

Project

Extension of the Winterthur Museum of Art

The expansion of the Museum of Art in Winterthur, long planned and now realised in the form of a provisional structure, creates the spatial conditions to not only house temporary exhibitions, but also to be able to permanently present the extensive collection of the Kunstverein.

The new building is connected to the museum spaces of Rittmeyer & Furrer's existing building by a bridge. The exhibition rooms of the addition are simple, rectangular spaces with sawtooth skylights facing north. By means of a simple grid the basic area measuring approximately 1,000 square metres is divided into spaces that vary in both size and proportion. During the tour through the rooms one enters the individual spaces at different locations, creating the impression for visitors of a subtle, spatial differentiation. Three large windows offer the possibility of an outward glance and orientation. Corresponding to the budget-related industrial-like manner in which the building is constructed and illuminated, the floor plan layout, void of circulation spaces, is also very economical and rational. The single storey nature of the museum allows — besides the illumination of all spaces with zenithal light — a flexible combination of the rooms with the various works of art.

The project aims to avoid a makeshift impression within the exhibition rooms, whilst obeying as far as possible the rules of a temporary structure in terms of design and material qualities. This understanding stipulates a layered, two-ply construction: common, long-lasting and — as far as possible — jointless materials in the interior spaces, and additive, recyclable elements that can be quickly mounted or de-mounted for construction, insulation and cladding. Hence, the interior of the building is largely built as a solid into the load-bearing, lightweight steel construction. Gypsum masonry forms large-surface, jointless walls, and a poured, floating granolithic concrete floor serves to accommodate heavy loads.

The building is insulated with standardised, steel sheet C-profiles filled with insulation batts. The C-profiles are mounted between the vertical members of the steel construction. The underside of the museum floor and the facades are insulated with these galvanised, perforated panels. They are protected from the weather by sheets of galvanised metal on the roof and vertical rows of glass profiles on the facades. The same glass profiles, set apart with open joints in between, serve on the ground floor to illuminate and ventilate the parking spaces, while they simultaneously “ground” the museum building, which seemingly hovers above the garage.

G/G, May 2011

Credits

Project:	Extension Museum of Art Winterthur
Address:	Kunstmuseum Winterthur Museumsstrasse 52 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland
Spatial Programme:	Addition to the Museum of Art with 1000 m2 of floor area on the first floor, 9 exhibition spaces varying in both size and proportion for temporary exhibitions and the collection of the Kunstverein, connection to the existing museum by a bridge, parking space on the "open" ground floor
Competition:	December 1993, 1st Prize
Planning/Construction:	January 1994 – September 1995
Client:	Kunstverein Winterthur
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborators: Competition: Michael Widrig Planning/Construction: Michael Widrig (Project Manager), Stefan Gasser
Construction Management:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborator: Dieter Bachmann
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	2'364 m2 above ground, including parking space (1'087 m2)
Structural Engineer:	Branger & Konzett AG, Chur
Building Services Engineer:	Waldhauser Haustechnik AG, Basel
Daylight Consultant:	Institut für Tageslichttechnik, Stuttgart, Germany
Artificial Lighting Consultant:	Lichtdesign Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, Cologne, Germany
Photography:	Heinrich Helfenstein, Zurich