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Werbung

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- The main living area
- The climatic transition zone with the greenhouses.

The complex is carried by a glued pine framework. The outside walls, the partitions, the ceilings and roof structures are entirely of wood (Oregon pine and larch). The windows are equipped with insulating panes; the roofing material is sheet zinc (Securit glass for the greenhouses). Radiant insulated floor with small limestone flags. The architect has left all the technical elements visible.

Page 24
B. C. Thurston
Studio-house in Bülach / Zurich 1979

"Blessed is the country where the most modest hovels are palaces." The studio-house of the artists Regula and Paul Pfister reflects this dictum by William Wordsworth written with reference to the Hebrides.

A sequence of low (2.06m) living-rooms, some of them extending up for two storeys with gallery, as well as the studio recessed by half a storey, are organized within a prismatic volume into three distinct zones: studio, intermediate zone, living area. A thin concrete plate supports the rafters of the roof. The spacious volume of the studio contrasts with the living cell, which resembles a retreat. Sheltered here, man is on the threshold of the outside world symbolized by the large-scale volumes; the colour scheme reinforces this idea. The outside walls of brick are whitewashed on the outside and left untreated on the inside.

This project is in harmony with ecological requirements, and its conception is integrated within the framework of an entire complex, which it has not been possible to execute up to the present time.

Page 28
Burkard/Meier/Steiger
Row houses in Birrhard / Aargau

In 1976, when we were given the assignment of building on this site belonging to the township, we attempted to reinterpret the traditional rural architectural style. The houses are arranged in clusters of 12 around a central space constituting a playground and surrounded by a ring of kitchen-gardens. In front of the houses, broad canopies protect the entrances and semi-public passageway.

The construction of brick and timber, simple in detail, has enabled the builders to keep the costs to a minimum, i.e., Fr.200,000 for the smallest house.

Of course, contrary to what was expected, the principle of the semi-public space in the centre came up against vigorous resistance and has not yet been realized.

Page 31
M. Alder
Houses at Ziefen / Baselland, 1969

Ziefen is a village aligned along one single street. Some houses are preceded by arbours, with canopies and vines animating the front walls. The client did not wish to give up his customary way of living.

The building code imposed an open type of construction in contradiction to this clear-cut, rational ordering defined by the client, the way of life in the village, the method of construction and the economy. I therefore employed these traditional elements using simple materials: concrete parpens, rough planking, corrugated asbestos-cement on a timber framework, foundation of concrete, a rhythmic sequence of wall surfaces broken by deeply recessed windows. Each house has its "private courtyard".

Houses at Gempen / Solothurn

The characteristics of Ziefen also apply to Gempen. There too, we had the same trouble with the local authorities.

On a plot measuring 18x84m, a continuous reinforcing wall delimiting inside courtyards guarantees unity among the three houses. The exterior and interior spaces are unobtrusive and done with simple materials so as to encourage the residents to improve their homes themselves.

Page 36
Metron Group
Building on a cramped plot Housing at Unterwindisch

This regular prismatic volume accommodating 8 flats is the outcome of the conditions imposed: the surface of the site, ground utilization coefficient, constraints imposed by the building code. Over and above this "maximum utilization", the architects have endeavoured to hold the price line, while at the same time taking into consideration social aspects in their study (1).

In conformity with the principles of the Metron Group in the matter of housing, we have taken into consideration the following elements:

- Profitability in the utilization of site and the use of materials
- Ecology (insulation, energy)
- Living quality (great flexibility)
- Communication among residents

The apparently subdued architecture that results meet the everyday needs of the residents, who can easily modify their living quarters as they see fit.

The large-scale structures of the early 70s have yielded to an architecture that is more integrated in the immediate surroundings. Thus we have closed up the alignment taking into consideration the old buildings in the neighbouring (refectories), Königsfelden cloister.

Project 1979 for Windisch

The Metron Group is planning a complex of row-house residences for families with restricted incomes in a medium-sized city. This experiment is based on the results of a sociological study carried out beforehand in Brugg in this segment of the population, and takes into consideration the following factors:

- Space utilization
- Residents' wishes regarding dimensions and arrangement of the units, the grounds and the communal facilities
- Personal involvement of those interested and their financial limitations

The housing units will be let at moderate rentals, and the residents encouraged to administer their complex themselves.

Page 42
Obrist/Partner
"Im Hof", a row-house complex at Dättwil / Aargau

These five houses are situated in the centre of the village of Dättwil, surrounded by spacious farmhouses topped by broad roofs. The authorities insisted on the preservation of the architectural character of the village. That is the reason why the five units (with widths ranging from 4 to 9m, on three floors) are aligned beneath a single broad roof constituting a volume comparable to that of the neighbouring buildings.

Open passageways between the houses, extending up to full height of the building volume, permit access to the houses, and at the same time they guarantee a spatial and optical connection between the street and the areas situated on the other side of the building.

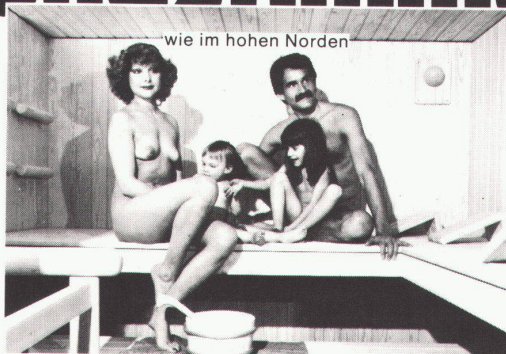
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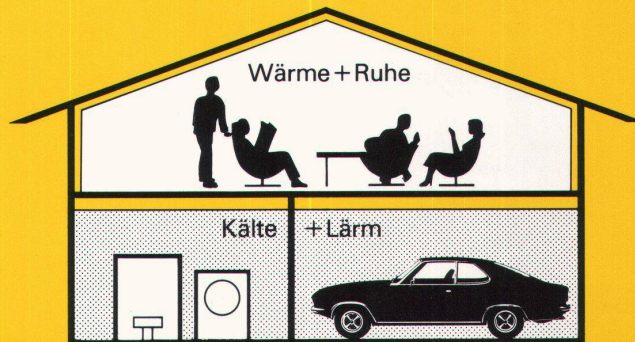
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