

Nuova serie / New series n. 12 - 2024

ARCHALP

Rivista internazionale di architettura e paesaggio alpino / Revue internationale d'architecture et de paysage dans les Alpes / Internationale Zeitschrift für Alpine Architektur und Landschaft / Revija za alpsko arhitekturo in pokrajino / International journal of alpine architecture and landscape



Risorsa e costruzione. Architetture in legno nelle Alpi

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Copertina / Cover: detail of the façade of the Salgenreute chapel, Bernardo Bader

Architekten, Krumbach, 2016 (Photo Cristian Dallere)

Errata corrige

Nel numero 11-2023, nella didascalia di p. 72 compare erroneamente come immagine d'apertura Église du Sacré-Coeur, Brig, Atelier coopératif d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme (ACAU), 1970 (Nadine Iten), la didascalia corretta è: Église St-Nicolas d'Hérémence, Hérémence, Walter Förderer, 1967 (Michel Martinez), ce ne scusiamo con gli autori e i lettori / In No. 11-2023 issue of ArchAlp, the captions on pages 72 erroneously report as the opening image Église du Sacré-Coeur, Brig, Atelier coopératif d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme (ACAU), 1970 (Nadine Iten), the correct caption is Église St-Nicolas d'Hérémence, Hérémence, Walter Förderer, 1967 (Michel Martinez). We sincerely apologise to the authors and our readers.

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**Politecnico
di Torino**

Dipartimento
di Architettura e Design

Dipartimento di Architettura e Design
Politecnico di Torino
Viale Mattioli 39, 10125 Torino - Italy
Tel. (+39) 0110905806
fax (+39) 0110906379
iam@polito.it
www.polito.it/iam

Fondazione Bologna University Press

Via Saragozza 10, 40124 Bologna - Italy
Tel. (+39) 051232882
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Experiences in Vorarlberg

Edited by Cristian Dallere

This review of selected projects within the Vorarlberg region aims to highlight several architectures, focusing particularly on their construction quality, a distinctive element of the regional architectural production. The projects are grouped by functional theme: starting with an industrial building, specifically a carpentry, moving on to public and private buildings characterized by hybrid spaces capable of hosting a mixed functional program; additionally, there are some school buildings, an office building, and, finally, some residential buildings. The selected projects share the common feature of having a wooden supporting structure, with different construction systems, from frame structures to cross-laminated ones sometimes associated with other technologies such as reinforced concrete.

Simon Moosbrugger architekt
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Simon Moosbrugger architekt

Rüscher Tischlerei

Location:

Schnepfau, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2021-2023

Project category:

Production

Photos:

Simon Oberhofer



The new Rüscher joinery workshop is positioned on the green area in front of the town, extending along the mighty Kanisfluh's entire length. Thanks to the clarity of the finely structured wooden façade and the economical height development, the building absorbs the essential characteristics of the location. It is thus able to integrate into the structural fabric of the village.

The production hall is equipped with roof glazing, which enables highly uniform and glare-free lighting. All material and passenger traffic is handled via the eastern facade, which meant that the

remaining sides of the building could be designed free of logistical requirements. While the machine hall and the crafts area were designed to be extra high (two-story height) for reasons of long-term flexibility and clarity within the building, the northern part of the building has two floors with the surface workshop on the ground floor and the office, employee and customer rooms on the upper floor. Using trusses made of beech wood opens up unrestricted views of both the wooden structure of the workshop and the varied landscape of the rear Bregenzerwald.

Opening picture

Revitalisierung
Kriechere 70, Innauer
Matt Architekten,
Bezau, Vorarlberg,
2022 (photo Adolf
Bereuter).

Fig. 1

View of the South
elevation.

Fig. 2

General view of the
West elevation.



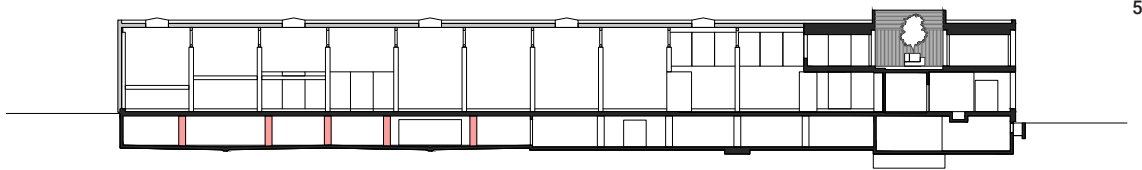
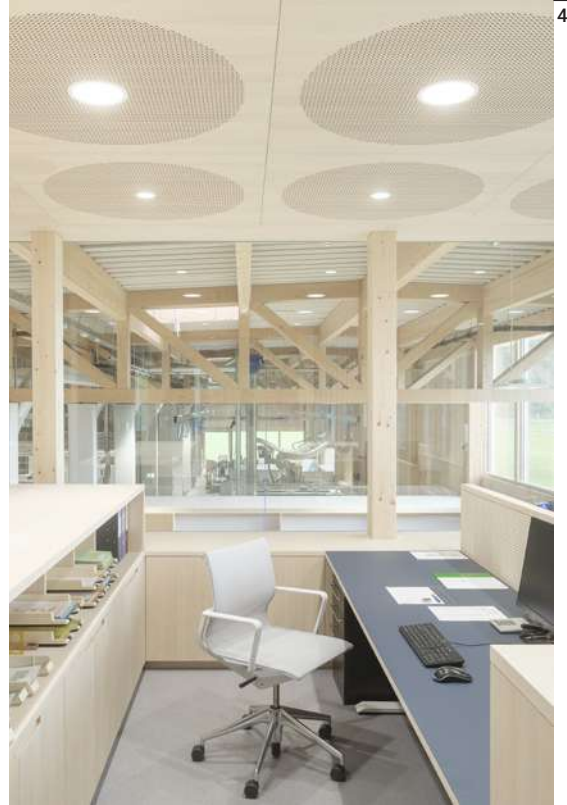


Fig. 3

Internal view of the
work lunchroom.

Fig. 4

Internal view of the
office.

Fig. 5

Longitudinal section.

Fig. 6

Internal view of the
joinery.



**Bernardo Bader Architekten + Bechter Zaffignani
Architekten + Hermann Kaufmann Architekten**

Pfarrhaus Krumbach

Location:

Krumbach, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2014

Project category:

Multifunctional

Photos:

Cristian Dallere



For over ten years, the municipality of Krumbach pursued a very committed construction programme, which essentially concerned the structural development of the village centre. The rectory is seen as a preliminary ‘milestone’ in this process. As a cultural and multipurpose building, the rectory plays an essential role in Krumbach’s public life, reinforced by its spatial presence in the village square. Inside the building is a parish hall (small village hall), the parish office with rectory accommodation, a library, and the rehearsal room for the music club and choir. The building is built according to pas-

sive house standards. The structure of the building, starting from the concrete base, houses a semi-base-ment floor and is made of wood with a high degree of prefabrication. The wall and ceiling coverings and some structural wood come directly from the Krumbach forests (within a radius of less than 30km). The floors, except for the entrance area, are in solid oak. The outer shell is rough-sawn white fir. Only the entrance area has an earth-coloured natural granite stone floor. In 2015, the project won the international Constructive Alps prize and the regional Vorarlberger Holzbaupreis.



Fig. 1
Internal view of the
stairs.

Fig. 2
External view.

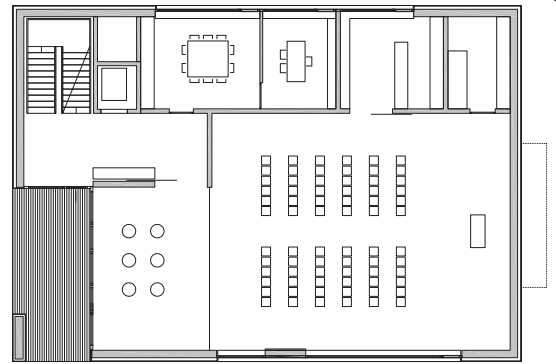
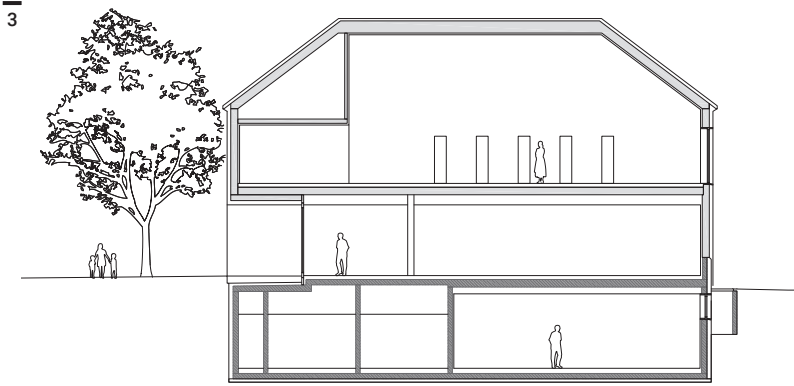


Fig. 3
Longitudinal section.

Fig. 4
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 5
View of the North-
East elevation.

Fig. 6
Internal view of the
library.

Bernardo Bader Architekten

Schule und Saal

Location:

Laterns, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2011

Project category:

Multifunctional

Photos:

Matteo Tempestini



The main objective of the designers was to enter into dialogue with the existing village layout. The consistent use of wood as a building material must be seen as a vote to continue a local building tradition. The combination of the schoolhouse and the community hall is a simple operation. However, it aims to be a convincing attempt to reactivate a traditional way of building without stumbling into the abyss of superficial and local architecture. It can be said that this is exactly what historic buildings teach us. Rural mountain construction brings together different functions

under one roof: housing, stables, warehouses and workspaces. The subtlety of the intervention can only be revealed at a second glance. The project consists of two simple and compact volumes connected by a system of squares on three levels. The structure of the buildings and the external and internal cladding are made of white and red fir wood coming exclusively from forests located in the municipality of Laterns; coherent and exemplary sustainable construction, in 2013, the project won the Vorarlberger Holzbaupreis, and in 2015, the Vorarlberger Hypo Bauherrenpreis.

Fig. 1

External view of the East elevation.

Fig. 2

External view of the new space between the two buildings.

Fig. 3

Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4

Longitudinal section of the school.

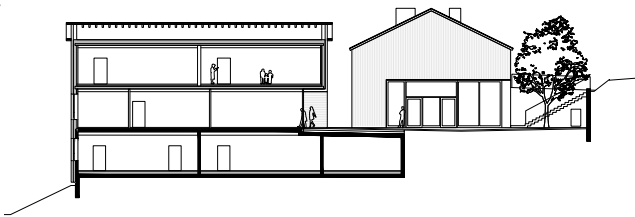
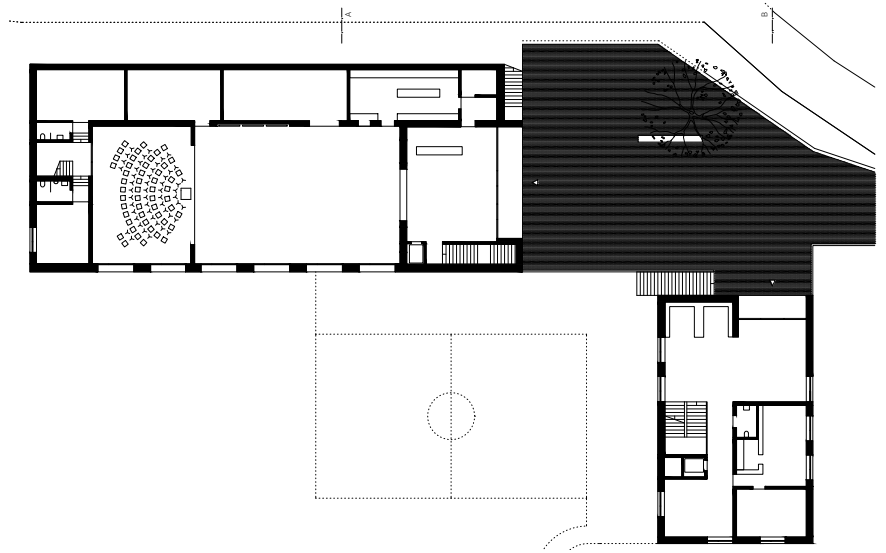
Fig. 5

Cross section of the multifunctional hall.

Fig. 6

Internal view of the multifunctional hall.





Innauer Matt Architekten

Revitalisierung Kriechere 70

Location:

Bezau, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2022

Project category:

Multifunctional

Photos:

Adolf Bereuter

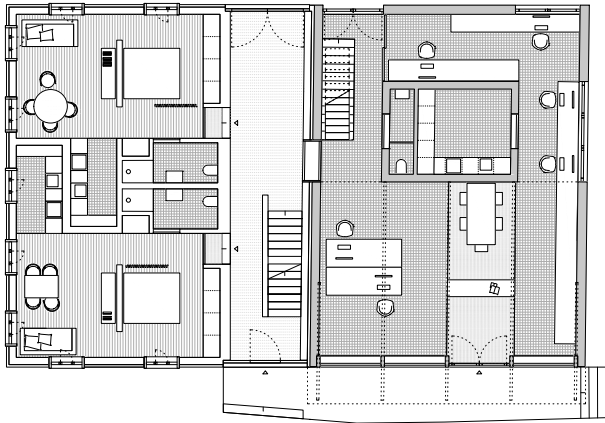


The building undergoing intervention has a rich and significant history marked by a series of transformations. Originally a stable where cows were once housed, it later became the home of the Hiller family of photographers. Johann Kaspar Hiller laid the foundation as the first photographer in the Bregenzerwald. His daughter Hedwig continued the legacy as Vorarlberg's first professional photographer and engaged the young architect from Bezau, Leopold Kaufmann, to establish her photography studio. The establishment of the photography stu-

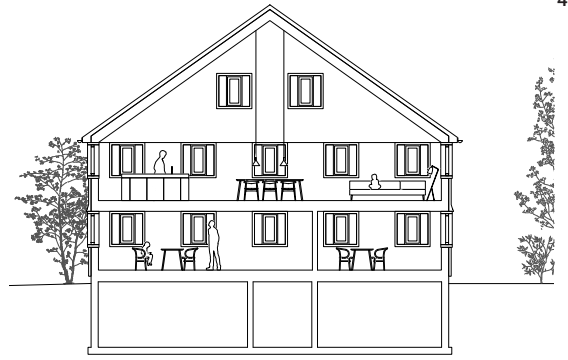
dio and shop within the former stables of the Bregenzerwälderhaus marked the architect's initial and enduring contribution, greatly influencing Vorarlberg's building culture. However, by the mid-1990s, the studio had ceased operations. After twenty years of disuse, in 2012, Hedwig Hiller decided to lease her studio to architects Markus Innauer and Sven Matt of the Innauer Matt architecture studio, with the stipulation that the building remain unaltered. Heavily weathered and degraded over time, the building was found to be in need of renovation in 2021. Thus, a building collective was formed to undertake the task collectively, with preserving the photography studio as the top priority. The deteriorated residential wing could no longer be maintained, leading to the construction of a new house around the historic photography studio. This new structure adhered to the original building's formal language without flattery, maintaining the original subdivision of the Bregenzerwälderhaus - Vorderhaus, Tenne, Hinterhaus. Today, the building comprises three apartments and an architectural office across three floors, sharing the same roof. The new building is made of masonry and timber; it features generous openings with spruce wood frames, which have been positioned faithfully to the original and underline the horizontal lines of the building. The wooden shingled facade design preserves the original aesthetic and creates a welcoming atmosphere. On the ground floor of the front building there are two studio apartments, on the upper floor and in the attic there is a 3-room maisonette apartment with a south-facing roof terrace. The vertical access area between the front and rear buildings, once a farmyard, serves as access to the apartments and the office.



3



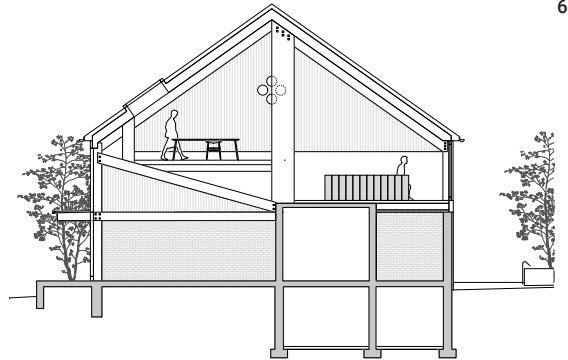
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6



7

Fig. 1
External view of the
architectural office.

Fig. 2
General view from
the street.

Fig. 3
Ground floor plan.

Figs. 4-6
Cross Sections.

Fig. 5
North elevation.

Fig. 7
Internal view of the
architectural office.



Bernardo Bader Architekten

Kinderhaus im Park

Location:

Egg, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2020-2022

Project category:

Education

Photos:

Cristian Dallere



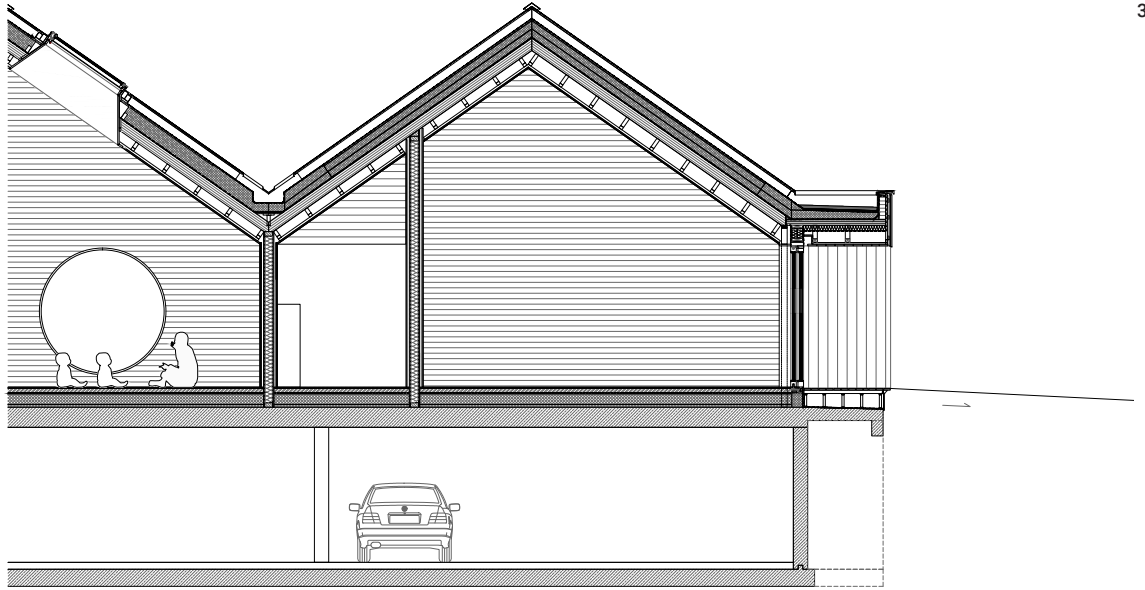
To further strengthen the services in the centre of the Bregenzerwald, the children's centre was deliberately located in Egg, the largest municipality in the region. To pursue this objective, a design competition was announced in 2020, with strong participation from the local community in choosing the winning project. Distributionally, the children's rooms are divided along a sizeable central corridor, with an open and stimulating relationship between them. A square in the centre of the building becomes the meeting point for the kindergarten activities.

The new children's centre was designed as a single-storey timber building. The prefabricated external walls and roof elements made it possible to reduce construction times. Illuminated on all sides and with room heights of up to six metres, the communal and group areas look more like study spaces than standard nursery rooms. Materials such as waxed casein flooring, glass and softwood reinforce this impression. The building has been carefully designed for direct users to encourage them to work and understand independently.



Fig. 1
External view of the
North façade.

Fig. 2
General view from
North-West.

**Fig. 3**

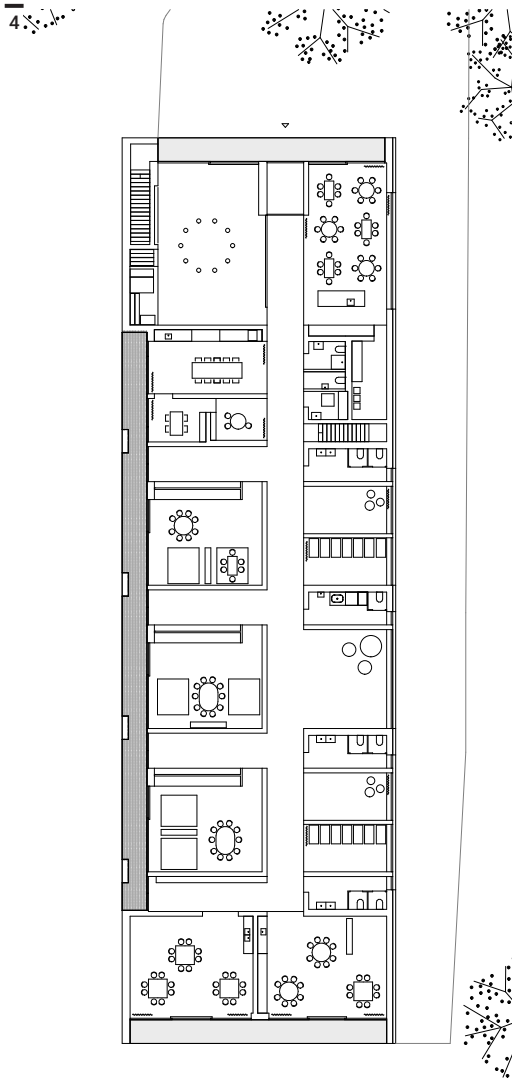
Detail longitudinal section.

Fig. 4

Ground floor plan.

Fig. 5

Internal view.



Innauer Matt Architekten

Kindergarten am Engelbach

Location:

Lustenau, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2017-2019

Project category:

Education

Photos:

Adolf Bereuter



The new kindergarten is set back from the street, creating space for an open, public square with high life and usability. The maximized open space with a playground and public lawn is oriented towards the Grindel Canal and offers children and residents of the surrounding area a high-quality recreational area.

The new kindergarten building is designed as a compact, two-story structure with a multi-layered interior world. It is open on the inside and outdoors and features spacious access and communication zones. Natural local wood and metal window frames underline the house's simple yet atmospheric architectural semantics.

With concern for sustainability and following today's energy and ecological requirements, the building was constructed as a mixed construction of wood and concrete. A basic structure of bracing core walls is complemented by prefabricated wooden wall and ceiling elements. Using high-quality, ecological and regionally available materials, energy-efficient building services systems, and renewable energy protects nature and the environment and marks the next step towards sustainable building.



Fig. 1

Internal view of the play area.

Fig. 2

General view of the East elevation.

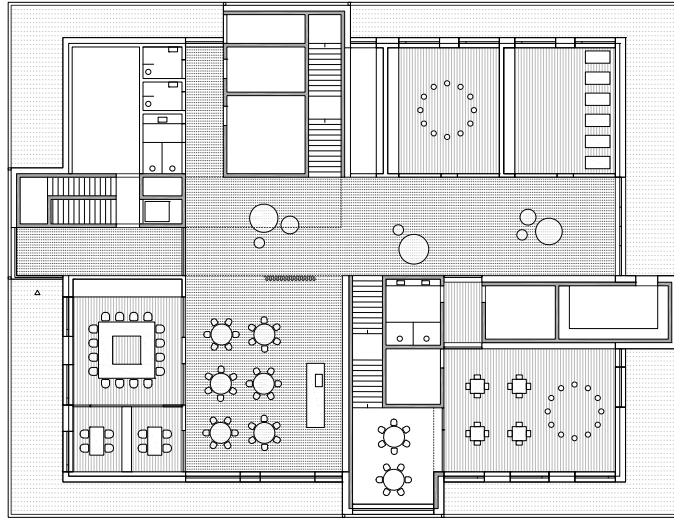


Fig. 3
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4
Section.

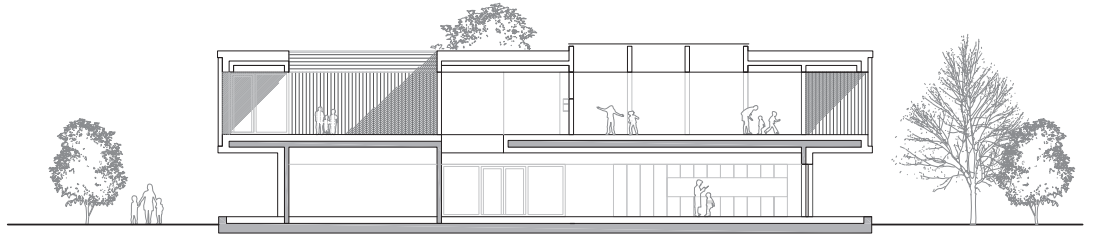


Fig. 5
Internal view of a
group area.



Innauer Matt Architekten

Kinderhaus Kreuzfeld

Location:

Altach, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2019-2023

Project category:

Education

Photos:

Dominic Kummer



The new Kindergarten Kreuzfeld is an essential milestone in the development of the Kreuzfeld neighbourhood in Altach and unites kindergarten and infant care under one roof. With the newly added building, a neighbourhood centre has been created, establishing an identity and radiating into the village as a place of social encounter.

The kindergarten appears as a wooden pavilion with a playfully structured façade, which displays an immediate expression of the timber building. The structure alternately creates niches and solid surfaces, whereby the building gains lightness. The

façade's natural wood will develop a pleasant patina over time, ensuring the building's place within the evolved village structure. The material and design concepts are strongly influenced by the teachers' and children's desire for cosiness and calmness. The interiors are lined with solid, untreated wood surfaces, creating pleasant and spacious playrooms. Combined with curtains made of soft natural fabrics and robust terrazzo floors on which children are welcome to play, a harmonious whole is created that comprehensively meets the children's and educational needs.

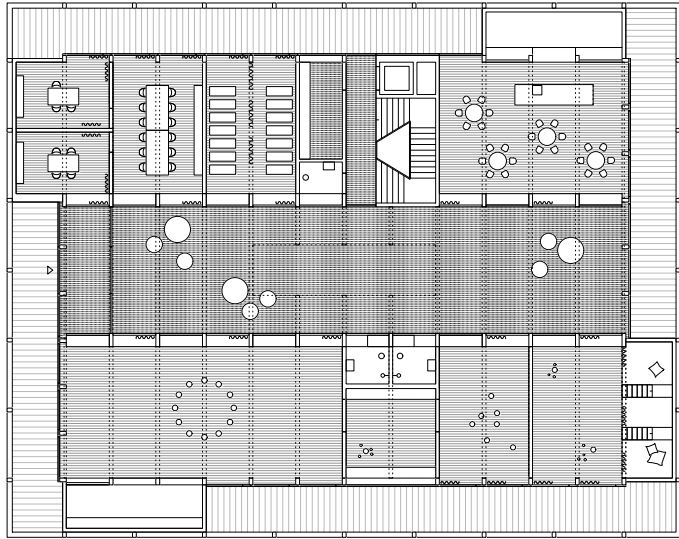


Fig. 1

Detailed external view of the entrance.

Fig. 2

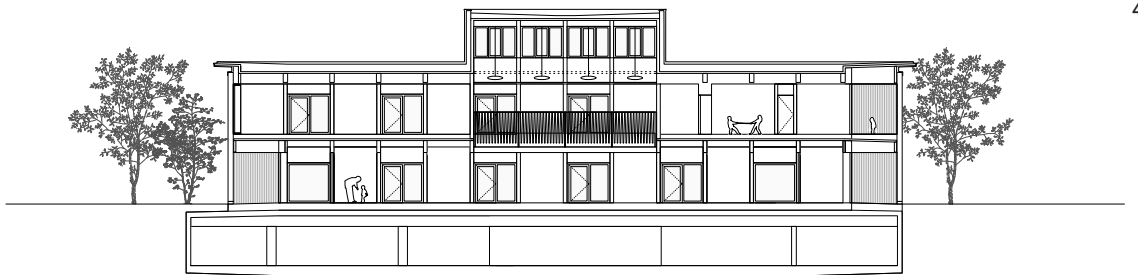
General view of the East elevation.

**Fig. 3**

Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4

Section.

**Fig. 5**

Internal view of the play area.



**Architekturbüro
Jürgen Haller + Peter Plattner**

Wälder Versicherung

Location:

Andelsbuch, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2022

Project category:

Office

Photos:

Albrecht Imanuel Schnabel



The Forest Insurance building is situated in the town of Andelsbuch along Bregenzerwald road L200. Its compact and simple design responds sensitively to the diverse urban surroundings, aiming to seamlessly integrate into the space between buildings along the roadside. The building's location and orientation create a sizable outdoor area that extends from the pavement, featuring a prominent chestnut tree. This space serves both the building's occupants and users of the nearby bus stop. The large glass openings establish a strong connection

between the interior and exterior, enhancing specific viewpoints. Constructed with a four-storey wooden framework, the building utilizes Multibox floors with integrated beams and prefabricated elements for walls and roofs. In line with local building traditions and culture, interior design and facades incorporate locally sourced silver fir wood, left untreated to maintain its natural appearance. Approximately 370 cubic meters of wood were used in construction, with around 65 cubic meters for facades and 150 cubic meters for internal fittings.

Fig. 1

Detailed external view of the façade.

Fig. 2

General view from the street.



3



4



5

Fig. 3
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4
Cross section.

Figs. 5-6
Internal views.



6

Wohnsiedlung Maierhof

Location:

Bludenz, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

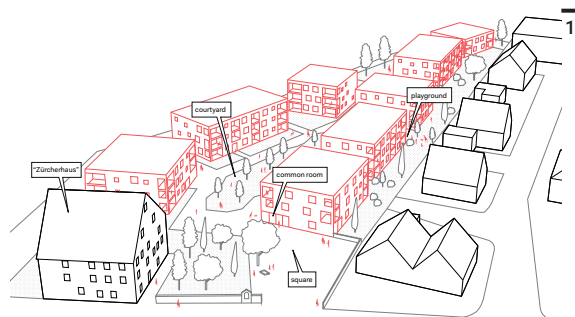
2019

Project category:

Housing

Photos:

Hertha Hurnhaus



Eight houses form an ensemble around a green inner courtyard. With the existing listed buildings, the different dimensions and orientations allow various views of the surrounding mountainscape and strengthen the character of a grown village. An underground car park keeps the majority of the settlement car-free. The inner courtyard, with its playground and the new neighbourhood square, is available to the entire neighbourhood and the residents.

The Maierhof is a wood-based hybrid construction with a façade of prefabricated wood elements

(box beams). This design not only speeds up the construction process but also increases the quality of execution. Vertical slats of native silver fir – untreated and unpolished – are arranged with different widths, giving the outside a playful character. A circumferential metal band structures the façade upwards and marks the transition between the ground floor and the two upper floors. Over time, the wooden façade, with its increasing silver-grey patina, will increasingly blend in with the surrounding agricultural buildings.



Fig. 1

Perspective view of the complex.

Fig. 2

General view of the buildings.



Fig. 3

Detailed external view of the facades and the sequence of spaces.

**Architekturbüro
Jürgen Haller**

Halwina Hideaway

Location:

Sibratsgfall, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2021

Project category:

Housing

Photos:

Albrecht Imanuel Schnabel



The village of Sibratsgfall is situated in a side valley of the Bregenzerwald near Hittisau, bordering Germany. The building stands at an elevation of 930 meters above sea level in the Tieftobel area, completely surrounded by dense woods. The project entails reconstructing and expanding an existing building, harmoniously blending a partially three-story structure into its natural surroundings, maintaining the proportions typical of the area's architecture. The plinth area made of sand-blasted concrete enhances the appearance of the wooden structure resting upon it. Following the pattern of a

typical traditional Bregenzerwald house, the building is divided into a front house accommodating the family's living area and a rear house containing a self-contained apartment for vacationing guests. The front house features a characteristic round shingle facade with box windows, while the rear house boasts a standing, untreated spruce facade in varying widths. All building materials were left untreated to directly influence the residents with their natural qualities. The building's compact design, thermally optimized envelope, and efficient sun protection contribute to its high energy efficiency.



Fig. 1

External view of the South-East elevation.

Fig. 2

General view of the building.

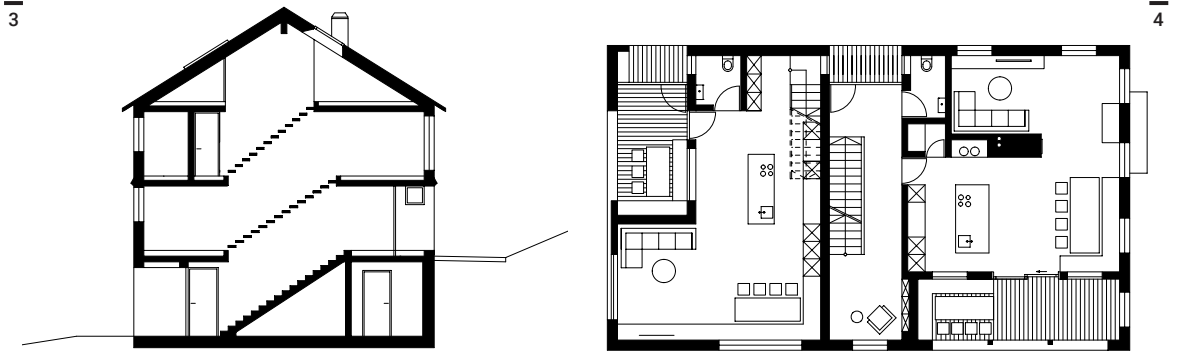


Fig. 3
Cross section.

Fig. 4
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 5
Internal view of the
loggia.

Fig. 6
Internal view of the
top floor.

**Architekturbüro
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Haus Rothenbach

Location:

Schwarzenberg, Vorarlberg, Austria

Chronology:

2020

Project category:

Multifunctional

Photos:

Albrecht Imanuel Schnabel



Haus Rothenbach is a single-family house situated in Schwarzenberg, at the heart of the Bregenzerwald, 700 metres above sea level. The town, strategically connected to other cities along the Rhine Valley, has long served as both a commercial hub for the region and a cultural center, evident also in the frequent visits of the baroque painter Angelika Kaufmann, whose museum stands adjacent to Haus Rothenbach today. This two-story building boasts a wooden structure, with only the semi-underground garage constructed from reinforced concrete. The

partially asymmetrical arrangement of window openings adds visual interest to the facades, breaking any monotony. All building materials were left untreated, in line with traditional Bregenzerwald construction practices. Like typical homes in the region, the building is divided into a residential front section and a rear portion for services. Specifically, the rear houses a medical clinic with a therapy room, offering additional functionality. The simple white fir wood cladding within contributes to a welcoming atmosphere, softening the space and reducing its rigidity.

Fig. 1
External view of the
protected entrance.

Fig. 2
General view of the
village.

Fig. 3
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4
Cross section.

Fig. 5
Internal view of the
stairs.

Fig. 6
External view from
North.



