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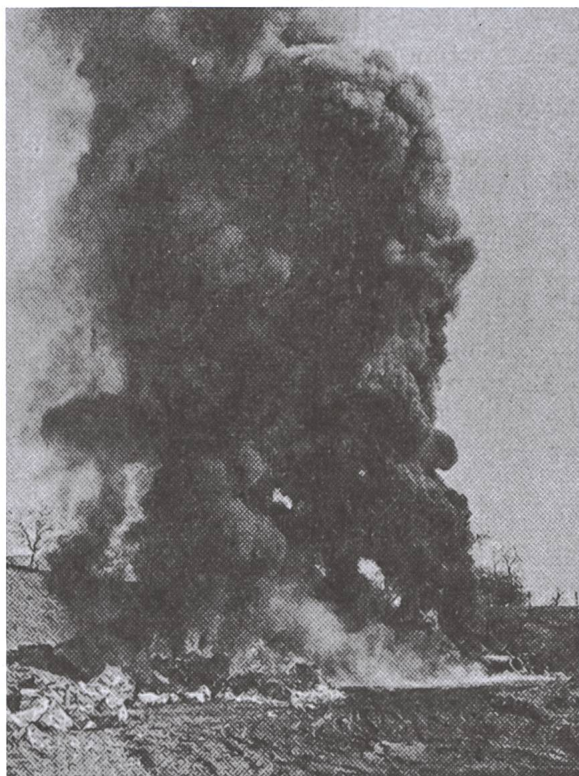
Pierre Zoelly's Waste Incineration Plants

Ziu Bruckmann

Fascinated by the elegance of anonymous industrial buildings, Swiss architect Pierre Zoelly (1923–2003) investigated the architecture of the waste incineration plant thoroughly. His œuvre comprised seven such planned projects, in Zizers GR, Zuchwil SO, or Zug. Two were executed: Kehrichtverbrennungsanlage Zürcher Oberland KEZO in Hinwil ZH and KVA Linth in Niederurnen GL. Zoelly's proposals are structural skeletons, pillars, walls and slabs cast in concrete, closely intertwined with a complex machinery made to incinerate. These architectural infrastructures are determined by fire, or rather, by the combination of its elements – flames, ashes, and smoke – that Zoelly composed virtuously into colossal sculptures. Formed by bunkers, furnaces, filters, and stacks they both celebrate the process of incinerating waste and monumentalize our society's handling of resources and energy. At these neuralgic points, where communities and territories are linked, the refuse of our society find their final destination.

Ziu Bruckmann, born 1996, is an architect who studied at ETH Zurich and the University of Melbourne. He is working as a scientific assistant both at the Archives of the Institute of History and Theory of Architecture (gta) at ETH Zurich and at the Lab for Theory of Environment and Materials in Architecture at EPF Lausanne. Recently, his research assistance contributed to the exhibition «Beton» at the SA M Swiss Architecture Museum in Basel. Besides, he is studying Classical Archeology at the University of Zurich and is working on small renovation projects in Germany.

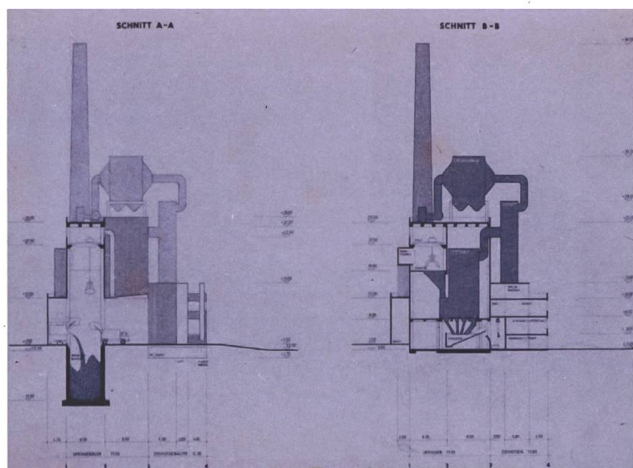
Incineration of industrial residues at a dumping ground, Betzholz near Hinwil ZH, March 1968. Image: Comet Photo AG (gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Ullin Streiff)



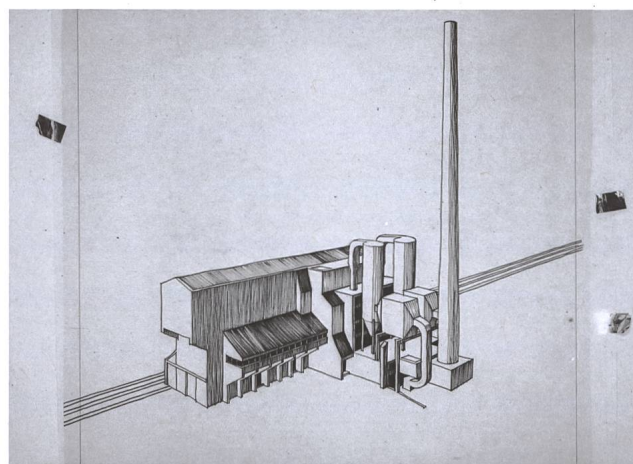
«Findlay, Ohio», 1950. Travel sketch. Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



Waste incineration plant, Zizers GR, project 1966. Sections of waste bunker (left) and incineration unit (right). Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



Waste incineration plant, Zuchwil SO, project 1968. Perspective view. Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



KEZO, Hinwil ZH, 1966–1976 (2 phases).
Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



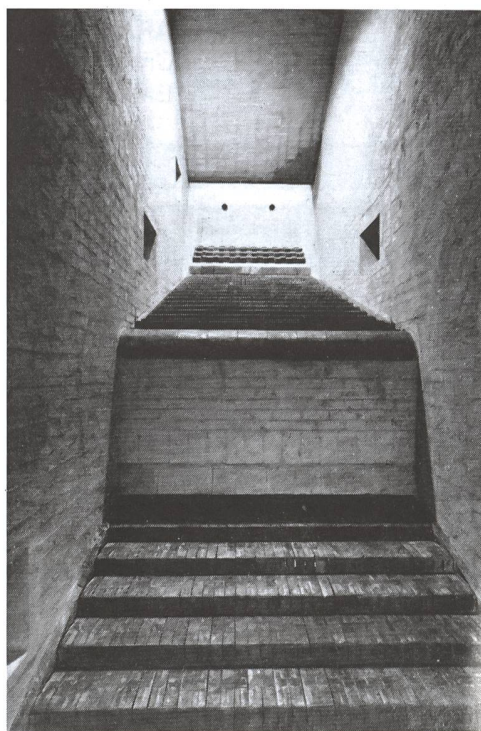
KEZO, Hinwil ZH, 1966–1976 (2 phases). Construction
process, 1975. Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich,
Pierre Zoelly



KVA Linth, Niederurnen GL, 1966–1973. Waste bunker
with grappler, 1973. Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich,
Pierre Zoelly



KVA Linth, Niederurnen GL, 1966–1973. Furnace
interior with grate unit, 1973. Image: gta Archives /
ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



KVA Linth, Niederurnen GL, 1966–1973. Façade detail,
1973. Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly



KVA Linth, Niederurnen GL, 1966–1973.
Image: gta Archives / ETH Zurich, Pierre Zoelly

