

# State Archive Basel-Landschaft in Liestal

Architects: EM2N, Zurich (CH)  
Facade planning: Emmer Pfenninger Partner,  
Münchenstein (CH)  
Structural engineering: Walt + Galmarini, Zurich (CH)

What is the appropriate architectural expression for a public institution with high security requirements? The architects at EM2N wanted to find out. Their design response became the winning competition entry for the expansion of the existing state archive in Liestal near Basel. Prior to the remodelling and the extension, the existing building, situated in the middle of a residential area at a distance from the city centre, seemed rather inconspicuous. The new rooftop extension comprises a glazed volume that encloses the public reading rooms and the staff offices. It also serves to limit the growth of the facade greening and provides the state archive

with a representative character. By offering views beyond the railroad embankment opposite, it also establishes a visual relationship between the public facility and the city. Two new longitudinal building volumes complement the existing archive spaces. A rectangular element, integrated into the facade, allows visitors access to the two-storey entrance area. Its reinforced concrete walls display a layered structure similar to the pages of a book viewed from the side. The exposed concrete with its sculptural character bulges outward, displaying a pattern reminiscent of grooves. Recessed lighting strips along floors and ceilings and



rounded wall corners create a spatial impression similar to a sacred space. On all four sides of the building, the facades are greened with self-climbers that unite the existing and new building volumes within a coherent whole. They also signal the unique function of the facility. Multiple species of deciduous vine and evergreen ivy create a facade image that changes from season to season, thereby communicating with the surrounding gardens and railway embankment. The greening measure also meets specific building physics requirements, such as protection from driving rain, and serves as a climate compensation measure.



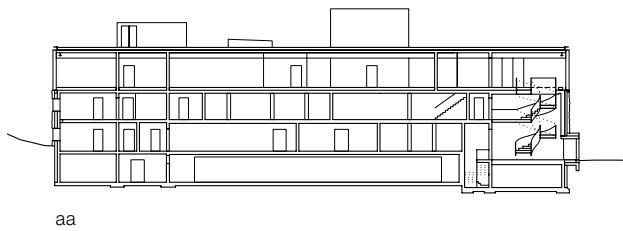
State archive Basel-Landschaft



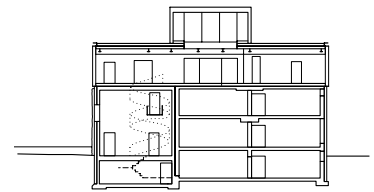
Hannes Henz

Site plan  
 Scale 1:5,000  
 Sections • Floor plans  
 Scale 1:750

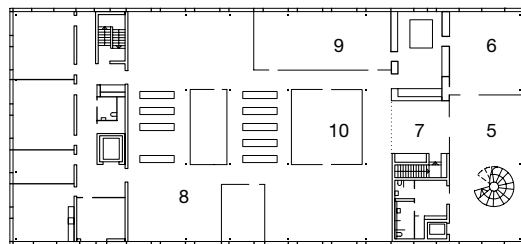
- 1 Main entrance, foyer
- 2 Archive
- 3 Workshop, store rooms
- 4 Library
- 5 Foyer, exhibition
- 6 Conference room
- 7 Reception, circulation desk
- 8 Reading room, non-quiet
- 9 Open-plan office
- 10 Reading room, quiet



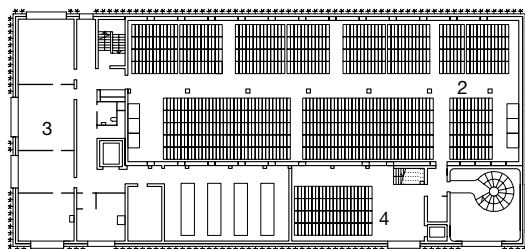
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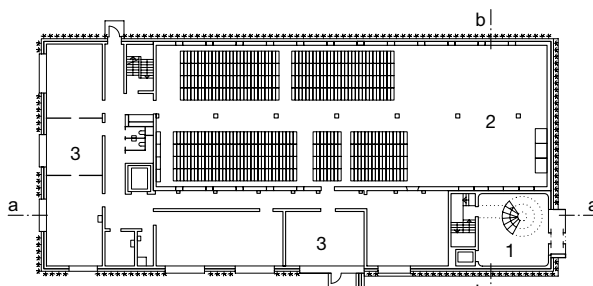
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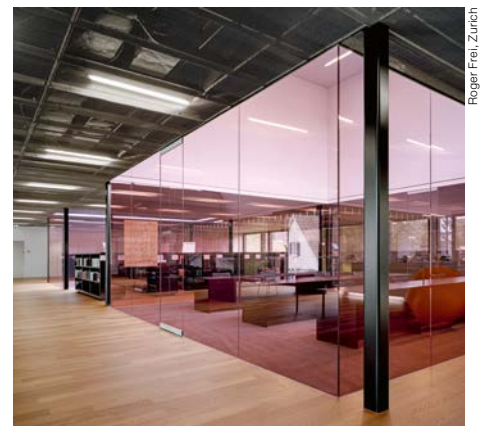
Second floor



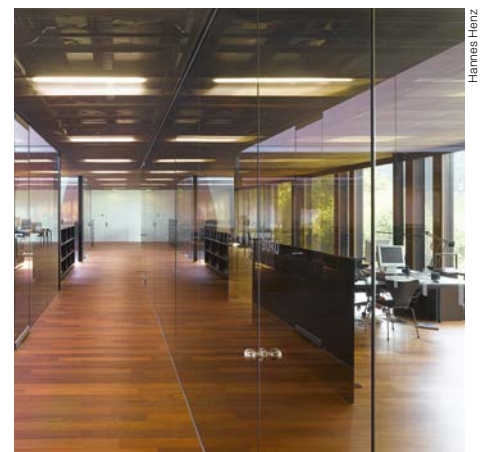
First floor



Ground floor



Roger Frei, Zürich



Hannes Henz

Vertical section • Horizontal section  
Scale 1:20

- 1 Extensive greening  
70 mm substrate with  
300 mm circumferential gravel strip in  
border area  
40 mm protection and drainage mat  
2-ply sealant layer  
180 mm glass foam insulation  
Vapour barrier  
160 mm concrete and corrugated sheet metal  
Composite ceiling with building component  
activation
- 2 550 mm steel I-beam construction
- 3 Hung stainless steel ceiling, acoustic slats
- 4 Fixed glazing in aluminium frame
- 5 10 mm oak parquet  
5 mm cork impact soundproofing  
145 mm cement screed  
Separation layer  
40 mm impact soundproofing  
260 mm reinforced concrete ceiling
- 6 Approx. 230-mm-wide self-climbing greening  
20 mm exterior render, tinted  
180 mm EPS thermal insulation  
250 mm reinforced concrete, grooved interior  
surface
- 7 Box window, adhesive bond to circumferential  
aluminium frame  
Textile sun protection roller blind  
Double insulation glazing in timber frame
- 8 Drip irrigation
- 9 100 mm cement screed with hard aggregate  
underfloor heating  
20 mm impact soundproofing  
60 mm thermal insulation  
300 mm reinforced concrete ceiling (existing)
- 10 Sheet steel, stove-enamelled
- 11 Aluminium mullion-transom construction  
2 x 8 mm fixed glazing, laminated safety glass
- 12 Double leaf sliding door  
Insulation glazing with aluminium jamba



Staatsarchiv Basel-Landschaft

