

# Forbidden Photos of Everyday Life in East Germany



Werbetafel am  
Ostsee-Hotel  
im Ostseebad  
Kühlungsborn  
1987

Are you tempted? This sign, from a hotel in Kühlungsborn on the GDR coast, 1987, reads “We’re Looking Forward to Your Visit”. Enough said ....



Rostock-Groß  
Klein. Ein  
neuer  
Stadtteil in  
Plattenbauwei-  
se entstand  
in den 80er  
Jahren für  
fast 20.000  
Einwohner.

Then this memorable image, from the newly-completed Gross Klein housing estate in Rostock, built in the 1980s in the

prefabricated concrete style typical of communist East Germany. It had capacity for almost 20,000 people: progress in residential construction was measured solely in terms of the number of apartments built. The environment of those new homes was regarded as secondary. Siegfried Wittenburg took this picture in 1981 but was banned from exhibiting it at the time.

These images are part of a powerful new collection of 'actually existing socialist' goodies mostly taken in the 1980s by GDR photographer Siegfried Wittenburg: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/a-photographer-remembers-forbidden-photos-of-everyday-life-in-east-germany-a-707570.html>