

Halden High School Campus in Opfikon



Forecasts indicating a significant increase in student numbers prompted a decision to build new school buildings at the Halden High School campus in Opfikon. Working together with the Guignard & Saner architectural firm, EBP completed the planning for the façade of the new pentagon-shaped structure that includes a gymnasium.

The architectural specifications called for room-sized, metal window frames on the ground floor and for each upper level, extending to a skylight construction on the top floor. The building is accessed through an automatic sliding-door system that is integrated into a separate glass structure on the ground floor. Given that the exterior concrete columns were poured on location and already in place at the time the window frames were installed, special attachment components were developed to secure the window frames. Meeting the demanding acoustic-protection specifications with a single-skin façade also proved to be a challenge.

Prefab concrete and brick elements were deployed under the window frames and between the cast-in-situ concrete columns. These consist partially of a lower component that is used to support the prefab brick walls and that also creates an interior space that is protected against direct sunlight. The elements are topped by a windowsill. The layer of insulation behind the elements wraps entirely around the building without any points of diminished insulation capacity.

Client

City of Opfikon

Facts

Period	2015 - 2019
Project Country	Switzerland
Façade surface	1'850 m ²
Windows	Metal window casements
Façade school	Concrete and brick veneer
Façade gymnasium	Glass bricks

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The same basic architectural design was used for the gymnasium. One exception, however, was the gymnasium's large prefab glass-brick walls that are supported by the concrete elements and attached laterally to the columns. Skylight ribbon-window frames made of metal are mounted above the glass-brick walls. Some of the windows themselves can be opened.

The newly constructed school building was awarded the first prize in the Canton of Zurich's architectural design competition for the year 2019.