CHRISTOPH PLATTNER Architect ETH SIA

After graduating with Degrees in Architecture from ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne, I spent several years working in New York and Los Angeles. This time in the United States was a valuable experience, in that it impacted my thinking and design processes, allowing me to redirect ideas and concepts of Architecture imparted on me during my years at the University. Back in Switzerland, it is important to me to have these distilled effects influence my projects.

Working in the two cities, I was interested in how the quality of personal projects could assert themselves within critical analysis of the heterogeneous, dynamic and demanding environments, as well as against the diverse interests of all the parties involved. The character of projects reflects the context significantly, consisting of local conditions, programmatic requirements and the ideas of clients. I am meeting these various influences with a pragmatic approach. Finally, my projects are developed impartially, by overcoming constraints to make all those aspects manifest themselves in carefully realized Architecture. The results are unconventional solutions that might polarize but that do not leave one indifferent.

I am an independent architect based in Zurich. My international work is focused on refurbishments and small new constructions as well as feasibility and planning studies which can be clearly arranged and overseen throughout all phases by a small young office. The office designs and develops projects 3D-digital supporting BIM.

ST.GALLEN Textilmuseum

As part of a general restoration the Textilmuseum will receive a new archive and an additional exhibition floor.

The museum positions himself as a beacon of international reputation in St.Gallen. Seen like this it shouldn't only assert itself as a stately commercial building in the streets but also appear by a striking roof from a distance like the top of the hills surrounding the city. Therefor the addition is designed as a new roof. For urban considerations and functional reasons it is voluminous enough to accommodate the archive as well besides a new exhibition floor. The archive reflects the entire knowledge of the museum and is symbolically positioned as the head or brain on top of th building.

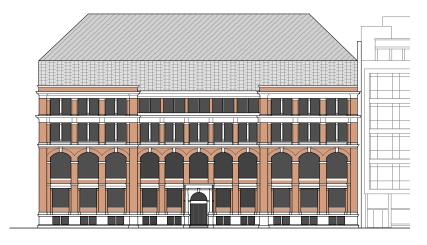
The existing eaves edge reflects the break between existing part and new addition which is itself divided in a lower part align with the facade turning into the sloped roof. The lower part is visible as the exhibition floor and the pitched roof reduces the impact of the building height on street level. The shape of the roof corresponds to the structure of the building (center part flanked by corner sections).

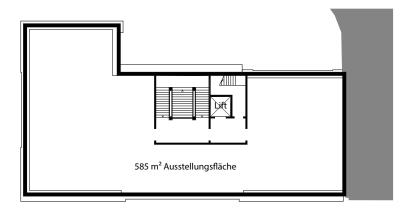
Also in terms of material and color the extension stands out as an independent volume. While the brick facade refers to the industrial character the roof rather reflects a textile skin layered over the building. The new showroom is protected from daylight without windows. Conceived in dark tones the colorful accents are set by the exhibits. The existing knee wall as a peripheral ledge and the wooden floor are constructive elements to serve as spacial orientation.

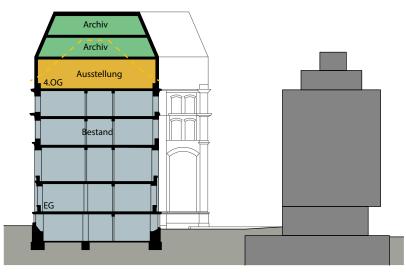
Client: Foundation Textilmuseum St.Gallen __ ideas competition 2020

Renovation __ Program: archive, exhibition space









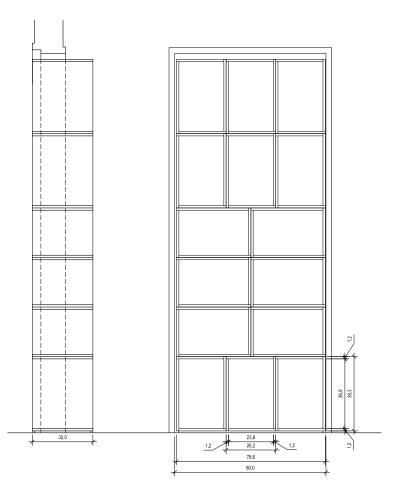
Bookshelf

The bookshelf is a modular system compiled of single identical boxes. The proportions of a box are set that two long sides are matching three short sides. That way they can be stacked vertically or horizontally to fit books of all sizes. The depth is big enough to place and access books from both sides. Thus it serves as a room divider which was the basic idea as a setting in an opening of an unused extra door.

Client: plattnerbauten.ch __ prototype 2019 **Furniture design** __material: plywood birch 12mm







BASEL Studio conversion

Used as workshop for many years the studio should be able to be rented out as an apartment. It's a small annex to a terraced single-family house and built into a slope in a way that it is accessible downstairs from the roof which is used as a parking space. The building is situated in a preservation zone. The outside appearance had to stay unchanged.

Because of a technical mistake in the original building application from 1994 the conversion was tied to an costly energetic renovation. In view of the small construction volume we had to negotiate various compromises with the authorities. Otherwise it would have been a disproportional effort. The agreement was a down scaled interior insulation of the existing concrete walls, dispense of heating system with solar collectors and approved air conditioning instead. Existing heat was connected to the heating system of the single-family house and can now function independent as intended. Finally the worn flat roof was resealed.

Various problems only came to light during construction work. Thus the approach was a very pragmatic one step-by-step in accordance with decisions and approvals by the authorities.

It's all about the **construction site.** I face it with:

Pragmatism

Step by step

Patience

Overview

common sense

'learning every day how to learn'

Client: private__ project/construction 2018/19 __ size 50m2

Conversion __ Programm: Studio with open kitchen, bathroom



FISLISBACH branch bank

Confidentiality is the most precious value a bank has to offer. The renovation of this branch is directed to it in times, when they are about to reinvent themselves.

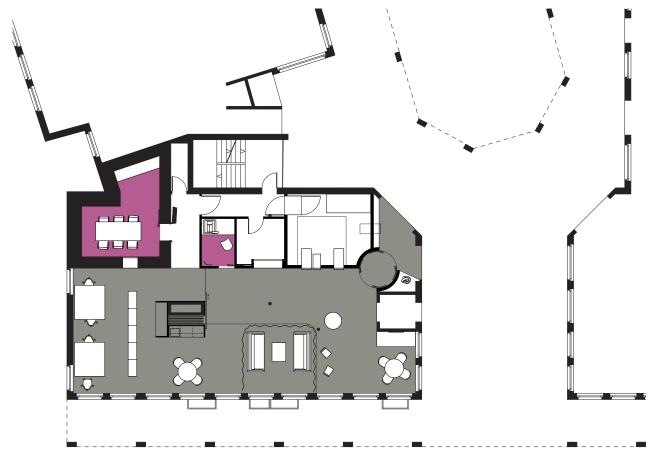
Since it's original purpose became obsolete with a new autosave the existing vault is converted to a meeting-room of highest standards. That way the most dominant and characteristic element remains but in new function towards the restructuring. It is the goal that the acoustic design of the room keeps all sound inside even with open doors. For the most discreet visit of the bank the vault is even accessible through the back door at the stairwell. Thus all needs in terms of confidentiality are met and open up ground for all options to organize the rest of the bank as a generous, flexible, open space.

It should form a place where locals can meet with consultants in relaxed setting for different requests and events. The customer being served at a window counter has disappeared.

An elegant, comfortable Meeting-Lounge sets the inviting center. As necessary it can be closed up with a curtain and separate the open space in different zones for various use from conversations in rather intimate setting up to larger events in a sense of the cultural commitment of the bank.

Client: Raiffeisen Bank __ competition 2018 __ size 270m²

Refurbishment ___ Program: 24/7-zone, autosave, meetingroom/-lounges, office, kitchen, secondary rooms





ZÜRICH fountain Utoquai

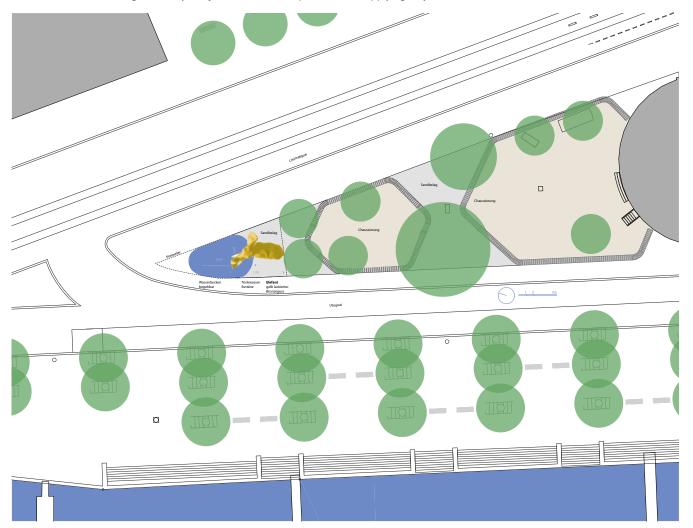
An elephant is an exotic in Zürich. Especially when it's yellow!

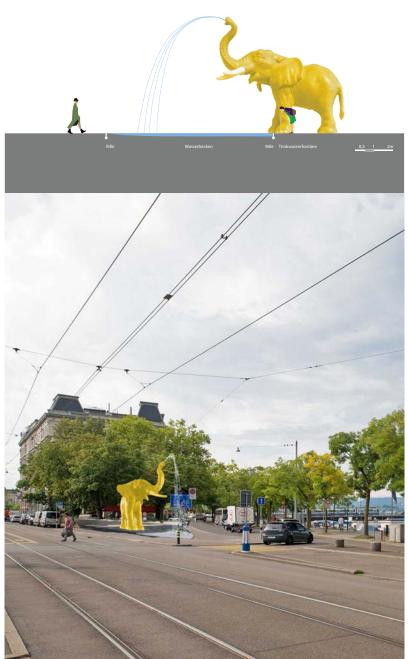
That of all things a yellow elephant should stay at the Hungerplatz even without relation to local fauna, is due to his symbolism. It counts on the circumstance that we feel the exotic as attractive and mysterious. The elephant clearly separates itself from all other communal fountains as the special 'Elephant of Zürich', an icon and unrivaled jubilee fountain.

The giant elephant puts a strong accent at the Brunnenplatz and turns it into a meeting-spot where passersby of the urban swarm can find themselves again or meet. Visible also from distance the shiny yellow stands out in high contrast to the gray of asphalt and green of the trees. In it's imposing figure the elephant stands like a figurehead at the tip of Hungerinsel. Inviting and welcoming he raises the trunk which lets splash a vivid water fountain in a high arc into the water basin in front of him. The basin is only 10cm deep and can be waded. A steel rim that separates the island from the pavement forms a narrow groove around the basin to let the water drain. Right beside the elephant's front foot a drinking fountain shoots out of the floor into the sky or in open mouth of people gently bending over and other thirsty minds.

Client: Water Industries of the City of Zürich __ competition 2017

New construction___ Program: 150 years jubilee fountain of public water supply agency





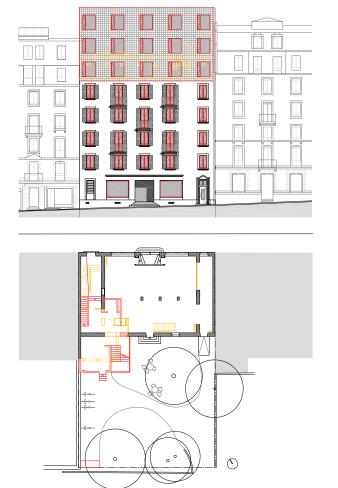
GENEVA Apartment house

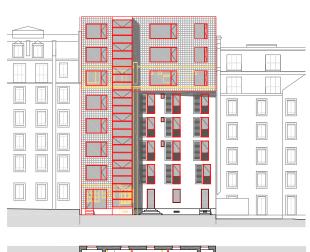
The apartment house was built in 1896. With the two adjacent buildings it is part of a landmark section of a street block. Owner is a foundation which provides social housing. Existing there are tight 1 to 3 bedroom apartments on four floors. The competition project aims for a refurbishment with extension to gain larger and more spacious apartments. Because it's a landmark building structural core and facade are under protection. The former is characterized by a longitudinal wall dividing the building in two sections and a peripheral staircase located at a partition wall. As a consequence current apartments are either street side or courtyard oriented. To balance the orientation with two-sided apartments the staircase is relocated to the outside. Thus all apartments are laid out the same way following the structure of the building: Sections of rooms oriented to the street and courtyard respectively separated by bathrooms along the center wall. As a further step a room similar to a loggia extends the smallest apartments at the partition wall. Forming a volume with the stairway that stretches over the roof as a cantilever it integrates the setback of the protected facade into the heterogeneous courtyard alignment.

The existing upper floors include 2 to 4 bedroom apartments in a conventional sense. The extension receives on each floor a cluster-apartment consisting of a large common space with kitchen and annexed three minimal sized but self-sufficient one-bedroom units.

Client: Fondation immobilière de droit public Jean-Dutoit __ competition 2017 __ Size 2'200m2

Refurbishment and extension__ Program: 10 two, 6 three, 1 four-Bedroom apt., common spaces, public place at ground floor













DIESSEN Kiosk at the Lake Side

The Kiosk as a pavilion distinguishes itself that it is self-referred and doesn't fit an urban fabric.

Similarly there is an existing pavilion at the location - a park at the lake side of Diessen. It completes a grid of trees which sets a dominant element to the park. Detached from that context the kiosk is placed in an organically, irregularly grown group of trees. Correspondingly its shape is modulated in a way it meanders between them.

Thus the shape isn't hierarchically referenced to the surroundings but instead a homogeneous closed skin of untreated wood. The material will weather and settle the pavilion in the woods.

A decisive accent is the opening of the Kiosk to the public. The undefined stretched form is just cut off at the walk side. A wall-panel closes the opening and can be folded up. Then it provides a canopy as a gesture to visit the kiosk.

Furthermore set off from the walk the form defines a cove like sitting area around a tree. It is oriented to the south at an access path to the park at this corner and invites to stay.

Client: City of Diessen __ Competition 2017 __ Size: 60m²

New construction__ Program: Kiosk









ZÜRICH Architektur 0.16

I didn't pursue the intention to present a single outstanding project but a concise general impression.

That meant to include an interactive exhibition concept using widely available digital communication tools. On the white Styrofoam cube is placed a smaller one. Each side of it shows a pattern as a CR-Code. It can be scanned with a mobile phone to receive animated portfolios.

Exhibition presentation of 60 architecture offices, Maag Halle Zürich, 28.-30.10.2016



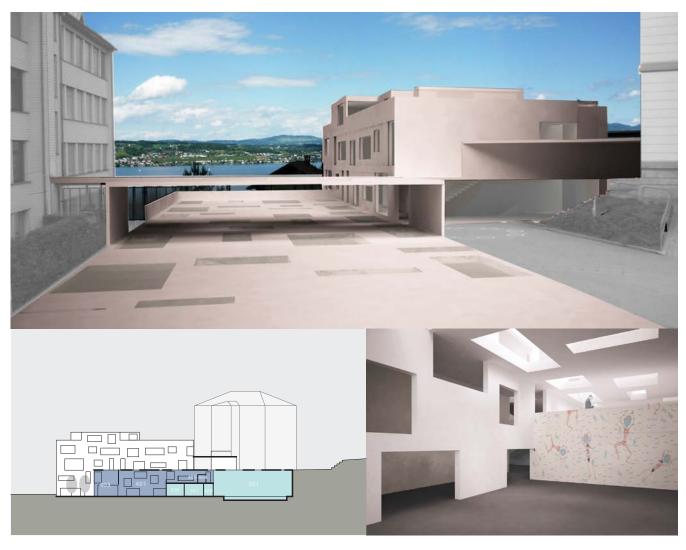


WOLLERAU Community & Educational Center

Multifaceted program, challenging site, landmark - keywords that could describe the task. The competition was seeking for a project to extend the existing school consisting of a landmark building and a school built in the 1950-ties. Part of this extension are further classrooms, day care and a nursery, media center, auditorium and swimming pool. Attention is brought to the integration of the new building in regards of the solitary character of the landmark building, the connection to the existing school buildings and the intention to form a new community center for meeting and formation. The attractive setting of the sloped site with view to the lake serves to meet this profile. A new building with classrooms, nursery and day care is set opposite to the existing building perpendicular to the slope. Located underneath the courtyard between the two is the swimming pool and media center. With extensive floor surface they both can be adopted for skylights. On the same level is the auditorium as the basement floor of the new building. Thus the courtyard is built as a walkable skylight ceiling spanning the space between the two buildings framing the view. A porch roof connects the three buildings above ground. Below they all have direct access to the entry hall in the focal point of the entire center.

Client: City of Wollerau __Competition 2015 __ Size: 3'850m2

New construction ___ Program: Auditorium, Media Center, Swimming pool, Classrooms, Nursery and Day Care Center





DESSAU Bauhausmuseum

To cultivate and impart the history and collection of the Bauhaus Dessau the City is planning a new museum. Location is a park in the center of Dessau where the museum will represent a main spot within the urban structure. On the one hand this is expressed by the reputation of the Bauhaus itself. On the other hand it's marked at the interface of the site at a main street at the limits of the historical city. To preserve the park and consolidate it as a focus place the museum is created as a box on two tubes. Their circular form on ground floor refuses a hierarchical orientation related to the surrounding built environment. Thus the landscape of the park remains floating around the building. One of the tubes includes the public section with entry hall, information, event spaces, café and shop. Administration and maintenance are in the other one. The box above contains a large, open exhibition space to offer maximum flexibility in use and curating. Only interruption beside access is a opening projecting down between the two tubes. There it occurs as a focus similar to a forest glade and marks a zone of the museum access as well as it establishes visual references when moving through the city. Client: Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau ___ Competition 2015 ___ Size: 4'200m²



MILANO Piazza della Scala

Piazza della Scala marks a prominent spot connected through Galleria Vittorio Emanuele with Piazza del Duomo. Considerable building on the west side is the Teatro della Scala. Historically it dates from the time before the place was formed and was erected as a building at a street. The place itself was developed later. For that purpose the facade of Palazzo Marino opposite of the theater was renewed in a representational fashion and two new buildings on north and south side completed it. The partial setback of the theater building reflects this piecemeal process which is also expressed by a unsatisfying traffic situation around the place: north and west side are limited by busy streets. On first hand the design aims to clear the diffuse hierarchy in the relation to the surrounding built environment and thus add a specific character to the place. The orientation is emphasized in direction east-west from Palazzo Marion to Tetro della Scala, two front buildings. North and south sides are defined by aligning streets. The area with the street in front of the theater is confined and marked respectively with a row of trees. On the one hand the street is stressed and traffic staged like rolling over a carpet. On the other hand in historical reference the theater's street-side is a designated realm underneath the trees contrasting the otherwise clear place in order to give way to the dominance of the monuments surrounding it.

Client: City of Milan__ Competition 2015

Urban design



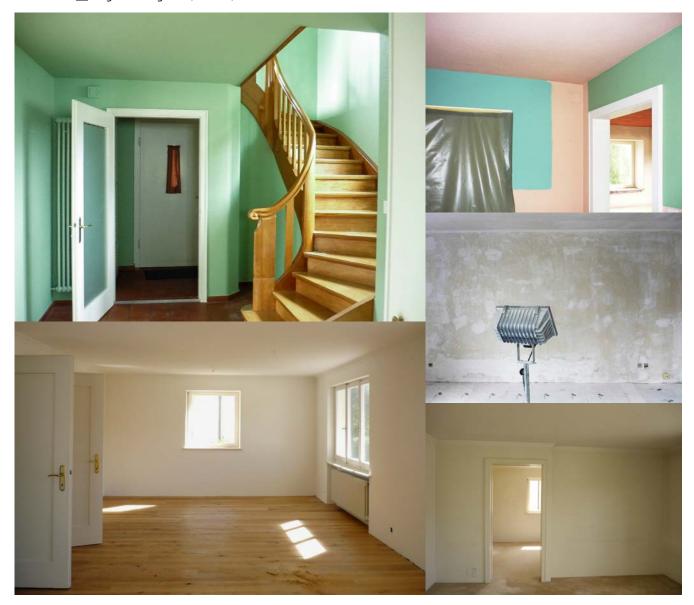


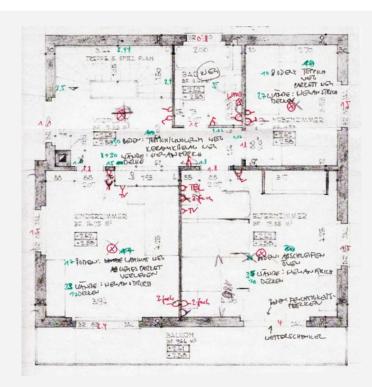
WETTINGEN Single-Family House

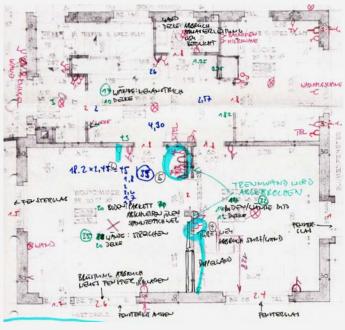
Renovation and remodeling of a single-family house built in 1953. First phase was the renovation of the existing house. On ground floor are the kitchen as well as separated dining and living room. These two became a big open space by eliminating the dividing wall. The structure of the upper floor with three bedrooms and the bathroom was maintained. With focus on interiors the rooms are kept in decent colors and materials - smooth wall surface painted white, wood flooring - whereas the entry has a rather accentuated expression. It is dominated by a massive wood stair of dark brown. The floor slabs of red clay are contrasted with the mint green paint on rough-textured plastered walls. Due to the very short time for planning and construction most decisions were taken ad hoc on site.

Client: private __ completed 2014 __ Size: 120m2 __ Cost: CHF 50'000

Renovation __ Program: living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms







ALLSCHWIL Single-Family House

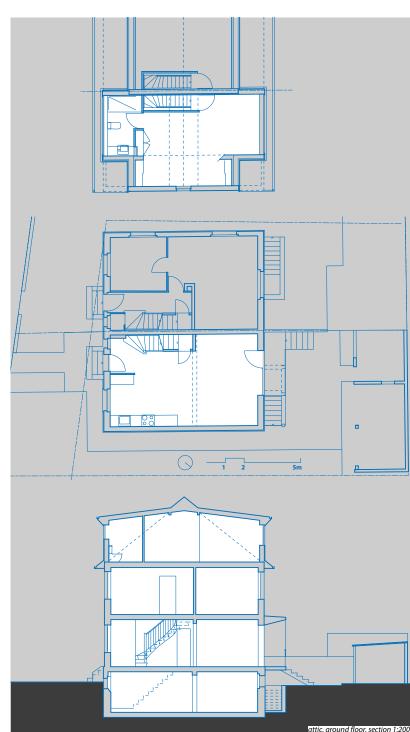
One half of a double single-family house from the 1920's consisting of two stories and the roof should be converted to a three-story building according to zoning provisions. Contradicting requirements of state and municipal law forced the reduction of the extension to a large dormer on front- and backyard side of the house.

The footprint of one house is only 40m^2 . To ease tight spatial conditions one of the two dormers was used to set up an additional bathroom besides the small existing one on the first floor. Otherwise the infrastructure with kitchen on ground-floor was kept in place. Only walls were removed to have one open space on first floor for living and two bedrooms on second floor, one large and one small. Furthermore a window opening on ground floor to the backyard was replaced with a wide door on a new porch to have an outdoor access.

Client: private __ Project 2013, completed 2014 __ Size: 120m² __ Cost: CHF 400'000

Remodeling, renovation __ Program: living room with open kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms





WIENDORF Farmhouse

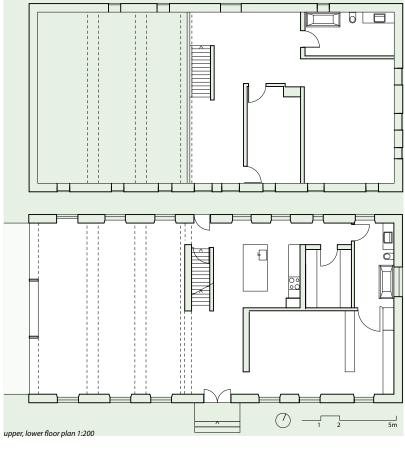
The house is part of a farm and about 100 years old. Although in general good condition several improvements and remodeling affected the structure in the course of time so a renovation was necessary. Major changing during the time was the addition of an upper floor on the originally one story building by raising the eaves. The result was a sequence of numerous rather small rooms connected to each other on the footprint of $200m^2$ of the house. To resolve this unwieldy spatial structure the floor slab was removed at one half of the house to create a generous, open two story high living room. In contrast private rooms were integrated using the existing structure of the house at the other half. The existing stair connecting ground and upper floor remains at the existing location in the centre between the two parts. Corresponding to the transformative gesture for the living room a large opening was added to the facade with direct access to an outdoor terrace.

Client: private __ Project 2010 __ Size: 300m² __ Cost: €200′000

Feasibility study for remodeling, renovation ___ Program: Living room, kitchen, studio, bed- and quest room, two bathrooms







LOS ANGELES Artist Studio

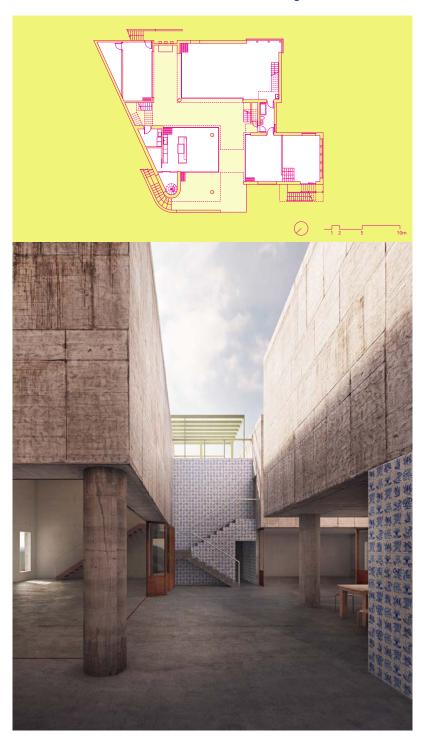
In an unpretentious way like a hybrid the house serves as an artist's studio for work and potential living. The site is located on hillside with southwest orientation. To protect from sunlight and establish intimacy to the adjacency the house consists of four parts arranged so they create a loose sequence of courtyards. Directly connected to a big main studio, an open kitchen and a multipurpose room they establish the ground floor. Two of the four volumes have second floors with a smaller studio each. In spread access ways through bathrooms, verandas and utility rooms in-between they are connected among themselves, with the main studio and ground-floor. Especially ground-floor is understood as an open space within merging interior and exterior.

The character of the house is comparable to a modifiable sculpture. Base is similar to the building core a spatial structure formed of concrete. Some fix parts of the shell as skylights to optimize diffuse daylight in the studios, main wall openings or utilities are added. Beyond that interior configurations, setting and outfit can be completed as needed.

Client: private __ Project 2012/13 __ Size: 500m²

New construction Program: artist studios, kitchen, bathrooms, utilities, parking



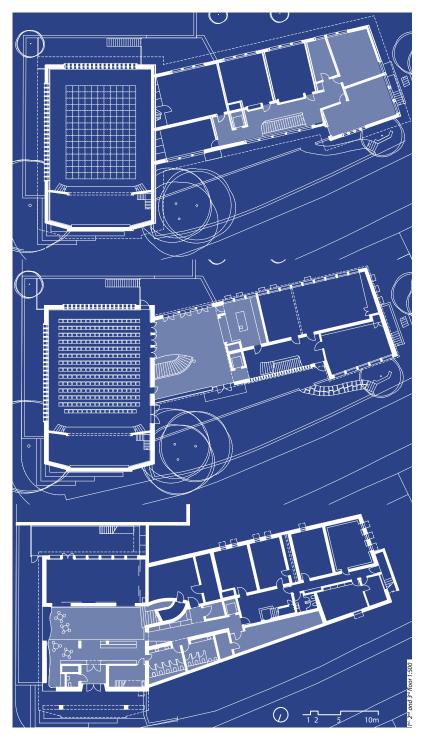


ZÜRICH Kirchgemeindehaus Wiedikon

The Center of the parish was built in 1953, is a listed monument and hasn't changed or renovated significantly ever since. The entire building including interiors with most furnishing is still kept in original condition. It is organized within two parts: an event hall and stage which dominates the corner of the crossroad, where the center is located, and an angled smaller part attached to it with rooms for classes and different activities. The lobby as entry to the building in general and the event hall in particular was remodeled. First the main entrance on ground level below the hall was restructured to an open, generous space rather than the limited, narrow corridor in the current condition. Further the connection by a main stair leads to a lobby on a first floor level of the hall with similar improvements, including replacement of the kitchen with new location an direct relation through a counter and an new opening in the facade of the existing first floor entrance. The installation of a elevator to improve the accessibility of the handicapped completes the restructuring. In detail attention was focused on existing materials and designs to be reinterpreted, completed or preserved.

Client: Evang.-Ref. Kirchgemeinde Zürich-Wiedikon __ Project 2010-12 (Project management), completed 2012 __ Size: 1800m² __ Cost: CHF 7Mio **Remodeling, renovation** __ Program: event space with lobby, catering kitchen, meeting rooms and classrooms





ZÜRICH Extension of the Museum of Art

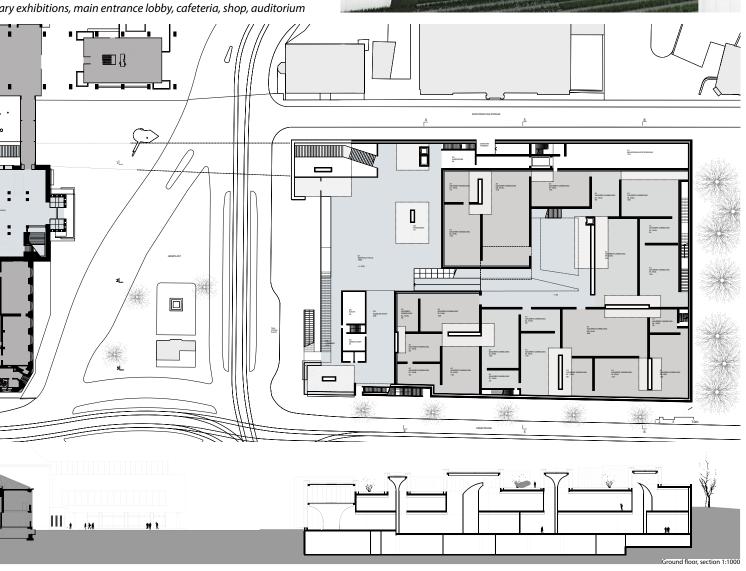
The competition was set up to build an extension of the museum of art in Zurich on a site across the street at the existing museum. The parameters imposed by the lot size, program and requirements of the museum resulted in a voluminous two story building which covers the lot to its extends of the setback. This maximized footprint is compensated by a generous sculpture roof garden open to the public. It creates a connection of public spaces namely from the square on the south side to an area of Universities facing the north side. The garden is structured by terraces reflecting the topography and skylights formed as boxes. It brakes down the scale of the large building to a level related to the urban fabric of the vicinity. The skylights provide daylight in galleries on both first and second floor vertically and support a curatorial required sequence of single spaces of different sizes when walking through exhibitions. The lobby on the first floor with cafeteria and shop is the new main entrance of the museum. An underpass connects it to the existing museum.

Client: City of Zürich __ Competition 2008 __ Size: 20'000m²

Competition __ Program: Galleries of permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, main entrance lobby, cafeteria, shop, auditorium







VŒGTLINSHOFFEN Hotel Loisium Alsace

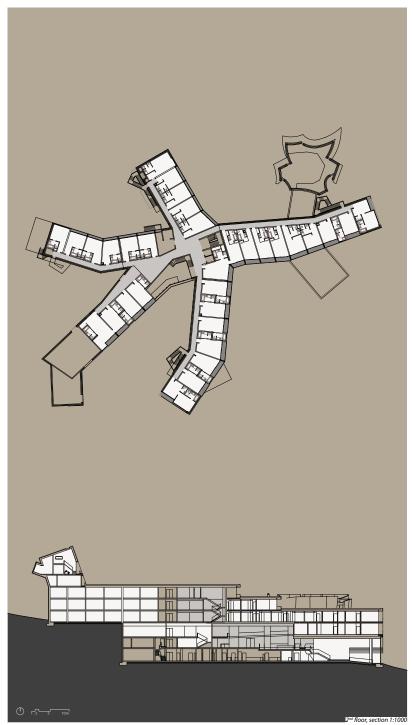
The Hotel and Resort is located at a hillside overlooking vineyards and dedicated to the cultivation and promotion of the local vine culture. Form and order of the building reflect this extraordinary place. Following the topography of the hill the public areas of the hotel are split in Lobby, Restaurant, Spa and Conference Center through stepped levels. The concept of three-like branching further emphasizes the landscape. It offers generous open views from every room and corridor.

Also the expression of the façade in blackened wood siding merges with the surrounding grass, forest and vines. The corten steel cladding of the event space set like a flower reflects the local stone.

Client: Loisium Alsace SAS __ Project 2009 (Project Architect) __ Size: 10'000m² __ Cost: €18.7Mio

New construction __ Program: 97 quest rooms & suites, vine-cellar and -restaurant, spa, event space and conference rooms



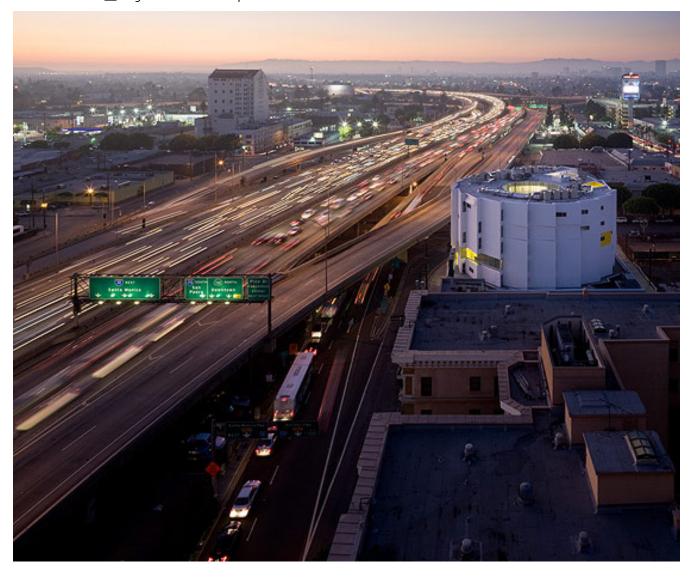


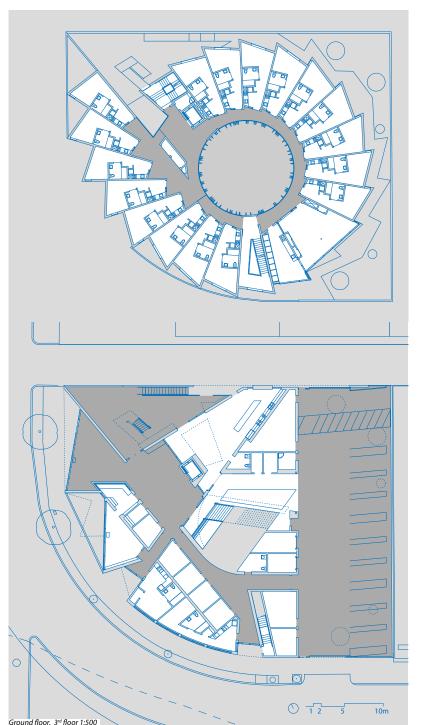
LOS ANGELES New Carver Apartments

This social housing project of a non-profit organization is in downtown Los Angeles, a city borough changing from abandoned desolation in the past to growing interest in trend of loft apartments.

The lot is located in one of the sections still rather inhospitable, a freeway is passing directly at the south side of the property. This challenged the building to be hermetically closed with an envelope of reduced openings to function as noise protection. Focus is a centered open interior courtyard creating the intersection of common public areas and private apartment. Public is the ground floor with community areas, the administration and a parking. Above are five floors with 97 apartments organized fan-shaped around the courtyard. The resulting significant form of a cylinder creates a icon within the surrounding anonymity. Thus inhabitants can identify themselves with the building and receive back dignity which most of them lost homeless on the street.

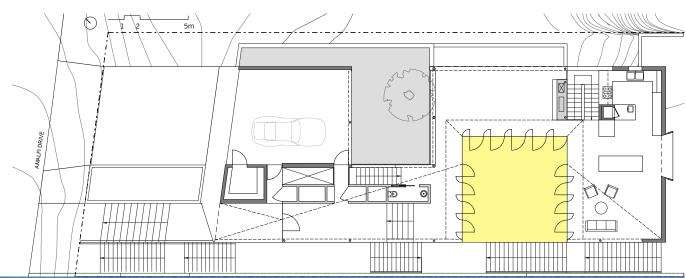
Client: Skid Row Housing Trust, Los Angeles __ Project 2007 (Project Architect), completed 2009 __ Size: 5'000m2 __ Cost: \$18,4Mio **New construction** __ Program: 97 affordable apartment units





The site of this private residence is on a hillside and very narrow in proportion. The design approach within these unfavorable characteristics resulted in a concept of two courtyards. They protect privacy and the program is stretched longitudinal around them. Following the topography on the top is the main floor with main entrance and an open living room with kitchen and dining area around an atrium open to the south. The roof is sloped towards this atrium and continues uniformly as exterior wall, forming a shell above a base. This is further emphasized by a continues gap above ground that separates the two elements. The base is set into ground of the slope as the connection from the main entrance at the top to a second entry at the opposite low point of the site. The program of this part consists of master bedroom and additional rooms for work and study around the second lower courtyard in the back. To the front side with street orientation are guest rooms on second floor and parking, service room and entrance on first floor.

Client: private __ Project with permit 2006 - 07 __ Size 440m² **New construction, unbuilt** __ Program: private residence with living room, kitchen, master-bedroom & -bath, guest rooms, study, 2 parking garages

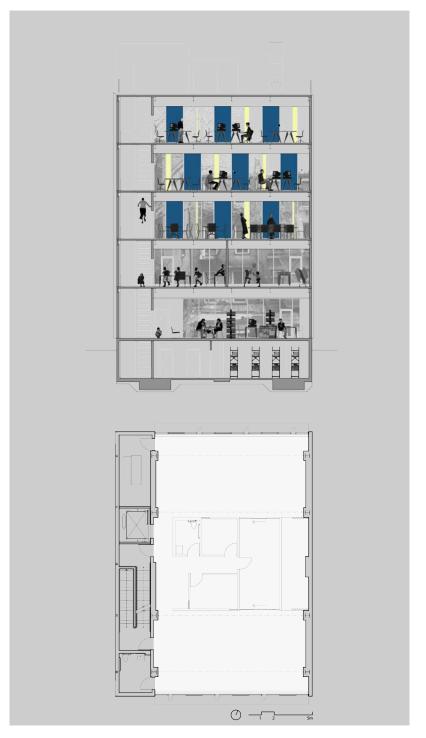




The client of this projects is a Non-Profit Organization providing social services in East Harlem. The 5 story building is the new center of the institution. It's addressed to immigration families and offers a wide range of support as consultation for parents, preschool, job placement, apartment search etc. Access and service rooms are placed in a shallow core stretching the entire depth of the building on one side. The remaining floor area is free of columns and structural walls to maximize the flexibility in changing use of space correlated to the variety of the program and the unsteadiness of the institution's field of operation. Although material and construction was kept very simple within a low budget the expression of the building is distinct to create a focal point in the area, a place people who live under modest and mostly difficult conditions can identify themselves with.

Client: Little Sisters of the Assumptions __ Project 2001 - completion 2004 __ Size: 2'000m² __ Cost: \$4,2Mio **New construction** __ Program: Social services





Projectlist

freelance and self-employed

2020	Textilmuseum St.Gallen, competition		
2019	Refurbishment of an apartment house, Basel	employed	
	Bookshelf, funriture design		
2018	Apartment house, Münchenstein	2013	with Ilg Santer Architekten, Zürich
	Conversion annex building of a single-family house, Basel		Artist Studio, Los Angeles
	Refurbishment of a branch bank, Fislisbach, competition	2011/12	with ADP Architekten, Zürich
2017	Fountain at Utoquai, Zürich, competition		Kirchgemeindehaus Wiedikon, renovation, Zürich
	Refurbishment of an apartment house, Geneva, competition	2008/09	with Rüssli Architekten, Luzern & Steven Holl Architects, New York
	Kiosk at the Lake Side, Diessen, competition		Loisium Alsace, Hotel, Voegtlinshoffen near Colmar
2016	Participation exhibition werkschau architektur 0.16, Zürich		Extension Kunsthaus Zürich, competition
2015	Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, competition		Schlosshotel Hertenstein, Hotel, Weggis LU, competition 2 nd price
	Community and Educational Center, Wollerau, competition	2006/07	with Michael Maltzan Architecture, Los Angeles
	Piazza della Scala, Milano, competition		New Carver Apartments, social housing, Los Angeles
	Bauhausmusem Dessau, competition		,Amalfi Drive' private residence, Los Angeles
2014	Renovation single-family house, Wettingen	2005	with Callas Shortridge Architects, Culver City
	Renovation single-family house, Allschwil		Hard Rock Hotel Las Vegas, corporate offices, Los Angeles
2010	Renovation farmhouse, Wiendorf near Rostock		Renovation/extension single-family house, Los Angeles
2008	Office building, Burbank	2001-04	with Gluck+, New York
	Westside Tavern, Restaurant, Los Angeles		Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Harlem, New York
	Construction documents for Pleskow Rael Architecture		Bronx Preparatory Charter School, Bronx, New York
2007	Apartment renovation, Basel		Apartment Central Park West, Renovation, New York
2006	Extension Asplund Public Library, Stockholm, competition	1999/2000	with Christian Dill Architekt, Basel
	with MXMA Architecture, Montreal		St. Josefshaus Herten, residencial care home, D-Rheinfelden,
2004	Roof extension Apartment house, Basel		competition 1 st price