

### A Synonym for Outstanding Architecture – *Casa Kalman* by Luigi Snozzi

*Casa Kalman* sits high above the blue waters of Lago Maggiore enthroned like a huge rock. Apart from its marvellous location, what makes this house a milestone in Swiss architecture of the 1970s? The publication *Casa Kalman – Luigi Snozzi* (Christoph Merian Verlag) by Harald R. Stühlinger (author and editor) provides some answers. This first volume in the new architecture series *swissmonographies* is an extensive monograph with German and English texts devoted to the internationally famous building.

Luigi Snozzi (1932-2020), the architect of *Casa Kalman*, regarded every constructional intervention as an act of destruction. "Destroy with understanding" is how he formulated it, and developed an architectural idiom that always seeks the link to the place and to the landscape. The extent to which this interplay between architecture and nature was incorporated in the genesis of the holiday home commissioned in Ticino in 1973 can be seen clearly in this book. Draft sketches and partly unpublished archive material, the exchange between the architect and the client, as well as an interview with the client's daughter, owner of *Casa Kalman* today, highlight the whole process of formation of the house and its media echo.

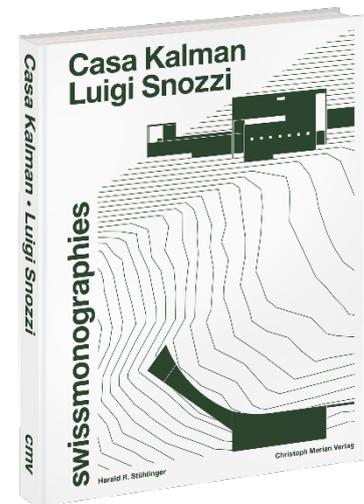
As with many of his designs, Luigi Snozzi also chose exposed concrete as the building material for *Casa Kalman* and designed an unpretentious light-filled residential building. Even as a shell construction it already caused a sensation among architects – today it is regarded as an architectural icon. For Snozzi, who hailed from Ticino, it was the most important residential project he ever undertook.

What looks as if it is made from one piece, actually consists of many perfectly combined individual parts. Perhaps this explains the house's appeal: how light, location and expanse are integrated, and how the formal simplicity and the materials and colours chosen unfold their impact. Although Stühlinger believes the building may be read today as a work from a past epoch, it still continues to impress viewers, visitors and inhabitants, and, what is more, inspires us to always think about building with a view to the future.

In the series *swissmonographies* a book will be published annually on Swiss architecture of the second half of the 20th century.

About the author:

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Harald R. Stühlinger

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