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# The Foundation works

With the setting-up of the Foundation for the Place of the Swiss Abroad (FPSA) on 21st March in Brunnen, the contribution of the Swiss Abroad to the Confederation's 700th-jubilee celebrations is institutionally safeguarded (see «Swiss Review» No.1/1988). While, abroad, the fund-raising campaign has gotten off to a promising start, at home a working group is already busying itself with the design and development of the future precinct of encounter.

The FPSA's memorandum of foundation was signed at an impressive ceremony in Brunnen on 21st March 1988. The Foundation, to which the OSA (Organisation of the Swiss Abroad), the Swiss Confederation, the Canton and District of Schwyz, the Cantonal Bank of Schwyz and the local Commune of Ingenbohl-Brunnen belong, constitutes the sponsoring body, and will be the future owner, of the Place of the Swiss Abroad. Professor Walther Hofer, President of the OSA, has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, and Hermann Reutener, Municipal President of Ingenbohl-Brunnen, the Vice-President. The OSA holds

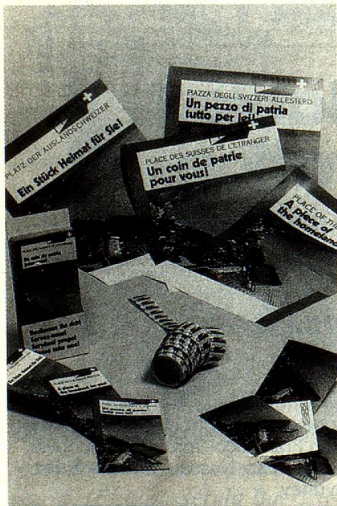
the majority of votes in the Board.

### A worthy meeting place

The Place of the Swiss Abroad is the central contribution of the Fifth Switzerland to the 700th anniversary celebrations of the Confederation in 1991. It forms the end of the «Path of Switzerland» round the lake of Uri and thus symbolically expresses the affinity of the Fifth Switzerland with the Confederation. An ideal location for the Place was found: a little peninsula lying on the bay of Brunnen directly opposite the Rütli. It will continue to be a meeting place of the Swiss abroad, beyond the jubilee year.

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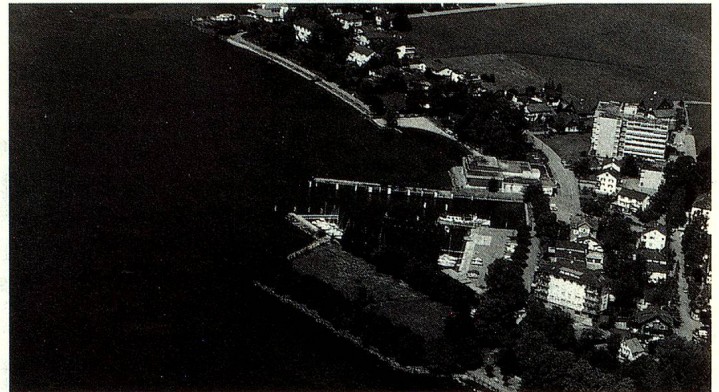
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«This Place enhances the «Path of Switzerland» round the lake of Uri and sustains one's awareness that Switzerland does not stop at the national borders, but is represented by its citizens all over the world.»

Franz Marty, Government of Canton Schwyz

### The design

The OSA's special working group is now working on the design and development of the Place, which will be carried out in two stages.

Simple gardens without fixed installations are envisaged for 1991, the jubilee year, when, as a feature of the celebrations, the Place will be very much in demand. This is so that there will be enough space for the jubilee happenings such as the gala events, the 1991 Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, and the exhibitions, which can be mounted in mobile buildings suited to the occasion or event.

The final design will be the subject of a competition in 1989 open to Swiss architects abroad. The organisers envisage the following basic conditions therefor: through quiet configuration and design, the Place of the Swiss Abroad shall be a worthy place of encounter, open to the general public. An information and meeting centre shall be created at the Place. The centre shall be a repository for information on the Fifth Switzerland; it will accommodate alternating exhibitions; and it will also serve as a venue for other small events. The rest of the grounds shall be laid out as gardens or a park, with further elements such as information boards and symbolic features.

The timetable provides for the completion of the competition, exhibition of the projects chosen and presentation of prizes, in the jubilee year. JM

## Brief

**Size:** 5569 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Price:** SFr. 1.5m  
**Design/development costs:** approx. SFr. 1.5m  
**Financing:** by donations of the Swiss abroad  
**Deadline:** formal decision to purchase must be given at the latest by 30th September 1988 (after prior auditing of receipts of donations), since the preliminary contract with the present owners of the site, Hotel Waldstätterhof AG, runs out on that date.  
**Building regulations:** the site lies in the «zone for public buildings and installations» in which one-storey buildings which serve public purposes can be erected. Brunnen has interest in the building of permanent, public utility institutions. Otherwise there are no servitudes that would limit the development of the site.

Central Account:

**203982 - 1951**

Stiftung Auslandschweizerplatz  
 Brunnen (FPSA Foundation,  
 Brunnen) Cantonal Bank of  
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 contributions.