

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 25 (1998)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Switzerland's refurbished Transport Museum : attractive communications turntable
Autor: Baumann, Alice
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-907509>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 12.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Switzerland's refurbished Transport Museum

Attractive communications turntable

What connection is there between interpreting stars in the sky and transport on earth? A great deal if you visit the Swiss Museum for Transport and Communications in Lucerne.

Mankind has long dreamed of being able to look into the future. Astrologists try to identify our character and talents from the position of the stars. Critics call this art a swindle or superstition. On the other

Alice Baumann

hand astronomical research provides breathtaking discoveries concerning the connections between human existence and the movements of the stars. Quite without bias, "Astrologic", the new planetarium programme at Lucerne's Transport Museum, demonstrates important elements of the horoscope in terms of key elements in the sky's mechanisms, such as the orbits of the sun, moon and planets through the signs of the zodiac. It also tells the story of the probable beginnings of astrology 2,500 years ago in Babylon.

For forty years

The history of the Museum for Transport and Communications is rather shorter: it goes back to 1959. In those days the most important themes were road and rail transport, and post and telecommunications; these still form the heart of the museum. Then the steamship "Rigi", set up in the courtyard, served as a restaurant – and important testimony to Swiss lake shipping. In winter visitors could have a meal in the nostalgic restaurant-car "Belle Epoque".

In a later phase there were additions: the halls concerned with air transport and space-travel, the "Cosmorama", the "Swissorama" and the "Nautirama" in the new hall for water transport, funiculars and tourism, two communications exhibits, a restaurant and the Hans Erni museum; and most recently an IMAX

cinema with a giant film projection system, and the refurbished planetarium.

More visits than other museums

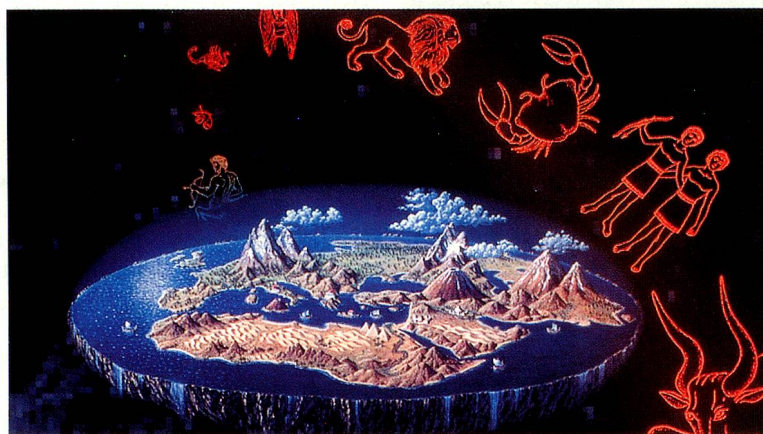
Since its opening the Swiss Museum for Transport and Communications has proved a magnet for the crowds. With 150,000 visitors in the first 6 months it quickly became the most successful and best frequented museum in Switzer-

land. In 1982 there were more than 700,000 visitors. Then the much increased availability of other leisure activities, and the failure to renew the exhibition, led to a drop in the number of visitors. After 14 years in the doldrums, with unwelcome consequences for the financial situation, the management swung the tiller: worlds were created in which the public could experience the past, the present and the future of transport and communications emotionally and come to terms with them. Further expansion is foreseen.

This renovation has done much for receipts. The museum is the responsibility of the Swiss Museum for Transport and Communications Association, which owns the collections and premises. Today there are some 22,000 members. Communities, companies and authorities are among the 650 collective members. Until the 90s members contributed about a sixth of the income of

Science and technology...

But the Transport Museum hopes in future to secure support from public



The Transport Museum in Lucerne turns the latest achievements in technology into a great experience.

(Photos: Swiss Museum for Transport and Communications)

sources. It provides work for 172 members of staff. Its claim to public support is based also on the fact that the museum undertakes research and restoration, as well as keeping scientific records. Moreover the new features in the museum's exhibits are having a positive effect: a million tickets sold for the museum and IMAX cinema in 1997 are grounds for hoping that there will be an upturn again. The current negotiations with the federal and cantonal authorities and the city of Lucerne are going well.

...and the wonders of nature

For visitors this will certainly be a good solution: lying as it does at the heart of Switzerland, despite its concentration on transport and communications, the Transport Museum also shows the vulnerability of our planet in magnificent films.