



Zurich, 11 December 2020

Media release for media tour

## **Kunsthhaus Zürich: the David Chipperfield extension is complete**

**The Kunsthhaus extension was formally handed over to its new owners on 11 December 2020: after some twelve years of planning and construction, the building is now the property of the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthhaus. The project was completed within the cost ceiling of CHF 206 million. It is scheduled to become fully operational in October 2021. The environmentally pioneering extension designed by David Chipperfield Architects makes the Kunsthhaus the largest art museum in Switzerland.**

After some twelve years of project planning and construction, the Kunsthhaus extension has been completed. At a formal ceremony on 11 December 2020, the commissioning body – the Einfache Gesellschaft Kunsthhaus-Erweiterung (EGKE), made up of the City of Zurich, the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft (ZKG) and the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthhaus (SZK) – handed the keys to the building to its new owner, the SZK. The extension will be operated and used by the ZKG, in its capacity as patron association of the Kunsthhaus.

The idea for an extension developed by the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft in 2001 took shape thanks to an architecture competition held in 2008, in which the winning design was submitted by David Chipperfield Architects. Voters in Zurich approved construction of the extension in 2012. After a number of delays caused by appeals against the project, construction began in August 2015.

### **Enhancing Heimplatz as a cultural hub**

The extension enhances the urban landscape around Heimplatz in a number of ways. The Chipperfield building is compact and blends harmoniously into its architectural surroundings. The design of the façade is a subtle reference to the existing Kunsthhaus and the nearby buildings, and brings a metropolitan flair to Heimplatz. The art garden to the north of the



extension opens up a new, freely accessible area for the public. Together with the Schauspielhaus, the new ensemble enhances the status of Heimplatz as a cultural hub and also acts as a gateway to the university district. The building by David Chipperfield Architects is meticulously designed down to the last architectural detail. At its core is the central lobby, a place for encounters of all kinds. The materials used for the interior notably include (recycled) exposed concrete, light-coloured oak wood and white marble for the floors, as well as brass for elements of the wall coverings, doors, handrails, lifts and signage. The façade, elegantly contoured with pilasters, is fashioned from solid Jura limestone.

### **A trailblazing 2,000-Watt museum**

The extension is a pioneering step towards the 2000-Watt Society. The total energy required for construction (grey energy) and operation (heating, cooling, electricity) is far lower than that of recent museum buildings, and represents a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. A substantial proportion of the CO<sub>2</sub> savings are due to the building's compact form, geothermal probe and photovoltaic installations, and LED lighting.

### **A museum for art and the public**

Together with the existing Kunsthaus, which is linked to the Chipperfield building by a passage more than 70 metres in length running beneath Heimplatz, the new ensemble is the largest art museum in Switzerland. The area available for presenting art increases by 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> to a total of 11,500 m<sup>2</sup>. The enlarged Kunsthaus offers more than double the amount of public space. The central lobby, which is open to all, and the multi-purpose workshops provide space for interaction between art and the public and will enhance the scope for sharing and participation. The shop and bar, large event hall and art garden, all of which will be accessible outside museum hours, open the new Kunsthaus up to the city at large.

### **Art by Pipilotti Rist outside the museum**

An integral part of this large-scale project is the art and architecture work by Pipilotti Rist, who has created 'Tactile Lights', a light and video installation that can be experienced all over Heimplatz. At its centre is an artistically designed mast that projects round, coloured patches of light onto the surrounding façades and ground surfaces in the evenings during the darker months of the year, while videos breathe new life into the statues on the north façade of the Moser building. The art installation is designed in accordance with the façade



illumination set out in the 'Plan Lumière' lighting strategy. As they gradually advance, the round patches of colour forge a bond between the cultural institutions on Heimplatz. The installation will be switched on at 4 p.m. on Friday 11 December.

### **Construction costs within cost ceiling**

The project was completed within the maximum budget of CHF 206 million. Funding for the Kunsthaus extension came from the ZKG and the City of Zurich, with each contributing CHF 88 million. The canton added CHF 30 million from the lottery fund and also granted the SZK the right to build on the plot of land.

### **Preview in April/May, opening in October 2021**

The handover of the keys to the extension was to be followed by an open weekend, but this has had to be postponed owing to the pandemic. In April and May 2021 the Kunsthaus will be organizing a preview, with performances, guided tours and the installation of some initial works that are not climate-sensitive. The Chipperfield building will then close over the summer while the valuable works of art move in. The grand opening will take place on 9 and 10 October 2021, with the Kunsthaus Collection being presented for the first time on both sides of Heimplatz along with the prestigious private Bührle, Merzbacher and Looser collections. The enlarged museum will then be fully operational. Between 380,000 and 400,000 visitors per year are expected to pass through its doors.

The extension cements the national and international status of the Kunsthaus Zürich, which meets all the requirements for a museum in the 21st century. The expanded range of art on display and the enhanced art education programme will enrich cultural life in the city of Zurich and appeal to visitors from far beyond Switzerland.

### **PUBLICATION MARKING THE COMPLETION**

To coincide with the completion of the project, the commissioning body is bringing out the second of three commemorative publications. The first, entitled 'The Architectural History of the Kunsthaus Zürich 1910–2020', appeared in spring 2020; the second looks at how the new complex meets the challenges of a museum for the 21st century. 'The New Kunsthaus Zürich. Museum for Art and Public' is published by Scheidegger & Spiess and is available from bookstores and the museum shop, price CHF 15.



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**Note to media:**

For further information, contact

- Franziska Martin, Head of Communications, City of Zurich's Building Surveyor's Office,  
tel. +41 (0)44 412 29 74, [franziska.martin@zuerich.ch](mailto:franziska.martin@zuerich.ch)
- Björn Quellenberg, Head of Communications and Marketing, Kunsthaus Zürich,  
tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 11, [bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch](mailto:bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch)
- Nina Helten, Head of Communications, David Chipperfield Architects Berlin,  
Tel. +49 162 203 25 45, [nina.helten@davidchipperfield.de](mailto:nina.helten@davidchipperfield.de)

Visual materials as well as further documentation can be downloaded from the websites of the [City of Zurich](#) and [Kunsthaus Zürich](#):

- Live stream of the handover ceremony on 11.12.2020
- Virtual tour of the extension
- Visual materials
- 'Tactile Lights' video with Corine Mauch, Mayor of Zurich, and Pipilotti Rist
- Fact sheet
- Plan documents



## Extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich

### Completion of construction

### Fact sheet for the handover on 11 December 2020

#### Property

Extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich,  
Heimplatz, 8001 Zurich

#### Project organization

Commissioning body	Einfache Gesellschaft Kunsthaus-Erweiterung (EGKE) Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft (ZKG), City of Zurich, Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus (SZK)
Project management (EGKE)	City of Zurich, Building Surveyor's Office
Architecture	David Chipperfield Architects, Berlin, Germany
Construction engineer	IG EKZH, Uster
Building technology	Polke, Ziege, von Moos, Zurich Heft, Hess, Martignoni AG, Aarau
Building physics	Kopitsis Bauphysik AG, Wohlen
Landscape architecture	Wirtz International, Schoten, Belgium
Signage	L2M3 Kommunikationsdesign, GmbH, Stuttgart, D
Art and architecture project	Pipilotti Rist, Zurich

#### Key dates

Architecture competition	2008
Popular vote	25 November 2012
Start of construction	August 2015
Construction completed	December 2020
Opening	October 2021

#### Construction costs

Costs including reserves	CHF 206 million
of which from City of Zurich	CHF 88 million
of which from Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft	CHF 88 million
of which from Canton of Zurich	CHF 30 million from lottery fund & plot of land with building rights

#### Owner

Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus (SZK)

#### Operator / user from March 2021

Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft (ZKG)

#### Switzerland's largest art museum

Together with the existing building, the complex is the largest art museum in Switzerland.

#### Dimensions

L/W/H: 60m x 60m x 21m (south side, Heimplatz / 17m on north side)

- Net floor space 18,700 m<sup>2</sup>
- Space for art 5,040 m<sup>2</sup>, including French art and Impressionism 550 m<sup>2</sup>
- E.G. Bührle Collection Foundation 960 m<sup>2</sup>
- Classical Modernism 1,070 m<sup>2</sup>
- Contemporary art from 1960 900 m<sup>2</sup>
- Temporary exhibitions 710 m<sup>2</sup>



- Public areas 2,980 m<sup>2</sup>, including art education 330 m<sup>2</sup>
- Ballroom incl. catering 800 m<sup>2</sup>
- Visitor services / lobby 1,610 m<sup>2</sup>
- Bar 120 m<sup>2</sup>
- Shop 120 m<sup>2</sup>

### Principal areas

Lobby with main entrance, bar, museum shop, ballroom, group rooms and workshops for art education, exhibition rooms for collection and temporary exhibitions, underground connection (passage) to the Karl Moser building, art garden.

### Art in the extension

French painting and Impressionism, Classical Modernism, contemporary art, photography, video, performance, medium-sized temporary exhibitions, Emil Bührle Collection, Merzbacher Collection, Looser Collection.

### Art and architecture project

Title	'Tactile Lights', 2020
Concept and execution	Pipilotti Rist in collaboration with Kaori Kuwabara, lighting designer, Zurich
Plan Lumière	City of Zurich Civil Engineering Office, planning and execution with Matí Licht AG and Atelier Rist
'Tactile Lights' inauguration	Friday 11 December 2020, 4 p.m.
Hours of operation	October to March, from dusk to midnight as well as at special events throughout the year
Project description:	Multi-part installation, comprising a 15m-high mast on Heimplatz as source for the dynamic light projections on the buildings and ground surfaces around Heimplatz.
History of the work	The first stage of 'Tactile Lights' in the Moser building was commissioned by the Kunsthaus Zürich. The second stage on Heimplatz was created from 2017 to 2020 on behalf of the commissioning body EGKE.

## Sources for further information

### Websites

Kunsthaus Zürich: [www.kunsthaus.ch/en/museum/ueber-uns/erweiterung/](http://www.kunsthaus.ch/en/museum/ueber-uns/erweiterung/)

City of Zurich, Building Surveyor's Office: [www.stadt-zuerich.ch/kunsthaus-erweiterung](http://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/kunsthaus-erweiterung)

### Contacts for questions

Planning and construction, art and architecture project:

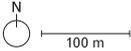
- City of Zurich, Building Surveyor's Office:  
Franziska Martin, Head of Communications,  
e-mail: [franziska.martin@zuerich.ch](mailto:franziska.martin@zuerich.ch), tel. +41 (0)44 412 29 74

Operation and use:

- Kunsthaus Zürich:  
Björn Quellenberg, Head of Communications and Marketing,  
e-mail: [bjorn.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch](mailto:bjorn.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch), tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 11

Drawing information

Site plan (original scale 1:7500)  
Filename 847\_06\_D\_SP\_7500  
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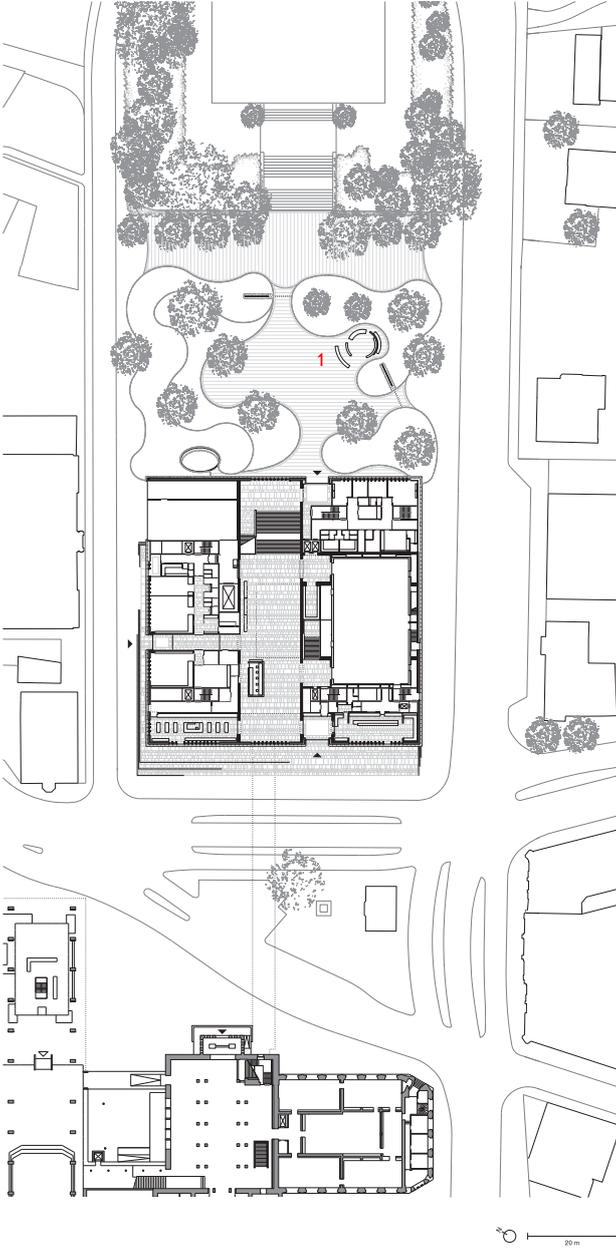
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Drawing information

Ground floor plan with surroundings (original scale 1:1000)  
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Key  
1 'Rondell'

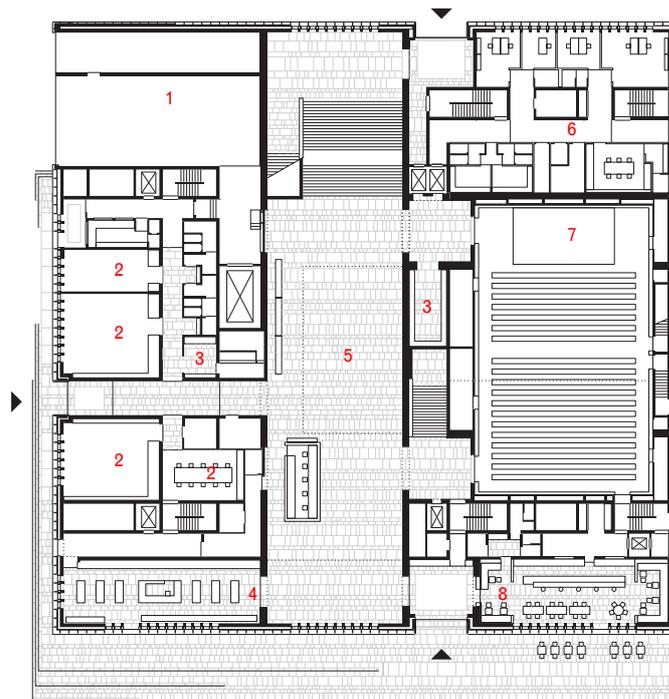
Drawing information

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Ground floor plan (original scale 1:750)

Filename 847\_06\_D\_PG\_750

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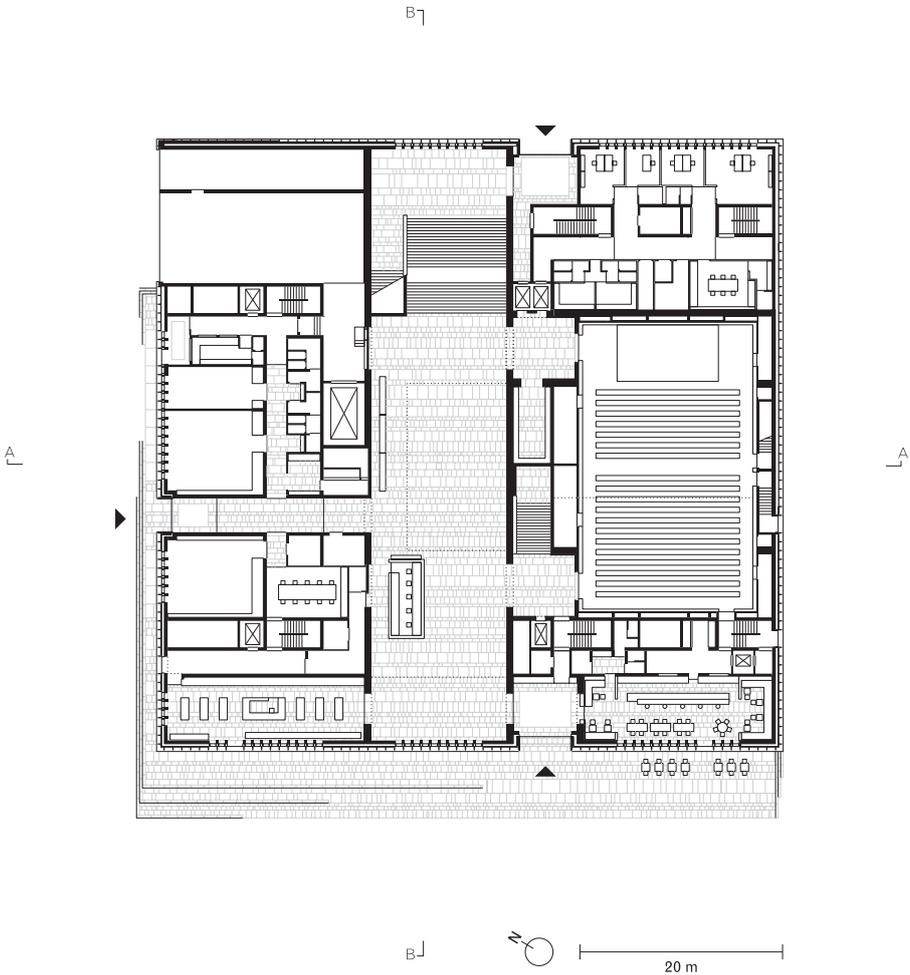


Key

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1 Delivery  | 5 Main hall      |
| 2 Education | 6 Administration |
| 3 Cloakroom | 7 Event hall     |
| 4 Bookshop  | 8 Café, bar      |

Drawing information

Ground floor plan with section lines (original scale 1:750)  
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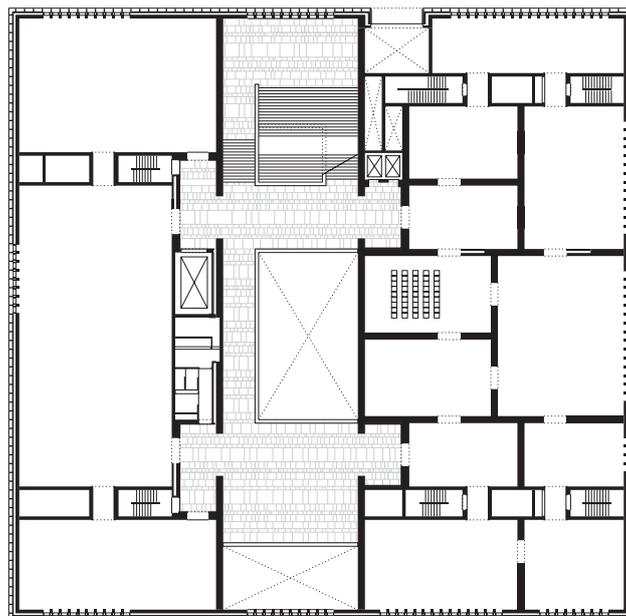
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First floor plan – Exhibition (original scale 1:750)

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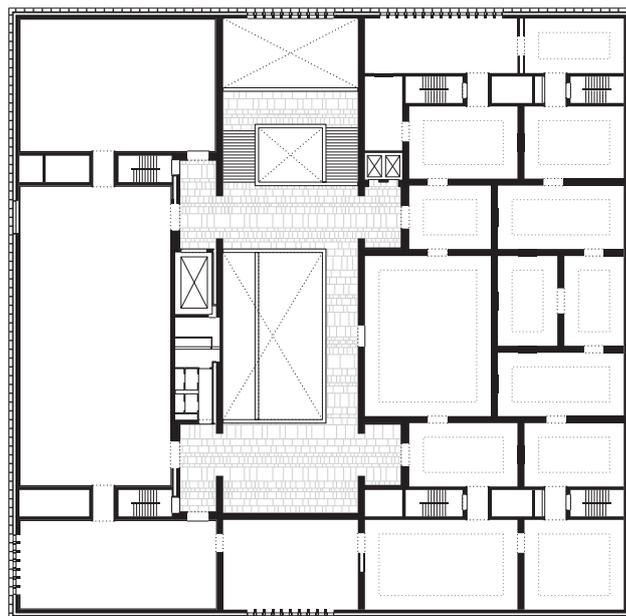
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Second floor plan – Exhibition (original scale 1:750)

Filename 847\_06\_D\_P2\_750

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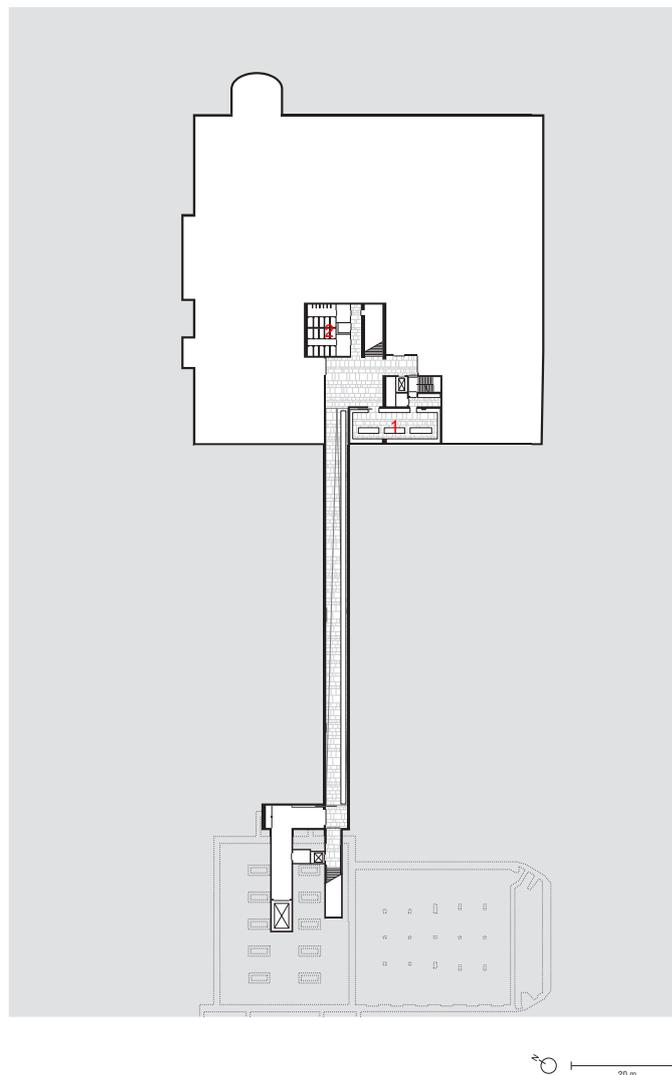
Drawing information

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Lower ground floor plan – public area (original scale 1:750)

Filename 847\_06\_D\_PLG\_750

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Key

- 1 Cloakroom
- 2 Restrooms

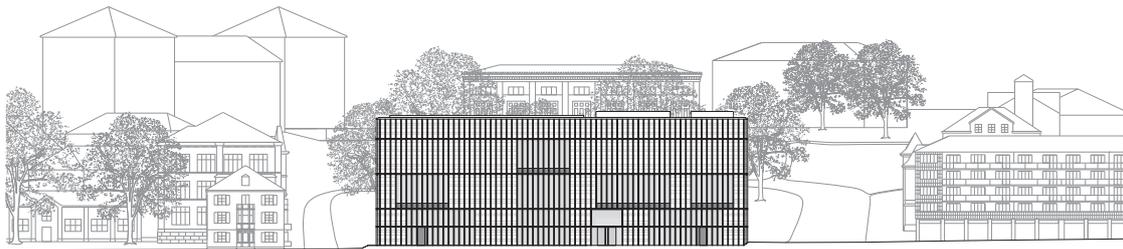
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9/15

South elevation (original scale 1:750)

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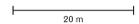
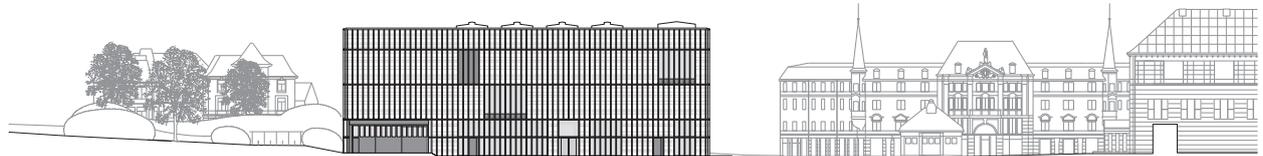
Drawing information

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West elevation (original scale 1:750)

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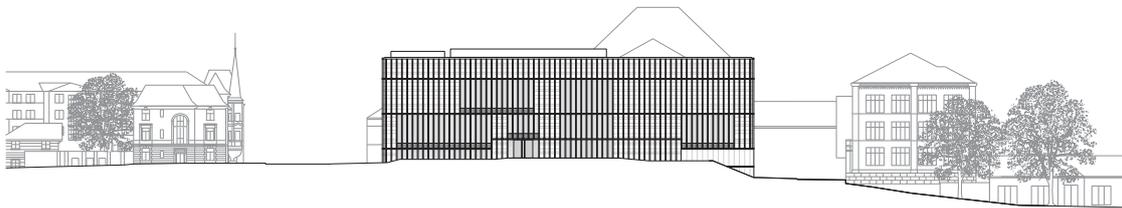
Drawing information

11/15

North elevation (original scale 1:750)

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20 m

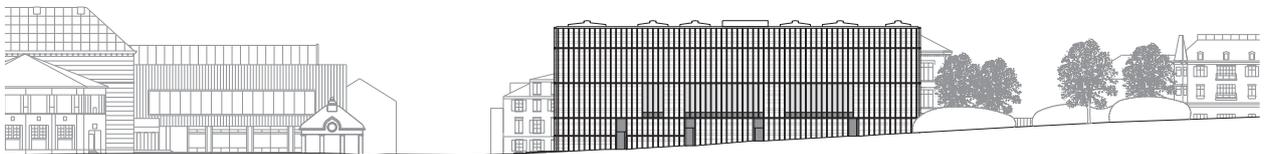
Drawing information

12/15

East elevation (original scale 1:750)

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Drawing information

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Cross section (original scale 1:750)

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20 m

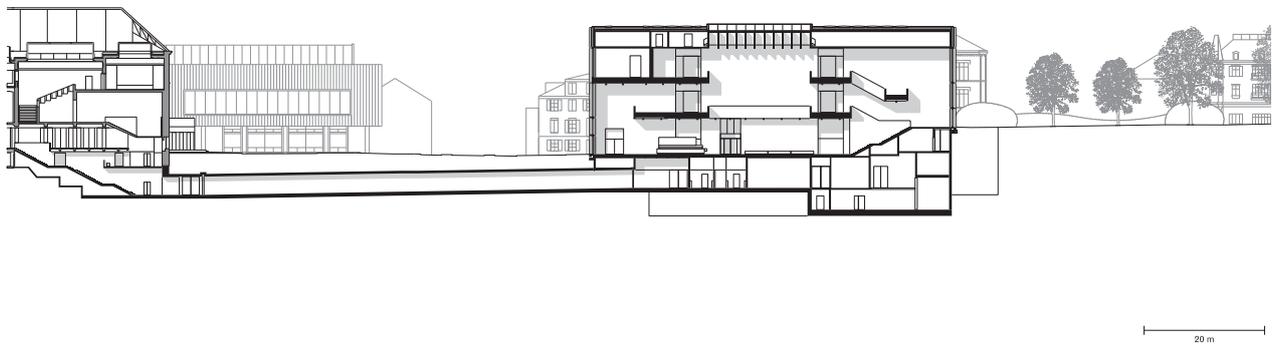
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Longitudinal section (original scale 1:750)

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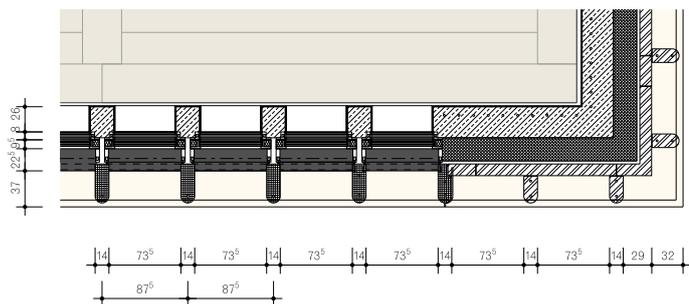
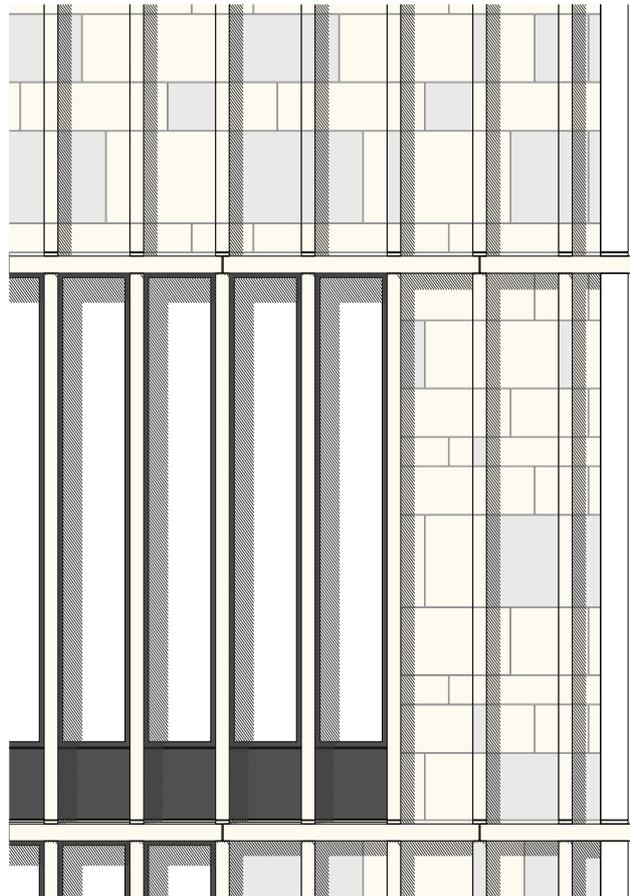
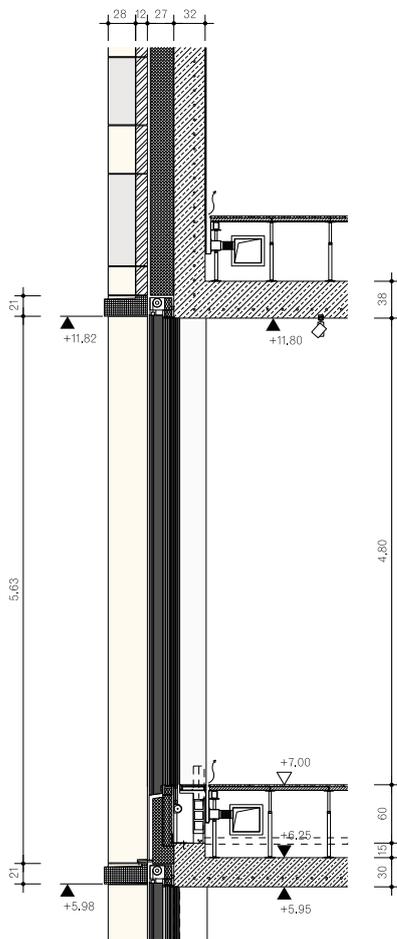
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Drawing information

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Façade detail (Original scale 1:50)  
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The new Kunsthaus Zürich extension, designed by David Chipperfield Architects Berlin, expands the existing Kunsthaus museum, situated between the Grossmünster church and the university. The Kunsthaus Zürich now represents the largest art museum in Switzerland, comprising four buildings from different eras – the Moser building dating 1910, the Pfister building dating 1958, the Müller building dating 1976 and now the Chipperfield extension dating 2020. The new freestanding building houses the collection of classic modernism, the Bührle collection, temporary exhibitions and art from 1960 onwards.

Based on the 'Central Campus' masterplan published in 2007, the museum buildings and the Schauspielhaus theatre located on the east side of the urban square Heimplatz, form a 'gateway to the arts' as an urban entry to the 'education mile'. Here, the large freestanding buildings of Zurich's universities are lined up like a string of pearls leading northwards. The urban concept for the extension envisaged the placement of a clear geometric volume on the northern edge of the square. The building form takes inspiration from the old cantonal school, built in 1842 to the north of the site, which defines the urban frame with its architectural clarity. The urban plan defines two new external spaces: the urban square to the south, framed on all four sides by buildings and the new art garden to the north as an open and permeable natural environment. An expansive entrance hall, spanning the full length of the building, creates a link between these two new urban spaces. Due to its low-threshold accessibility it likewise acts as a public link between the institution and the city. A visitor passageway running underneath the square connects the new building with the existing Kunsthaus, creating one institutional entity.

The architectural identity is modelled on traditional stone façades, as found in the existing Kunsthaus and many other significant public buildings in Zurich. The extension building is therefore embedded in a building culture that is an expression of an enlightened civil society. The new building combines tradition and innovation through slender vertical fins crafted from local Jurassic limestone with sawn surfaces and placed at regular intervals in the façade, embedding the building in its urban and cultural context in a contemporary manner.

The internal organisation is based on the concept of a 'house of rooms'. This idea finds its expression in the different design of the rooms in terms of size, orientation, materiality and lighting, giving each room its own character and creating a diverse sequence of rooms. All public functions such as the café/bar, events hall, museum shop and museum education services are arranged around the central entrance hall at ground floor level, while the two upper floors are reserved exclusively for the display of art. The varyingly dimensioned exhibition spaces are characterised by a calm materiality and an abundance of daylight – side light on the first floor and skylight openings on the second floor – placing the immediate experience of art at the centre of the museum visit.

Competition	2008
Project start	2009
Completion due	2020
Gross floor area	23,300 m <sup>2</sup>
Client	Einfache Gesellschaft Kunsthaus Erweiterung – EGKE
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin

Competition	2008
Project start	2009
Construction start	2015
Completion	2020
Opening	2021
Gross floor area	23,300 m <sup>2</sup>
Client	Einfache Gesellschaft Kunsthaus Erweiterung – EGKE
User	Kunsthaus Zürich   Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin
Partners	David Chipperfield, Christoph Felger (Design lead), Harald Müller
Project architects	Hans Krause (Competition, Concept design), Barbara Koller (Schematic design, Design development, Technical design), Jan Parth (Technical design, Site design supervision), Markus Bauer (Deputy project architect, 2009–2014), Robert Westphal (Deputy project architect, 2015–2020)
Project team	Wolfgang Baumeister, Leander Bulst, Beate Dauth, Kristen Finke, Pavel Frank, Anne Hengst, Ludwig Jahn, Frithjof Kahl, Guido Kappius, Jan-Philipp Neuer, Mariska Rohde, Diana Schaffranek, Eva-Maria Stadelmann, Marc Warrington; Graphics, Visualisation: Konrad Basan, Dalia Liksaite, Maude Orban, Ken Polster, Antonia Schlegel, Simon Wiesmaier, Ute Zscharnt
Competition team	Ivan Dimitrov, Kristen Finke, Annette Flohrschütz, Pavel Frank, Gesche Gerber, Peter von Matuschka, Sebastian von Oppen, Mariska Rohde, Franziska Rusch, Lilli Scherner, Lani Tran Duc, Marc Warrington; Graphics, Visualisation: Dalia Liksaite, Antonia Schlegel, Ute Zscharnt <i>In collaboration with</i>
Executive architect	b + p baurealisation ag, Zurich (Procurement, Construction supervision), Project architects: David Michel, Christian Gruober
Overall management	Niels Hochuli, Dreicon AG, Zurich
Fire consultant	Gruner AG, Basel ContiSwiss, Zurich
Façade consultant	Emmer Pfenninger Partner AG, Munchenstein
Lighting consultant	matí AG Lichtgestaltung, Adliswil (Artificial light) Institut für Tageslichttechnik, Stuttgart (Daylight)

## Quotes

The project for the extension of Kunsthaus Zürich brings together the fundamental concerns of museum design with the responsibilities created by both the urban context and the relationship with the existing museum. From the outset, we have sought to invest the museum with the physical qualities that enhance the experience of the museum visitor while considering the civic nature of the building and the institution. We hope that the quality of the architecture, its spatial, formal and material resolution will guarantee that the extension, like Karl Moser's original building, becomes an integral part of the physical, social and cultural infrastructure of the city of Zurich.

David Chipperfield

Our vision for the new Kunsthaus Zürich was to create an accessible and social place to enjoy art, rather than an exclusive temple for art – 'a place to go' for everyone.

Christoph Felger, Partner and Design director, David Chipperfield Architects Berlin

The way we have selected and used materials follows the primary idea of exposing the load-bearing structure of the building, making it both visible and tangible. We have only added a few key materials, which dress the exposed concrete rather than cover it up: marble, brass and wood. In the construction phase, we were able to rely on Swiss craftsmanship, which draws on a long tradition and constantly pushes forward new developments.

Jan Parth, Project architect