

CINEMA INTERNATIONAL BERLIN

Berlin, Germany

Technical Specifications
Roof:
RHEINZINK-prePATINA blue-grey

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RHEINZINK prePATINA blue-grey for a modernist landmark – a landmark steeped in history

On Karl-Marx-Allee in Berlin-Mitte stands a true testament to history: the Kino International. Opened in 1963, it was the GDR's premier cinema, the venue for legendary film premieres, and remains a Berlinale venue to this day. From May 2024 to February 2026, the listed building underwent a complete refurbishment – including its distinctive roof.

From a 'homemade aluminium roof' to a modern zinc roof

Over the decades, the original aluminium roof had been subjected to numerous repairs using a wide variety of materials. "In the end, it was a makeshift aluminium roof with zinc, aluminium and all sorts of other materials. Now the time has come to completely replace it – right down to the timber," says Meik Langpeter, one of the managing directors of Hoeltke & Langpeter Dachdeckerei GmbH, describing the condition of the roof before work began.

The Berlin-based roofing firm, which employs 20 people, specialises in zinc work. One of its projects was already featured in the RHEINZINK calendar back in 2017. For the Kino International cinema, the choice fell on RHEINZINK prePATINA in blue-grey, 0.8 mm thick. The architect and client had agreed at an early stage with the heritage conservation authorities that a zinc roof would restore the original appearance whilst incorporating a contemporary roof structure.

Particular challenges: listed building, planning, craftsmanship

The enquiry came from the architectural practice Dickmann & Richter. "It was a Europe-wide tender. You often get outbid in those, which is why I rarely take part. This time, however, I was already familiar with the property and knew exactly what I was getting myself into – a slight competitive advantage," explains Langpeter. The company was therefore awarded the contract at the end of October 2024 and began work shortly afterwards.

The project requirements are demanding:

- **Light wells and parapet cladding** required carefully tailored solutions that balanced heritage conservation guidelines with the technical requirements for the work.
- **Handcrafted production rather than machine-based technology:** All components were prefabricated in-house and folded on 3-metre-long workbenches.
- **Fan-shaped patterns in the surfaces:** here in particular, planning and workmanship accurate to the millimetre were essential.

"This isn't machine work, but genuine craftsmanship. Everything is made in-house and fitted to the exact dimensions. That's what makes it exciting and challenging," says Langpeter.

Restoration in keeping with the building’s heritage, delivered to modern standards

The aim of the renovation was to restore the building’s original character with a titanium-zinc roof structure designed in accordance with heritage conservation guidelines. The Historic Buildings Authority approved every detail of the project. For Langpeter, this project meant more than just a job: “I’m a bit of a nostalgic. I’m fascinated by the building’s history. There’s passion and heart and soul in it. When you see a landmark like this regaining its former beauty, it’s simply wonderful.”

A landmark is back

Following the completion of the comprehensive refurbishment in accordance with heritage conservation guidelines, the Kino International reopened its doors on 26 February 2026. The refurbished roof, clad in RHEINZINK-prePATINA blue-grey, helps to preserve the building’s distinctive character whilst also providing a roof solution that is both in keeping with heritage conservation standards and a testament to skilled craftsmanship. The project thus combines architectural history, heritage conservation and modern roofing and sheet metal work. The result is far more than just a successful roof renovation: thanks to new technology and carefully restored architecture, a Berlin landmark has returned to cinema operations and is ready for the next chapter in its history.





