

Project

Kunstmuseum Appenzell

formerly: Museum Liner Appenzell

The museum building, dedicated to the oeuvre of Appenzell artists Carl August Liner and his son Carl Walter Liner, belongs to the category of the monographic museum. However, the rooms are not designed to house particular paintings by either of these two artists, but rather, are dimensioned to accommodate changing presentations of the work of father and son as well as exhibitions of contemporary art. The rooms are therefore more general than specific in nature. They are quiet, simple spaces that seek neither to exaggerate nor to compete with the works of art. They show a minimum of detail, have bright walls, poured concrete floors, and are illuminated by daylight coming in through windows set in the gabled roof overhead.

The dimensions of the rooms are relatively small to provide a concentrated and focused ambience for the individual paintings. The total exhibition area is divided into ten rooms, each measuring between 30 and 50 square meter in size. The varying size of the rooms is generated by an asymmetrically positioned wall running the length of the building as well as intersecting axes that define the spaces in decreasing size from south to north. The alignment of the doorways from room to room may be straight or shifted, allowing visitors to follow a direct or a meandering course through the museum. Two windows offer a view outdoors and facilitate orientation within the building. A small reading room and a room for slide and video presentations are placed at the north end of the building - that is, in the middle of the museum tour. The architectural opener for visitors is the spacious lobby with a counter for tickets and sales. As the first and largest room in the museum, it also functions as a place for receptions and lectures.

The building is constructed using in-situ concrete and aerated concrete masonry. Due to the massive construction and the north-orientated roof-lights only minimal climate control is necessary in the galleries. The vestibule projecting from the building volumetry is made of exposed concrete, illustrating the materiality and compactness of the construction on the exterior.

The illumination of the exhibition spaces, whose gables vary in height and breath, results in a 'zigzag form' in the building volumetry. It reminds one, in a distant way, of the rows of gable roof buildings in the Appenzell villages, as well as of the more regular sawtooth roof forms of industrial and agricultural buildings. The roofs are clad in sandblasted sheets of stainless steel in order, on the one hand, to attain a diffusion of the reflected light, while on the other hand, a neutrality of the colour temperature. The facades are clad in the same material. The overlapping cladding and its shimmering grey colour show a distant resemblance to traditional Appenzell architecture with its shingled facades (and roofs that were once shingled as well) weathered to a silvery grey. The combination of facade and roofing in the same material produces an overall, irregular volume, like a small mountain range against the background of the Alpstein massif.

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Credits

Project:	Kunstmuseum Appenzell formerly: Museum Liner Appenzell
Address:	Museum Liner Unterrainstrasse 5 9050 Appenzell, Switzerland www.h-gebertka.ch/haeuser/kunstmuseum-appenzell/architektur/
Spatial Programme:	12 connected exhibition spaces, each measuring 30–50 m ² , including a reading and a media room; lobby with cloakroom; offices, technical and storage spaces.
Commission:	July 1996
Planning/Construction:	September 1996 – September 1998
Client:	Stiftung Museum Carl Liner Vater und Sohn (Foundation)
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborator: Urs Birchmeier (Project Manager)
Construction Management:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborator: Daniel Kaufmann
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	1'644 m ²
Landscape Architecture:	Kienast Vogt Partner, Zurich
Structural Engineer:	Aerni + Aerni Ingenieure AG, Zurich
Electrical Engineer:	Elkom Partner AG, Chur
Building Services Engineer:	Waldhauser Haustechnik AG, St. Gallen
Daylighting Consultant:	Institut für Tageslichttechnik, Stuttgart, Germany
Artificial Lighting Consultant:	Lichtdesign Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, Cologne, Germany
Graphic Design:	Trix Wetter, Zurich
Photography:	Heinrich Helfenstein, Zurich Gaston Wicky, Zurich