

Project

Kirchner Museum Davos

A museum for the work of the painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner was built in the alpine town of Davos, where he spent the last twenty years of his life.

The museum has been designed with great restraint and with reference to the detached flat-roofed architecture of Davos.

The four exhibition halls are lit by wall-to-wall glass ceilings. The daylight enters not from above but sideways into the large overhead lighting spaces, unhindered by the thick layers of snow in winter. For night-time use of the spaces the skylights also contain an electric lighting system.

The museum is clad with a glass facade consisting of a variety of transparent, matt and polished glass. The glass cladding plays with and processes the clear, bright alpine light. Depending on the different functions of the glass, its finish differs: clear and mirror-smooth in the lower hall, connecting the exhibition spaces to allow a view into the small park and the landscape, matt in the skylights to diffuse the daylight, and matt and profiled as a translucent facade cladding to cover the thermal insulation to the concrete walls. A layer of recycled glass fragments on the roof replaces the usual gravel and shows glass in its final state.

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GIGON / GUYER

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Credits

Project:	Kirchner Museum Davos
Address:	Kirchner Museum Davos Ernst Ludwig Kirchner Platz 7270 Davos Platz, Switzerland
Spatial Programme:	Museum for the art of E.L. Kirchner with four single exhibition spaces and connecting entrance hall; also a teaching room, library, conference room, offices, workshop, storage and other ancillary rooms.
Competition:	October 1989, 1st Prize
Planning/Construction:	January 1990 – August 1992
Client:	Kirchner Stiftung Davos
Architecture:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborators: Judith Brändle, Raphael Frei
Construction Management:	Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich Collaborator: Urs Schneider
Gross Floor Area (SIA 416):	2'208 m ²
Structural Engineer:	Preliminary Design: Aerni + Aerni Ingenieure AG, Zurich DIAG Davoser Ingenieure AG, Davos
Electrical Engineer:	K. Frischknecht AG, Chur
Building Services Engineer:	3-Plan Haustechnik AG, Winterthur
Lighting Consultant:	Institut für Tageslichttechnik Stuttgart
Graphic Design:	Lars Müller, Baden
Photography:	Heinrich Helfenstein, Zurich