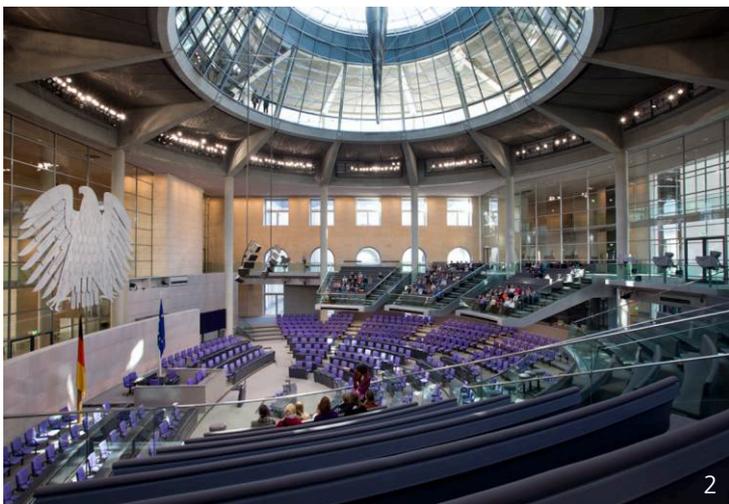




REICHSTAG BUILDING, SEAT OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG, BERLIN, GERMANY

PROJECT SUMMARY. When on June 20, 1991, the German Bundestag decided to transfer its seat to Berlin, this meant that the Reichstag completed by architect Paul Wallot in 1894 had to undergo an extensive conversion. Except for slabs and load-bearing walls, the historical building was completely gutted. Another story was included, now housing the rooms of the parliamentary groups and the large press lobby. The most important and symbolic room, the new plenary hall, is located at the building's center under the glass dome.

FOCUS OF CONSULTING SERVICES. The plenary hall of the German Bundestag has the dimensions of a church. In order to create ideal conditions for speech supported by sound reinforcement, all acoustically relevant components were tested and optimized by means of laboratory measurements, computer simulations as well as prototype constructions – even the Federal Eagle has an acoustical effect. In cooperation with the engineering office Knothe & Plenge, Müller-BBM effected the planning, fine-tuning as well as the final acceptance testing of the electro-acoustic sound reinforcement system specifically designed for the hall. The accessible glass dome now is one of Berlin's most popular tourist attractions. Elaborate acoustical measures make it possible for guests to walk on the dome – without any disturbing effect on the politicians in the rooms of their respective parliamentary groups or in the plenary hall, all of them located below the dome.



CLIENT

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ARCHITECT

Foster + Partners, London

PROJECT DATA

Planning and construction period	1994 - 1998
Gross floor area	61,000 m ²
Cost of construction	600 million DEM

SERVICES RENDERED

Room acoustics, electroacoustics, building acoustics, thermal building physics
Planning, test stand measurements, site supervision, final acceptance testing

1 Exterior view
2 Plenary hall
3 Glass dome

Pictures: 1 Ralf Roletschek/Wikimedia Commons, 2-3 Foster + Partners