

PROJECT IBA BLOCK 6, BERLIN-KREUZBERG

Integrated Water Concept

Waste Water Treatment and Reuse Project

Storm Water Harvesting and Reuse Project

Within the framework of the Internationale Bauausstellung (International Housing Exhibition), Berlin 1987, a pilot project in the area of experimental housing and town planning, with a strong ecological emphasis, was to be implemented in Block 6 under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Regional Policy, Building and Urban Construction (Bundesministerium für Raumordnung, Bauwesen und Städtebau).

The objective of this demonstration project is maximum conservation of water resources through measures of reducing the drinking water consumption and environmental pollution caused by waste water.

The project included the following research objectives:

For the treatment of sewage, the following facilities were designed:

- an Imhoff (septic) tank for preliminary treatment
- a root zone treatment plant for biological treatment, and
- a polishing pond for the final treatment.

The domestic sewage of 73 apartments in this pilot project is pumped from a collector pit outside the building into the Imhoff tank. Research on the performance of the treatment plant has shown a reduction in the pollution load to below the standards of bathing water quality (of the EC), as well as successful reuse of the effluent for irrigation and toilet flushing. This project has received an award from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany in a national competition.

Present status of the project: research project terminated, out of operation since 1995

