

STUDENT APARTMENTS, NURSERY AND FACILITIES IN THE CHAMPEL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

location: Geneva (Switzerland)
client: Town of Geneva; CITE' UNIVERSITAIRE Foundation
consultants: SCYNA-4 (structure) ; SFH Ingénierie (services)
gross surface: 8 000sqm (student apartments and facilities) ; 650sqm (nursery)
cost: 30,0M € excl. VAT
phase: international competition
timetable: 03.2009-07.2009

The University Campus of Geneva currently owns three facility buildings on the Champel site, allowing it to accommodate approximately 540 students each year. During holiday periods, existing facilities also functions as hotel for tourists. Different infrastructures promote and encourage the exchange between residents as well as the opening of the campus to the town inhabitants: a restaurant serving also as school refectory, a theater, sports facilities, a local association and a café.

Answering to the lack of housing in this part of Geneva, especially of affordable student accomodations, the Foundation decided to build a new housing building on the same site, which will accommodate each year 270 more students.

Our proposal for this new building wants to take the opportunity to rethink existing and future collective spaces to recreate a real campus life style. In this way, the new building will interact with the other elements of the built context, with a strong desire to unify the entire campus site. Practically, the design contains two main areas: a private area with playgrounds, pic-nic and lecture, in the flat part of the site; a public one in the inclined part. The new building also houses several facilities and recreational functions: a nursery school, four squash courts, a sauna with jacuzzi, soundproof studios and a cyber café. A direct pathway has been designed in the underground level to connect existing equipments to the new ones.

