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SCHWEIZERISCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM
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S AM

PRESS RELEASE

Landscapes and Structures.

A Personal Inventory by Jürg Conzett. Photographed by Martin Linsi

April 16th - July 17th 2011

Opening: Friday, April 15th 2011, 19.00 H

**Swiss Contribution to the 12th International Architecture Biennale in Venice 2010 and
Newly Adapted by S AM for the Presentation in Basel.**

Infrastructure buildings have shaped the image of Switzerland; they are of central significance in creating a kind of cohesion throughout the entire country. Inscribed in the landscape with the ambition of architecture the Albula Railway, Susten Pass or bridges by Hans-Ulrich Grubenmann & Robert Moser, Robert Maillart, Alexandre Sarrasin and Christian Menn are considered as masterpieces of civil engineering.

At the same time there are also countless other such structures – bridges, footbridges, tunnels, retaining walls, roads – that are hardly ever noticed and at most are only briefly perceived in passing. The photographs presented in this exhibition are the result of various joint forays made by the engineer Jürg Conzett and the photographer Martin Linsi throughout Switzerland. From the urban agglomeration areas around Basel and Zurich the journey leads through Graubünden, over the Susten Pass and finally into the cantons of Ticino and Wallis. Deliberately visited along the way are structures ranging from the incunabula of civil engineering to unspectacular facilities. The subjective viewpoint of a prominent engineer was decisive in the selection of works and definitive examples, which in any case served as inspiration for his own work. In this respect photos of Conzett's own bridges are provided alongside his historical sources of inspiration.

Originally presented in Venice the exhibition has been adapted by S AM Swiss Architecture Museum to its own exhibition space in Basel.

Supporting Programme:

workshops, tours and talks: www.sam-basel.org

Regular tours of the exhibition are open to the public on the following Thursdays, 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.: 21 April; 5 May, 19 May; 2 June, 16 June, 30 June; and 14 July.

The exhibition is supported by:

Basel Stadt, Bau- und Verkehrsdepartement Abteilung Tiefbauamt; Basel Stadt, Präsidialdepartement Abteilung Kultur; BSA Bund Schweizer Architekten; BURRI public elements AG; L. + Th. La Roche-Stiftung; GGG Gesellschaft für das Gute und Gemeinnützige; Grempel AG; Karl Bubenhofer AG; kt.COLOR AG; L. + Th. La Roche-Stiftung; Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, Eidgenössisches Departement des Inneren EDI, Bundesamt für Kultur; sia Schweizerischer Ingenieur- und Architektenverein; swissarchitects; Rapp Gruppe; Zumtobel Licht AG

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