Summary
AGNIESZKA ZABŁOCKA–KOS / The Great Rejected

Ernst May (1886-1970), active in Wrocław since 1919, in 1925 left Silesia forever only to develop his activity as one of the leading German Modernists, firstly in Frankfurt am Main, then in Soviet Union and Africa, eventually, since 1954, back in Germany. To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the architect’s birthday an extensive monograph exhibition was held at the Deutsches Architekturmuseum [German Museum of Architecture] in Frankfurt am Main showing all periods of his life and work. The exhibition will soon reach Wrocław, too. This is the third already show dedicated to the architect, whose ideal social housing estates in Frankfurt am Main, with the famous “Frankfurt kitchen”, have become icons of European Modernism. The exhibition has been accompanied by a large German-English catalogue being the first such extensive discussion of the architect’s work and including bibliography. The exhibition was arranged chronologically, its biggest part obviously was dedicated to May’s foremost realisations of Frankfurt housing estates (1925-1930), archival films, including these propagating building with ready prefabricates, were presented. A 1:1 model of “Frankfurt kitchen” was also exposed in this part of the exhibition. The fact of accentuating questions of postwar rebuilding and renovation of these estates is also worth mentioning. The exhibition may be counted among the most interesting presentations of architects from the circle of Neues Bauen shown within the last years in Germany.