

Obituary for *Prof. Klaus Palm* (1932-2022)

For this document in English, see <http://color.li.tu-berlin.de/KlausPalmE22.pdf>

In German, see <http://farbe.li.tu-berlin.de/KlausPalmG22.pdf>

Klaus Palm grew up in Berlin. He experienced the end of the war in 1945 as an anti-aircraft helper. His certification as a professional master painter was the basis for his subsequent activities in the field of colour.



Klaus Palm with daughter *Meike* (left) and *Erika Richter* (right) on 7 November 2021.

This picture is from a small cheerful video sequence (14 s, 13 MB), see

<http://farbe.li.tu-berlin.de/KlausPalm.mov>

As a university lecturer at the University of Arts (Hochschule der Künste, HDK) in Berlin, he has taught in the field of *colour and technology*. As a university lecturer at the Berlin University of Technology (Technische Universität Berlin, TUB), he has given lectures on *colour and interior design* and trained students in his TUB-colour studio. Many colour-school teachers have received such a colour education.

In 1975, *Klaus Palm* became a first chairman of the *German Colour Center e.V.* (Deutsches Farbenzentrum e. V.) DFZ in Ludwigsburg. A publication on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the DFZ describes in particular the goals of the DFZ and the activities of *Klaus Palm* in the years 1975 to 2002 as *chairman of the German Colour Center* for the field of *colour design*, see (only in German).

<http://farbe.li.tu-berlin.de/DFZ12.PDF>

Family members also contributed to the success of the annual conferences *FARBINFO* of the *German Colour Center*, for example in 1995 with 500 participants at the TU Berlin. Before the digitization age often conference letters were sent to 5000 addresses. Conference venues were also in Switzerland, Holland and Austria. *Klaus Palm* has always cheerfully and skilfully organized these requirements and the wishes of the up to 30 speakers at any conference.

From 2002, the *German Colour Center* was headed by *Professors Karl Schawelka* and *Hans Irtel*, and subsequently by *Axel Buether* together with *Annemarie Nesper* and then together with *Johannes Grebe-Ellis*. *Klaus Palm* has enriched many DFZ conferences during this time through his participation and contributions, for example in 2019 at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaft und Kunst, HAWK) in Hildesheim.

Klaus Palm, as editor of the *Wulf-Farbwarenkunde*, ISBN number 3677760853X from 1999 with 571 pages and the *Kleine Farbwarenkunde*, has written standard documents in this area, which were published in 9 editions until 1999. Both handbooks were not continued by the *Hirzel Verlag* and can therefore only be purchased antiquarian. Each issue has proven to be a comprehensible reference work and handbook for practitioners and reviewers as well as a competent teacher for lecturers and trainees and has made a name for itself.

From the broad content: General basics, surface technology and treatment, preservation of material assets, construction and coating agents, chemical and physical basic concepts, job description *painter and varnisher*: activities, knowledge, skills, requirements of the master painter examination, colour as a design tool and material classification, properties and use of pigments, leaf metals, binders, paint raw materials, solvents and diluents, additives, auxiliary coating agents. Other topics: thermal insulation, concrete repair, building and monument protection, floor coverings, wallpaper, anti-graffiti materials. Painting materials and tools: descriptions and areas of application, experts in the painting and varnishing trade, occupational safety/accident prevention, references to further and up-to-date specialist literature (DIN standards, BFS leaflets), target group: painting and varnishing companies and corresponding specialist shops - architects - experts in the painting and varnishing trade - vocational school and specialist teachers as well as specialist lecturers at secondary schools - building authorities, detailed information on the book.

Klaus Palm has used his extensive knowledge in the field of colour as a specialist editor of the magazine *Farbe + Design* in *Schwabenmuster Verlag* (51 issues between 1975 and 2002) in the field of colour design. Knowledge in the field of *colour technology* was processed and disseminated by the specialist editor *Klaus Richter*. The magazine *Farbe + Design* was discontinued in 2002 with articles on *colour – material – structure – surface*. Many contents for colour design and technical application are still up-to-date and digitally available today.

For more than 20 years, *Klaus Palm* has also used his colour skills as a specialist editor of the magazine *Mappe*. This journal continues to be published monthly. The *Mappe* is a magazine for entrepreneurs and executives in the professional painting area.

Klaus Palm has contributed to a sustainable application of colour in design, art and technology through his special knowledge in the interdisciplinary field of colour. He has set milestones in this area for training and application. Our thanks go especially to his commitment in this area of colour.

He sadly passed away on 21. 9. 2022 at the age of 90 years. We are sad and will miss *Klaus Palm* very much. I am grateful that I was able to work with *Klaus Palm* for many years.

Klaus Richter, *Honorary Chairman of the German Colour Center*
(*Deutsches Farbenzentrum DFZ*), see <http://www.deutsches-farbenzentrum.de>
Honorary Member of the German Society for Colour Science and Application
(*Deutsche Farbwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft DfwG*), see <http://www.dfwg.de>

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