

## Project

### Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne Entrance Building and Road Transport Hall

The current project is based on the 1999 competition. At that time the brief represented an urban design vision for the gradual renovation of the museum complex as well as a new building for the Road Transport Hall. During the first construction phase (2005–09) a new Entrance Building (FutureCom) was built in addition to the replacement of the Road Transport Hall. This urban design strategy enabled the creation of a central open courtyard (Arena).

The new Entrance Building forms a bridge-like link between the existing buildings. The ticket office, shop area and two restaurants are located on the ground floor. The exhibition areas for communication media are found on the first floor. The second floor accommodates a conference area, with a conference hall that seats 500 guests, a generous foyer, and three smaller meeting rooms. A large opening in the ceiling of the entrance hall affords views through the entire building – into the exhibition level and all the way up to the conference level.

The glass façades that provide protection from the elements also form more or less transparent “display cases” for all kinds of wheels, propellers, wheel rims, turbines, cogs, steering wheels, etc. These mechanical parts are densely hung on grids in front of the thermal insulation, shining and glinting through the blue-green glass panes of the façade. Seen at an angle, they submerge again behind the glass. Like a trophy display, the *omnium-gatherum* of recycled and dusted-off used metal together with pieces from the museum’s collection pays homage to the wheel as a basic element of mechanical movement.

The new Road Transport Hall is like a “black box” with two storeys, flexible and economical. It is a structure that is reminiscent of those buildings countrywide that are designed for the storage of cars, i.e. multi-storey car parks. An automated parking system is employed here; a shelf-like structure operated by a mechanical lift displays the collection of cars. At the touch of a button, visitors can move one of the cars forward to look at it close up. The open areas on the first two levels provide space for running temporary theme-based exhibitions.

The façade cladding of the mainly closed building volume is composed of sheet metal in differing formats and colours. Instead of standard façade sheeting, sheet-metal traffic signs have been recycled here: highway signs, guidance and information signs, warning signs, marker signs, and place-name signs. On the rear façade, toward the neighboring buildings, the signs are reverse-mounted, which means that the printed side faces the building while the untreated, metal side faces outward. Thus, the neighbors see these boards just as road users would see the signs meant for the oncoming traffic – from the back.

G/G, May 2010/ 2011

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**Credits**

Project:	Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne Entrance Building and Road Transport Hall
Address:	Verkehrshaus der Schweiz Lidostrasse 5 6006 Lucerne, Switzerland
Spatial Programme:	Entrance Building (FutureCom) to the museum complex as a bridge-like link between the existing buildings; reception, shop area and restaurant, exhibition spaces and conference area including a conference hall for 500 guests; glass façade with visible layer of wheels, wheel rims, propellers and cogs.  Road Transport Hall as an exhibition building for cars, motorcycles, lorries and bicycles; façade cladding composed of traffic signboards, place-name and instructional signage
Competition:	1999, 1st Prize
Planning/Construction:	2005 – 2009
Client:	Verkehrshaus der Schweiz, Lucerne
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich  Collaborators: Caspar Bresch (Team- and Project Manager), Mark Zjörjen, Damien Andenmatten, Gaby Kägi, Gilbert Isermann
Contractor:	Karl Steiner AG, Lucerne Form of Contract: Design and Build (Totalunternehmung)
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	7'181 m2 Entrance Building (FutureCom) 3'372 m2 Road Transport Hall
Landscape Architecture:	Schweingruber Zulauf Landschaftsarchitekten, Zurich
Structural Engineer:	Henauer Gugler AG, Lucerne
Electrical Engineer:	Scherler AG, Lucerne
Building Services Engineer:	Wirthensohn AG, Lucerne
Photography:	Heinrich Helfenstein, Zurich