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**SCHWEIZERISCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM  
/SWISS ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM**

**S AM**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Swiss contribution to the 7th International Architecture Biennial São Paulo 2007 'Architecture - The Public and the Private' will now be on display in Basel at S AM - Swiss Architecture Museum:

**A R C H / S C A P E S**

**Negotiating Architecture and Landscape**

An exhibition by the Swiss Confederation represented by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, curated by Francesca Ferguson and realised by S AM - Swiss Architecture Museum

**S AM Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel  
02/02/2008 - 11/05/2008**

**A R C H / S C A P E S**

**Negotiating Architecture and Landscape**

ARCH/SCAPES focuses upon 15 new architecture within the heterogeneous cultural landscape of Switzerland, the urban and peri-urban areas, the village typologies of the alpine landscapes and the burgeoning agglomeration. Switzerland's landscapes - in particular the rural and alpine typologies - are considered public terrain, and a precious asset. New architecture that is to be developed within this landscape is the result of complex democratic processes in which not only the communities or states, but also numerous public bodies protecting the Swiss traditions, have a decisive voice. Concerted moves to preserve traditional building types - from the chalet to the cow pen and the ski hut - mean that with few exceptions, architecture that intends a radical relationship with a given context will not survive a public referendum. However, the Swiss cultural landscape is becoming increasingly urbanised and it is within this contemporary reality that new architecture is shown to negotiate a balance between context and form.

How can the architect modernise, adapt, and advance the design of Swiss architecture beyond the legal restrictions defined by society at large? The wide range of featured buildings have been chosen for the skill with which innovative forms have been devised, and new positions negotiated. The subtle manner in which legal obstacles have been reinterpreted in favour of unfamiliar forms and new materials is a defining process, one that maintains the balance between the needs and desires of the client and public opinion. In particular we reveal the processes by which buildings set a new accent within a context, in dialogue with the landscape, thus establishing an unusual sense of scale or reinterpreting traditional typologies.

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#### **Interviews with the featured architects and clients**

Interviews with the featured architects and several clients produced in cooperation with architecture journalists from Switzerland, describe the specific culture of production and design that is highly attuned to the contemporary realities of the changing landscape of Switzerland. The statements make tangible a fundamental subtext of architectural production within this setting: the negotiation between preservation and innovation, between playing to traditional sensibilities and affecting a necessary rupture in conventional typologies that is often the result of ingenious adaptations of planning regulations.

#### **Individual design statements and new forms**

These individual design statements are as diverse as the territories and topographies of Switzerland. New forms have been generated by traditional and sustainable means to harmonise with a surrounding context. Industrial architecture can be designed to blend in almost invisibly with the landscape. The classic mountain chalet can be parodied by creating an urbane, even ironic, underworld. A ski lodge redesign effects a transformation of traditional form to state of the art self-sufficiency using the most lightweight and modular constructions. Highly traditional building methods are adapted to fit contemporary needs whilst still maintaining cultural specificity. The landscape can become such an integral part of architecture that interior and exterior worlds blend and interrelate through the interplay of transparency and abstraction. Often the response to a restricting context is to draw nature into an interior world in a form of architectural introspection.

#### **Contrasts: the large scale photographs of Joël Tettamanti**

The featured projects are offset throughout both the exhibition and this publication by the photographs of Joël Tettamanti. Tettamanti contrasts the extreme alpine landscapes with the scattered urbanisation that defies clichéd perceptions of Switzerland as a rural and lakeside idyll. This framing of the featured architecture with these images of fragmented topographies is meant to underline a contemporary Swiss reality. Within this reality the careful negotiation between private and public primarily to maintain norms and traditions is increasingly compromised. The gradual erosion of the Swiss landscape by urbanization means that new architecture will in future need to devise entirely new typologies that take account of wholly uncharacteristic forms of public terrain.

#### **Dynamic abstraction: the exhibition design**

The exhibition architecture and graphic design by the Basel-based HHF architects, zmik designers and Revolver Agency, designed for both the Biennale Pavilion in São Paulo (1951) by Oskar Niemeyer and the Architecture Museum in Basel, is a dynamic abstraction of a thematic journey through the Swiss cultural landscape, from urban areas to the central lowlands and peripheries, and finally to the alpine regions.

#### **Accompanying Events in cooperation with Architekturforum Zürich**

Public discussions and debates focussing on the featured projects from Zurich and their context will be organised by S AM in cooperation with the Architekturforum Zürich. For program and information: [www.sam-basel.org](http://www.sam-basel.org)

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#### **S AM No°4**

Accompanying the Basel venue of the exhibition, Vol. IV of the S AM publications: „S AM N°4 - ARCH/SCAPES“ will be published by Christoph Merian Verlag. The bilingual publication features the 15 projects with essays by Lorette Coen, Angelus Eisinger, Christophe Girot and Michael Zinganel et al. and the project „GlattPark“ in Opfikon (2007) by landscape architect Gaby Kiefer (Berlin) awarded „Silberner Hase“ in the category Landscape Architecture.

88 pages, German/English

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Swiss Architecture Museum

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#### **ARCH/SCAPES features the following new Swiss architecture**

- **Musical Theatre 'Theatre 11'. Zurich, Switzerland, 2006**  
EM2N Architekten | Mathias Müller | Daniel Niggli, Zurich, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - International Architecture Award 2007,  
Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design
- **Social Housing Development 'Rautistrasse'. Zurich, Switzerland, 2009**  
UNDEND Architektur AG, Zurich, Switzerland
- **Housing Development 'Leimbachviertel'. Zurich, Switzerland, 2005**  
pool Architekten, Zurich, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Goldener Hase 2005, Hochparterre und SF DRS
  - AR Awards for Emerging Architecture 2006, Honourable Mention
  - Auszeichnung guter Bauten im Kanton Zürich 2006, Anerkennung
- **The collective garden. Chiasso, Switzerland, 2006**  
Officina del Paesaggio, Sophie Agata Ambroise, Lugano, Switzerland
- **Extension to the G. Baumgartner AG Window Factory.**  
Hagendorn, Switzerland, 2006  
Niklaus Graber & Christoph Steiger Architekten, Lucerne, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Deutscher Landschaftsarchitekturpreis 2007, 1. Preis  
Auszeichnung des Bundes deutscher Landschaftsarchitekten
  - Award „best architets 08“, Die besten Architekturbüros im  
deutschsprachigen Raum
  - Silberner Hase 2006, Hochparterre und SF DRS
  - Auszeichnung „Umsicht | Regards | Sguardi“ 2006, SIA
- **Casa Gobbi. Tegna, Switzerland, 2004**  
Luigi Snozzi, Locarno, Switzerland
- **Casa 'Le Terrazze'. Lugano, Switzerland, 2004**  
Giraudi Wettstein Architekten ETH / BSA / SIA, Lugano, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Architekturpreis 2007, Anerkennung, SIA Ticino
  - Preis der Holger Reiners Stiftung 2005

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- **Residential and studio space. Haldenstein, Switzerland, 2005**  
Architekturbüro Peter Zumthor, Haldenstein, Switzerland
  
- **Concept for a village. Vrin, Switzerland**  
Gion A. Caminada Architekt BSA / SIA, Vrin, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Auszeichnung „Umsicht | Regards | Sguardi“ 2006, SIA
  - Holzbaupreis Graubünden 2004, für *Stiva da morts* in Vrin
  - Prix Lignum 1998, für *Ställe und Schlachthaus* in Vrin
  
- **Barn for 30 cows. Lignièrès, Switzerland, 2005**  
Local Architecture, Lausanne, Switzerland
  
- **The transformation of a chalet. Crans Montana, Switzerland, 2005**  
Bonnard / Woeffray Architectes FAS SIA, Monthey, Switzerland
  
- **Studio. Scharans, Switzerland, 2007**  
Valerio Olgiati, Chur, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Brozener Hase 2007, Hochparterre und SF DRS
  
- **Traversiner footbridge. Via Mala, Switzerland, 2005**  
Conzett, Bronzini, Gartmann AG, Chur, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Graubünder Holzbaupreis 2007, 2. Rang
  - Ideenpool Holz 21, Auszeichnung
  
- **Viewing platform. Films, Switzerland, 2006**  
Corinna Menn Architektin ETH/SIA, Chur, Switzerland  
awarded with:
  - Prix Acier 2007, Anerkennung, Stahlbau Zentrum Schweiz
  
- **New Monte Rosa ski lodge. Zermatt, Switzerland, 2009**  
Studio Monte Rosa, Professor Andrea Deplazes, Marcel Baumgartner  
Departement Architektur, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

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**Partner**

**Media partner:**

**swiss-  
architects  
.com**

Profiles of Selected Architects

swiss-architects.com is the official media partner of the exhibition, featuring excerpts from the architects' interviews on the websites [www.world-architects.com](http://www.world-architects.com) / [www.swiss-architects.com](http://www.swiss-architects.com).

**The exhibition was made possible with the generous support of:**



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**ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG  
ZUG**

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