

Crematorium Thun

Location: Schoren cemetery, 3600 Thun
Type of contract: Competition, without rank, 2015
Client: Municipality of Thun
Landscape architecture: Pauli Stricker GmbH, St.Gallen

Bollhalder Eberle Architektur

Programme

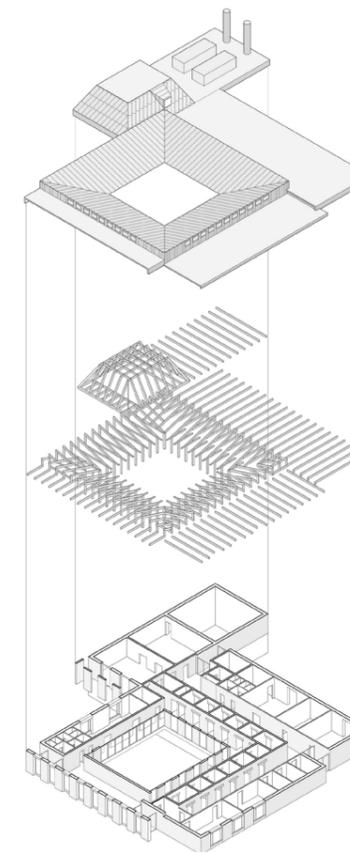
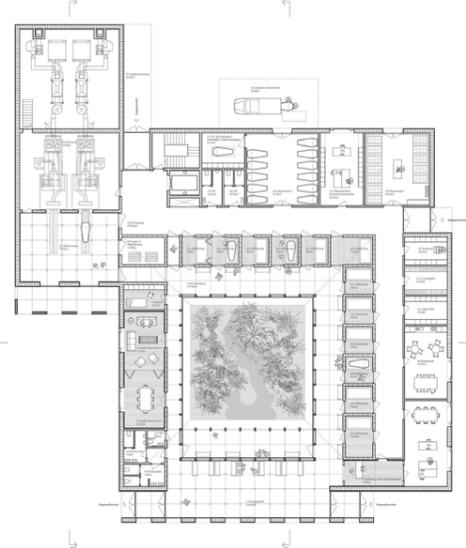
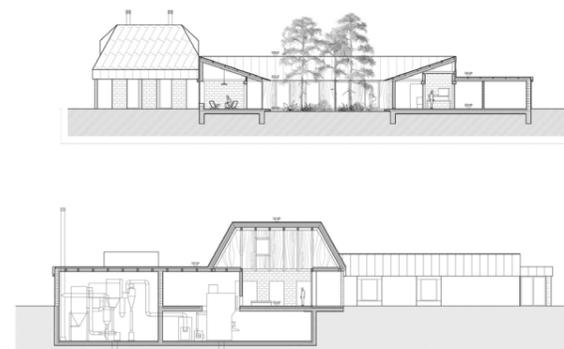
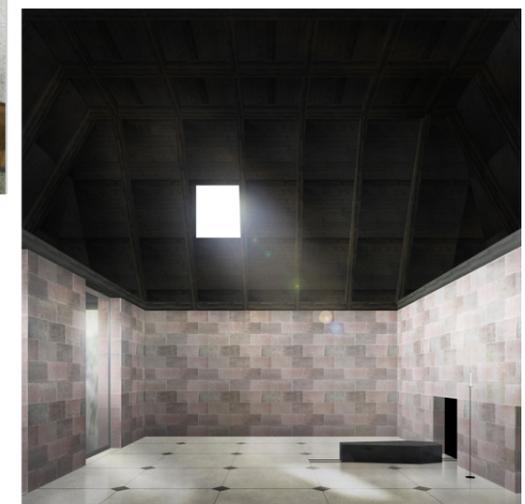
Crematorium with burial rooms, relatives' room, two furnace lines

Concept

The new crematorium is located in the south-western area of the site, alongside the existing network of paths of the cemetery. Its setting creates outdoor spaces of varied qualities and functions. The building presents itself to the outside spaces with relatively closed and simple forms. Towards the cemetery to the north, on the other hand, the building appears more differentiated and emblematic in terms of volume and expression.

The core of the building is formed by an atrium building, around whose inner courtyard the functions close to the public are organised, the burial rooms and relatives' rooms as well as a quiet loggia in the heart of the complex. Connected to this courtyard house are four wings, with the furnace wing, with its anteroom being the most striking in its setting and volume. A protective shell, air above it, a roof, generous and yet not quite tangible – the furnace anteroom is meant to be a vessel for rituals of saying farewell.

From the outside, the crematorium appears as a single-storey building, even if it is finely shaped as a volume. The roof construction rests on a brick base made of different, but always related materials. The roof of the atrium building slopes down towards the inner courtyard and provides light for the burial rooms, while it can unfold its presence in the inner courtyard, turning it into an intimate place. Finally, the wooden structure rises steeply above the furnace anteroom – the roof creates space inside for the ceremony, and from the outside this significant act is given an appropriate presence.



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