



# CINEMA INTERNATIONAL BERLIN

Berlin, Deutschland

## **Technische Daten**

Roof:

RHEINZINK-prePATINA blue-grey

## **Copyright Bilder**

RHEINZINK

## **RHEINZINK prePATINA blue-grey for a Modernist Monument A Landmark with History**

On Karl-Marx-Allee in Berlin-Mitte stands a true witness to history: Kino International. Opened in 1963, it served as the GDR's premiere cinema, hosting legendary film openings, and continues to be a Berlinale screening venue to this day. Since May 2024, the listed building has been undergoing a complete refurbishment – including its distinctive roof.

### **From a “makeshift aluminum roof” to a modern zinc roof**

Over the decades, the original aluminum roof had endured numerous repairs using a wide range of materials.

“In the end, it was a patched-up aluminum roof with zinc, aluminum and all sorts of things. Now the time has come to renew it completely – down to the wooden structure,” explains Meik Langpeter, one of the managing directors of Hoeltke & Langpeter Dachdeckerei GmbH, describing the condition before the renovation began.

The Berlin-based roofing company, with 20 employees, specializes in zinc work. One of their projects even appeared in the RHEINZINK calendar (2017: RHEINZINK – Reference Projects). For Kino International, the decision was made to use RHEINZINK prePATINA ECO ZINC blue-grey, 0.8 mm thick. Early on, the architect and client agreed with the heritage authorities that a zinc roof would restore the building's original appearance with a modern, high-quality material.

### **Special challenges: heritage protection, planning, craftsmanship**

The commission came from the architectural firm Dickmann & Richter. “It was a Europe-wide tender. You often get underbid in those, so I rarely take part. But this time, I already knew the building and knew exactly what to expect – a small competitive advantage,” says Langpeter. The company was awarded the contract at the end of October 2024 and began work shortly thereafter.

### **The project requirements are demanding:**

Light wells and parapet cladding require compromise between preservation guidelines and technically optimal execution. Handcrafted production instead of automated processing: all components are prefabricated in the company's workshop and folded on 3-meter benches.

**Segmented roof surfaces: these demand millimeter-precise planning and execution.**

“This isn’t automated work – it’s true craftsmanship. Everything is custom-made and fitted precisely. That’s what makes it both exciting and challenging,” adds Langpeter.

## Heritage-appropriate renovation with modern quality

The goal of the refurbishment is to restore the building’s original character using better, longer-lasting materials. Every detail is coordinated with the heritage authorities. For Langpeter, this project is more than just another job: “I’m a bit of a nostalgist. The history of the building fascinates me. There’s a lot of passion and heart in it. Seeing such a landmark regain its former beauty is simply wonderful.”

## Completion and outlook

By the end of September 2025, the roofing work was scheduled to be completed. At that point, Kino International will stand once again as a restored landmark – not only for film enthusiasts but also as a testament to the skill and dedication of the German roofing and sheet metal trade.

