Press Information

Christoph Merian Verlag

Crucial for Swiss Architecture

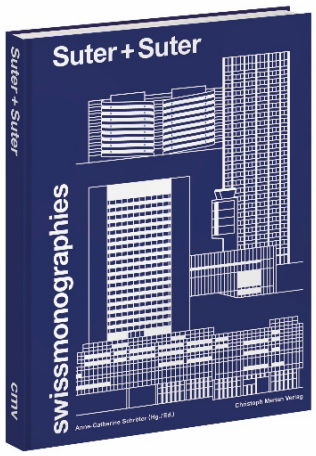
The buildings by the architects Suter + Suter are looked upon as iconic and visionary. Everyone knows buildings such as the Lonza Tower in Basel or the Sulzer high-rise office block in Winterthur, but few know the responsible architects behind them. For the first time, the publication *Suter + Suter* (Christoph Merian Verlag) is presenting the work of the largest Swiss planning office of the post-war period. In thematically wide-ranging essays, six authors focus, among other things, on the history of the company, the position of their work in its spatial and historical context and its mediatisation and reception. The importance of the company for Swiss architecture of the post-war period and its role in current and future building activities are dealt with in great depth. The richly illustrated volume thus represents a comprehensive treatment of the planning office's work.

During the post-war years, Suter + Suter expanded to become an internationally operating general planning office with almost one thousand employees. The company built an amazing variety of buildings: commercial and office blocks, bank buildings, industrial plants, research centres and laboratories, residential complexes and hospitals. Between 1945 and 1995 they implemented thousands of projects and plans all over Switzerland, including prestigious large buildings such as Messe Parking (1974-1975) in Basel or the airport Basel-Mulhouse (as of the 1960s). As a result of the building crisis in the 1990s and real estate speculation, the company declared bankruptcy and went into liquidation in 1996.

The approach of the architects' office was not undisputed. Among the things that were quite controversial at the time were its commercially-orientated concept of architecture as a service. Suter + Suter saw its work as an amalgamation of art, function and economic viability. Their importance, in terms of the history both of architecture and of society, as well as economic and ecological aspects, raise the question of how to handle many of the buildings in the coming years. The volume offers a solid basis for re-evaluating this post-war architecture and thus enriches the topical discourse about energy-efficient renovation and sustainability.

Thanks to the company's enormous wealth of material, the publication provides a broad as well as an architecture-savvy readership with new insight into Suter + Suter's distinctive buildings in Swiss urban and industrial landscapes, particularly in Basel.

Texts by Martin Lüpold, Tipje Reimann, Dominique Salathé, Anne-Catherine Schröter, Harald R. Stühlinger and Justinas Žuklys.



Anne-Catherine Schröter (Hg.)
Suter + Suter
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We would like to thank you in advance for sending us a file copy of your review!