#### **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.

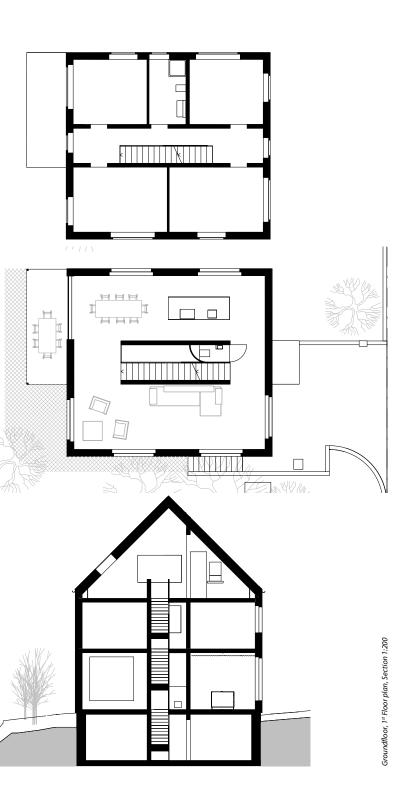
## **ZÜRICH** Single family house

The core of the house is a concrete construction. It consists of the basement, which ties the house into the slope, and the staircase. Around this is a wooden construction in which the rooms are housed. The house remains a shell made of raw concrete and untreated, prefabricated wooden elements. In the same spirit of simple materials, the façade is also clad in untreated wooden slats. The roof is covered with bare corrugated aluminum sheeting. This creates a natural weathering process that slowly consolidates the house as a sedentary building.

Client: private \_\_ project 2021 - 24\_\_ size 300m<sup>2</sup>

**New construction** \_\_ Program: basement, living room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, attic





# **ZÜRICH** Basislager

Basislager is a large site consisting of stacked atelier containers, some of which are equipped as bathrooms. After 15 years of heavy use since its establishment, it was time for renovations. As the site is intended for temporary use, the renovations were kept as simple as possible with limited means. In addition to replacing damaged parts and appliances, the focus was on installing new flooring and repainting the walls. For that purpus a color scheme was developed and applied to give a rather ordinary part of the site a specific identity.

Client: Swiss Life \_\_ project 2024\_\_ size 14m<sup>2</sup> **New construction** \_\_ Program: bathrooms





#### **BERN** Office refurbishment

The office extends over two floors and consists mainly of rather small rooms with one to four workstations. The structure of the office has been redesigned to take account of the new preference for working from home. The workstations can be booked on a flexible basis. In addition, the focus was on creating meeting rooms, lounge areas where people can meet or talk in private, and a large multi-purpose room. A color concept for the walls in these rooms ensures clear distinction of these areas, supported by furniture and specific lighting.

Client: Innosuisse \_\_ project 2021 - 24\_\_ size 1300m<sup>2</sup> **Renovation** \_\_ Program: offices, lounge, meeting





#### **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.

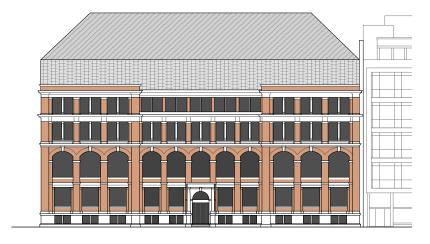
The existing eaves edge reflects the break between existing part and new addition which is itself divided in a lower part align with the facade turning into the sloped roof. The lower part is visible as the exhibition floor and the pitched roof reduces the impact of the building height on street level.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

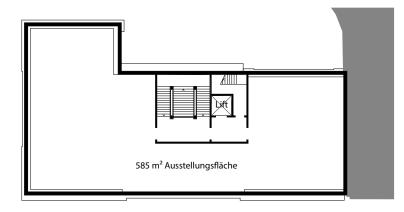
Also in terms of material and color the extension stands out as an independent volume. While the brick facade refers to the industrial character the roof rather reflects a textile skin layered over the building. The new showroom is protected from daylight without windows. Conceived in dark tones the 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.

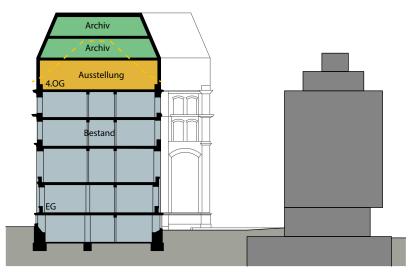
Client: Foundation Textilmuseum St.Gallen \_\_ ideas competition 2020

**Renovation** \_\_\_ Program: archive, exhibition space





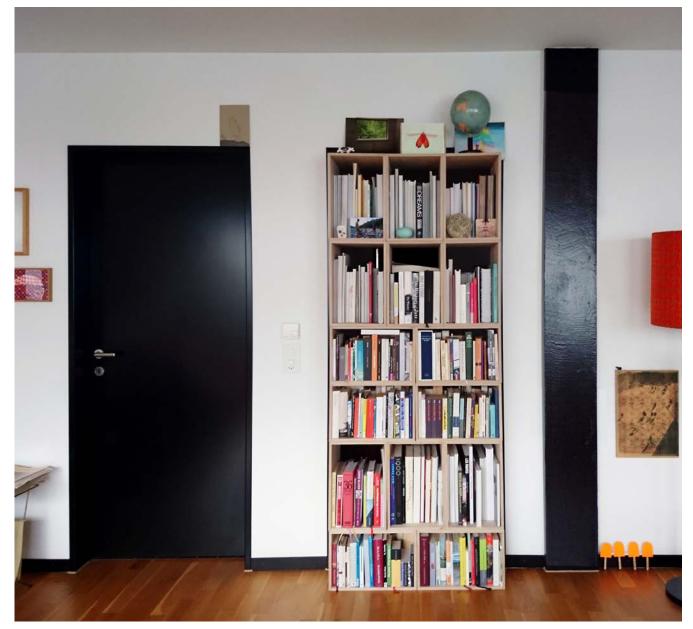




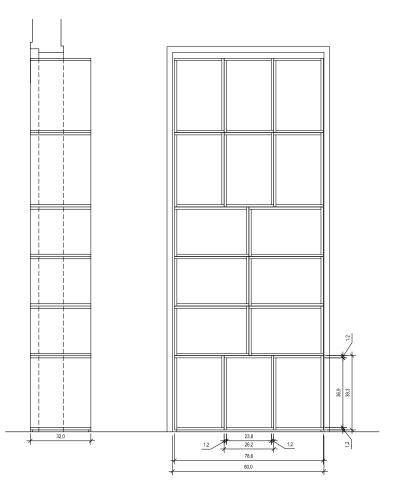
#### **Bookshelf**

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







#### 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.

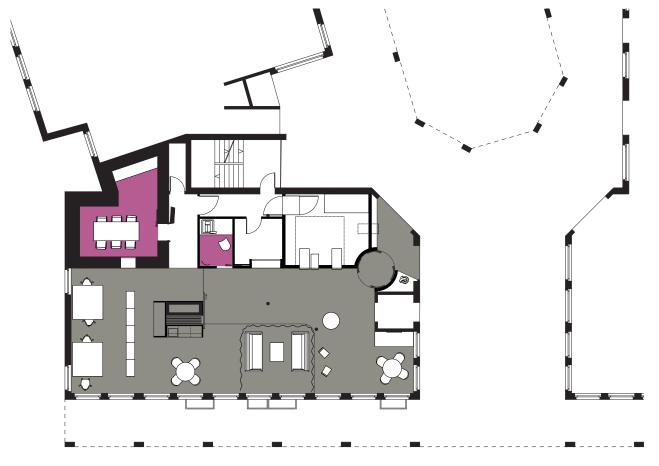
Since it's original purpose became obsolete with a new autosave the existing vault is converted to a meeting-room of highest standards. That way the most dominant and characteristic element remains but in new function towards the restructuring. It is the goal that the acoustic design of the room keeps 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.

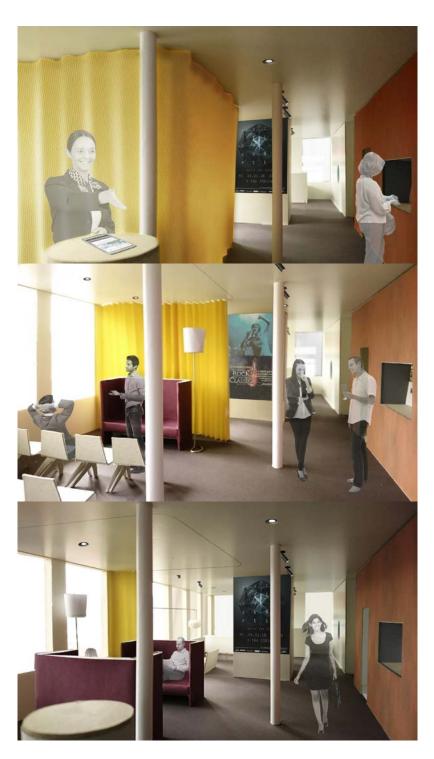
It should form a place where locals can meet with consultants in relaxed setting for different requests and events. The customer being served at a window counter has disappeared.

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 270m<sup>2</sup>

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





## **ZÜRICH** fountain Utoquai

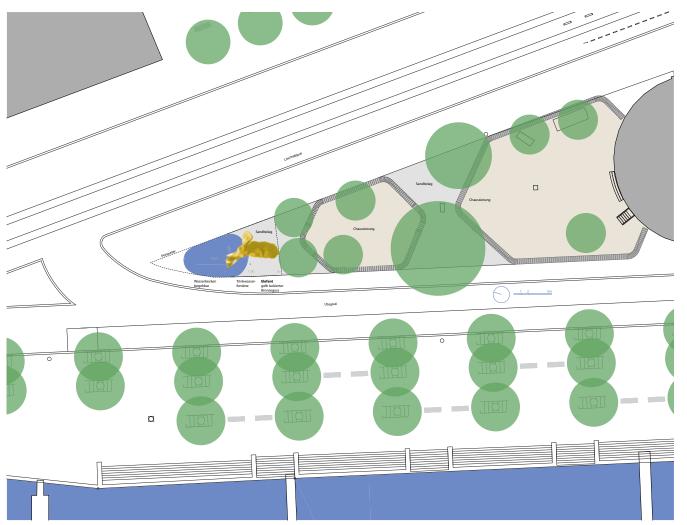
An elephant is an exotic in Zürich. Especially when it's yellow!

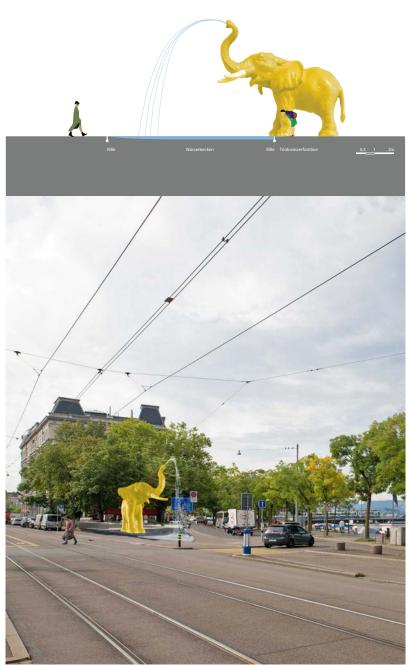
That of all things a yellow elephant should stay at the Hungerplatz even without relation to local fauna, is due to his symbolism. It counts on the circumstance that we feel the exotic as attractive and mysterious. The elephant clearly separates itself from all other communal fountains as the special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

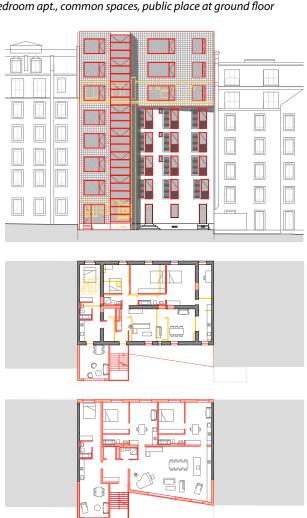
The apartment house was built in 1896. With the two adjacent buildings it is part of a landmark section of a street block. Owner is a foundation which provides social housing. Existing there are tight 1 to 3 bedroom apartments on four floors. The competition project aims for a refurbishment with extension 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









## **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

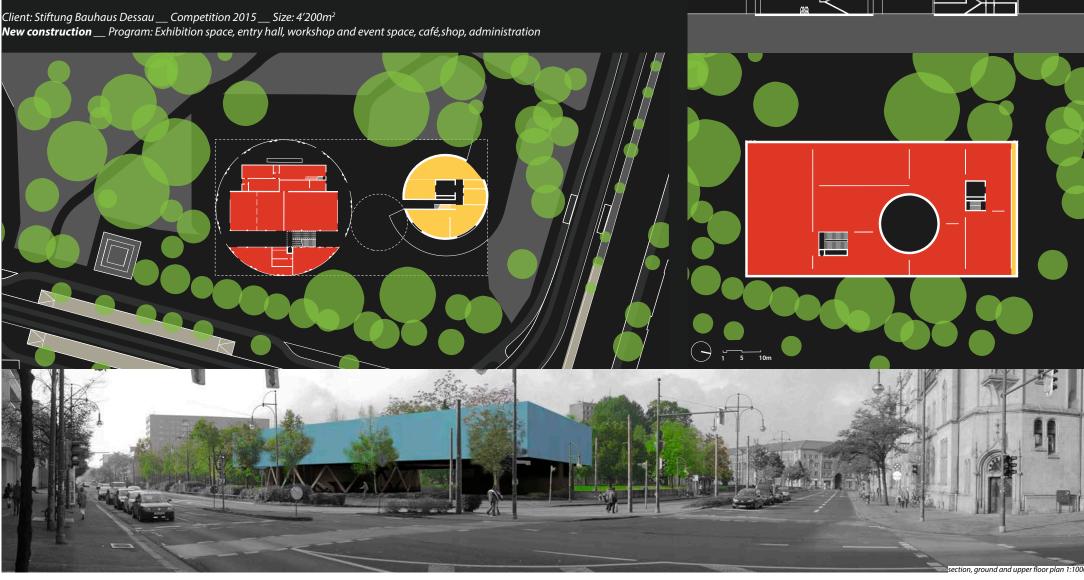
**New construction** \_\_\_ Program: Auditorium, Media Center, Swimming pool, Classrooms, Nursery and Day Care Center





#### **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.



#### **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





## **ALLSCHWIL** Single-Family House

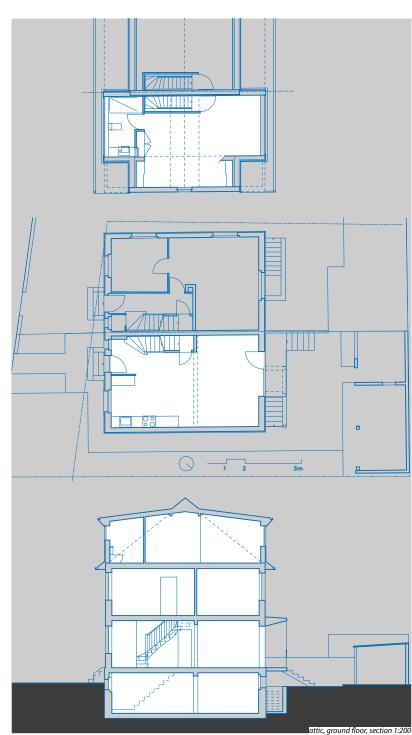
One half of a double single-family house from the 1920's consisting of two stories and the roof should be converted to a three-story building according to zoning provisions. Contradicting requirements of state and municipal law forced the reduction of the extension to a large dormer on front- and backyard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

The footprint of one house is only 40m<sup>2</sup>. 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: 120m<sup>2</sup> \_\_ Cost: CHF 400'000

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





#### **WIENDORF** Farmhouse

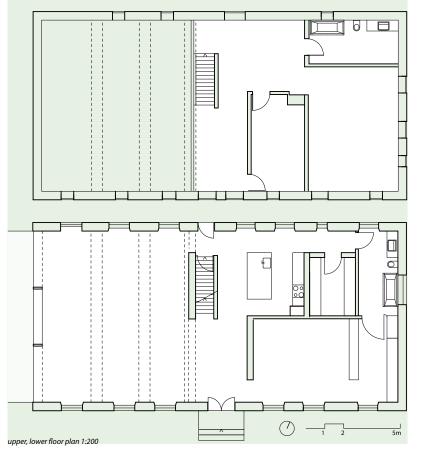
The house is part of a farm and about 100 years old. Although in general good condition several improvements and remodeling affected the structure in the course of time so a renovation was necessary. Major changing during the time was the addition of an upper floor on the originally one story building 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: 300m<sup>2</sup> \_\_ Cost: €200'000

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







#### **LOS ANGELES** Artist Studio

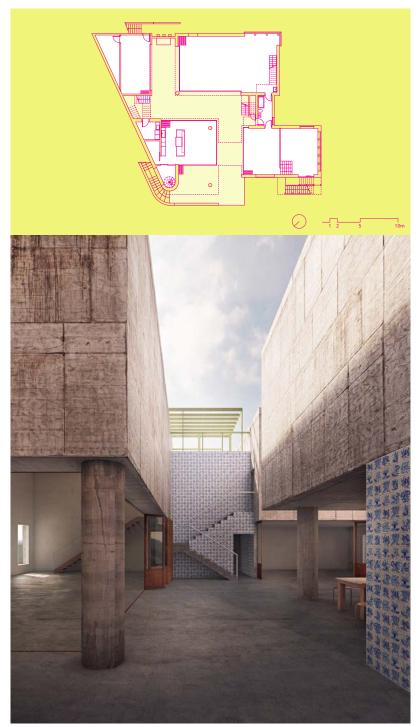
In an unpretentious way like a hybrid the house serves as an artist's studio for work and potential living. The site is located on hillside with southwest orientation. To protect from sunlight and establish intimacy to the adjacency the house consists of four parts arranged so they create a loose sequence 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: 500m<sup>2</sup>

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



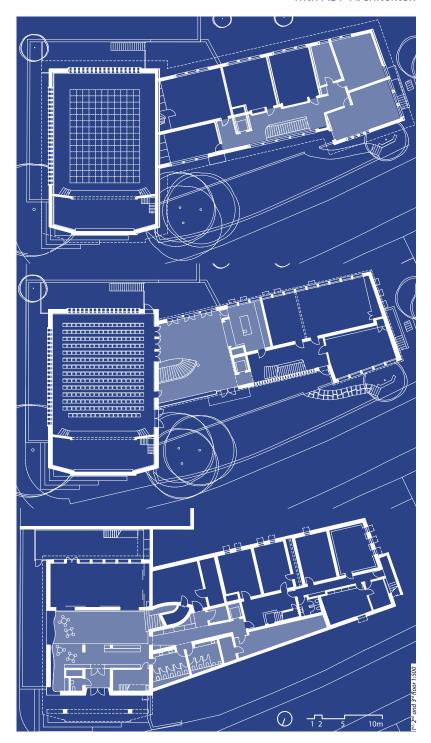


## **ZÜRICH** Kirchgemeindehaus Wiedikon

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: 1800m<sup>2</sup> \_\_ Cost: CHF 7Mio **Remodeling, renovation** \_\_ Program: event space with lobby, catering kitchen, meeting rooms and classrooms





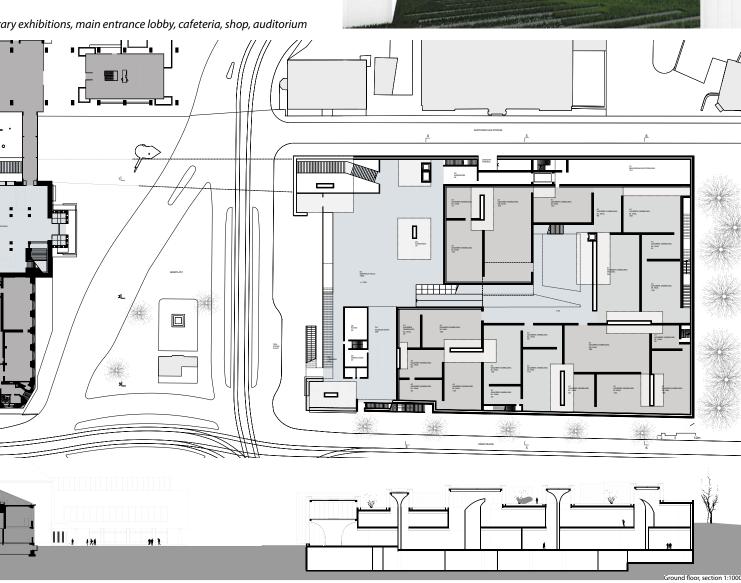
## **ZÜRICH** Extension of the Museum of Art

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: 20'000m<sup>2</sup>

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



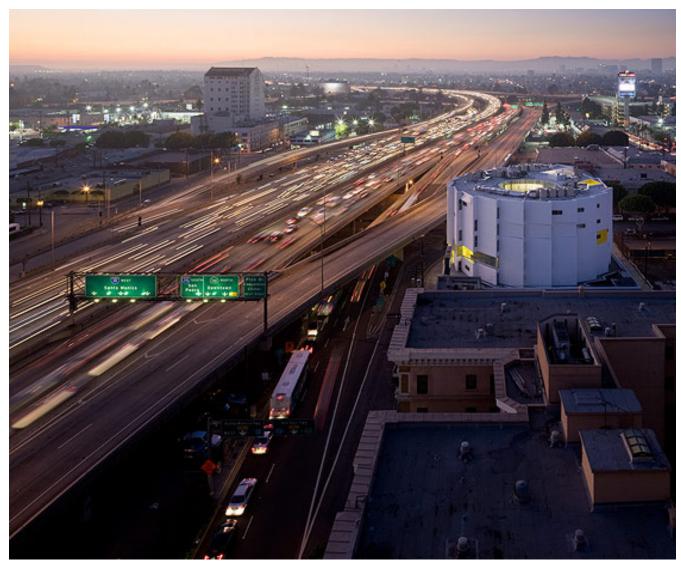


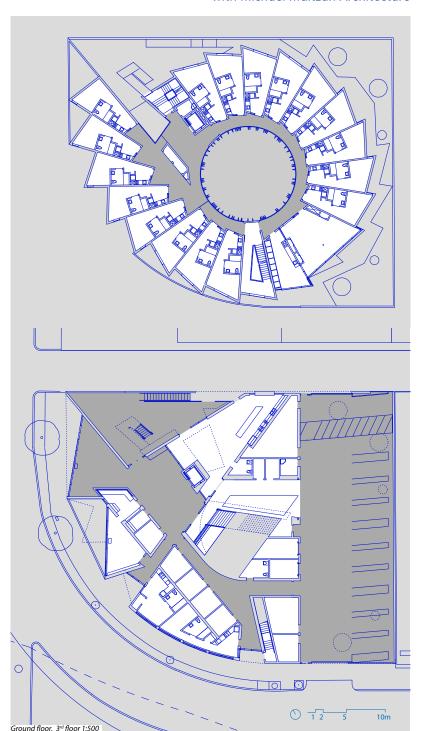
## **LOS ANGELES** New Carver Apartments

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



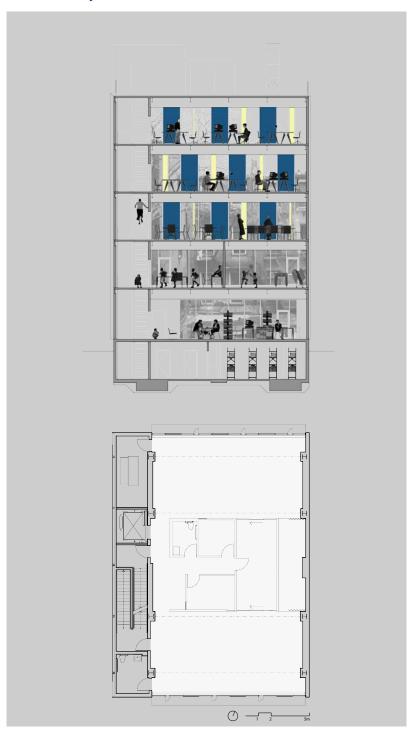


## NEW YORK Little Sisters Of The Assumption Family Health Service with Gluck+

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

2024	Basislager, Zürich
2021 - 24	Single family house, Zürich
2021 - 24	Office refurbishment, Bern
2020	Textilmuseum St.Gallen, competition
2019	Refurbishment of an apartment house, Basel
	Bookshelf, funriture design
2018	Apartment house, Münchenstein
	Conversion annex building of a single-family house, Basel
	Refurbishment of a branch bank, Fislisbach, competition
2017	Fountain at Utoquai, Zürich, competition
	Refurbishment of an apartment house, Geneva, competition
	Kiosk at the Lake Side, Diessen, competition
2016	Participation exhibition werkschau architektur 0.16, Zürich
2015	Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, competition
	Community and Educational Center, Wollerau, competition
	Piazza della Scala, Milano, competition
	Bauhausmusem Dessau, competition
2014	Renovation single-family house, Wettingen
	Renovation single-family house, Allschwil
2010	Renovation farmhouse, Wiendorf near Rostock
2008	Office building, Burbank
	Westside Tavern, Restaurant, Los Angeles
	Construction documents for Pleskow Rael Architecture
2007	Apartment renovation, Basel, project study
2006	Extension Asplund Public Library, Stockholm, competition
	with MXMA Architecture, Montreal
2004	Roof extension Apartment house, Basel, project study

#### collaboration

2013	with Ilg Santer Architekten, Zürich
	Artist Studio, Los Angeles
2011/12	with ADP Architekten, Zürich
	Kirchgemeindehaus Wiedikon, renovation, Zürich
2008/09	with Rüssli Architekten, Luzern & Steven Holl Architects, New York
	Loisium Alsace, Hotel, Voegtlinshoffen near Colmar
	Extension Kunsthaus Zürich, competition
	Schlosshotel Hertenstein, Hotel, Weggis LU, competition 2 <sup>nd</sup> price
2006/07	with Michael Maltzan Architecture, Los Angeles
	New Carver Apartments, social housing, Los Angeles
	,Amalfi Drive' private residence, Los Angeles
2005	with Callas Shortridge Architects, Culver City
	Hard Rock Hotel Las Vegas, corporate offices, Los Angeles
	Renovation/extension single-family house, Los Angeles
2001-04	with Gluck+, New York
	Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Harlem, New York
	Bronx Preparatory Charter School, Bronx, New York
	Apartment Central Park West, Renovation, New York
1999/2000	with Christian Dill Architekt, Basel
	St. Josefshaus Herten, residencial care home, D-Rheinfelden,
	competition 1st price