

EXPO 1964

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EXPO 1964

THE PORT AREA

The Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne is conceived as more than the concrete realisation of a precept or the attractive demonstration of a number of pre-conceived themes. The Exhibition is to be a national festival, a pleasant and natural meeting ground where the Swiss and their guests can get together in a holiday spirit. That is why the directors have planned a recreation area in the port and adjacent sectors.

Some 20,000 square yards have been reserved for restaurants with a total capacity of 5,000 visitors, for dance pavilions, a casino and an amusement park. The restaurants, which will ring the port in a horse-shoe — brightened with gay colours by day and ingenious lighting effects by night — should provide one of the most attractive sights in the whole exhibition area.

Visitors coming by water can arrive at the port either by the regular boat service on the lake or by special boats that will assure an uninterrupted liaison between Ouchy, Lausanne's port, and the Exhibition. On foot, the port can be reached along the lake-shore promenade, and from inland it will be served by the "monorail", the EXPO's own, original transportation system. The amusement park will, of course, offer all the latest novelties in the way of rides, roller-coasters, shooting galleries and other attractions. A circus will perform on a permanent basis. Finally, a panoramic view-tower built according to entirely new construction principles will be erected in this area.

The problem facing the architects was to weld these disparate elements into an ensemble, at once more harmonious and more original than the classical "fair" solution. The problem was further complicated by the legitimate desire to incorporate at least a hint of Switzerland's rich folk traditions.

The Geneva architect, Paul Saugey, who created the project adopted for the port area, took his inspiration from

the proximity of the lake. The unity of the whole ensemble will be created by a theme of brightly-coloured sails which will serve to define the spaces and volumes where the different restaurants are to be placed.

The restaurant buildings will find a natural extension in terraces, outdoor dining rooms and even on pontoons over the surface of the lake. The folk heritage of the different regions of the country will be evoked by the incorporation of traditional objects, the recall of local traditions and costumes, the whole ensemble of folklore in its most authentic form. This principle makes it possible to avoid a misplaced mélange that would have planted a "Grottino" from Ticino, a Graubünden "Stube" and a chalet from the Valais pell-mell on the shores of Lake Geneva.

The result should be a pleasant, gay, inviting, complex and — what is most important — an authentic expression of Switzerland today. In decorating the different restaurants the port designers have chosen to concentrate on a light and witty interpretation of the theme of travel in Switzerland. Rocky, snowy mountains will be set beside evocations of the plain resorts, with their mineral spas and local colour. A bit further on will be the cities, with their bright lights and busy crossings, and the lakes of Italian Switzerland. The whole will add up to an interpretation of Swiss holidaying as it was yesteryear, as it is today, and as it will be — according to the EXPO visionaries and designers — tomorrow.

The National Exhibition hopes not only to show the present but to break new paths, open new perspectives.

(EXPO 1964 Information Service.)

PLEASE NOTE that an illustrated folder of the Swiss National Exhibition may be obtained free of charge from the Swiss National Tourist Office, London.

HEINRICH SCHUETZ FESTIVAL AND ZURICH JUNE FESTIVAL WEEKS

For the first time the international Heinrich Schütz Festival was held in Zurich, from 17th to 21st April. The great work of the founder of German Evangelical sacred music was discovered by the younger generation between the two world wars, and the first Heinrich Schütz Festival was held in 1930. It was subsequently repeated fourteen times in Germany, Sweden, Holland and Switzerland. Schütz's Early Baroque music (1585-1672) ranks between Palestrina and J. S. Bach.

During the Festival several choral concerts took place and special lectures were given at the University.

The International June Festivals at Zurich, which have become quite an institution, combine gala performances and exhibitions of various kinds. The Stadttheater is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner with productions of "Lohengrin", "Tristan and Isolde", the "Meistersinger", and "Parsifal". Besides other opera productions, the world première of Rudolf Kelterborn's "Die Errettung Thebens" (the De-

liverance of Thebes) on 23rd June with a repeat performance on 26th June is sure to attract special interest. The Schauspielhaus will again offer productions in four languages, the programme including a French, a British and an Italian company besides the local group. The Museum of Fine Arts presents an exhibition of sculptures by Germaine Richier, while precious textiles will be shown at the Arts and Crafts Museum, and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology is organizing an exhibition of French graphic art. There will be five symphony concerts at the Tonhalle, and a special programme on 13th June was devoted to modern Swiss chamber music. [S.N.T.O.]

In "Zurich", the official periodical of the Zurich Tourist Office and the Airport, the Municipal President, Mr. Landolt, refers to the great theatre tradition of the town. The cultural ventures used to be financed from private sources but their promoters are now working hand in hand with the municipal authorities to produce this remarkable festival, whose origins date back to 1909.