

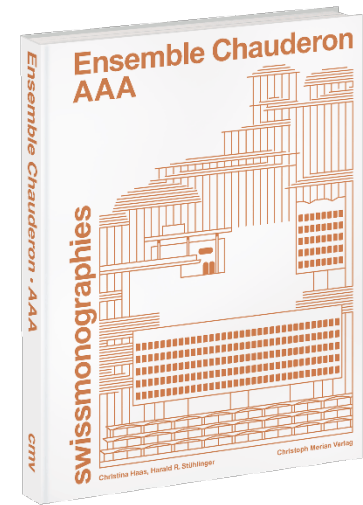
The architectural Ensemble Chauderon in Lausanne from 1974 to today

The extraordinary building complex Chauderon in Lausanne has been causing a stir for almost fifty years. Both celebrated and contested, the administrative and commercial complex designed by the Atelier des Architectes Associés (AAA) and completed in 1974 is considered to be a milestone in modern Swiss architecture. For the first time, the avant-gardist building has now been documented in the comprehensive monograph *Ensemble Chauderon – AAA* (Christoph Merian Verlag). Christina Haas and Harald R. Stühlinger position the building adeptly in the context of its time and highlight its use and reception, as well as its impact in the public domain over the course of the decades. In addition to in-depth documentation, today's perspective allows a new perception of this remarkable architecture.

Given its prominent location and its extremely elaborate and well-linked traffic and pedestrian routing system, it is hard to imagine Lausanne anymore without this building complex. When it was built, however, the planning and design concepts were definitely a subject of controversial debate – and still polarise to this very day. The five-storey office and services building hovers in the air as if detached from the ground; the ceilings are suspended on a steel construction resting on four reinforced concrete pillars. Experimental and innovative, the design set modernist standards in its day and their implementation presented technological challenges. This also applied to the high-class façade consisting of shimmering silver-coloured aluminium panels and shimmering bronze-coloured windows with rounded corners.

The sophisticatedly designed publication renders the building's structural quality and urban-planning intentions of the architects visible by means of numerous drawings, colour photographs and historical plans, some of them fold out. Among the themes addressed are the building's acceptance by the users, as well as its reception in the media. Today, a call is being made for the expertise of the office of monument protection regarding outstanding building culture, as in the Chauderon ensemble and many other post-war buildings. This is accompanied by the hope for a growing appreciation among an open-minded audience interested in architecture. This publication is targeted at that very audience. The publication is available in German/English and French/English.

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