

Novartis laboratory building

Basel, Switzerland 2006–2010

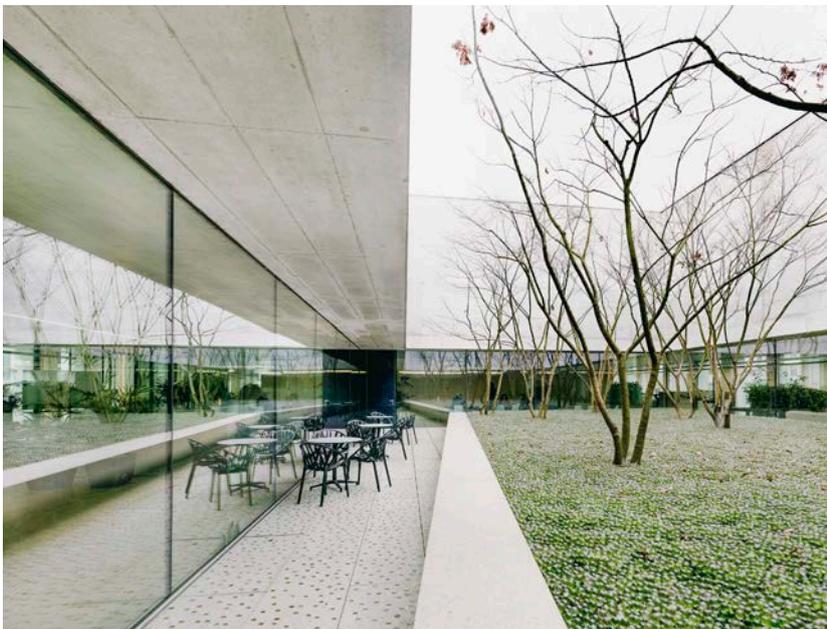
The research and production site in Basel for the pharmaceutical company Novartis has been transformed and extended into a new campus. The masterplan for the area, situated between the River Rhine and the French border, was developed by the architect Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani. The overall project comprises office buildings as well as research and production facilities, all designed by different architects.

This project consists of a five-storey laboratory building located on Fabrikstraße, the principal artery of the new campus. The building commands a central position on the intersection with a new east-west axis leading towards the Rhine. The footprint of the building, its overall building height and the height of the ground floor were fixed within the masterplan. Envisioned as a laboratory of the future, the building had to take into consideration flexibility for shared and temporary workspaces and fluid transitions between areas for experimentation and regular workspaces.

The façade, the two building cores and concrete beams provide the supporting structure. The beams span twenty-seven metres and contain technical services, allowing for a column-free floor plan. This spatial configuration offers flexibility within which new laboratory concepts may be explored. The external structure is made of precast concrete with faceted columns. The concept adopts the theme of the colonnade, a recurrent motif on the campus. The faceting varies between smooth and rough finishes, and its orientation causes differing shadows. Continuous floor-height glazing placed within this external grid provides ample daylight for all the workspaces.

A restaurant is located on the ground floor, while a sculptural stair designed by Ross Lovegrove connects the three laboratory floors with a flexible office level on the top floor. All offices are placed around a roof garden, which contains the permanent installation 'Molecular (BASEL)', a late work by the artist Serge Spitzer.

Project start	2006
Completion	2010
Gross floor area	11,600 m ²
Client	Novartis Pharma AG
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin



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Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin
Partners/Directors	David Chipperfield, Harald Müller, Alexander Schwarz (Design lead)
Project architects	Christian Helfrich (Preparation and brief to Technical design, Site design supervision), Robert Westphal (Technical design, Site design supervision)
Project team	Markus Bauer, Wolfgang Baumeister, Lena Ehringhaus, Niccolo Genesisio, Gesche Gerber, Ulrich Hannen, Paul Hillerkus, Nicolas Kulemeyer, Astrid Kühn, Sebastian von Oppen, Asa Awad Osman, Martina Pongratz, Stefanie Schleipen, Gunda Schulz <i>In collaboration with</i>
Executive architect	Burckhardt + Partner AG, Basel (Procurement, Construction supervision)
General contractor	OTB AG, Basel Eurolabors AG, Kassel
Structural engineer	WaltGalmarini AG, Zurich
Services engineer	Fact GmbH, Böblingen gb consult AG, Basel
Building physics, Acoustics	Gruner AG, Basel
Fire consultant	Schweizerisches Institut zur Förderung der Sicherheit, Zurich
Façade consultant	gkp Fassadentechnik AG, Aadorf
Lighting consultant	matí AG Lichtgestaltung, Adliswil
Laboratory consultant	Dr. Heinekamp Labor- und Institutsplanung, Basel
Signage	Mifflin-Schmid Design, Zurich
Landscape architect	Wirtz International nv, Schoten
Artwork	Serge Spitzer, Molecular (BASEL), 2002–2008
Design laboratory stair	Ross Lovegrove, London