

The Sacral Architecture of the Architects Carl Rüdell and Richard Odenthal

- A Contribute to Church Architecture of the 19th century in Rhineland

An extraordinary church building activity marks the 19th century Rhineland. The booming economic growth and accompanying population influx required many parishes to extend their churches or in part replace some of the ruinous middle-aged churches with new buildings.

This extensive sacral building makes the scientific evaluation and their protection especially difficult because of the vast number of objects involved. Many of these 19th century buildings have characterised the appearance of their growing localities and a documented building history is an important supposition for their understanding and their preservation and a significant contemporary document for the parish community.

This Work-Catalogue of the church building of the architects Carl Rüdell (1855-1939) and Richard Odenthal (1855 - 1919?) who worked in the last third of the 19th century will serve as a basis for the inventory and evaluation of this period. It emphasizes the stylistic oeuvre of both architects, exposes the influences on their church buildings of the time. This is the first complete catalogue, which examines extensions and new buildings by Carl Rüdell, a well-known Cologne painter in the architectural community and the little known Richard Odenthal. The Work-Catalogue integrates the economic and firm history, the building construction, material aesthetics, enriched with comparisons of similar works and architectural prototypes. The dissertation joins the intensive research discussion of our inheritance of sacral architecture of the 19th century.