Projekt

Housing Complex Diggelmannstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland

The small-scale and heterogeneous structure to be found in Zurich’s Albisrieden residential district was the reason for dividing up the projected volume into several units. The multiple occupancy buildings with their polygonal volumes and varied footprints are grouped together on one plot. The materials used provide a common link, with the overall color scheme defining the buildings as a group, but also differentiating them and establishing a correlation with the surrounding built environment.

Access to both buildings in the north is gained directly from the street at basement level. A path leads to the building behind, to the south. It forms part of a star-like figure made of large slabs set in a continuous stretch of lawn. Deciduous trees accentuate the open space and provide shady areas for relaxation.

The apartments have between 2 and 4 bedrooms and varied, polygonal floor plans. Generously-sized balconies facing different directions lead off the living areas. The amount of direct sunlight and the degree of privacy required on the balconies can be ‘adjusted’ using curtains. The kitchens can be left open to the livingdining areas or closed with sliding doors.

The façades are articulated by alternating bands of windows and sill-height walls, which link the projecting balconies and recessed roof terraces to form one entity. The rear-ventilated cladding of colored, enameled glass sheets alternates with translucent glazed panels of the same color around the balconies and terraces.

The color scheme was devised in close cooperation with the artist Adrian Schiess. The two colors selected for the smaller buildings closer to the road are a yellowish-green up to sill height and a purple shade for the wall areas between the windows. A combination of pink and beige was chosen for the larger building in the garden to the south. The overlapping reflections across the colored glazed panels interweave not only the ‘color layers’ of the buildings, but also the neighboring structures, trees, and the color of the sky to form part of the optical impression created.

G/G, December 2011
Credits

Project: 
Housing Complex Diggelmannstrasse, Zurich

Address: 
Diggelmannstrasse 19–23
CH - 8047 Zurich
Switzerland

Spatial Programme: 
3 multiple occupancy blocks of flats with 18 rental units, cellars and underground garaging

Pilot Study: 
November – December 2003, 1st Prize

Planning/Construction: 
September 2004 – October 2007

Client: 
Contractor:
Gemeinschaftsstiftung der Zellweger Luwa AG, Uster, represented by Hesta Immobilien AG, Zurich

Architecture: 
Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich

Collaborators: 
Pilot study: Katja Schubert
Planning/Construction: Pit Brunner (Team Manager), Katja Schubert (Project Manager until 04/2007), Matthias Clivio (Project Manager from 04/2007), Gaby Kägi

General Contractor: 
HRS, Hauser Rutishauser Suter AG, Zurich

Gross Floor Area (SIA 416): 
4'234 m²

Landscape Architecture: 
Schweingruber Zulauf Landschaftsarchitekten, Zurich

Structural Engineer: 
Henauer Gugler AG, Zurich

Building Services Engineer: 
HL-Technik AG, Zurich

Building Physics Engineer: 
Mühlebach Akustik + Bauphysik, Wiesendangen

Colours: 
Adrian Schiess, Mouans-Sartoux, France

Photography: 
Andrea Helbling, Zurich