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Decentralization of the School

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The buildings of the modern town have mixed functions: business, administration, offices and even living take place in them. Garden courts, parking sites and traffic arteries are incorporated in the structure. In this discussion the question is raised by Walter Förderer, architect, whether the schoolhouse will be the last distinctly identifiable building standing aside from the over-all picture of the modern planned city. Would it not be proper to do away with the traditional school palace and to integrate smaller school complexes flexibly in their given surroundings? Could not school construction even be a point of departure for the conception of modern residential districts, seeing that it is entirely in the hands of the state? Would it not have to be the state's contribution to the designing of the urban districts of the future?

Girls' High School on the Engelgasse in Basel

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1961-1964. Architects: Hans Beck and Heinrich Baur BSA/SIA, Basel

This school is designed in keeping with a newly introduced educational scheme for girls who seek to enter more demanding professions without, however, going on to a university. The site borders that of the Cantonal Commercial High School, so that a school centre could be laid out with large sports grounds. The spatial program comprises 22 standard classrooms, two music rooms, four manual training rooms as well as numerous special classrooms, draughting rooms, workshops and installations for the housekeeping department.

Stained-glass Windows in the new Girls' High School, Basel

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Glass painter: Otto Staiger, Basel

The stained-glass windows in the recreation-hall of this school represent a work in which the artist has incorporated the experiences of fifty years of activity as a glass painter. They are set up on three sides of the cloister-like passageway around the courtyard. Staiger executed this monumental cycle in pure mosaic technique, using coloured bits of glass, and not employing any sort of painting with black soldering and etching. The leading was done with rods of three degrees of lateral spread. The graphic effect of the rod design and the glowing colour composition are independent of each other. From each window to the next there is a dynamic continuity, which clarifies the principle of movement around this hall. - Otto Staiger was born in Basel in 1894, and he lives there again now. Along with the painter Hans Stocker, he was one of the chief proponents of the renaissance of Swiss glass painting in the Twenties which was expressed in the windows of the Antonius Church in Basel.

Extensions on the Cantonal High School, Winterthur

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Architect: Erik Lanter SIA, Zurich

The new construction is located west of the old Cantonal High School building. The auditorium and the special classrooms are therefore accessible from both school buildings. The construction program was divided up into four individual units, which constitute a terraced, articulated complex.

Bronze Sculpture near the new School of Arts and Crafts in Schaffhausen

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Sculptor: Erwin Rehmann, Laufenburg

The bronze sculpture in the yard of the new School of Arts and Crafts in Schaffhausen is composed of welded bronze slabs 4 mm thick. It possesses a height of 6.5 meters, of which 2 meters extend down into a subterranean hall. It is supported by two arms on the concrete edge of the opening, so that it sways slightly in gusts of wind.

Secondary School in Schüpfheim LU

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1960-1962. Architects: Cramer, Jaray, Paillard, BSA/SIA, Zurich

The main building rises step-fashion out of the terraced structures in front, without concealing the view from the valley on to the nearby monastery. Two entrances lead from the covered entrance hall into the large polyvalent hall, whose stairs, following the contours of the slope, give access, via lateral galleries, to the classrooms.

Mural Paintings in the Buchlern School in Zurich-Altstetten

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Painter: Harry Buser, Zurich

The three mural paintings of dispersion paint on concrete are located on two sides of a free-standing outside masonry wall, in the cloakroom tract of the kindergarten section and in the entrance hall of the gymnasium. Associations with the objective world are most clearly pronounced in the gymnasium, are fragmented on the outer wall, and suggest children's drawings in the kindergarten; the composition integrates the relief effects of the coffering seams.

Occupational Training School Hard in Winterthur

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Architects: Gubelmann & Strohmeier, Winterthur

The occupational training school Hard came into being on the basis of occupational courses intended to further the training of metal workers during the time of crisis. Today it serves for the re-training and theoretical instruction of automobile mechanics, electricians, machine-tool makers, lathe operators and welders, and is administered by the Federal Office for Industry, Crafts and Labour. The present plant consists of eleven workshop units and eight theory rooms, the necessary central installations as well as a boarding-school tract. The classroom tract is a mixed construction of steel and reinforced concrete with pre-fabricated elevation elements. The supporting walls and partitions of the boarding-school tract consist of brick.

Sculpture Group near the Heuried Recreation Area in Zurich

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Sculptor: Josef Wyss, Zurich

The sculpture group consists of four different high stone figures of white Peccia marble and is visible from a great distance. The monumental effect of the four pillars is transformed, as the viewer approaches, into a vibrant composition of volumes and interstitial spaces.

Promenaden Schoolhouse in Bremgarten AG

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1962/63. Architects: Schwarz & Gutmann, BSA/SIA, Zurich

The school area between the old district schoolhouse and the new building is a constituent part of the popular Reuss Promenade and is also used for the large regional markets. The eight classrooms are arranged in groups of two with a cloakroom. The corner-illuminated classrooms offer various views on to the old town, the Reuss and the school area, and impress on the pupils' minds the annual change of rooms.

Fountain near the Wartegg-Tribtschen Schoolhouse in Lucerne

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Sculptor: Rolf Luethi, Lucerne

The fountain composition consisting of concrete basins forms the centre of the architectural conception and is an integral part of it. The school is for children and teen-agers up to the age of sixteen; this fact gave rise to the theme of a fountain designed to be climbed on by children.

Play Fountain near the Widmermatte Schoolhouse in Root LU

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Sculptor: Rolf Luethi, Lucerne

The schoolhouse is situated on a slope. The visitor climbing up to it is first received by a sight of the fountain. It serves the children as a place to wade, play and clamber. Toy boats can be sailed in the large pools.

Battenberg Schoolhouse in Biel-Mett

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Architect: Otto Suri SIA, Nidau-Biel

Despite the difficult topographical situation - the distant view is to the north -, there could be erected a loosely articulated but unified complex. All tracts are three-storied and have their own recess hall and yard.