

## The story behind the Hotel Ratswaage after 1900 and during the GDR time

The dilapidated building was partly demolished before the Second World War. With supporting donations the first union headquarter was founded in 1932/33. The six floors were built in the Bauhaus style (designed by the architect Carl Krayl), which still determines the overall picture. Krayl was working under the supervision of Bruno Traut, an urban planner influenced by the Bauhaus architecture. The modern aspect in architecture and the courage to deal with unusual colors made Taut, Krayl and the city renowned across the borders of Europe.

At the end of the Second World War, naming the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1945, 90 percent of the city was destroyed. The serious damages of the union headquarter were removed during the time of the GDR until 1950 and a union hotel was established. A lot of citizens still know the HO Restaurant „Kielce“ and its “Intershop”, where the air was filled with a delightful smell of green apple soap. In front of the hotel the statue of the famous poet from Magdeburg, Erich Weinert, greeted the people passing by.



At the face of the build you can read the following: “The German Democratic Republic, the medical institution of our national humanistic culture”

Picture: city archive



The workers poet Erich Weinert beckons to the pedestrians. During the time of the GDR economy of scarcity the people joked around: „He says: What am I supposed to do - my pockets are empty! “

Picture: city archive