

1 Clear Forms with Atmosphere

Berlin Brandenburg Airport sets architectural accents. Terminal 1, the heart of the airport, distinguishes itself through clarity of design and stands as a symbol of the capital city's openness to the world.

The generous space of the terminal hall, in combination with the colonnades as a bridge between architecture and landscape, emphasises the specific location of the new airport. The representation of the two federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg as an overall concept was the fundamental design approach of the main architects Meinhard von Gerkan, Hubert Nienhoff and Hans Joachim Paap from the office of gmp Architekten von Gerkan, Marg und Partner. Their success story began more than fifty years ago with the two founding partners Meinhard von Gerkan and Volkwin Marg's design for Berlin's Tegel Airport.

As with Tegel, the architects aimed to conceptualise BER as an "airport of short distances," newly interpreted for the modern and future challenges of air traffic. They describe their concept as follows: "Berlin Brandenburg Airport consists of the passenger terminal and the Airport City in the centre of the parallel runway system. All elements take up the axiality of the overall system and build an architecturally functional unity." The large shape of the terminal roof pane covers various functional areas, from the driveway to the pier, thus connecting the landside with the airside.

The interior of the terminal combines the functionality of an airport building with natural materials of high haptic quality, such as Jurassic limestone for the floors and French walnut veneer on the check-in counters and walls. The combination of warm surfaces and expansive glass façades is characteristic, as are the concise 30-metre-high steel columns, with well-thought-out paths and an efficient grid structure.

<https://www.gmp.de/de/projekte/512/flughafen-berlin-brandenburg-willy-brandt>

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