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Schaulager Erweiterung

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The Laurenz Foundational is planning an extension to Schaulager to accommodate the steadily growing collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation. A connecting structure will link the two buildings. The extension will reflect the architectural idiom of the existing Schaulager, with the facade consisting of gravel from the Birs River, excavated on-site. It is set off against three large white panels of steel that mark the entrance. While the panels on the existing building are concave, forming a spacious forecourt, those on the extension to the west appear detached and rest on two small, protruding entrance structures housing the café and bookshop, respectively. Additional uses are planned, including seminar rooms and an auditorium. The new Schaulager building contributes to the ongoing transformation of the once industrial area of the Dreispitz Areal into a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood that is part of Basel.

Schaulager stores the works in the collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann on visible display under state-of-the-art, climate-controlled conditions. The collection is open to professionals by appointment. The extension builds on this basic philosophy and reinterprets it to meet the current and future needs of the collection.

The new extension to the west mirrors the existing Schaulager to the east and their entrances face each other in opposite directions. Both buildings are connected by a slim, taller building for deliveries and technical services. The familiar entrance of the original polygonal building is characterized by three large white steel plates. Being concave, they create a spacious, protected area in front of the building that is accessed through a small gatehouse.

The new building to the west adopts these features and enters into a dialogue with the existing building. Its green forecourt is flanked by two small protruding, one-story structures, one of which accommodates the café and the other, the main entrance with bookshop and cloakroom. These two low-lying structures are integrated into the forecourt and supporting the three large white steel plates. Instead of an opening that reaches inwards, they stand off from the building and afford a view into the interior. Together, they define the inviting gesture of the forecourt and open the ground floor of the façade to accommodate the main entrance. Inside, the panels leaning on the body of the building provide room for an atrium with a view of all five floors, as in the existing building. Flexible galleries for installing the works of art are planned on each floor. The floor plan is based on the original building. The extension has a more flexible technical grid, so that the height and dimensions of the spaces on each of the floors are variable. Delivery and art handling also meet these requirements.

The thick walls of the façade, made of gravel from the Birs River, have proven effective as a passive means of regulating the temperature. Like the flexible layout of the spaces, they too contribute to the longevity of the buildings. The mandate to ensure that the project generates surplus energy is fulfilled by installing geothermal probes and large-scale photovoltaic systems on the roofs and the south facade.

Schaulager with such uses as a café, facilities for education and seminars, an auditorium and a public reference library blend seamlessly into the expansion of the city to the south: the Dreispitz Areal is rapidly becoming a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood that contains housing, cultural venues, higher education facilities, offices and green spaces.