
PROJECTS → SELECTION

TITAN → BERN HISTORIC MUSEUM, Extension

APM → ARTPLACE PAVILLON, New building

EMW → CANTONAL SCHOOL REFECTORY IN WETTINGEN, Conversion/new building

KBSB → BIEL/BIENNE COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, New building

INLAY → SWITZERLAND'S GIFT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, Renovation

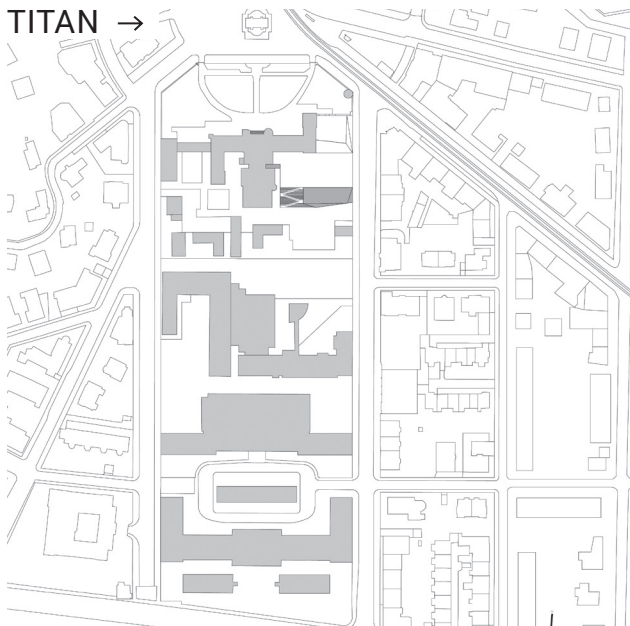
ZUG → LORZENALLMEND, Urban-development planning

JANUS → LOCAL-HERITAGE MUSEUM RAPPERSWIL-JONA, Renovation/extension

FAB → AREAL FABRIKGÄSSLI, Residential development

VOS → VISITOR CENTRE AT THE SWISS ORNITHOLOGICAL INSTIT., New building

SFL → LAUSANNE FOOTBALL STADIUM, New building



Project location

BERN HISTORIC MUSEUM, Extension

Location: Berne, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2001

Project owner: Bern Historic Museum

Size: 7400 m² surface area

Planning: 2003-05

Execution: 2007-09

Costs: CHF 27.9 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Project organisation: Individual commission

The legacy building of the Bern Historic Museum, which was built by André Lambert in 1894, is located right next to Helvetiaplatz in the Kirchenfeld district of the city. The new "Titan/Kubus" building provides the museum with an extension on its eastern side and houses both exhibition and administrative functions.

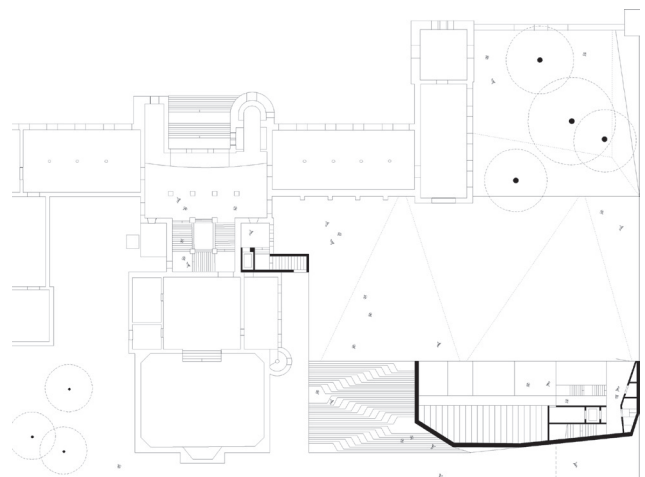
The elevated basement level contains a room measuring 1000 m² for changing exhibitions and designed as a "black box" along with rooms for the protected storage of cultural assets covering a total surface area of 2000 m². The extension's upper floors contain the museum's administration, a library and the Berne municipal archive. The plinth of the building is accessible to the public on foot. A vertical volume rises out of this, and in its shape and size it can be read as a logical continuation of the museum's existing wings. The sequence of the three different outdoor spaces – "garden", "square" and "stairway" – ensure that the new structure dovetails with the pre-existing ensemble and blends into its urban environment.



Southwest view



Space between buildings



Ground plan of the upper floor

APM →



Interior



Façade



Night-time view

ARTPLACE PAVILLON, New building

Location: Magglingen/ Macolin, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Direct order

Year: 2001

Project owner: BASPO/FOSPO Federal Office of Sport

Size: 210 m²

Planning: 2001

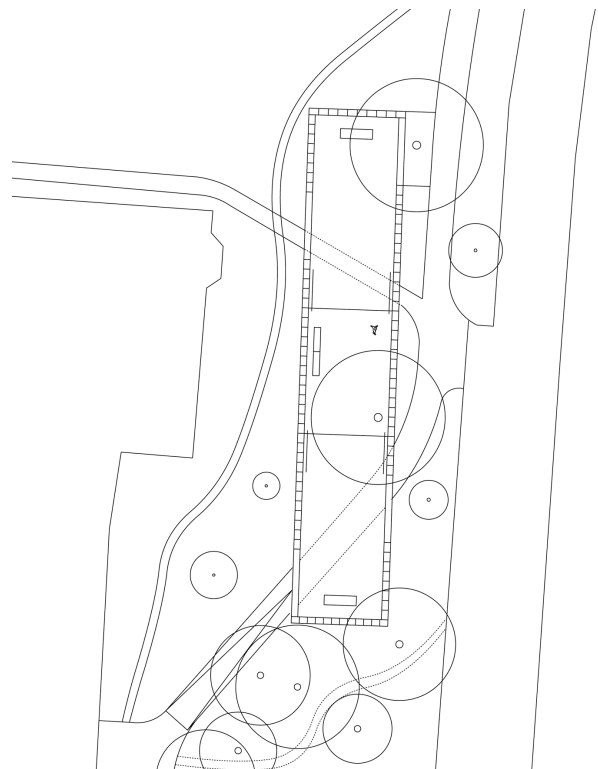
Execution: 2002

Costs: CHF 200 000 ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Cooperation partners: Inventar, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

The site occupied by the Swiss National Sports School in Magglingen/Macolin offers magnificent views, looking down over the town of Biel/Bienne. The "Artplace" Pavilion, which was constructed there as a peaceful sideshow for the "Artplages" Expo.02, provided an opportunity for a changing troupe of creative artists to work and put on exhibitions dealing with the subject of "movement and sport" throughout the duration of the Swiss National Exhibition.

The elongated structure is divided into open and closed sections. In combination with the two folding doors and a number of sliding walls, countless different room configurations and a large variety of passageways can be set up. The outside walls of the building, which was completely recycled at a later date, were comprised of 700 translucent plastic containers, held in place with the necessary rigidity by a metal surround. The building's attraction was not only its spatial variability but above all the alternance of nature and light thanks to its membrane-like outer shell.



Ground plan

EMW →



External view

CANTONAL SCHOOL REFECTORY, WETTINGEN, Conversion and new building

Location: Wettingen, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2002-08

Project owner: Canton Aargau, Department of Finances and Resources

Size: 500 m² surface area

Planning: 2002-05

Execution: 2006-08

Costs: CHF 8.2 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Project organisation: General planning team



Inside the refectory

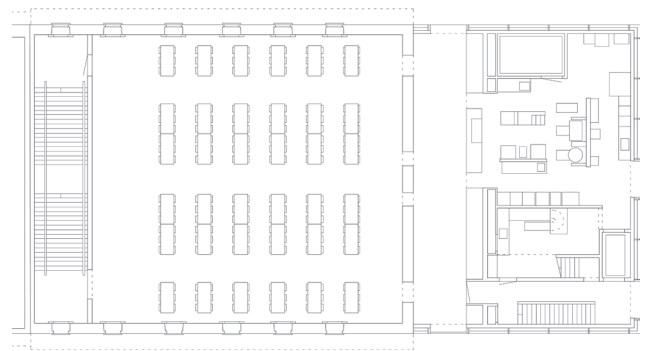
The classical "Löwenscheune", which is a listed building, is located in the western part of the former Cistercian monastery complex and now accommodates the new refectory for the cantonal school in Wettingen. To fit in with the existing typology of lines, an abstract new volume was constructed as an addition to the Löwenscheune on its northern side. The insertion of a structurally autonomous ceiling has made it possible to subdivide the volume of the Löwenscheune horizontally, resulting in a cafeteria on the ground floor and the refectory on the upper floor. A slice of building on one side provides communication between the two areas and features an ample staircase. The ornamentation on the perforated metal covering, with shapes of blossoms and leaves, re-incarnates the monastery's rich world of shapes and provides a tense contrast to the formal abstraction of the newly constructed building.



Inside the cafeteria



Longitudinal section



Ground plan of the upper floor

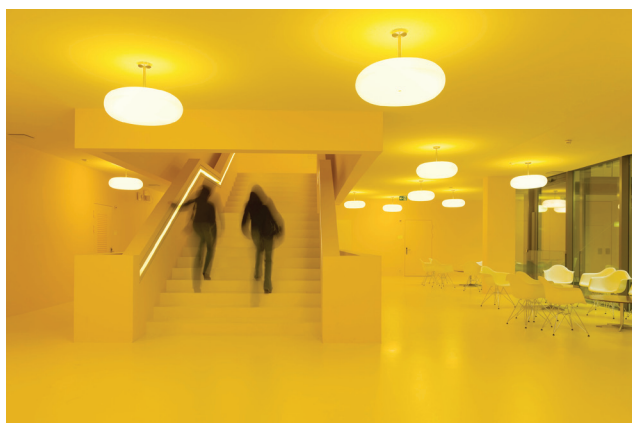


Façade detail

KBSB →



External view



Concourse



Inner courtyard

BIEL/BIENNE COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, New building

Location: Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2003

Project owner: Foundation for the promotion of the Biennese Commercial College

Size: 6800 m² surface area

Planning: 2004-05

Execution: 2005-07

Cost: CHF 26 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

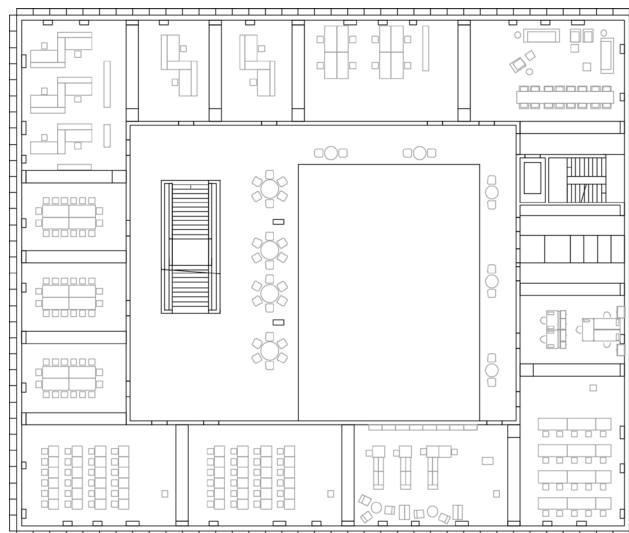
Project organisation: Individual commission

The new block constructed for the Biel/Bienne Commercial College (BFB) occupies an attractive site between the town centre and the lake, right next to the railway station.

The district master plan defines a virtually quadratic volume with a side length of roughly 40 metres and a height of 18.5 metres. These are conditions in which lighting is tricky, but that problem is solved through an inner courtyard, which becomes the building's salient element. The perfection of the strongly profiled glass façade corresponds, on the one hand, to the precision of the structure's positioning, whilst, on the other hand, it also reflects the earlier industrial history of the site.

Inside, those zones that serve communication, such as the auditorium, canteen and thoroughfares, have been finished in a monochrome yellow colour. The classrooms, as zones of concentration, are in a neutral white. This distinction between the colouring of the various zones facilitates orientation and generates a captivating tension.

Compliance with the "Minergie" standard and the intensive degree of detailing resulted in many specific solutions. One example is the lights, which were specially designed and produced for the college.



Ground plan of the upper floor

INLAY →



Exterior view



Anteroom and General Assembly Hall



Interior



Interior

SWITZERLAND'S GIFT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, Renovation

Location: New York, USA

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2002

Project owner: Swiss Confederation represented by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics

Size: 250 m² surface area

Planning: 2002-04

Execution: 2004

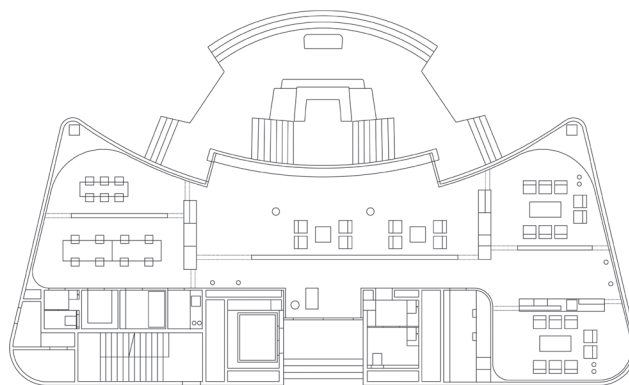
Cost: CHF 3.1 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Cooperation partners: Buchner Bründler Architekten AG, Basel and Künstlergruppe Relax, Zürich

To mark its accession to the United Nations in 2002, Switzerland donated the renovation of several centrally located rooms in the principal building in New York to the world organisation.

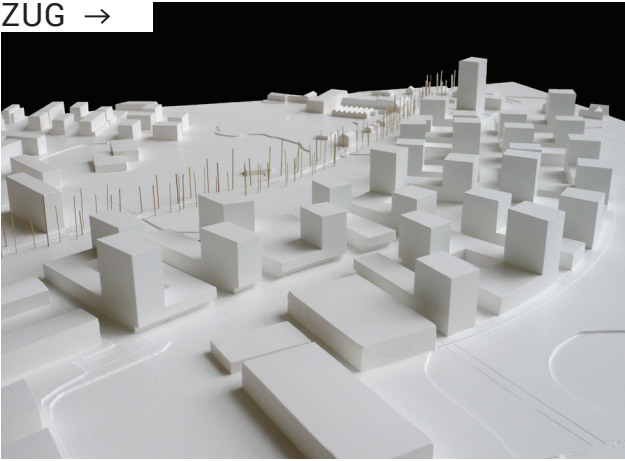
The complex of rooms known as "GA-200" occupies an area of 250 square metres and is located immediately behind the famous golden wall of the United Nations' General Assembly Hall. It functions as a waiting and preparation room for the speakers, as a consultation room for the UN Secretary General and President and as working space for the protocol department. The first step involved the removal of partitions from the whole complex and the ancillary rooms situated around the edges of it. Now six full-height walnut wall elements divide up the plenteous space. Integrated sliding doors in bronze-coloured aluminium can produce any desired subdivision. These prestigious rooms are cased in by an inside wall, which replicates the organic language of the butterfly shape of the outside wall.

As an artistic intervention, the word "peace" in the six UN languages is inlaid as marquetry in precious, clashing materials in walls, ceilings and other surfaces. The curved rear wall of the General Assembly Hall is decorated with the UN preamble.



Ground plan

ZUG →



Model photograph



Street zone



Park zone

LORZENALLMEND, Urban development planning

Location: Zug, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2005

Project owner: Zug Corporation in cooperation with the Zug municipal authorities

Size: approx. 300 000 m² surface area

Planning: 2005-17

On land between Zug and Cham, previously occupied by scattered, heterogeneous residential buildings, a new multifunctional housing development has been taking shape, providing accommodation for working, living, shopping, leisure and services.

A major consideration was fitting the project in with the surrounding landscape, in which the predominant feature is an old arm of the Lorze river.

The proposal envisages expanding these existing green spaces to form a public park, integrating the school building and the sports facilities in it and creating new thoroughfares to and from the Riedmatt district. The new development, to be called Lorzenallmend, is to be built adjacent to the park. It has been devised as a compact urban centre, with an additional identity deriving from the green area, that of an urban park. The transition is not fuzzy, but with clear-cut boundaries. The effect is that three worlds meet up as in a collage – landscaped park, urban structure and farmland. The three worlds are clearly demarcated from one another, but each offers reciprocal visual references to the others.



Project location

JANUS →



Southwest view



Staircase



Gothic Hall in legacy building

LOCAL-HERITAGE MUSEUM RAPPERSWIL-JONA, Renovation and extension

Location: Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2007

Project owner: Commune of Rapperswil-Jona

Size: 990 m²

Planning: 2008-10

Execution: 2010-11

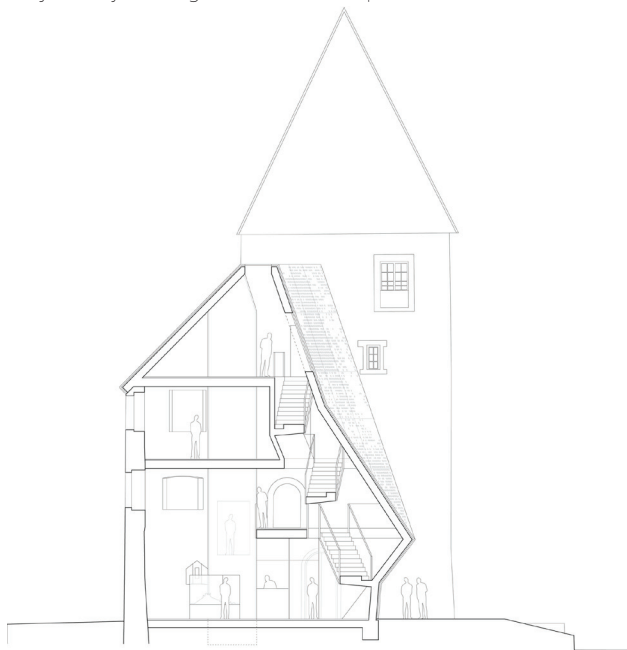
Cost: CHF 5.08 million ("BKP" 1-9) excluding exhibition

Project organisation: General planning team

Sandwiched between the parts of the old local-heritage museum comprised of medieval buildings, there is now a mediating modern structure, the shape of whose folded outer shell is derived from the openings of the two neighbouring legacy buildings. No change has been made on the northern side, which is important for the overall visual impression of the town.

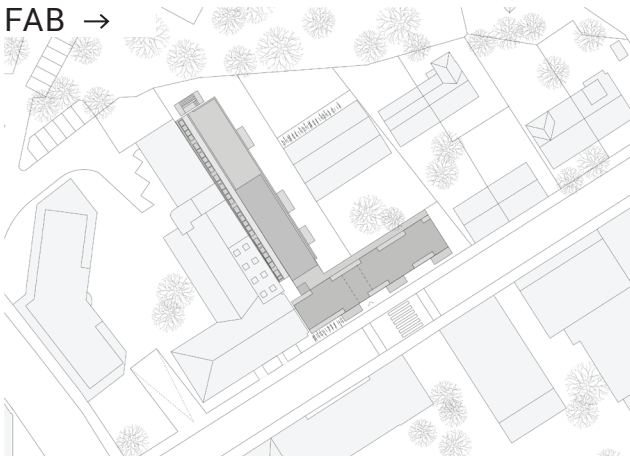
The new structure now provides the entrance to the museum, including disabled access, along with exhibition areas offering various characteristics. As a new component in the ensemble, "janus" satisfies all the technical-equipment and functional requirements of a modern, round-the-year museum operation and thus ensures that the legacy buildings have a continuing existence as authentic witnesses of their day and age.

The zenith lighting and vertical translucence of the new structure bestow a deliberately large contrast between its internal spaces and those of the old buildings. That facilitates firstly orientation within the complex as a whole and secondly ease of recognition of what is new, making the threshold to the old much more conscious. Stepping into the legacy building thus becomes an eventful journey through time into the past.



Cross-section

FAB →



Project location

AREAL FABRIKGÄSSLI, Residential development

Location: Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Co-initiators

Year: 2009

Project owner: FAB-A cooperative

Size: 2610 m² surface area

Planning: 2011-12

Execution: 2012-14

Cost: CHF 7.75 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Project organisation: Individual commission



Access to the rear block

The FAB-A cooperative took the initiative to realise a car-free residential development satisfying the Minergie-P standard on the Fabrikgässli site in the centre of Biel/Bienne. Carefully fitting the differentiated mix of dwelling types into the challenging limiting conditions on the plot of land has made high-quality living possible. One example worth picking out is the maisonettes along the 56-metre-long fire wall. Here the dominant east-looking orientation has been effectively offset by the chosen cross-section with protuberances and skylights. Rooms for communal usage, a multifunctional room, a guest room and the generously dimensioned rooftop terrace, including a washing pavilion, complement and extend the private living space in the 17 flats and three flats-cum-studios. The address "Fabrikgässli" is a poignant reminder that this is a former industrial site. The new development harmonises contentedly with the history of the place by seeking to espouse this atmosphere rather than aiming for a formal aesthetic. This attitude gives the building familiarity, invites its residents to feel they own it and makes it tolerant of change.



Cross-section of the rear block



Inside the rear block



Flat-cum-studio in the front block

VOS →



West view



Foyer and showcase aviary



Foyer and showcase aviary

VISITOR CENTRE AT THE SWISS ORNITHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, New building

Location: Sempach, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2010

Project owner: Swiss Ornithological Institute

Size: 2060 m² surface area

Planning: 2011-13

Execution: 2013-15

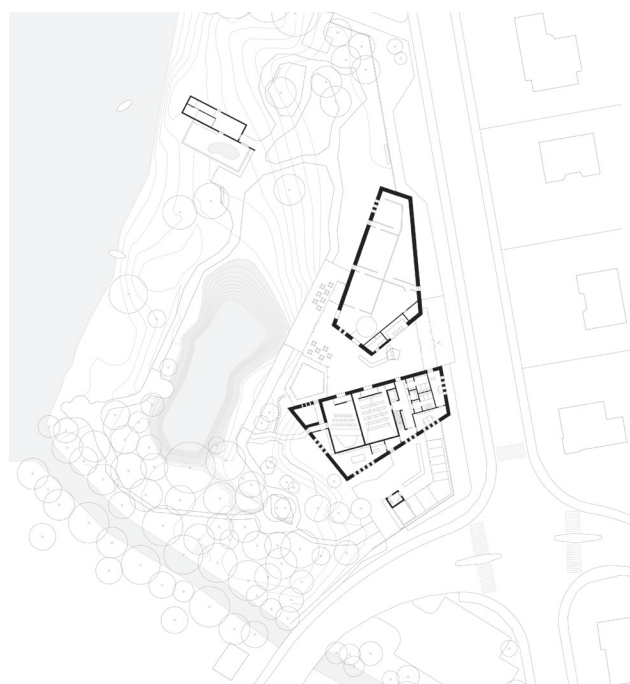
Cost: CHF 14.37 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Project organisation: General planning team

The new Visitor Centre at the Swiss Ornithological Institute has been built on the banks of Sempachersee. Its function is to provide the public with more information about the work of the Ornithological Institute and about bird life in Switzerland.

A dynamic network of routes guides visitors through the exhibition and the entire lakeside site. The compact, polygon structures have been positioned so that they interact with the countryside and the lake. One part of the building houses the extremely flexible exhibition hall. The area between the buildings has been made into a spacious foyer, from where there is access to all parts of the exhibition. The showcase aviary at the end of the foyer offers a gradual, fleeting transition between the inside and outside worlds.

The building's self-supporting outer shell is comprised of solid walls made of rammed earth. With the addition of simple timber constructions, they give the Visitor Centre, which satisfies the "Minergie-P-eco" standard, its characteristic appearance and do justice to the sustainability concept.



Ground floor

SFL →



West Elevation



Entrance



Interior

LAUSANNE STADIUM, New building

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland

Type of assignment: Competition, first prize

Year: 2014-2020

Project owner: Ville de Lausanne, service d'architecture

Size: 11'000m² surface area

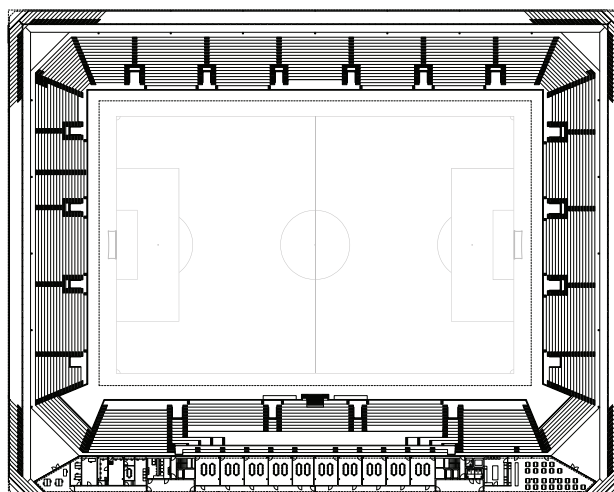
Collaboration: Sollberger Bögli Architekten

Structural Engineering: Dr.Lüchinger+Meyer Ing.

Cost: CHF 80.0 million ("BKP" cost items included: 1-9)

Project organisation: General planning team

The new football stadium is located in the north of the city of Lausanne and marks the transition from the dense urban structure to the open landscape. It is to be read as the prelude to a newly planned sports infrastructure with a total of nine soccer fields and an athletics facility. The new construction project of the stadium takes over and the idea of slightly staggered, rectangular fields. The stadium, with its easily memorable structure, is designed as a carrier of identity and memory. By opening the four corners of the stadium, the cramped situation of the perimeter is taken into account. At the same time, the impressive and unmistakable iconographic expression of a vessel is created. The cleared corners allow a generous and free flow of visitors around the stadium and also mark the four entrance areas. The result is a covered public space that mediates between the city and the football stadium. The atmosphere of the stadium can already be experienced and felt from the outside.



2nd Floor



ABOUT OUR ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

:mlzd was founded in Biel in 1997. It is the workplace of a versatile team of architects, who have to date won more than 35 first prizes in international competitions and have more than 70 completed building projects to their name. The first important works include the redesign of the presidential anterooms to the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York, as well as the expansion of the Historical Museum and the City Museum in Rapperswil. Other special construction tasks such as the visitor center of the Swiss Ornithological Institute and Tempelhof Airport in Berlin and the new construction of the football stadium 'de la Tuilière' in Lausanne have been added in recent years. The breadth of this spectrum expresses the desire of the office to be neither formally nor programmatically determined, and instead to repeatedly engage with the needs of a construction task.

:mlzd - with love for detail

TEAM

Partners: Daniele Di Giacinto, Claude Marbach, Pat Tanner, Regina Tadorian, David Locher, Andreas Frank, Brigitte Ballif, Alexander Unsin

Employees Biel: Barbara Hirt, Marlies Rosenberger, Pasquale Buonomo, Melanie Hasler Ziegler, Julie Mikosch, Matthias Castrischer, Cristiano Aires Teixeira, Tobias Cebulla, Merle Fluri, Loïc Godon, Laura Blázquez Martínez

Employees Berlin: Alan Bigelow, Julia Domanska, Friedemann Hack, Pablo Grünig

FACTS

Foundation: 1997

Legal form: since 2001 cooperative

VAT no.: CHE-109.278.051

Bank account: Raiffeisenbank Bielersee, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

IBAN: CH38 8080 8001 0231 7598 4

SWIFT/BIC: RAIFCH 22833

Payment recipient: Genossenschaft :mlzd Architekten
Mattenstrasse 81, 2503 Biel/Bienne

Partners: three architects with an HTL/SIA/BSA qualification; four architects with an FH/TH qualification; one graduate in business administration.

Employees: Seventeen architects with an FH/ETH/MAS qualification; one interior designer with an FH/HTL qualification; one secretaries; two apprentices; two trainees
Buildings: >70

Competitions: >240, >35 first prizes

Total number of projects: >400