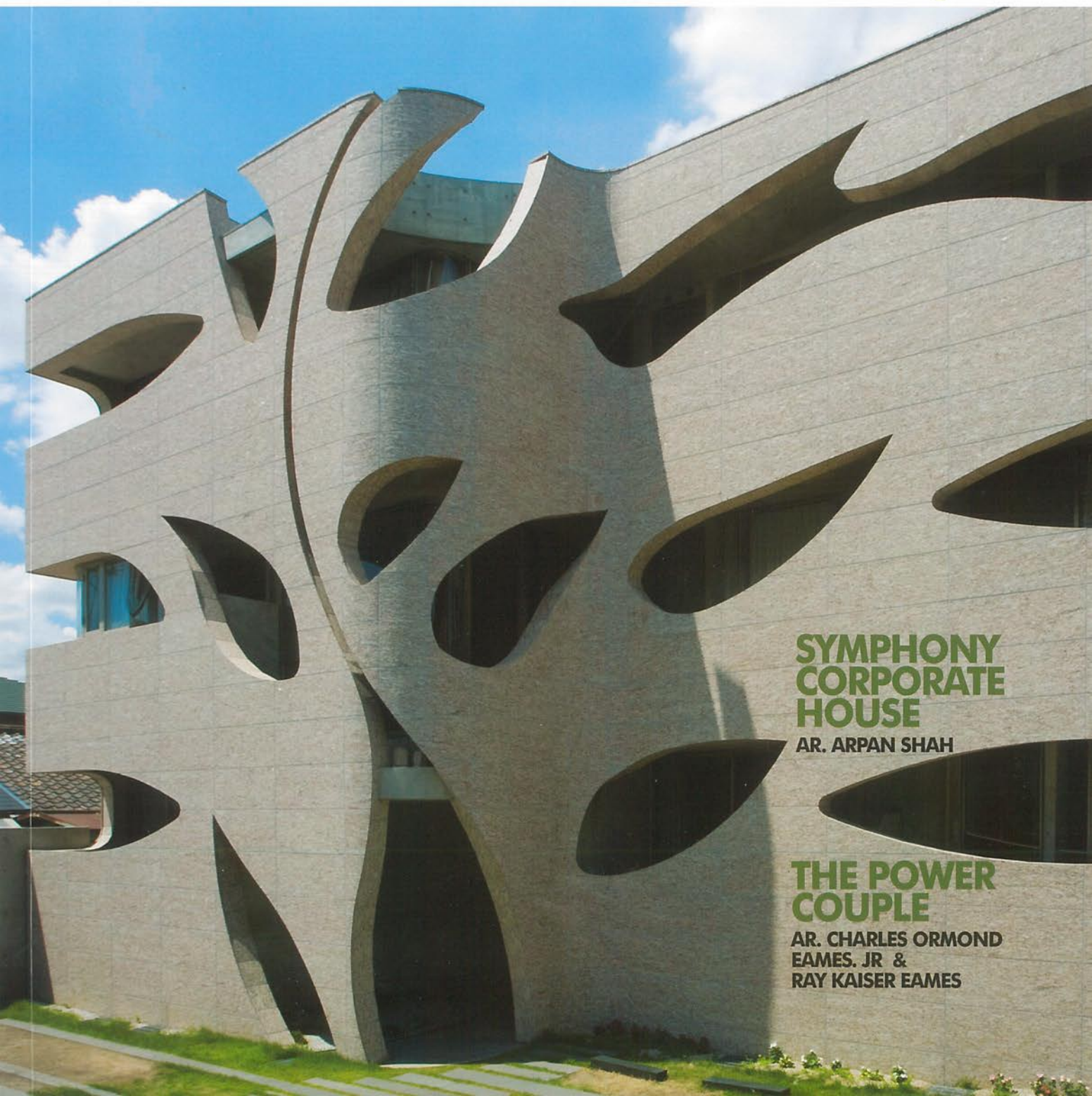


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# DESIGN detail

the architecture magazine



## SYMPHONY CORPORATE HOUSE

AR. ARPAN SHAH

## THE POWER COUPLE

AR. CHARLES ORMOND  
EAMES, JR &  
RAY KAISER EAMES

# In Response to the Landscape

THIS PAGE  
integration of  
the project in the  
landscape

Text: Team Design Detail

S

avioz Fabrizzi Architects is an association founded in 2004 to respond in the best conditions to the needs of the clients. Their firm provides all the architectural services from the project design to execution. Their approach is based on the analysis of a site in its natural or built state in order to identify the essential elements that could enhance, preserve or qualify a site. They believe that the cultural role of the architecture is based on the analysis of a function, respectively a program, its place in the history and the culture of a region. Team Design Detail takes a look at three of the unique projects that emphasize their philosophy.

## NEW TRACUIT MOUNTAIN HUT, ZINAL

Belonging to the Chaussy section of the Swiss Alpine Club, the Tracuit Mountain Hut at an altitude of 3256 metres is situated in the Val d'Anniviers at the heart of Valaisan Alps. Its superb position makes it the ideal starting-point for climbing the Bishorn, the Weiss-horn, and the Tête de milon.



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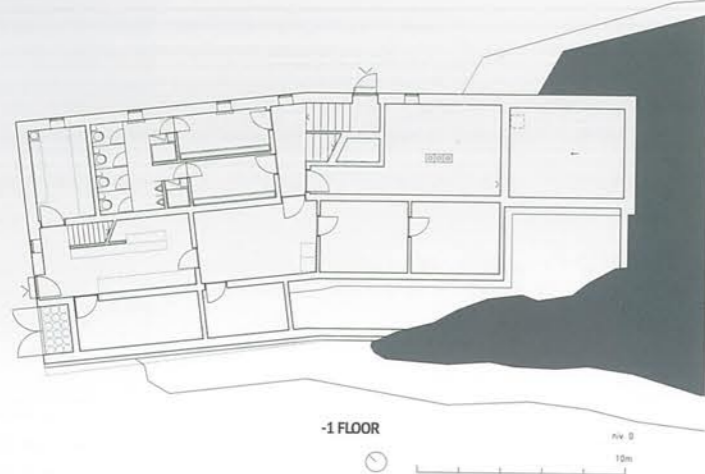
Initially built in 1929, the hut was expanded several times to cope with a constant increase in guest numbers and expected levels of comfort. Current requirements concerning health and safety, staffing, facilities and environmental protection meant that the hut needed to be expanded and completely refurbished. As transforming the existing hut would have produced a significant cost overhead, the clients decided to build a new one. Savioz Fabrizzi Architects was commissioned to execute the project after winning the design competition organized by the club.

The nature of the site, between a cliff and a glacier, defined the position and shape of the new hut, which is constructed along

ABOVE  
South-east  
facade

RIGHT  
North-west  
facade

BELOW  
South-west  
facade



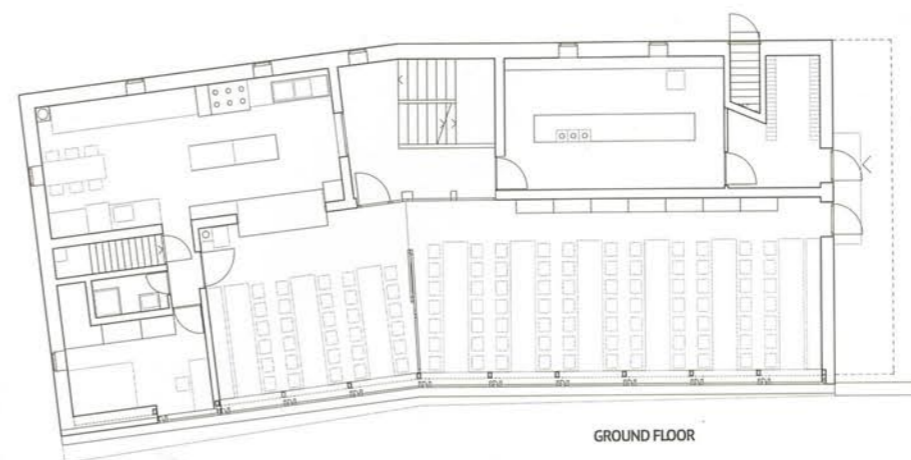
-1 FLOOR

Niv. 0

10m



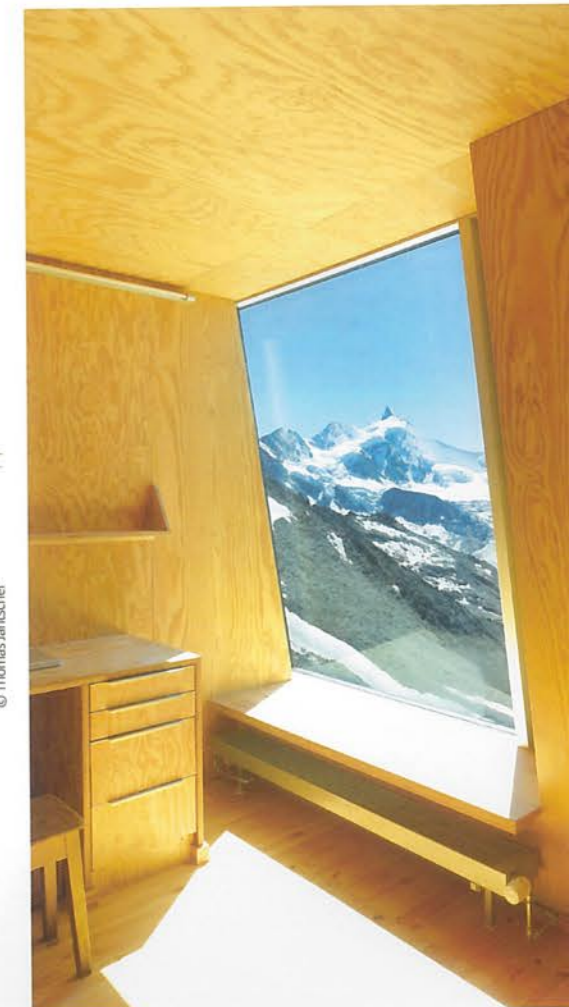
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GROUND FLOOR



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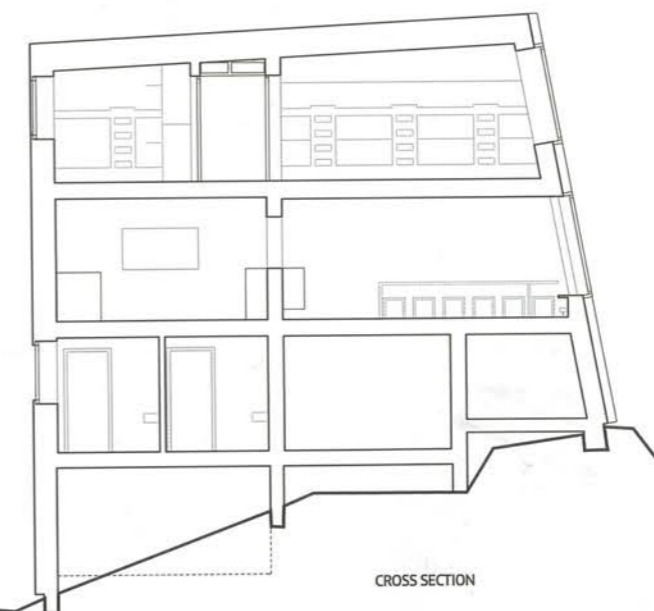


the ridge above the cliff, fitting in with the site's topography. The south façade of the building extends from the cliff and works like a large solar collector, being either glazed or covered with solar panels to make maximum use of solar energy. The other façades reflect the surrounding landscape. From the refectory, guests enjoy an uninterrupted, plunging view over the Val de Zinal.

At this altitude, the construction methods had to be adapted to the adverse weather conditions and to the means of transport available. As transporting concrete is particularly expensive, its use was minimised and restricted largely to individual footings. The whole of the structural frame is made of wood and the wall and floor components, consisting of studs/beams, insulation and cladding, were prefabricated and transported by helicopter for on-site assembly. Panels of stainless steel cladding protect the roof and outer walls from the elements. The east, west and north walls have only a few openings, reducing heat loss while providing optimum

ABOVE  
Refectory

ABOVE RIGHT  
View from  
the dorms

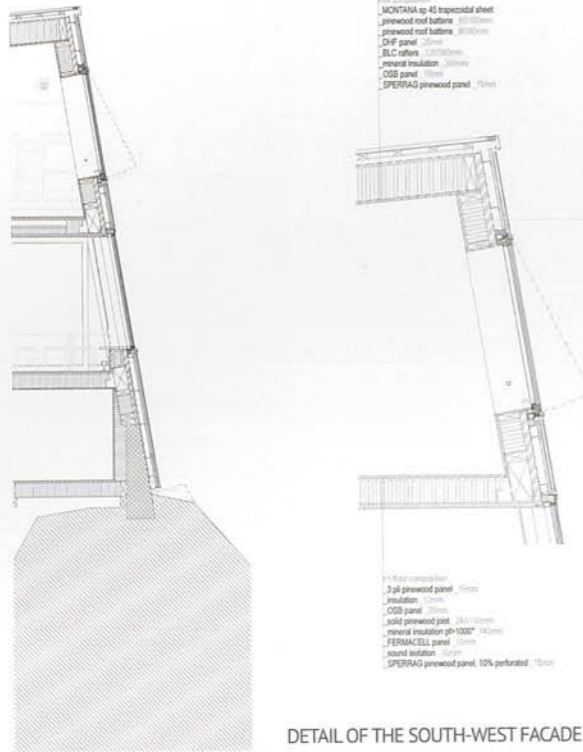


CROSS SECTION



RIGHT  
Dorms

BELOW  
Main  
stairs



DETAIL OF THE SOUTH-WEST FACADE

roof construction:  
 MONTANA up 45 trapezoidal sheet  
 prewood roof battens 60/100mm  
 prewood roof battens 60/100mm  
 OSB panel 18mm  
 B.C. rafters 200/200mm  
 mineral insulation 100mm  
 OSB panel 18mm  
 SPERRAD prewood panel 18mm

1 floor construction:  
 2 pl prewood panel 18mm  
 insulation 100mm  
 solid prewood post 140/100mm  
 mineral insulation ph-1000 140mm  
 FERMACELL panel 12mm  
 sound insulation 100mm  
 SPERRAD prewood panel, 10% perforated 18mm

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natural ventilation. Larger windows on the south wall, which is exposed to the sun, enable passive solar energy to be stored and is also covered with solar panels.

During the construction phase, the existing hut accommodated the usual guests and also the construction workers. In the end, this outdated, energy-hungry building was taken down. The lower part of the walls remains, with the south wall delimiting the terrace and protecting its users from the wind.

Via its large area of solar panels and south-facing glazing, the building makes maximum use of solar radiation. The compact shape of the building and efficient wall insulation reduces heat loss.

Low-tech ventilation is used to recover the significant amount of heat emitted by the building's occupants while making it more comfortable and preventing any problems with mould growth in premises that are closed for several months of the year.



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RIGHT  
North angle

BELOW  
East angle

### MAISON FABRIZZI, CONTHEY

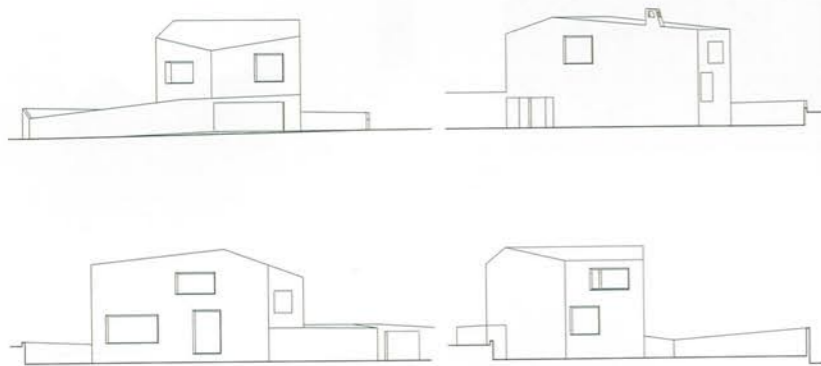
The house is situated in a heavily built-up area consisting of a heterogeneous mix of detached buildings. The core idea of the design was to define the external spaces (the voids) in order to use all the available space in the plot.

The house and its ancillary structure are therefore positioned on the northern perimeter of the plot and will be used for

welcoming visitors. The structure extends along the eastern perimeter and becomes a boundary wall within which an opening provides vehicular access for the occupants. The "constructed" perimeter, therefore, extends over the whole plot, varying in height, with the wall providing the necessary screening for the external functions. It also reinforces the idea that the house extends to the boundaries of the property.



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ELEVATIONS

This compact house is designed to take the best advantage of the views over the surrounding landscape that the plot affords. The openings in the façade walls are positioned to face the alpine peaks. The "half-level" typology provides the height required to provide unobstructed lines of sight while creating multiple internal spatial relationships. The equipment rooms and the cellar are located in the basement while the kitchen-dining room is on the ground floor, and the living room is con-

RIGHT  
Detail of the  
concrete facade

BELOW  
East facade



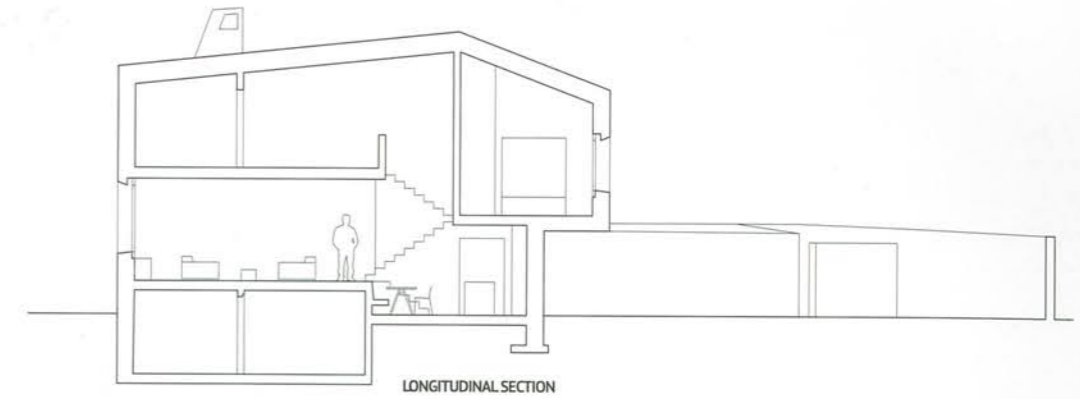
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BELOW  
Living room

BOTTOM  
Kitchen



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

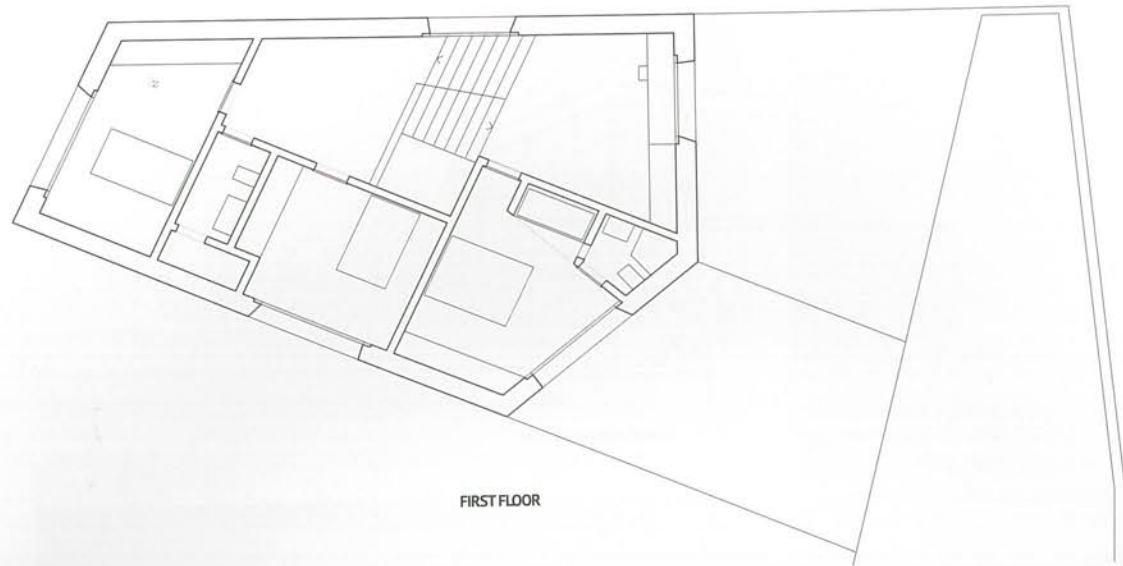


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structed on a slightly higher level. Bedrooms and the Study are on the top floor, arranged around an open staircase that forms the core of the house.

Constructed entirely of exposed reinforced concrete, the building has double-walled facades that ensure efficient heat insulation. The choice of concrete had a major impact, as this helped to define both the desired form and the scale of the building. The plastic qualities of this material



FIRST FLOOR



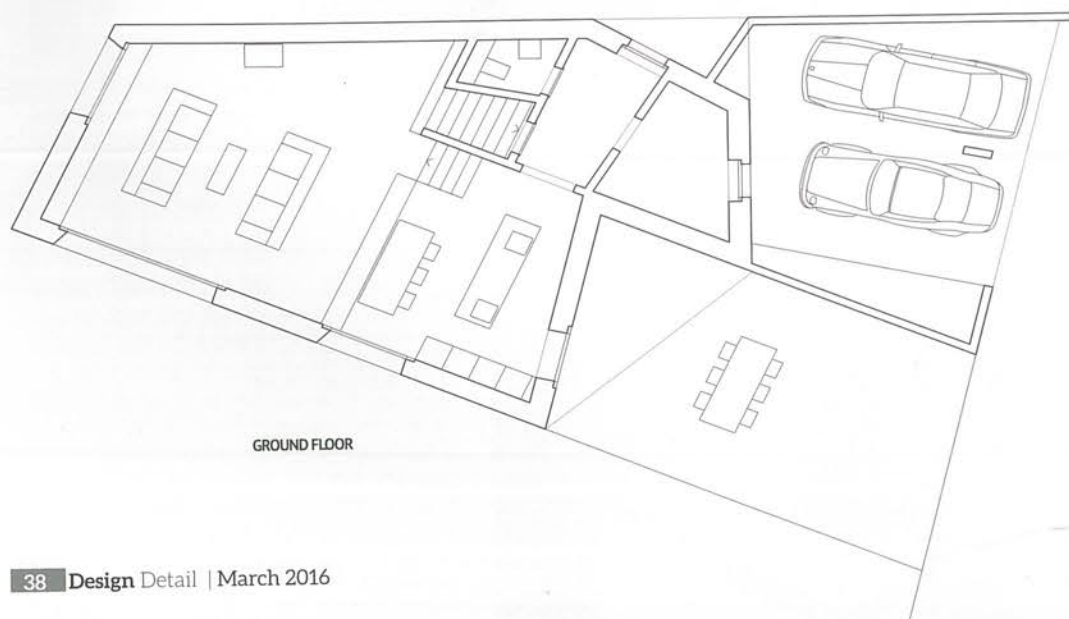
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GROUND FLOOR



OPPOSITE PAGE  
Living room and  
mountain view

RIGHT  
Main stairs

BELOW  
Master bedroom

BOTTOM  
Circulations

meant that it could be used to produce the structures, staircases, façades and external landscaping. Oak was used in the interiors, giving them a domestic dimension.

A pellet stove in the sitting room and a few square metres of solar cells provides sufficient energy for domestic heating and hot water. Heat distribution and mechanical ventilation are incorporated into the floor slabs, ensuring optimum comfort.



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The building is a single compact structure consisting of two main sections – the sports area which is orthogonal in shape and the service area shaped to adapt to the outline of the existing buildings. The design adds a new range of dynamism to the dialogue between the building and its surroundings; empty spaces become paths, public areas and entrances while maximising the footprint of outdoor sports area.

Designed a three juxtaposed but independent halls, the Sports Centre has its own changing rooms, spectator gallery and entrances. The saw-tooth roof is the core feature of the building, delimiting the space occupied by each hall. In addition, the north-easterly orientation of the roof glaz-

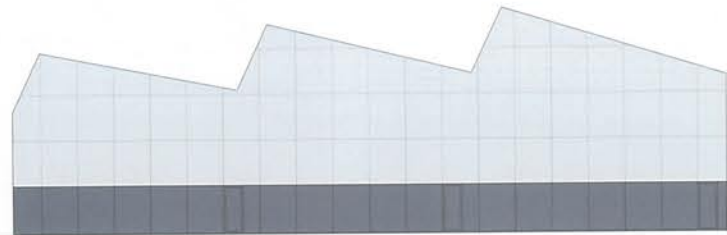
ABOVE  
North-west  
facade

BELOW  
North angle

OPPOSITE PAGE  
Entrance space

**THREE-IN-ONE SPORTS CENTER, VISP**

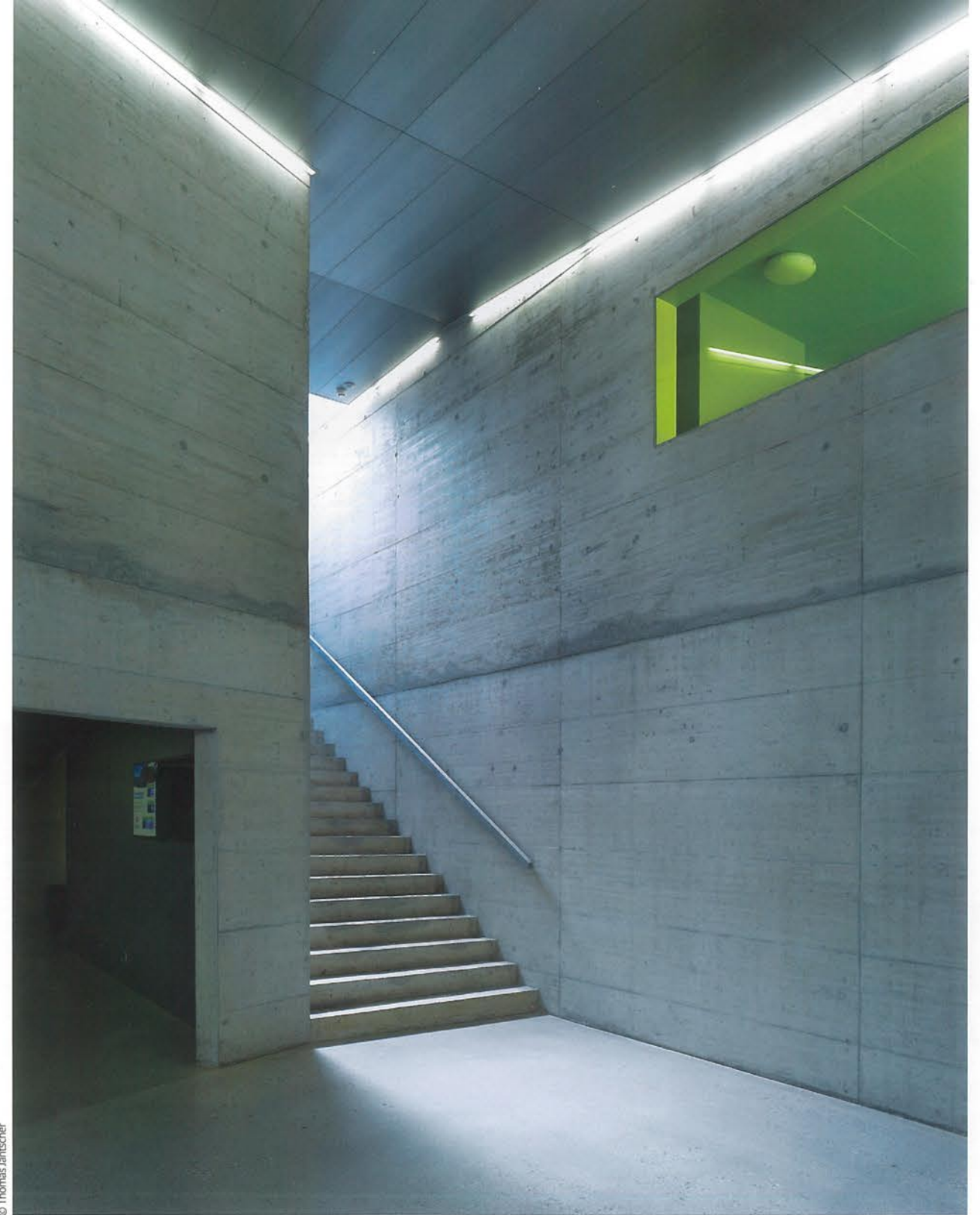
The Valais canton and the Visp Vocational College had an existing sports centre constructed at one end of the college complex.



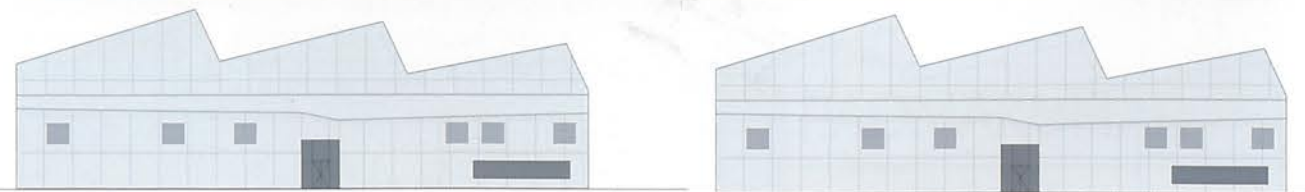
NORTH-WEST ELEVATION



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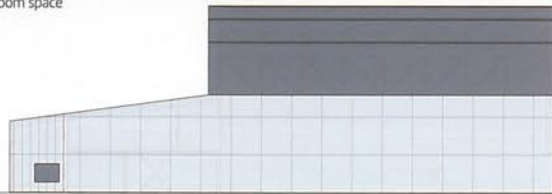
SOUTH-EAST FACADE



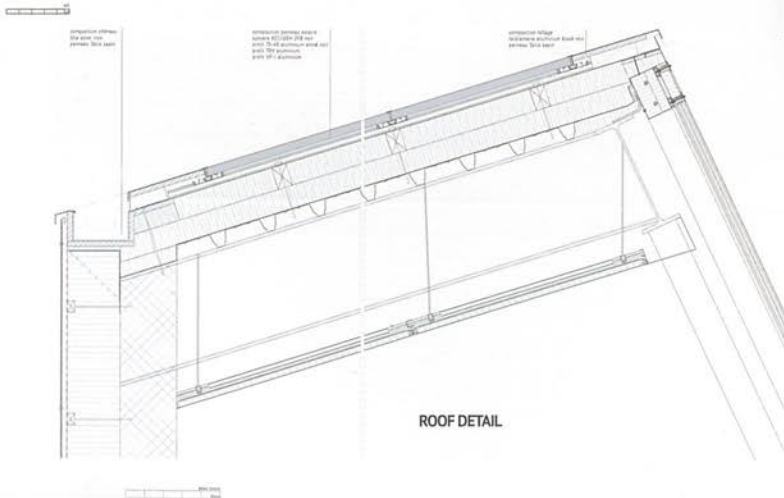
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ABOVE  
Sports hall

RIGHT  
Cloakroom space



NORTH-EAST FACADE



ROOF DETAIL

© Thomas Jantscher



ing means that the halls benefit from optimum natural lighting for playing sports.

The service functions are organised on two levels - the main plant is on the same level as the sports fields, and the changing rooms are on the floor above. The compact dimensions, efficient thermal envelope and controlled ventilation have enabled it to meet the Swiss Minergie Standard for low-energy-consumption buildings with the 1200 sq.m covered roof with photovoltaic solar collectors, giving an installed power output of 145 Kilo Watts. 