

ANNETTE GIGON / MIKE GUYER DIPL.ARCHITEKTEN ETH/BSA/SIA AG TEL +41 (0) 44 257 11 11
CARMENSTRASSE 28 CH-8032 ZÜRICH E-MAIL INFO@GIGON-GUYER.CH FAX +41 (0) 44 257 11 10

Project

Würth Haus Rorschach, Switzerland

A greenish crystalline building responds to the unusual location of the site, set between the edge of Lake Constance and Churerstrasse. Walkers and passers-by experience a glass structure that oscillates between transparency and shiny reflective surfaces that multiply the natural beauty of the setting. The architecture affords views out to the surroundings, glimpses into the building, and sightlines through it to the park and lake.

The interior offers staff and visitors generously proportioned sequences of rooms - workspaces, communication areas, and leisure zones - as well as providing space for product presentations and art exhibitions. The structure responds to the train station building with lower volumes and reacts to the expanses of the park and lake with a higher segment. There are plans to add an extension on the eastern side in a future phase of construction. Toward the street, the volumes give shape to a range of external spaces through precisely defined projections and setbacks: in the middle is the entrance area, to the east the vehicle access and workshop zone, and to the west Bahnhofplatz, the station square, which is expanded toward the lake. Maple trees set in a perpendicular configuration characterize this space, and also continue as rows along Churerstrasse.

Approaching from the station, a broad canopy signals the main entrance. The various user groups - visitors, people attending courses, and company staff - enter the building through a large lobby and are guided from this point to the different parts of the building. On the ground floor and first floor, the public functions - training and conference rooms, as well as the restaurant - are grouped around a foyer with an open courtyard in the center and are linked by a sweeping stairway. Both the conference area and the separate exhibition spaces can be accessed directly from the exterior, allowing the option of using these areas independently from the rest of the building. The exhibition area guides visitors from the entrance to two different-sized exhibition rooms, which are located on the first floor of the southern part of the building and are naturally lit from above. The structure of the shed skylight over the exhibition spaces simultaneously supports the enormous projecting canopy over the entrance. Office space extends over four stories in the highest part of the building, which is not open to the general public. Informal meeting areas with balconies facing the lake, transparent or closed-off meeting rooms, and individual offices alternate here with open-plan office areas.

A double glass envelope encases the building. The inner layer is made up of triple glazing and metal-clad thermal insulation. The external, back-ventilated layer is composed of offset greenish glass panes equipped with a fine mesh insert with a metallic luster. This creates a rhythmically articulated glass curtain that provides protection against wind from the lake and noise from the street and also against excessive heat and cold. The predominance of glass in the building materials is continued on the roof in the form of CIS photovoltaic panels.

ANNETTE GIGON / MIKE GUYER DIPL.ARCHITEKTEN ETH/BSA/SIA AG TEL +41 (0) 44 257 11 11
CARMENSTRASSE 28 CH-8032 ZÜRICH E-MAIL INFO@GIGON-GUYER.CH FAX +41 (0) 44 257 11 10

Credits

Project:	Würth Haus Rorschach
Address:	Churerstrasse 10 CH - 9400 Rorschach Switzerland
Spatial Programme:	Administration Building with Training and Conference Centre, 630-Seat Auditorium, Museum, Restaurant, Cafeteria, Hardware- shop, Workshops
Competition:	2009, 1st Prize
Planning/Construction:	2009–2013
Client:	Würth International AG, Chur
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborators: Competition: Luisa Wittgen, Nicolai Rünzi, Bettina Gerhold, Thomas Möckel, Matthias Clivio Planning/Construction: Christian Maggioni (Team Manager), Matthias Clivio (Project Manager), Nicolai Rünzi, Christoph Lay, Katja Fröhlich, Rus Carnicero, Yvonne Grunwald, Martin Schneider, Michael Kloiber, Brigitte Rüdell, Franziska Bächer
Construction Manager/Cost Planning:	Walter Dietsche Baumanagement AG, Chur
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	32'200 m ²
Landscape Architecture:	Atelier Girot, Gockhausen
Costing/Scheduling:	Walter Dietsche Baumanagement AG, Chur
Structural Engineer:	Dr. Lüchinger + Meyer Bauingenieure AG, Zurich
Electrical Engineer:	Bühler + Scherler AG, St.Gallen
Building Services Engineer:	Waldhauser Haustechnik AG, Basel
Building Physics Engineer:	Kopitsis Bauphysik AG, Wohlen
Fire Safety:	Makiol + Wiederkehr, Beinwil am See
Consultant Measurement and Control Technology (MSRL):	Boxler MSRL, Jona
Heating Engineer:	Hans Hermann, Chur

GIGON / GUYER

**ANNETTE GIGON / MIKE GUYER DIPL.ARCHITEKTEN ETH/BSA/SIA AG TEL +41 (0) 44 257 11 11
CARMENSTRASSE 28 CH-8032 ZÜRICH E-MAIL INFO@GIGON-GUYER.CH FAX +41 (0) 44 257 11 10**

Ventilation Engineer: Waldhauser Haustechnik AG, Basel
Acoustical Engineer: Müller-BBM GmbH, Planegg, Germany
Daylighting Consultant: Dipl.-Phys. Ch. Kölzow, Stuttgart, Germany
Artificial Lighting Consultant: Licht Zentrale, Nürnberg, Germany
Sanitary Engineer: Tomaschett + Cioce AG, Rorschach
Sprinkler Consultant: GRP Ingenieure, Rotkreuz
Facade Engineer: Reba Fassadentechnik AG, Chur
Geotechnical Engineer: Andres Geotechnik AG, St.Gallen
Door/ Safety Consultant: Brütsch Elektronik AG, Uhwiesen
Traffic Engineer: Wälli AG, Arbon
Kitchen Planning: HoGaKa Profi GmbH, Ludwigsburg, Germany
Photography: Thies Wachter, Zurich