

EINSTÜRZENDE NEUBAUTEN - Palast Der Republik DVD ([Music Video Distributors](#)) This is something very special for me, and I'll explain that towards the end. I have seriously loved this band since I got my hands on their only vinyl available in the United States back in 1986. The slices of wax were the "Yu Gung" 12" and the first *Strategies Against Architecture* album, and I got them on the word of - of all people - Henry Rollins. Earlier that year he did a spoken word show on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach (Wet Paint Cafe). I had always noticed his EN tattoo, but didn't know its significance. After his performance he walked the club and talked to folks, so I approached a group he was chatting with. As the group waned out, I asked him about the tattoo, and besides haranguing me about being so young and having a beer in my hand (his friend D. Boon of Minutemen had just died in an auto accident where drinking was possibly involved) he let me in on one of his favorite bands that Nick Cave turned him on to: Einstürzende Neubauten. That is my history of being turned on to them, so let me try to turn you on. Einstürzende Neubauten (meaning 'collapsing new buildings') almost single-handedly coined the phrase 'industrial music', as their tunes were an amalgam of bass and guitar mixed with power tools and scrap metal. They began in 1980 Berlin (Germany), as a simple noise band, and with a few original members leaving (both female) they absorbed new blood from the German punk band Abwärts - a lineup which they stuck with for a near two decades. For this show, filmed in November of 2004, singer Blixa Bargeld and percussionist N.U. Unruh are the only two of the originals left, but their flames of passion, flair for improvisation, and sparks of ingenuity have yet to fade out. The concert took place in the skeletal remains of East Germany's former DDR Parliament building, hence the title. I really wish they had played a few of their older tracks ("Tanz Debil", "Seele Brent", "Kalte Sterne", and the aforementioned "Yu Gung"), but I guess after twenty years of already playing these they're quite sick of the old stuff. Still, they do play a lot of new material that I really like ("Youme & Meyou", "Perpetuum Mobile", "Was Ist Ist", "Alles" and the beautiful "Sabrina" - though sadly, "The Garden" is absent). Just to see how half of these tracks are done live was exhilarating, and makes me want to bang on sheets of metal, PVC tubes, chains, plastic cups and copper pipes. It was also great that the concert was captured on multi-cameras, as some band members didn't just stay on the stage, but climbed rafters (to use as instruments) and ran around the audience (with instruments in tow). This concert DVD contains a few extras such as a commentary by Blixa in both English and German, plus an encore of two songs which are in addition to the hour-and-a-half concert. The reason this disc is so special to me is that as long as I've been a fan of the band, I have yet seen them live in person, so I collect and view as much as I can - from official releases to shitty bootlegs (anyone got any I haven't seen?). Oh, and for fans and newbies alike... don't forget to visit - and support - the band through their Internet project at neubauten.org. (May 5, 2007)

<http://www.feastofhateandfear.com/reviews.html>