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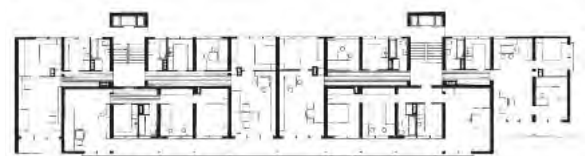
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View from the junction of the slim residential slab, ca. 1951



Floor plan: 1st & 7th floors

downtown living

Theresienstrasse block of flats, Munich, 1950–1951

Sep Ruf

46, 48, 50 & 52 Theresienstrasse/
19 Türkenstrasse, Munich, Germany

During the reconstruction Sep Ruf erected a residential slab with 42 flats (51–68 sqm) with shops on the ground floor. The seven-floor building with cellular framing is set back from the street front on Theresienstrasse in Munich for the “Verein zur Behebung der Wohnungsnot” (association for the elimination of housing shortage), which seems to consist only of elegantly proportioned ceiling-high window components, floor slabs and steel pipes. The living rooms open up to the light without lintel, railing or barrier and the window division sets a vertical accent to the horizontal structure of the delicate continuous balconies. Nowhere else in Munich were the ideals of new building implemented more impressively – light, air and sun for ‘living without bounds’ (Siegfried Giedion). At the Darmstadt discussion in 1951 Ruf had demanded open space “connected with nature, which already applied to single family homes, for social housing concepts, in order to create dignified living conditions for people instead of having street façades with small windows and kilometres of evil tenement buildings.”

As a model building for the reconstruction of the Munich Maxvorstadt, the residential property at Theresienstrasse still conveys the former ideas of the conversion of a whole urban district. It was one of the first houses to have been erected on the basis of co-ownership with an entirely new form of financing (38 DM/sqm).

*Source: Irene Meissner, Architekturmuseum, Munich, Germany
www.architekturmuseum.de*