

# huggenberger fries

Quart Publishers **Anthology 7**

Anthology 7 – Notat  
Heinz Wirz

An extremely active architectural scene has established itself in Zurich – thanks in no small measure to committed architects within the city construction authorities. Their field of activities not only covers the dense urban and suburban environments, but also the surrounding communities within the sphere of the city's influence. Urban structures, a spatial context, socio-cultural conditions, the transport infrastructure, concentrated public spaces and backyard paradises all dominate the environment. The task is to analyse such connections in depth, because often a building's value is based on its context and the way in which it behaves within it.

After a wide range of training, Adrian Berger and Lukas Huggenberger founded their own office in Zurich in 2000 and have recently enlarged it to form a trio with Erika Fries. Since then, several projects have been implemented from an impressive number of competition successes. Trained both in practice and theory, the architects have also worked on conversions, extensions and restorations from the very beginning. The building in Zurlindenstrasse is an example of how a natural, sophisticated connection between an existing building and a new construction can be created. A large tower-like structure was added to the smaller unit of an existing semi-detached urban house. It accommodates the sleeping area and all functions of a residential building while oscillating between a single-family home and a corner building at the end of a row of terraced houses. The team of architects also designs a wide range of projects outside urban environments. While the "Schulhaus Mitte" in Uetikon am See has intelligently organised floor plan and a distinct structure, its exterior alternates between a strict order and an almost poetic, dematerialised lightness.

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## **Tram waiting hall, Paradeplatz, Zurich**

The two main roads that frame the city centre are Bahnhofstrasse and Limmatquai. The most important squares along these main roads are strongly characterised by construction for public transport. They were redesigned in the 1930s by the master urban planner Herman Herter, giving them their definitive character.

The existing tram waiting hall on Paradeplatz was well integrated into the concept through its position and the geometry of the tram lines. However various conversions strongly undermined its expression. Now redesigned, it provides more than twice as much space as before.

The architectural language was developed out of the existing architecture. Some elements, such as the round bench on the side facing the street, were reproduced in a similar way to the original. Other parts, such as the central volume with a kiosk and entrances, were designed in keeping with the character of the existing building. Although the entire building is new apart from the round bench and the glass on the western side, and despite a significant extension to the roof, the new tram waiting hall can be experienced as an organic element within its own context.

## **Schulhaus Mitte, Uetikon am See**

The village Uetikon consists of cores that have developed out of small hamlets. They surround the school campus and sports complex. The Schulhaus Mitte, as the name suggests, is the new centre of the school facility and is used by all school classes.

The building has two entrances and two equally important staircases. The stairs are aligned by the inner hall and diagonally staggered, so that the inner hall has a view out onto the park and lake. Rooms for special purposes, such as event rooms for the entire school, are situated on the ground floor. Classrooms with a flexible structure are on the upper floors. The classrooms are situated in the corners of the building. Common areas can be accessed both from the classrooms and from an accessing zone.

The static concept was developed together with Walt & Galmarini and goes hand in hand with the building's architectural expression. To shorten the onsite construction period and accommodate the different span widths, the ceilings were conceived as prefabricated rib elements. They define the atmosphere of the classrooms and are reflected outside on the facade relief. The facade is also made of prefabricated white cement bonded concrete elements. The sand and grain of the concrete are made from marble debris, while the surfaces have been sand-blasted.

### **Albisriederhaus, Zurich**

The Albisriederhaus was built in 1934 by the architect Karl Egender in collaboration with Wilhelm Müller. The low street section follows the route of Albisriederstrasse. The higher vertical section with the great hall is on the upper floor. The extremely sparse structure of the hall section was designed by Robert Maillart.

The conversion of the Albisriederhaus into a social centre for the City of Zurich involved the creation of an additional level in the hall to provide sufficient office space. To ensure a minimal effect on the existing structure, the new ceiling was designed as a light construction. All media for the two office floors were integrated into that ceiling. A two-storey accessing area was introduced into the western facade for public access to maintain a clear appearance for the spatial and static structure. Meeting rooms are situated between the public area and the team offices and can be accessed from either side. The bearing structure becomes an important element of building's expression through the hall's large glass walls. It creates a diverse interior room structure that reveals much about the building's history.

### **Administration building Kollerhof, Zurich**

The Kollerhof was built in 1931 by the architect Hermann Weideli. The building concludes the block towards Hohlstrasse with a streamlined building form. The entrance and staircase are situated at the end facing the street. The ground floor plan was reorganised for its complete renovation to create the new 4th district municipal building. The municipal office and public reception desks are situated on the first floor. Offices for all public services relating to the district are accommodated on the higher floors.

The new additional sections continue the theme of playing with the building's form and the structure of the existing elements. The handling of the rounded core zone guides the light to the corridor areas. Corner rooms are accessed using the same principle. The rounded floor plan is counteracted by the rather bulky concrete structure of the building.

The colour concept enhances the soft, flowing play of shadows created by the rounded forms. The colour and formal design is developed from the existing building and is nevertheless very contemporary. So the relationship between the past, the present and the building's further development can be redefined.

### **Urban residential building, Zurlindenstrasse, Zurich**

The quiet quarter surrounding Idaplatz has a unique urban character. It was created towards the end of the 19th Century. The residential building closes the last gap in the quarter.

The building consists of an existing courtyard building and a new building facing the street. The apartments on the four lower floors cover both the new and the older sections. The small units of the old building accommodate the bedrooms, while the new section contains the living rooms, the naturally lit staircase and the large entrance hall. The two upper floors also contain a duplex apartment. The glazed ceramic cladding's profile and light reflections accentuate the tower-like volumetric upward development. The form and colour of the ceramic plates were specially developed for the building. The facade is based on a back-ventilated Sto-Verotec system. The solid window linings highlight the monolithic character and bind the building into the periodic style of the rest of the street's architecture. The ornamental railings enclose the structure and create a connection with the sky.

### **Gleisbogen, Zurich-West**

The Gleisbogen (or "railway walk") acts as a backbone connecting the open spaces in adjoining areas that are due to be planned in a landscaping strategy. The walkway, a designated activity area, will be given a clearly defined character through its groups of ginkgo trees and a red concrete band along the railway for guidance. The path begins at Escher-Wyss Platz and leads to the Maag quarter.

The concept of "playing rules" is used as a strategic instrument for the transformation process. An unpredictable factor is deliberately added in the development scenario, instead of opting for a final design. In addition to the Gleisbogen (Basic Kit), such game rules require the provision of a building block system for interim use areas (Action Tools) and another modular system for the area's final design (Park Tools). The strength of such a concept lies in the fact that a handbook is provided as a coordination instrument to manage the open spaces during the implementation phase, which will take years. The footbridge connecting the two sections of the Gleisbogen is a central element of the Basic Kit. The form of the bridge was developed from the geometry of the crossing over the street and the existing industrial railway line.

## **Vision Mitte, Brugg-Windisch**

The design of the newly created Mitte city centre combines the features of the two settlement cores in Brugg and Windisch. The dense urban structure of Brugg overlaps with the characteristic, specific landscape of Windisch. Brugg and Windisch merge to form a new unit.

A system of divided scenic landmarks is assigned to the newly created campus, acting as a typological interpretation of existing outdoor attractions. In the newly created city centre, the landmarks become the backbone of the redefined public space. The building units are integrated into the structure of the public areas. The kite-shaped floor plans allow the buildings to respect the properties' ownership, allowing existing buildings to be integrated into the urban structure. Nevertheless, the district has its own character due to the crystalline shapes of the buildings. They should each have the appearance of individual units. Light for the deep structures is provided by courtyards that are aligned depending on the individual projects.

## **Centre for Geriatric Psychiatry, Pfäfers**

The large scale facility of the former Benedictine monastery contrasts with the small units of Pfäfers village. The structure of the building sections allows it to be integrated into the scale of its context, thereby creating a transition to the village centre.

The building's enveloping wings define the surrounding design together with the existing supporting walls. The wards are situated in the west and south wings, while the treatment and therapy facilities are accommodated in the northern wing. The wards are organized around quiet, introverted courtyards. They create a variety of different relationships with the nearby mountain landscape and provide orientation within the building. At the same time, the spatial constellation creates an ideal reference to the monastery complex. The patient rooms are ordered at right angles to the facade and can therefore be easily divided. The facades play on the symmetry of the building. Prefabricated elements made of polygon-shaped clinker bricks evoke the image of an interwoven structure. For security reasons, the brick structure is extended in front of the window elements, which can be opened.

### **Residential building, Herrliberg**

The view of Zürichsee, the Glarner Alps and back to the City of Zurich represents the property's great potential. To ensure that quality, the classic typology of a villa and garden was inverted. More private rooms are situated downstairs with public rooms upstairs. The volume consists of horizontally stacked cubes. They create a large hanging garden on each floor. The building is organized in a lower guest and service area, with an entrance, spa area, children's room and a guest suite. The private area with a lounge and bedrooms is situated above. The top floor accommodates the public rooms with views onto Zürichsee. The three areas are connected by the two-storey entrance hall and the representative cascade stairway. A short cut between the lounge and kitchen connects the sleeping and living areas.

### **Residential development Gries, Volketswil**

The residential development is situated between Hauptstrasse, the newly planned municipal building directly beside it and a public park that is currently under construction.

The front section facing the street is an ensemble of two semi-detached and two terraced developments. They represent the estate's conclusion at its busy street end and create the public facade that combines with the new municipal building to enhance the district. On the ground floor, the building's public uses are aligned along the street and are accessed via an arcade. The ensemble envelopes a semi-private courtyard that connects the quadrangle with the new municipal square in a loose spatial succession.

The rear section has a garden city structure with punctiform semi-detached houses. The exterior area links up with the Allmend countryside and beckons it to surround the buildings all the way to the front construction. The semi-detached houses are integrated into the park in free alignment. The ordering principle is the landscape design with the quarter's central square. The urban apartment buildings are clad in ceramics with a plaster lining around the windows. The semi-detached houses have plaster facades.

## **Cantonal school, Heerbrugg**

The Heerbrugg Cantonal School is situated on the boundary between the settlement area and the surrounding landscape. The z-shaped facility consists of a school building and a gymnasium. A new four-storey extension will connect the two existing buildings to create a new unit. The entrance situation is clarified in this way and the school building receives a representative image facing the village.

The new building section is set so that the normal floors of the west wing and gymnasium, with their valuable space, remain preserved. The existing entrance hall is enhanced and becomes the focal point of the entire facility. Its function and space is reinforced and leads the west wing and its split levels to the new central unit. The central recreation hall creates a large entrance area together with the directly adjoining, extra high rooms of the assembly hall and canteen. The extension further develops the architectural language of the west wing and interprets it in a contemporary way. In doing so, the spatial and architectural quality of the existing school building is highlighted and can grow together into a harmonious unit through the addition of the new extension.

Quart Publishers Ltd  
Denkmalstrasse 2, CH-6006 Lucerne  
[www.quart.ch](http://www.quart.ch)