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Summaries in English

In Switzerland, the new measures taken to curb excessive economic growth and inflation in the building sector make the construction of large-scale single-family houses subject to official authorization. The houses presented in this issue do not exceed the cost limit and could be built even today without restriction.

Phantasy and Discipline

Architects: Nees & Beutler, Basel

Ideally designed vacation house of standardized elements and flexible plan, in which the owner can alter the room layout as desired.

Single-family Row Houses in Arau

1961/62. Architect: Hans Zanger, Zurich; Associate: G. M. Bassin

This single-family housing complex is located 1 km from the centre of the town of Arau. It is designed for five families of up to three children, on two levels. The living tracts open towards the stairs.

Two Adjoining Single-family Houses at Therwil BL

1961/62. Architect: Wilfrid Steib BSA/SIA, Basel; Associate: Jean Riggenthaler, Basel

The two single-family houses, different in plan and in size but similar in construction, are accommodated beneath one roof.

Single-family Housing Complex at Münchenstein

1962. Architect: Benedikt Huber BSA/SIA, Zurich

The building code called for individual detached houses, and the relatively high real estate values demanded maximum utilization of ground. The arrangement selected gives each an unobstructed view, and the retaining walls and embanking tie the whole complex together into a unit.

Two Adjoining Single-family Houses at Sissach

1961/62. Architects: Rolf Limburg SIA and Walter Schindler, Zurich

The diagonally sloping site called for a double recessing of the houses by half a storey each. The houses are, again, so staggered in relation to each other that each has an independent secluded seating area.

Single-family House at Nussbaumen AG

1962. Architects: Karl Messmer & Rolf Graf, Baden AG

Three-storey house on gentle slope. The core of the house is a small stage for private concerts.

Architect's Private Home at Reinach

1961. Architect: Max Alioth, Basel

The shape of the house was determined by the exceptionally narrow site. Since the house is designed for only two persons, the various functions are accommodated in one large tract and disposed along staggered open galleries in line with the contours of the site.

S House at Muttenz BL

1961/62. Architects: Nico Bischoff SIA & Hans Rüegg, Basel

This house, a two-storey affair, had only 92 m² of the 600 m² of the total site allotted to it. Nevertheless, to create room for a family of five, the architects kept all rooms except the living-room as small as possible.

Single-family House at Engelburg SG

1961. Architect: Robert Hofer, Zurich

The compact layout was accommodated on a square plan without corridors. The central living tract extends in all four cardinal directions and is articulated into four sectors by the chimney-fireplace unit.

Single-family House at Benglen near Fällanden ZH

183

1961. Architect: Hans Litz SIA, Zurich; Engineers: Altdorfer, Cogliatti and Schellenberg

The house is the residence of six or seven people. The presence of the neighbouring farmhouse dictated the roof shape. This house and the farmhouse together constitute a tiny hamlet.

The Sculptor Rolf Luethi

186

by Stani von Moos

The sculptor Rolf Luethi, born in Basel in 1933, resident in Lucerne since 1959, was initiated at the Basel School of Applied Arts into the problems of plastic volumes, under the tutelage of Johannes Burla. The problems involving formal addition and variation appear in his independent work, which gets under way in 1957. His freely conceived figures in the round run the gamut from primordial organic shapes—fruits, boulders—and constructed geometrical designs based on a stereometric problem. As the works of the first group are characterized by a high degree of precise craftsmanship, those of the second group are inspired by the material employed and possess its weightiness. Rolf Luethi has also recently been called in by architects for assignments like mural reliefs and fountains.

Stages of Development of a Sculpture by Otto Münch

190

Proceeding from the shape of a supplicating figure in the parable of the merciless steward on his bronze portal on the Zurich Grossmünster (1950), Otto Münch in the years 1950, 1951, 1957 and 1963 created four sculptures in the round, some in bronze, some in stone, which strive to endow the theme with ever simpler form and more forceful expression.

Erwin Rehmann's Iron Figures

192

by Eugen Gomringer

The Laufenburg sculptor Erwin Rehmann (born 1921) designates a series of his works of the last four years "Spatial Events", "Iron Figures" and "Iron Walls". The "Spatial Events", the earliest group, consist of small soldered rods, welded together autogenously. These transparent, abstract configurations are the expression of inner action. In the "Iron Figures" plates and rods combine and evoke variations of the feeling of distress, of submission, of tension and release. Plastic concentration has attained its issue in the "Iron Walls" rooted firmly in the ground. They are composed of large plates applied from two sides and thus possess spatial depth. Their outline has become simpler, but there appear in these walls breaches, loci of destruction, which show that in the interior the pent-up forces had become all the more explosive.