

Zeitschrift: Hochparterre : Zeitschrift für Architektur und Design
Herausgeber: Hochparterre
Band: 19 (2006)
Heft: [15]: Schindler Award for Architecture 2006 "Access for All" [english]

Artikel: Special prize : for everyone
Autor: Grosbois, Louis-Pierre
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-123045>

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: 29.04.2026

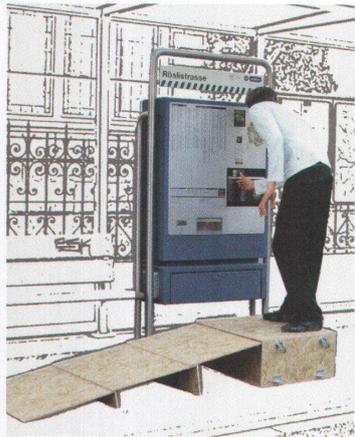
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

For Everyone

Text: Louis-Pierre Grosbois

Summary: Benedikt Loderer

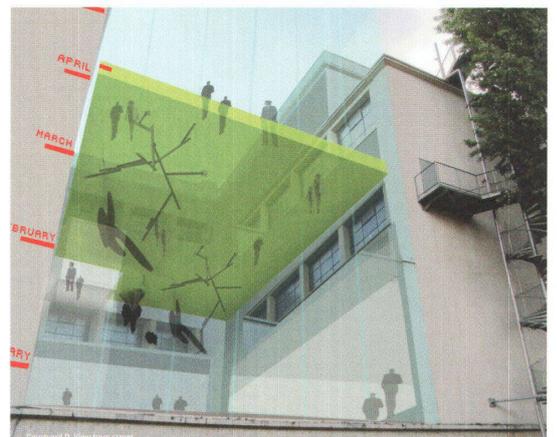
These three projects turn the design process upside down. Instead of designing a building as the first step and then equipping it with facilities for people with disabilities, the authors started with the disability and designed an environment fit for disabled people.



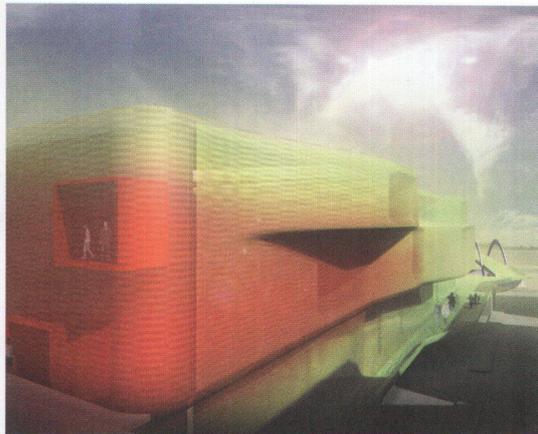
1



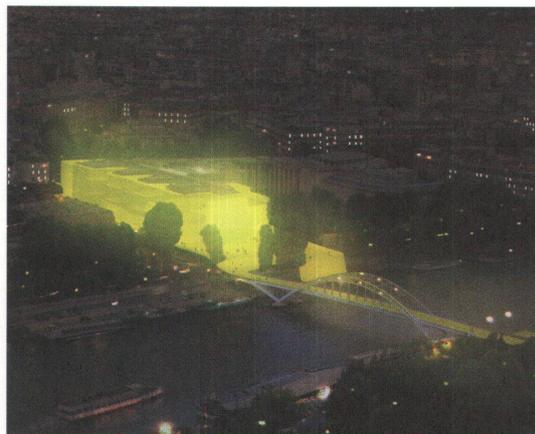
2



3



4



5

• "Architecture is not just a profession, it is a mental attitude" (Le Corbusier). What does this mean in terms of "Access for All"? The usual procedure progresses from the large to the small. First of all comes the design of the building, and the elements that make it fit for disabled people are subsequently added. The result is buildings that, although better equipped, are indistinguishable from others. But when the design process is turned upside down and proceeds from the smaller to the larger elements, the result is solutions that are not merely fit for the disabled, but fit for human beings. To put it another way: we need to change our mental attitude.

This is exactly what the three projects of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, which were developed during a research semester, propose: not the addition of auxiliary aids but the creation of an environment. The designed space gets its meaning only through its users. How they live in it, how they perceive it, whether they are disabled or not. For this reason, the design begins with the disability and asks: What can we learn from it? To regard disability not as a deficit but as a perception of the world. For this, we must build new, different spaces.

With the turning upside down of the design process, the Zurich students are way ahead of their colleagues. The schools of architecture should follow their example and learn to teach not how to construct "buildings fit for disabled people," but to take the teachings of perceptual psychology to heart: learning from dementia. •

--> Students: Tobias Klausner, Léonard Koçan, Silvan Oesterle

--> Professor: Marc Angélil, (Dirk Hebel, Jörg Stollmann)

--> School: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich CH

1 Where ticket vending machines are not adapted to the needs of the disabled, the portable, mobile ramp comes to the rescue.

2-3 A lift is not only a closed-in box, it can just as well be a vertically moving slab.

4-5 If things gets embarrassing in the lift, the museum blushes; if other museums have more visitors, it is yellow with envy.