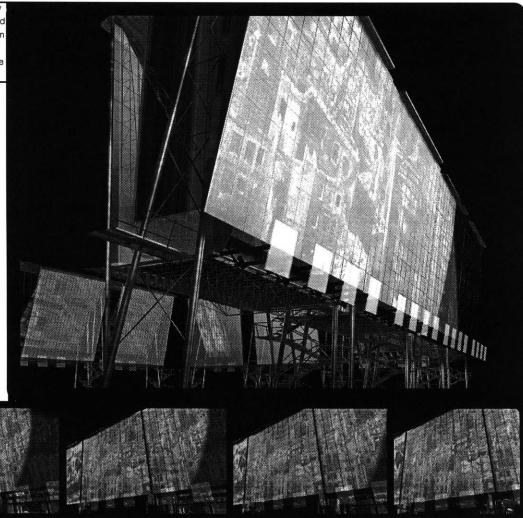
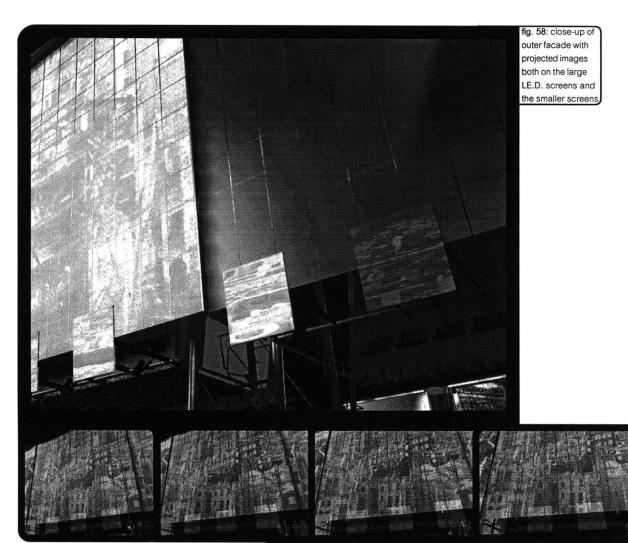


fig. 57: view of assembled apparati from northwest corner of the Altmarkt



may serve as part of a tourist center to educate and offer information to tourists of Dresden's architectural and artistic heritage. On platforms twenty feet above ground level which provide the shelter to the vendors below, each apparatus is to be furnished with an additional large L.E.D. screen. On these screens, however, the various architectural attractions of the area would be displayed inwards on the opposite facace of the apparati as a sort of virtual tour of Dresden. If further historical or cultural information were required or desired, additional desktop computer-sized interactive screens would be available on each platform accessible by a stair attached to each apparatus. When alligned, a singular linear virtual tour passage from apparatus exists around the central (re)covered excavation.



On one face lies a service to tourists meant to be followed and affirmed by visits to the actual site of historical, architectural and artistic interest and further backed-up with historical data and information; and on the other face lie the silent ruins surmounting the more colorful, active, attractive and engaging smaller screens fo advertisements: history and commerce on one side, entertainment and education on the other. On the inside lies the verifiable and legitimated past, the "history of the victors" as Benjamin would note, and on the outside lies the image which only promotes itself and its own proliferation, the images of the ruins and of commerce.

Amid this spectacle of images wander the city's inhabitants and tourists alike, one moment segregated and the next intermingling in the open market space. At any time one may

fig. 59: view of outer facade showing projections on some screens and not on others.



view the other among the images and realities of history and commerce. The daily life of the inhabitants mixes here with the consumption of the tourists. Time passes, days progress, and the present retreats into the past becoming history. All that remains constant really are the memories and the traces of the past in our minds. The passage of time is only evident upon the changing objects and people, what it means and represents however lies only in our collective knowledge and consciousness of the past. The only mistake of this knowledge is believing that it contains all experience, every history.

lig. 60: view below looking across and northeast in the Altmarkt

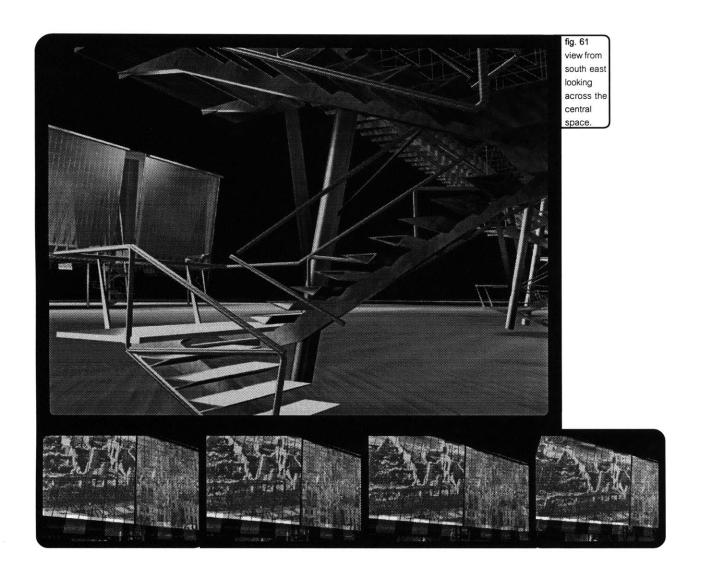
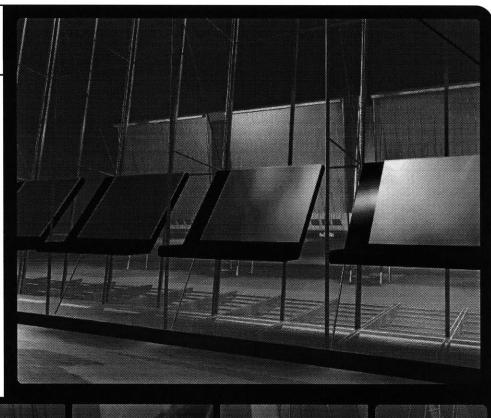


fig. 62: interior images looking toward the inside space with the smaller interactive screens in foreground and the large L.E.D. screens outside in background.



figs. 63, 64, 65, 66: images of physical model

Daniel Libeskind has something interesting to offer on this subject of the invisible.

I think one should not be too impressed by what is called 'physical space.'
Physical space is good for physics: it's not an architectural space and it is interesting that most architects still talk about architecture as if it were grounded in physics—not just Euclidean physics but also physics of the building. It's clear that a building is not made out of glass and bricks—but is constituted by something else. It might be grounded on these



fig. 67: interior view looking down alligned passage from one apparati to the next creating a virtual tour.



figs. 68: images of physical model.

hierarchies of material reality but that would be to say that human beings were based on fish or protozoa; of course they are but there is a difference between foundation and formation.

And the foundation and meaning of architecture and space is not merely upon some image of the past or of commerce, the exploitation or consumption of that image, but upon ALL those who occupy it. Moreover, it is also the recognition that to construct architecture and space, as history, is always todesecrate it, to fragment it and all of those to whom it belongs.

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Figure Credits

- 1 Illumination zu Ehren Napoleons und des Kaisers Franz II. am 18, Mai 1813, aquarelle. Stadtmuseum Dresden
- 2 Dresden um 1200, eine regelmabige Anlage mit einfachem Mauerring, Rekonstructions zeichnung von O. Trautmann, 1916
- O. Trautmann, Der Boden Dresdens vor 700 Jahren, in Dresdner Geschichtsblatter 1916/3.
- 3.Situation Dresden vor 1519 Sachsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Hansen Beiers abris der Stadt Dresden, Loc. 4451.
- 4 Dresden 1270, Rekonstruktionszeichnung von R. Spehr, 1990 Das Dresdener Schloss, Monument sachsischer Geschichte un Kultur, Dresden 1990.
- 5 Burgerliche Frau aus Dresden, nach 1500 Kupferstich aus dem Dresdner Totentanz A. Wech, Der Chur=Furstlichen Sachsischen weitberuffenen REsidentz=und Haupt+Vestung Dresden Beschreib: und Vorstellung, Nurnberg 1680.
- 6 Stadtansicht Dresdens vor 1519, Blick von Suden, kolorierte Zeichnung nach einem Holzmodell von 1521 Stadtmuseum Dresden.
- 7 Stadtgrundriss von Dresden um 1500 Sachsischer Schulatlas von Lang-Diercke. Anfang 20, Jahrhundert.
- 8 Ansicht von Dresden, von Osten gesehen, Federzeichnung von Gabrielle Tola, 1570 Stadtmuseum Desden.
- 9 Friedrich August Graf von Rutkowsky, Kupferstich von Chr. Sysang Militarhisorisches Museum der Bundeswehr, Dresden.
- 10 Vor einer belagerten Stadt, Stadttor mit Fallgater und Zugbrucke, Kupferstich, 16. Jahrhundert. L. Fronsperger, Kriegsbuch, 3. Teil, 1573.
- 11 Dresden vom Altendresdner Ufer, Gemalde um 1650, Unterteil von Abb. 90. Statliche Kunstammlungen Dresden, Rustkammer.
- 12 Dresden und Altendresden mit den Befestigungen von 1634, den grossen Bastionen Dilichs um Altendresden undder Feldbefestigung um die Residenz, Plan von Samuel Nienborg, 1651. Sachsiches Hauptstaatsarchiv.
- 13 Dresden 1813 mit den Napoleonischen Feldbefestigunge, Kopie einer Handzeichnung von H. Aster O. Richter, Atlas zur Gerschichte Dresdens, Dresden 1898.
- 14 Heinrich Graf Bruhl, Kupferstich von Lorenzo Zucchi. Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Kupferstich-Kabinett.
- 15 Bernardo Bellotto gennant Canaletto, 1758
- `6 Wasserlaufe und Hochwassergrenzen in und um Dresden, Plan von Chr. Adam, 1958 Arbeits-und Forschungsbericht zur Sachsischen Bodendenkmalpflege des Landesamtes fur Archaologie Dresden, Bd. 3;7, 1995, S. 205-209.
- `7 Bernardo Bellotto Gennant Canaletto, 1758.
- 18 Dresden 1760, mit den Feldbefestigungen um die Stadt, mit Angabe der Zerstorungen 1758/59 sowie der preusischen Beschiessung nach einer Handzeichnung.

 O.Richter, Atlas zur GEschichte Dresdens, Dresden 1893.