

Press Release June 2012

SASSO SAN GOTTARDO

SASSO DA PIGNA, SWITZERLAND

Opening summer 2012



Sasso San Gottardo

The Gotthard is a place of myths and legends, of fables and national identity, where bridges are built by devils and nature displays its primordial power. It is a place that links north and south and crosses frontiers; a symbol of modernity, technical progress and engineering brilliance. Yet here too we see the limits of progress: huge traffic jams and the changes wrought by human beings on the Alpine environment. The mountain range that is the Gotthard massif is a place of ambivalence, where nature and technology, ecology and economics, openness and the fortress mentality, past and future meet.

The Sasso San Gottardo themed exhibition opens its doors at the summit of the Gotthard Pass in summer 2012. Amid the striking and atmospheric setting of tunnels and caverns within the mountain, it allows visitors to experience the challenges of handling our resources in five imaginatively designed, themed rooms devoted to "Water", "Climate", "Mobility and Living Space", "Energy" and "Security". The content of the exhibition has been developed with the help of business partners and the scientific community, and is geared to the findings of current research. It starts by examining issues of historical and local relevance, then moves on to ask questions about the future. A separate room is devoted to the mountain's gift: the unique giant crystals of the Planggenstock.

Part of the historic "Sasso da Pigna" fortifications is a protected monument and a living testament to the former artillery installations from the Second World War. It is being opened up to the public for the first time, and reveals the background to the construction and the realities of everyday life in a fortress.

The thematic exhibition and historic fortifications extend over a distance of almost two kilometres.

The project was commissioned by the Fondazione Sasso San Gottardo and realised with the financial support of business partners and foundations as well as central and cantonal government.



Model

Facts

Opening: Summer 2012

Total area: 7550m²

Exhibition area: 3440m²

Historic fortifications area: 3140m²

Total length of tunnels: 1789m

Altitude at entrance: 2096m above sea level

Highest point: 2217m above sea level

Duration of visit: Exhibition: approx. 1 1/2 hours, Historic fortifications: approx. 1 1/2 hours

Publication data

Client: Fondazione Sasso San Gottardo

Concept and exhibition design: Holzer Kobler Architekten

Curator: Lisa Humbert-Droz

General contractor: Nüssli (Switzerland) Ltd

Operator: Sasso San Gottardo SA

Principal partner: Swisscom AG

Partners: AET Azienda Elettrica Ticinese, Andermatt Swiss Alps AG, Credit Suisse Foundation, Swiss Post Office, the Securitas Group, Swiss Federal Railways SBB Swiss Confederation, Cantons of Ticino, Uri, Graubünden and Valais

Press contact:

Holzer Kobler Architekten

Monica Stadler

Ankerstrasse 3

CH-8004 Zurich

www.holzerkobler.ch

stadler@holzerkobler.ch, pr@holzerkobler.ch

T: +41 44 240 52 00

direkt: +41 299 99 32

F: +41 44 240 52 02

Holzer Kobler Architekturen

Holzer Kobler Architekturen was formed in Zurich in 2004 by Barbara Holzer and Tristan Kobler. The studio operates internationally, covering a broad spectrum of activities from urban planning to architecture, from scenography to exhibition curatorship. A multidisciplinary team comprising architects, designers, graphic artists and curators shapes its special approach to projects. Close collaboration with clients in both public and private sectors is integral to Holzer Kobler Architekturen projects, as is a tightly knit network encompassing business, academia, research, arts and culture. A second studio in Berlin was founded in april 2012.

Holzer Kobler Architekturen thrives on its fascination for a wide variety of visual fields, including architecture, exhibitions and design. In fact, architecture itself is not approached as a single entity but as a plurality of architectures opening up and extending the processes of architectural thought, action and research. Among these architectures, from the smallest exhibitions to vast urban planning projects, unifying elements, common ground and synergies are sought.

The visual diversity of the projects the company has worked on stems from its claim to find a solution specific to each task and location that brings together past, present and future and reinterprets the whole. Holzer Kobler Architekturen has never taken an interest in propagating a particular design language as its own trademark style, preferring instead to focus on approaching each design afresh and creating new styles that enrich our society.

Our brand is built on substance, not style – there's no such thing as typical "Holzer Kobler".

Architecture/Urban Planning

- 2014 **"Inside"**, retail and office center, Volketswil, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2014 **"Stadtzentrum Spreitenbach"**, mixed use development including civic center, residences, hotel and business, Spreitenbach, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2014 **"Puls Thun, Rex Thun"**, mixed use development, Thun, Switzerland, (in progress)
- 2013 **"Wohnen im Wasserschloss"**, residence building, Vogelsang, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2013 **Schönberg Ost**, residence building, Bern, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2012 **Visitor Center "Schöninger Speere"** with pbr and topotek 1, visitor center, Schöningen, Germany (in progress)
- 2012 **"Suurstoffi"**, mixed-use development, Risch Rotkreuz, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2012 **"Edelreich"**, Fashion-Outlet-Center, Wigoltingen, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2009 **"Grand Canal Square-Theater Dublin VIP-Lounge"**, interior design, Dublin, Irland
- 2008 **"Cattaneo"**, mixed use development, conversion and new buildings, Dietikon, Switzerland
- 2007 **"Nebra Ark"**, visitor center and observation tower, Nebra, Germany
- 2006 **"Shopping Center Schönbühl"**, renovation and redesign of mall and public areas, Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2005 **"Eichstrasse 25/27"**, refurbishment of a business house into lofts, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2004 **"BarRouge"**, bar und interior design on the top floor of business tower in Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 2002 **"Theater Mondial", "Bar Rouge"**, Masterplan **"Arteplage Yverdon"**, expo.02, Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland
- 2001 **"Room in a Room"**, interior design for lofts, Berlin, Germany

Exhibition Design

- 2012 **Visitor Center "Schöninger Speere"** permanent exhibition, Schöningen, Germany (in progress)
- 2012 **"Mathematisch-physikalischer Salon"**, permanent exhibition, Dresden, Germany (in progress)
- 2012 **"Sasso San Gottardo"**, Sasso da Pigna, San Gottardo, Switzerland (in progress)
- 2012 **"Forum Airport & Region"**, permanent exhibition, Kelsterbach-Frankfurt, Germany (in progress)
- 2011 **"Warning: Communicating is dangerous"**, exhibition architecture and design, Museum of Communication, Berne, Switzerland
- 2011 **Army Museum of Military History Dresden**, permanent exhibition (with HG Merz), Dresden, Germany
- 2011 **First Beijing International Design Triennial – Ren: Good Design, GOOD GUYS**, National Museum, Beijing, China
- 2011 **"Die Bourbaki Armee in der Schweiz"**, permanent exhibition, Museum Bourbaki Panorama, Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2011 **"High Rise – Idea and Reality"**, Museum fuer Gestaltung, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2011 **"BAU.ART.Thüringen"**, Erfurt, Germany
- 2010 **"Path in the nature – a history of forest and people"** permanent exhibition, Visitor Centre Hans-Eisenmann-Haus, National Park Centre Lusen, Germany
- 2010 **"REALSTADT. Wishes Knocking on Reality's Doors"** with Heller Enterprises and Angelika Fitz, Kraftwerk Mitte-Berlin, Germany
- 2010 **"Time and the Worlds of Messel"**, permanent exhibition at the Visit or Center Messel Pit, an Unesco-World-Heritage-Site, Messel, Germany

- 2010 **"Rumor"**, Museum of Communication, Berlin, Germany/ Museum of Communication, Berne, Switzerland
- 2009 **"History of Switzerland"** und **"Collections Gallery"**, permanent exhibition, Swiss National Museum, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009 **"focusTerra"**, permanent exhibition of the Swiss Natural Sciences Collection, Department of Natural Sciences ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009 **"Building for the 2000-Watt-Society"** with Raffinerie AG für Gestaltung, EWZ Selnu, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2008 **"Annemarie Schwarzenbach – To see a women"**, exhibition about the life of Annemarie Schwarzenbach, Museum Strauhof, Zurich, Switzerland; Literaturhaus Berlin, Germany and Rätisches Museum, Chur, Switzerland
- 2007 **"The Sky Disk"**, permanent exhibition Visitor Center Nebra Ark, Nebra, Germany
- 2007 **"All we need"**, Lux 07, Culture Captial Luxemburg, Esch-Belval, Luxemburg
- 2005 **"The Wall"**, permanent exhibition, Alpinarium Galtür, Austria
- 2004 **"10+5 = God"**, Jewish Museum Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2003 **"Shadow casting Weapons"**, Swiss National Museum Zurich, Switzerland
- 2002 **"sWISH*", "Biopolis", "Heimatfabrik"**, Expo.02, Switzerland

Awards/Publication

- 2012 **AIT Award**, Award Selection Public Buildings/Interior: Collections Gallery History of Switzerland, FocusTerra. Selection Conversion: Realstadt
- 2011 **Swiss Design Prize**, nomination with Realstadt and with Building for the 2000-Watt-Society
- 2011 **State Award for Exemplary Architectural Design**, awarded by the State of Hessen, Germany, special recognition for Messel Pit Visitor Center
- 2010 **"Mise en scène ex.545"**, Holzer Kobler Architekturen at Architektur Galerie Berlin, Germany
- 2010 **Monograph "Holzer Kobler Architekturen. Mise en scène"**, Niggli Verlag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2010 **Grosse Nike**, awarded by the Association of German Architects (BDA), nomination with Nebra Ark Visitor Center
- 2011 **Award for Marketing + Architecture**, nomination with focusTerra
- 2009 **Swiss Design Prize**, nomination with focusTerra
- 2009 **Hannes Meyer Prize**, awarded by the Association of German Architects (BDA), Regional Association Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, for Nebra Ark Visitor Center
- 2009 **World Architecture Community Awards**, Winner with Nebra Ark Visitor Center
- 2008 **Grand Prix Design 2008**, awarded by the Swiss Confederation for the complete works
- 2008 **Tourism Award Saxony-Anhalt**, Germany, awarded for Nebra Ark Visitor Center
- 2008 **Architecture Prize Colour – Texture – Surface 2008**, nomination with Nebra Ark Visitor Center
- 2007 **European Museum of the Year Award**, Alpinarium Galtür
- 2007 **Architecture Award of the State of Saxony-Anhalt**, Germany, awarded for Nebra Ark Visitor Centre

Teaching

- since 2011 **Professorship at HEAD Haute école d'art et de design, Geneva**, Switzerland (Tristan Kobler)
- since 2010 **Professorship at Peter Behrens School of Architecture PBSA, Düsseldorf**, Germany (Barbara Holzer)
- 2010 **Guest Professorship at ECAL Haute école d'art et de design, Lausanne**, Switzerland (Tristan Kobler)
- 2009 **Guest Professorship at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland** (Barbara Holzer und Tristan Kobler)