

**1930-35
Silk Industry Dye Works
Krefeld**

Through Hermann Lange and Josef Esters, Mies was commissioned to build the only factory he ever designed. The client, Verseidag, was a conglomerate of Krefeld silk weaving companies.

Built in two phases, the factory consisted of a long four-story block for the manufacture of clothing, and nine one-story sheds for a dyeing plant. Of clean, functional design with stucco surfaces on a skeletal frame, the project is a curiosity of no particular distinction.

**1933
Reichsbank
Berlin**

In 1933 Mies entered a limited competition for the design of an eight-story addition to the Reichsbank. Since this was to be a large building for a respected institution, Mies turned to a symmetrical plan and the effects of monumental scale. Preliminary sketches illustrate his effort to find the right character. The splayed wings and convex street elevations are a response to the site; the monumental entrance hall and its huge window are meant to achieve institutional dignity without actually intimidating the public.

**1937
Silk Industry
Administration Building
Krefeld**

The last commission Mies worked on in Germany was provided, once more, by his friends in Krefeld. This time Mies was asked to design an administration building for the Verseidag conglomerate. A company architect was assigned to help him, since he had no other work and virtually no staff. Like the Reichsbank, the Silk Industry Administration Building has splayed and convex wings. Their scale is smaller and more varied, but the elevations are treated with a regularity almost as insistent as that for the bank.

The five perspective drawings shown here were recently acquired by the Mies van der Rohe Archive. They are of particular interest for their drawing style. Mies's assistant, Eric Holthoff, prepared the drawings to his specifications, and Mies added the shading. The style of presentation as well as much of the architectural character reappear in Mies's first studies for the Armour Institute Campus in Chicago.