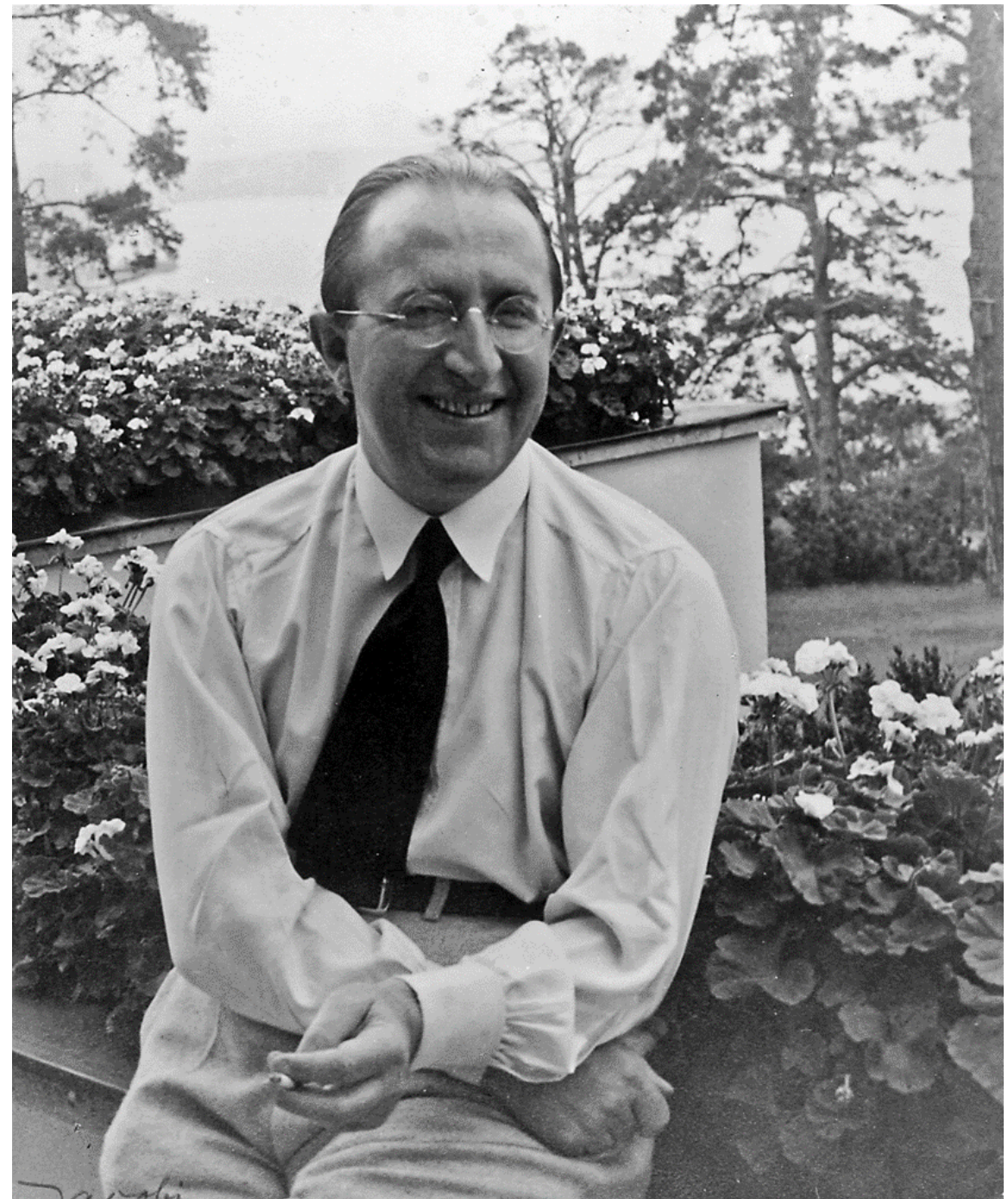


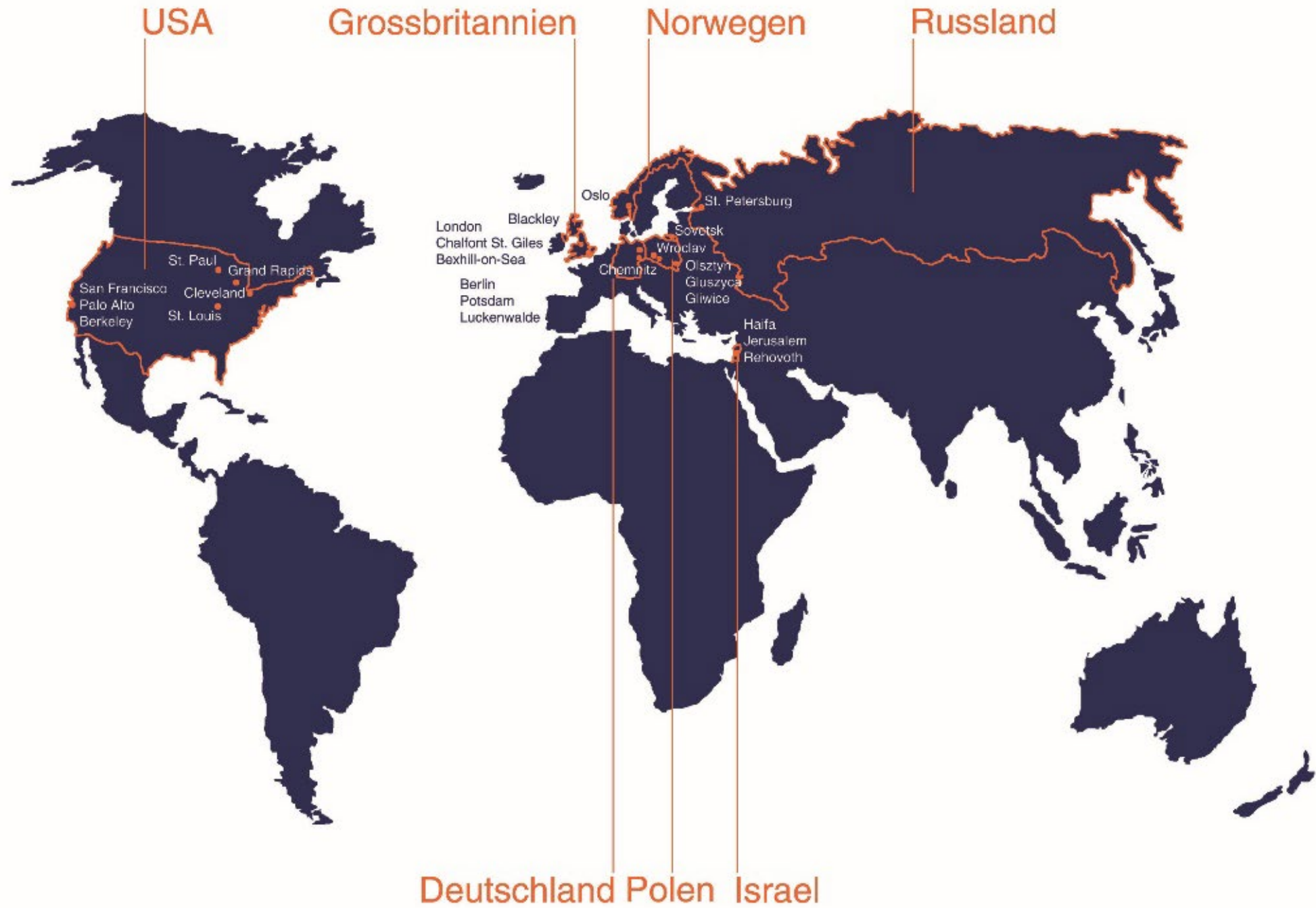
# Initiative Circle for a multinational network on outstanding Works of Erich Mendelsohn

D – PL – RUS – N – GB – IL – USA

Prof. Dr. Regina Stephan, Hochschule Mainz



Erich Mendelsohn auf der Terrasse seines Hauses am Rupenhorn 1931, Foto: Lotte Jacobi, EM Archiv Kunstbibliothek SMB



# What we suggest

Multinational network on outstanding works of EM

Taking into account his very exceptional Life and Work

Disclosing the different layers in distinction to his fellow modern architects

# The different layers of his life:

## Citizen

**German 1887-1939** (since 1933 in Exile)

1st Architectural Office in Berlin, Weimar Republic

**European**

Academie Européenne Méditerranée, France, 1931-34

**British 1939-1946** (since 1933/34 in London/Jerusalem)

2nd Office in London Commuting to 3rd Office in Jerusalem

**American 1946-1953** (since 1941 in the USA)

4th Office in San Francisco

# The different layers of his life: Travels

1919-1932 Countless trips to Building Sites in- and outside Germany

Trips for lectures and commissions:

The Netherlands 1920

Palestine, 1923

USA 1924

Russia 1925

Spain 1929

England 1930

Corsika und Greece 1931

Norway, Paris and Côte d'Azur 1932

1933 Emigration via Holland to England

1934-1939 Constant Comuting between London and J'lem

1941 Emigration to USA – Long trip avoiding the Atlantic

1941 Road trip through the US

1945-1953 Countless trips to Building Sites in the US

# The different layers of his work: Music

Central Role as source of inspiration

Many sketches inspired by music

Trips especially to music performances

Theory: Harmonic and contrapuntual conduct in Architecture

# The different layers of his work: Nature

Natural phenomena like the dunes on the Courland Spit

or

Snail shells transformed into architecture

# The different layers of his work: Art

Studies at TH München, when the Blue Rider was very active

Working in Munich as **Costume and Stage Designer**

After WWI Co-founder of the **Novembergruppe** and **Arbeitsrat für Kunst**

**Member of German Werkbund & Akademie der Künste, Berlin (untill ´33)**

**Cooperation with artists at several buildings** (interior and outside fittings)

**Friendships** (z.B. visiting 1st Bauhaus Exhibition, buying Feininger's Gelmeroda V)



# The different layers of his architecture

Connection between Art and Architecture

Design process – sketching onto music, natural phenomena

Architectural production – bringing the „first sketch“  
into built reality

Innovation – form

- material: Steel + reinforced concrete constructions
- typology

Adaptation – surrounding

- Climate
- Materials

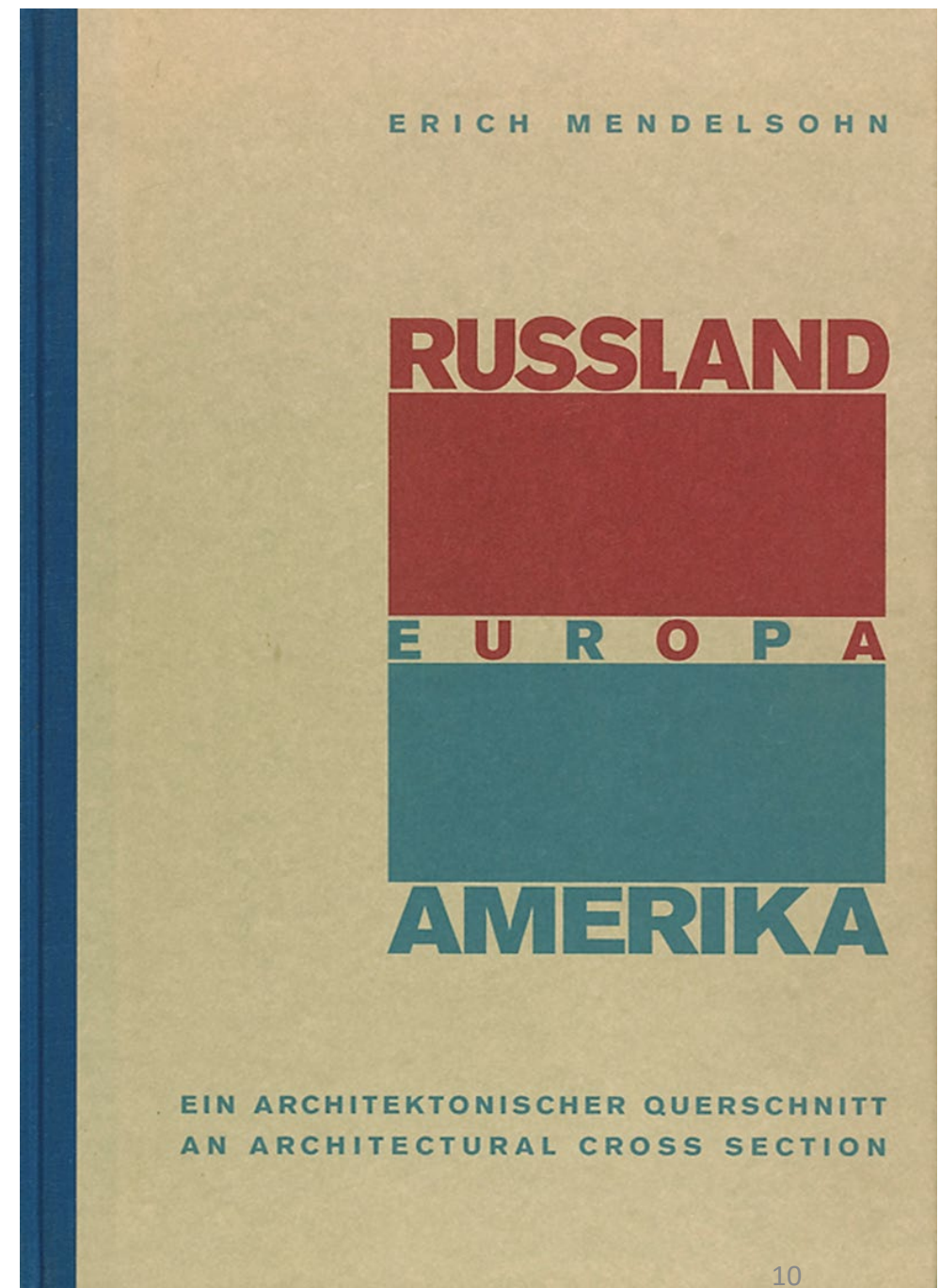
# The different layers of his work: publications

Very active writer, lecturer and photographer since 1914 and until 1953:

- Published in articles and books
- Manuscripts in the EM Archiv in the Kunstbibliothek SMB and Getty Research institute, L.A.
- Collection of prints and slides in the EM Archive in the Kunstbibliothek SMB and Getty Research Institute, L.A.

Very active epistoler – to his wife Luise, to family, friends and colleagues

→ large written heritage



# The different layers of his work: colleagues

Very well connected to the international architectural scene of the time:

- In Germany:
- Member of the BDA – Bund Deutscher Architekten
  - Founding Member of the Zehnerring (later the Ring)
  - Member of the German Werkbund

In Britain: Member of RIBA

In the USA: Member of American New Society  
of Architects and Planners

→ His office was a stepping stone for many young architects

# Next steps: Online Conference 14.7. + 15.7.2021

14.7.: Survey of EM Buildings in the seven countries by experts from there

Institutions that might support: Getty Research Institute, Kunstbibliothek SMB, Docomomo, 20C Society, Wüstenrot and their possible contributions

15.7. Presentations concerning Life and work phases, Building types, Narratives of architecture and exile and Reception

Aspects of UNESCO's World Heritage

- World Heritage Convention 5/6 Criteria,
- OUV,
- Authenticity, Integrity, Comparative Analysis;
- Tentative List/World Heritage List, multinational serial nomination of 20 C Oeuvres;
- "Filling the Gaps" / 20th century;
- Memory of the World (Documentary Heritage / Intangible Cultural Heritage) (JH)

Questions, Ideas, Thoughts?