

**Einstürzende Neubauten: Palast Der Republik (MVD Visual DVD, 82 min.).**

This Nov. 4, 2204 concert, recorded was filmed at the Palast der Republik in Berlin, the former Parliament building of the no longer extant Deutsche Demokratische Republik, steel skeleton ruins that have since been torn down to make space for the re-erection of the City palace. The Neubauten's industrial sound is not for everyone, but it is a real treat if you can get into it. The German band, four members of which play percussion, use sheets of metal, hollow tubes, a Lazy Susan filled with bottles and cans, chains, coils and many other unorthodox items for percussion (all of which is detailed in the band's audio commentary track, which is mostly in English), as well as a chunk of metal to play the guitar and even a turbine. For "Vox Populi" ("Voice of the People"), the band uses two 50-person choirs. The band (whose name translates as Collapsing New Buildings) has been recording since 1981 and I have the vinyl versions of 1984's "Drawings of O.T." (one disc studio, one disc live) and 1989's "House der Lüge" (they were on Some Bizarre in England then, as was Soft Cell, but on Rough Trade here). These two albums yielded the first two songs here: "Haus der Lüge" ("House of Lies") and "Armenia." Another highlight is the softer "Youme & Meyou," which is sung in English and definitely has a Pink Floyd feel. At the other extreme is the chiming metal and singer's Blixa Bargeld's pure scream on the first part of "Grundstück" (Bargeld, who took his first name from that of a German ballpoint pen company, and bassist Alex Hacke are the two remaining original band members). Bonuses are two encore songs, another 14:25 of music. By the way, the 5.1Dolby Surround sound is impressive. **Grade: A-**

- Tom Von Malder