



Photo: Frank Lloyd Wright demonstrates the traditional post- and beam construction with his hands. Gebr. Mann Verlag, 1997

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DAZ FORUM

DIALOG DER KONSTRUKTEURE // Constructor`s Dialogue About the collaboration of civil engineer and architect in Switzerland

05.03. – 02.05.2010

+++ In Switzerland remarkable buildings and projects have been realized within the last 20 years that point to a multidisciplinary collaboration with a strong dialogue of debate between architect and civil engineer. The exhibition CONSTRUCTOR'S DIALOGUE searches for traces on the conditions, possibilities and limits of this dialogue. +++

With contributions by: Von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten / Marcel Meili, Markus Peter Architekten / Jürg Conzett Ingenieur / Jüngling und Hagmann Architekten / Dr. Schwartz Consulting / Christian Kerez Architekt / Dr. Lüchinger + Meyer Ingenieure / Knapkiewicz & Fickert Architekten / agps.architecture / WGG Schnetzer Puskas Ingenieure / Fürst Laffranchi Ingenieure / Walt + Galmarini Ingenieure / Christian Penzel, Architect / Christoph Baumberger, Philosopher / Christoph Wieser, Architectural Theorist / Aita Flury, Architect

EXHIBITION: 05.03.2010 – 02.05.2010 // DAZ Scharoun Saal
Tue to Fri 12.00 am – 7.00 pm, Sat + Sun 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Entrance free.

PRESS PREVIEW: 04.03.2010, 6.00 pm // DAZ Scharoun Saal

OPENING: 04.03.2010, 7.00 pm

Speakers:

Dr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Swiss Ambassador to Germany
Elisabeth Boesch, Architect, Vice President Association of Swiss Architects BSA
Michael Frielinghaus, President Association of German Architects BDA
Jürg Conzett, Civil Engineer, President Society for the Art of Civil Engineering, Chur
Ueli Brauen, Architect, Lausanne
Aita Flury, Curator, Architect, Zurich

Followed by panel discussion, presented by:

Prof. Adolf Krischanitz, Architect, Berlin University of the Arts, Wien/Zürich/Berlin

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

About the collaboration of civil engineer and architect in Switzerland

Praxis und Wettbewerb // Practice and Competition

Lectures + Panel discussion

18.03.2010, 5.00 pm, DAZ Taut Saal

Speakers:

Carlo Galmarini, Civil Engineer, Zurich

Prof. Dr. Mike Schlaich, Civil Engineer, Technische Universität Berlin, Stuttgart/Berlin

Heinrich Schnetzer, Civil Engineer, Basel

Prof. Markus Peter, Architect, Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zurich

Andreas Hagmann, Architect, Chur

Presented by:

Prof. Hans Kollhoff, Architect, Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zurich, Berlin

Lehre und Praxis // Lore and Practice

Lectures + Panel discussion

21.04.2010, 17.00 Uhr, DAZ Taut Saal

Speakers:

Prof. Aurelio Muttoni, Civil Engineer, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Prof. Joseph Schwartz, Civil Engineer, Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zurich

Dr. Christoph Wieser, Architectural Theorist, Zurich University for Applied Science, Winterthur

Prof. Mario Monotti, Civil Engineer, Accademia USI Mendrisio

Prof. Paul Kahlfeldt, Architect, Technische Universität Dortmund, Berlin

Presented by:

Aita Flury, Curator, Architect, Zurich

Prof. Adolf Krischanitz, Architect, Berlin University of the Arts, Wien/Zürich/Berlin



Photo: Frank Lloyd Wright demonstrates the elastic load of organic architecture. Gebr. Mann Verlag, 1997

Berlin, February 2010. With the dawning of the industrial age, the job of the professional civil engineer evolved next to the master builder and architect. Their collaboration has always been ambivalent and created a long tradition of controversial debate.

Today's architectural tendencies are evidence of a form generated design that show little regard for structural realities. In Switzerland however, remarkable buildings and projects have been realized within the last 20 years that point to a multidisciplinary collaboration with a strong dialogue of debate. The exhibition CONSTRUCTOR'S DIALOGUE searches for traces on the conditions, possibilities and limits of this dialogue. Twelve architectural and civil engineering practises from the German-speaking regions of Switzerland were invited to present a relevant statement on the subject in any preferred way. This has yielded intense responses from a wide variety of approaches.

Technology and Architecture

How civil engineers and design architects collaborate, and mutual conceptions of their respective roles, principally determines the work of anyone participating in the planning and construction of a building. Perceptions about the relative importance of form and structure physically manifest themselves in a completed building, and are thus becoming imprinted on the collective cultural memory. Conventionally the artist/architect would expect a surveyor/engineer to provide the necessary calculations to enable him to accomplish his aesthetic ideal. Whilst building for infrastructure seems to be the exclusive reserve of engineers.

A peculiarly Swiss dialogue?

The exhibition CONSTRUCTOR'S DIALOGUE presents an alternative to this convention. It features a selection of buildings in Switzerland, which reflect the intense collaboration between civil engineer and design architect. It investigates, quite pragmatically, what the intentions behind such collaborations are, and especially what kinds of advantages over conventional ways of working such processes are supposed to yield, and what methods are implemented. The examples were chosen from range of both well-known and widely publicised projects and from more recent, unpublicised work. The selection does not, however, provide any hard evidence from which to conclude that this should be a dialogue that is in any way specifically Swiss. There does not appear to be any typically Swiss consensus between architect and engineer on their aims or any intended concurrence of form and structure. Yet there is a common thread: these buildings are neither statements in high-tech architecture nor of bio-morphic experimentation; they engage the observer in a kind of second glance perception that eventually appreciates them as the innate result of an intangible collaboration. Their authors have sought to encapsulate in their designs the subtle as well as sensual manifestation of technology and structure without being ostentatious about either. There appears to be an emphasis on the joint effort that accompanies a particular approach in the act of creative development. Engineers and architects will agree to engage on common ground and jointly solve the problems that have been identified together. Yet all these projects clearly show that there is no

obfuscation of the conventional division of tasks between the two areas of expertise, and that their separation is not being challenged.

Architects and Engineers

Some of the authors participating in this exhibition do have a similar approach to their early work, which appears to emanate from concentrating on the spatial potential of the structural skeleton. The interest seems to have shifted in more current projects.

Markus Meili, Markus Peter Architekten have identified the “un-aesthetic” as their new field of experimentation, which they are combining with mundane building technologies. For the new hall of the *Graubünden Kantonalbank* in Chur, *Jüngling und Hagmann Architekten* have implemented an open framework structure, which is still impressive in its spatial and bridge-like dimensions, but much lighter than the structures of earlier works. A similar shift occurs with architect *Christian Kerez*’ and civil engineer *Dr Joseph Schwartz*’s school building in Leutschenbach. Its multi-storeyed trusses are an expression of a new fascination with the ambivalent nature of openings and wall segments within a structural element. The recently completed Twerenbold bus terminal by *Knapkiewicz & Fickert Architekten* also features potential truss performance: the ambiguity of the system is reinforced by concealing the trusses so that you have to envision them “behind the scenes”. The engineer *Jürg Conzett* presents his statement in a research project on the relationship between the calculation and the representation of stability citing the collaboration of architect Adalberto Libera and civil engineer Sergio Musmeci. *Von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten* describe the expression of the characteristic essence of a building as their structural objective. Hence their fascination with “heavy pre-fabrication” is accompanied by pragmatic relation with the relevant works engineers from the manufacturers. The *Flickflauder* project by *agps architecture* demonstrates the possible diversity of formal results that a concern for pre-fabrication, the building process, and strategies for the implementation of available technologies can yield. There are further similarities between civil engineering practises *Dr. Lüchinger & Meyer* and *WGG Schnetzer Puskas* in how they express their formal aims as well as how they engage in collaborations with globally operating architectural practises such as Richard Rogers and Herzog & de Meuron. Both seek to arrive structurally at a central architectural conception. The projects they are presenting do not reveal any preference for particular materials or structures, but rather the determination to find adequate solutions for the individual challenges of each project and the architects’ visions. The *Letzigrund Stadium* in Zurich by engineers *Walt + Galmardini* is another instance of how a completed building always amounts to more than just a formal expression of either an exclusive architectural vision or an essentially structural challenge. Here the structural framework is not only the interpretation of an architectural vision, but the entire space is an interpretation of the structural framework. The aspirations of young civil engineering practise *Fürst Laffranchi* are conditioned by the will to challenge conventional frames of reference for design architecture and civil engineering, and to overcome the conceptional limitations of their own specialist references and make deliberate use of the architect as an expert in spatial planning and for scale and context.

Exhibition

Civil engineering practises and architects were invited to participate as authors, and no conditions were set as to the nature of their contributions. Besides individually designed display placards there are numerous work models presented that document various states in the development of a project. This is contrasted by representations of the built reality in the video clips submitted by Swiss architect and filmmaker Jean-Claude Campbell. The written essays by Christoph Wieser, Christian Penzel and Christoph Baumberger provide a comprehensive historic insight into the subject over the past one hundred years. Their treatment extends beyond Switzerland itself and also investigates other architects, engineers and buildings, which have become remarkable expressions of the CONSTRUCTOR’S DIALOGUE.

DIALOG DER KONSTRUKTEURE (Constructor`s Dialogue) is an exhibiton by Architekturforum Zürich (2006), extended and new edited by Bund Schweizer Architekten BSA (2010). Exhibition curator is Aita Flury. The exhibition and the accompanying program are part of the event series **BAUKUNST IM DIALOG**, initiated by the Embassy of Switzerland in Germany, in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zurich (ETH), the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), the Association of

Swiss Architects (BSA), the Swiss society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) and the Swiss Universities of Applied Science.

In line with the exhibition the catalogue *Dialog der Konstrukteure* is published. Edited by Aita Flury and the Architekturforum Zurich. In German language, 160 pages, incl. numerous illustrations, ca. 14,5 x 22 cm, Softcover, ca. 30,00 EUR, Niggli Verlag, Sulgen 2010, ISBN 978-3-7212-0741-5.

In line with the accompanying symposia the catalogue *Konstrukteure im Dialog. Zur Zusammenarbeit von Ingenieur und Architekt in der Schweiz. Materialien zu den Symposien* is published. Edited by Aita Flury and the Association of Swiss Architects BSA. In German language, ca. 170 pages, incl. numerous illustrations, 13,5 x 20,5 cm, 15,00 EUR, Zürich 2010. The books will be available at the DAZ Book Shop soon.

Press contact: DAZ, Cornelia Schwarte, Tel. +49 – 30 – 27 87 99 28, pr@daz.de

A project by:

BSA Bund Schweizer Architekten
FAS Fédération des Architectes Suisses
FAS Federazione Architetti Svizzeri



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
 Confederaziun svizra

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Press photos on request

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01

Frank Lloyd Wright demonstrates the traditional post-and beam construction with his hands.

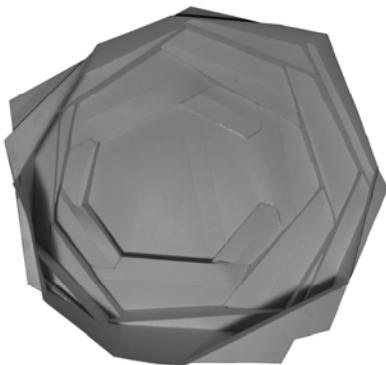
Photo: Gebr. Mann Verlag, 1997



02

Frank Lloyd Wright demonstrates the elastic load of organic architecture.

Photo: Gebr. Mann Verlag, 1997



03

Concert hall Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg

Architect: Herzog & de Meuron, Basel

Civil Engineer: WGG Schnetzer Puskas Ingenieure, Basel

Model: WGG Schnetzer Puskas

Photo: Aita Flury



04

Kranzeck Hardturm-Stadion, Zurich

Architect: Meili Peter Architekten, Zürich

Civil Engineer: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann Ingenieure, Chur

Model: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann

Photo: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann



05

Graubündner Kantonalbank, Chur

Architect: Jüngling & Hagmann Architekten, Chur

Civil Engineer: Hans Riegendinger, Chur

Model: Jüngling & Hagmann

Photo: Aita Flury



06

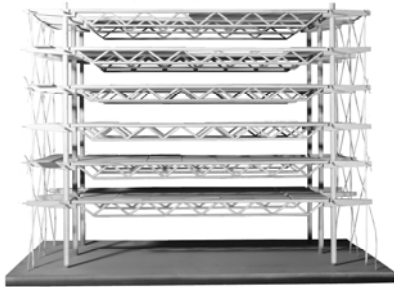
Gym Mülimatt, Brugg

Architect: Livio und Eloisa Vacchini, Locarno

Civil Engineer: Fürst Laffranchi Ingenieure, Wolfswil

Model: Studio Vacchini

Photo: Aita Flury



07

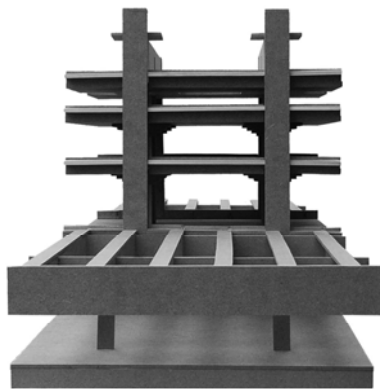
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

Architect: Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers

Civil Engineer: Peter Rice

Model: HTW Chur, SS 2009, Student: Beni Signer

Photo: Aita Flury



08

Boots Factory, Beeston Nottingham

Architect/Civil Engineer: Sir Owen Williams, London

Model: HTW Chur, SS 2009, Studenten: Michael

Krähenmann, Lukas Mürner

Photo: Michael Krähenmann, Lukas Mürner



09

Boots Factory, Beeston Nottingham

Architect/Civil Engineer: Sir Owen Williams, London

Modell: HTW Chur, SS 2009, Studenten: Michael

Krähenmann, Lukas Mürner

Photo: Michael Krähenmann, Lukas Mürner



10

Residential house Forsterstrasse, Zurich

Architect: Christian Kerez, Zürich

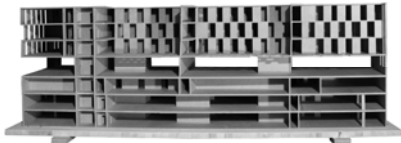
Civil Engineer: Dr. Schwartz Consulting, Zug

Model: Dr. Schwartz Consulting

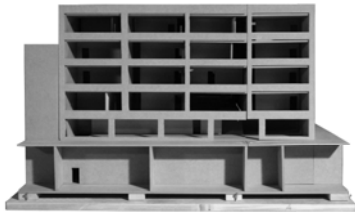
Photo: Aita Flury

**11****e-lab ETH Zurich, Zurich**

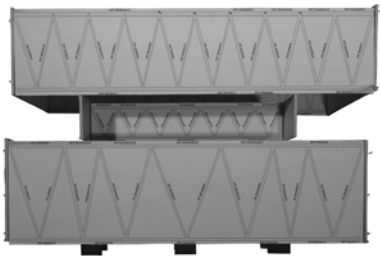
Architect: Von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten, Zürich
Civil Engineer: Urech Guggisberg Partner Bauingenieure, Zurich, KIWI Systemingenieure, Dübendorf
Model: Von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten, Zurich
Photo: Aita Flury

**12****Residential- and commercial building Ottoplatz, Chur**

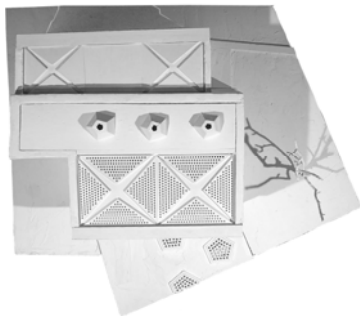
Architect: Jüngling & Hagmann Architekten, Chur
Ingenieur: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann Ingenieure, Chur
Model: HTW Chur, SS 2009, Studenten: Valentin Alig, Davide Fogliada
Photo: Aita Flury

**13****Volta school building, Basel**

Architect: Miller Maranta Architekten, Basel
Civil Engineer: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann Ingenieure, Chur
Model: HTW Chur, SS 2009, Student: Matthias Gauer
Photo: Aita Flury

**14****School building Leutschenbach, Zürich**

Architect: Christian Kerez, Zürich
Civil Engineer: Dr. Schwartz Consulting, Zug / dsp Ingenieure, Greifensee
Model: dsp Ingenieure
Photos: Aita Flury

**16****Bathhouse Hotel Tamina, Bad Ragaz**

Architect: ARGE Boltshauser / Flury, Zürich
Civil Engineer: Conzett Bronzini Gartmann AG, Chur
Model: ARGE Boltshauser / Flury
Photo: ARGE Boltshauser / Flury