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Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou
瑞士驻广州总领事馆

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
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瑞士国家形象委员会

Press Release

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Bringing Swiss Architecture to 3rd Biennale of architecture in Shenzhen and Hong Kong

Arch/Scapes - Negotiating Swiss Architecture and Landscape

[December 1, 2009, Shenzhen] The Consul General of Switzerland present the Swiss architecture exhibition “Arch/Scapes” to the Biennale of architecture at the Civic Centre in Shenzhen. The show, which will occupy the Hall B of the Civic center from December 6 until December 29, showcases 15 new architectural case studies – a perfect demonstration of how architecture, urban development and landscape protection are being reconciled in modern Switzerland.

Arch/Scapes was the Swiss contribution to the 7th International Architecture Biennial Sao Paulo 2007 "Architecture - The Public and the Private" commissioned by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, curated by Francesca Ferguson and realized by S AM (Swiss Architecture Museum) in Basel. The exhibition's collection of photographs, panels and video screens, which have been arranged as a complex, winding path, is an original piece of architecture in its own right, with the 300-square-meter exhibition taking visitors on a journey through the Swiss cultural landscape – from urban areas to the central lowlands, and from the peripheries to the alpine regions.

Arch/Scapes showcase 15 new pieces of Swiss architecture. They give testimony to the skill with which innovative forms have been devised and new positions negotiated within a given social, legal, and cultural context. Switzerland's landscapes – in particular the rural and alpine types – are considered precious assets by the public. Because of this, new architecture must be the



result of complex democratic processes, and concerted moves to preserve traditional building types mean that with few exceptions, architecture that attempts a radical relationship with a given context will meet public opposition. The exhibition describes the fundamentals of a specifically Swiss culture of production that is highly attuned to the contemporary realities of Switzerland: the negotiation between preservation and innovation, between playing to traditional sensibilities and affecting a necessary rupture in conventional typologies that is often the result of ingenious adaptations of planning regulations.

These are issues familiar to architects, designers and urban planners throughout the world and by showing a successful balance between context and form, the exhibits at Arch/Scapes provide valuable lessons that can be applied to cultural landscapes as far removed as China.

“Switzerland is renowned for its strength and creativity in architecture, urban development, and landscape protection. By bringing Arch/Scapes to China, we want to promote exchange and cooperation between the two countries in these fields,” said Swiss Consul General Nievergelt. “As many modern Chinese cities are attempting to balance urbanization and environmental protection, I believe Arch/Scapes together with the Biennale will bring fresh ideas and reference value to China.”

The City of Shenzhen, which has provided the exhibition space for free, is itself an extension of the concepts represented in Arch/Scapes. The architecture of the Civic centre is example of modern and advanced designs which are not only concentrated on multi-level demands of people, but also on society and the landscape environment.

A partnership between World Architecture and the architecture schools of Tsinghua University and UAS Berne will present a design competition for Architecture Master and PhD students of leading universities in China in conjunction with the exhibition. The results will be made public and displayed during the Biennale exhibition in January 2010 in Shenzhen.

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Exhibition Design

HHF architects in collaboration with ZMIK designers and TATIN / www.hhf.ch

The 15 New Pieces of Swiss Architecture ARCH/SCAPES Feature:

- **Musical Theatre ‘Theatre 11’**. Zurich, Switzerland, 2006

EM2N Architekten | Mathias Müller | Daniel Niggli, Zurich, Switzerland

- **Social Housing Development ‘Rautistrasse’**. Zurich, Switzerland, 2009

UNDEND Architektur AG, Zurich, Switzerland

- **Housing Development 'Leimbachviertel'**. Zurich, Switzerland, 2005
pool Architekten, Zurich, Switzerland
- **The collective garden**. Chiasso, Switzerland, 2006
Officina del Paesaggio, Sophie Agata Ambroise, Lugano, Switzerland
- **Extension to the G. Baumgartner AG Window Factory**.
Hagendorn, Switzerland, 2006
Niklaus Graber & Christoph Steiger Architekten, Lucerne, Switzerland
- **Casa Gobbi**. Tegna, Switzerland, 2004
Luigi Snozzi, Locarno, Switzerland
- **Casa 'Le Terrazze'**. Lugano, Switzerland, 2004
Giraudi Wettstein Architekten ETH / BSA / SIA, Lugano, Switzerland
- **Residential and studio space**. Haldenstein, Switzerland, 2005
Architekturbüro Peter Zumthor, Haldenstein, Switzerland
- **Concept for a village**. Vrin, Switzerland
Gion A. Caminada Architekt BSA / SIA, Vrin, Switzerland
- **Barn for 30 cows**. Lignières, Switzerland, 2005
Localarchitecture, Lausanne, Switzerland
- **The transformation of a chalet**. Crans Montana, Switzerland, 2005
Bonnard / Woeffray Architectes FAS SIA, Monthey, Switzerland
- **Studio**. Scharans, Switzerland, 2007
Valerio Olgiati, Chur, Switzerland
- **Traversiner footbridge**. Via Mala, Switzerland, 2005
Conzett, Bronzini, Gartmann AG, Chur, Switzerland
- **Viewing platform**. Films, Switzerland, 2006
Corinna Menn Architektin ETH/SIA, Chur, Switzerland
- **New Monte Rosa ski lodge**. Zermatt, Switzerland, 2009
Studio Monte Rosa, Professor Andrea Deplazes, Marcel Baumgartner
Departement Architektur, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

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