



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in India

Partners

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

swissnex India

Switzerland.
Innovation & Promotions

Switzerland.
get natural.

Year of Swiss Architecture
Design and Engineering
in India
2013-14



Sponsored by

Schindler

Nestlé

ABB

Holcim foundation
Ambuja Cement ACC

STEINER

Supported by

BÜHLER

GHERZI

HILTI

NOVARTIS

oerlikon

PILATUS

REGENT
Lighting

Roche

SABER
Swiss Quality Paper

BUILDING TRUST
sika

SWISS

Swiss Re
III

vitra.

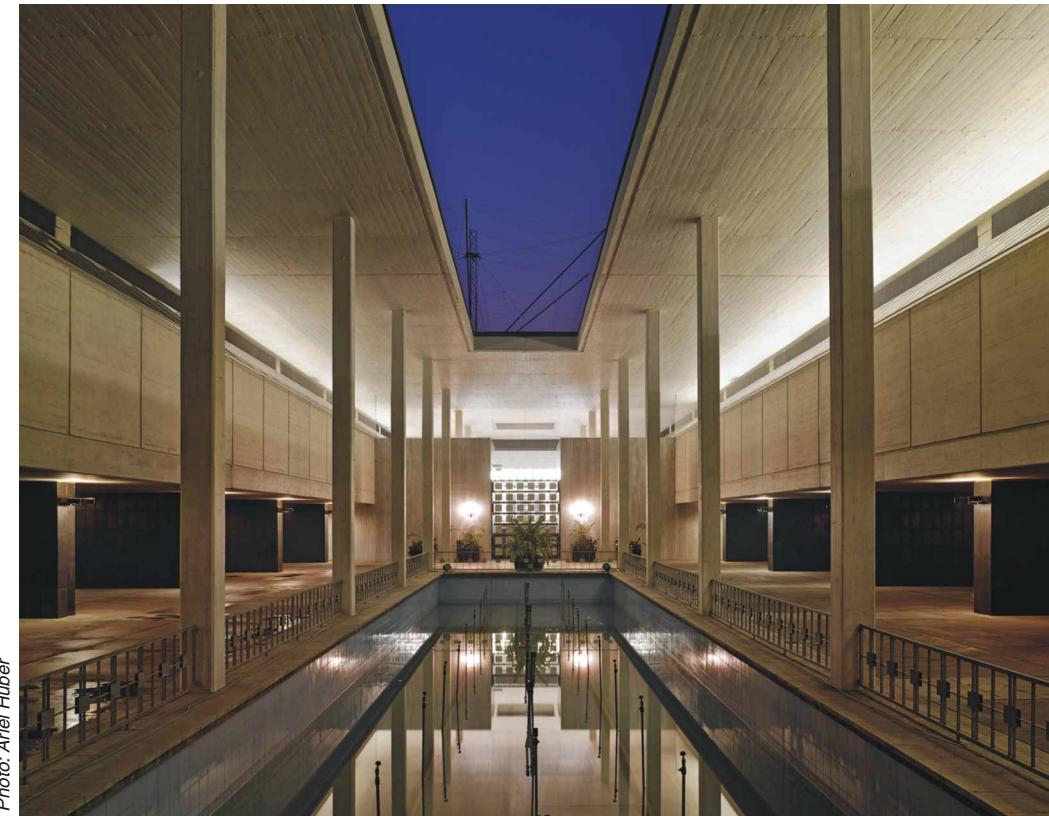


Photo: Ariel Huber

Embassy of Switzerland, 2011

Year of Swiss
Architecture
Design and
Engineering
in India
2013-14





Message from the Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan



Dear readers,

You will be pleased to learn that the building of the Embassy of Switzerland completed 50 years on 4th July 2013. Designed by Swiss architect Hans Hofmann and realized posthumously by his young collaborator Walter Rüegg, the building was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on 4th July 1963. The Swiss Embassy building, located in the Diplomatic Enclave in Chanakyapuri, is recognized as a significant architectural landmark of New Delhi. More importantly it stands to symbolize in material the strong bond between India and Switzerland.

To commemorate the 50 years of this edifice, a series of major events around architecture, design and engineering are being organised in India. These are disciplines in which Switzerland excels; they are also strongly emerging fields of study and practice in India.

Planned from July 2013 to April 2014 in the framework of the *Year of Swiss Architecture, Design and Engineering in India* these events aim at initiating and enhancing collaborations between India and Switzerland by reaching out to architects, urban planners, designers, engineers, builders, artists, scholars, students as well as the general audience.

These events will be organised by the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulates General in Mumbai and Bangalore, in partnership with Presence Switzerland, Pro Helvetia - Swiss Arts Council, Swiss Business Hub, swissnex India and Switzerland Tourism, with the generous support of many companies, which I would like to thank wholeheartedly.

I am confident that the *Year of Swiss architecture, design and engineering in India* will offer a splendid platform for common reflection and push the current collaboration in these fields to new heights.

Dr. Linus von Castelmur

Left and right: The Embassy of Switzerland, 1960-63



Photos: Walter Rüegg

Events celebrating the 50 years of the Swiss Embassy building in New Delhi

11th and 16th November 2013

New Delhi

To commemorate 50 years of the Swiss Embassy building in New Delhi and to celebrate its extraordinary architecture, the second week of November will see a series of important events.

The celebrations will begin in the evening of 11th November 2013 in presence of the Swiss Foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Didier

Burkhalter, Indian and Swiss officials and distinguished guests, on invitation only.

A three day symposium on architecture, design, and engineering will be held on 13th, 14th and 15th November 2013.

An "open house" day will offer guided tours to audiences at large on 16th November 2013. A concert and a cocktail reception will close this week of celebrations. These events will be open to the public.

Back lawn view Embassy of Switzerland, 2011



Photo: Ariel Huber

Constructing the future: Symposium on architecture, design, and engineering

13th, 14th and 15th November 2013

New Delhi

Constructing the future, a symposium on various aspects of architecture, design and engineering, will be organised at the India International Centre. Swiss and Indian experts, like Ashok B. Lall, Bijoy Jain, Alfredo Brillembourg, Andreas Deplazes, Ariel Huber, Emmanuel Christ, and Meret Ernst, will participate in debates and presentations on topics ranging from sustainable construction, urbanization in megacities, collective identity through design, low cost housing, energy efficient buildings to a new deontology for planning and building cities. Participation at the symposium is open to architects, urban planners, designers, engineers, builders, artists, scholars, students and the general audience as well.

Focus on architecture through films

Each day of the symposium will close with a screening of documentary films on architecture at the Alliance Française de Delhi. Entry open to all.

Screening schedule:

Wednesday, 13th November 2013

Bird's Nest - Herzog & de Meuron in China
Documentary by Christoph Schaub, Michael Schindhelm, 2008, 87 min., English.

The documentary follows two Swiss star architects, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. "Bird's Nest" presents the Basel architects as they find solutions not in the comfort of an ivory tower but in encounters and friction on the ground.

Thursday, 14th November 2013

Le paysage intérieur

Documentary by Pierre M. Maillard, 2010, 80 min., French, English subtitles.

Told through the eyes of Yumiko Yamada, a young Japanese architect living in Lausanne, the viewer becomes acquainted with the construction of the Learning Center at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, built by the Japanese architects SANAA.

Friday, 15th November 2013

Un architecte dans le paysage

Documentary by Carlos Lopez, 2009, 60 min., French, English subtitles.

The work of Geneva based architect Georges Descombes, somewhere between landscape and contemporary art, is enigmatic. He stands apart from today's architectural scene. The film shows his projects realised in Switzerland and Europe.

Swiss positions: 33 takes on sustainable architecture

September to October 2013
Bangalore, Chandigarh & New Delhi

Exhibition curated by Nathalie Herschdorfer, produced and presented by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in cooperation with the Embassy

Swiss Positions - 33 takes on sustainable architecture, is a collection of photographs of 33 key projects from the Swiss construction sector over the past twenty years.

The 33 projects selected for the exhibition present architectural and engineering achievements through the eyes of talented photographers. The exhibition explores different angles with regard to engineering

techniques, materials, ecology and protection of the environment. What all these architectural works have in common, whether viewed from the technological, organic, vernacular or bioclimatic angle, or from the social perspective, is that they interact with the setting in which they have been created.

The Embassy of Switzerland will showcase this exhibition between September and October 2013 in the cities of Bangalore, Chandigarh and Delhi in collaboration with swissnex India and the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi.

Guided walks will be conducted for interested groups.

Lectures on Swiss architecture for students

Snehal Shah, visiting Professor at CEPT, will deliver lectures for students in the cities of Bangalore, Chandigarh and New Delhi. Snehal Shah has studied architecture in Ahmedabad and works as an architect both in Switzerland and India.

Daniel Buchner and Andreas Bründler, Volta Center, Basel, 2010 from the exhibition Swiss Positions



Photo: Ruedi Walti

Architecture as an open process: Recent works of Studio Mumbai

November to December 2013
New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai

Exhibition curated by Bijoy Jain, Ariel Huber and Nicola Navone

All encompassing, the practice of an architect, whether tangible, ambiguous or theoretical, is primarily concerned with the nature of being. This ontological understanding may begin to express how the work at Studio Mumbai is created from an iterative process, where ideas are explored through the production of large scale mock-ups, material studies, sketches and drawings to form an intrinsic part of our thought and body.

Studio Mumbai was awarded a prestigious architectural award from Switzerland in the year 2012. The Embassy of Switzerland announces the exhibition "Architecture as an open process: Recent Works of Studio Mumbai", showcasing photographs taken by Ariel Huber, Hélène Binet and Enrico Cano. It will also present models, studies of details, and mock-ups. The central feature of the exhibition is the interplay between different ways of documenting through pictures, videos, objects, texts as well as depicting the making of architecture and the architectural object itself.

The exhibition will be shown between the

months of November and December in New Delhi in collaboration with the Lalit Kala Akademi, in Ahmedabad at the Design Gallery of the National Institute of Design and in Mumbai in collaboration with Studio X.

Guided walks will be conducted for interested groups.

Studio Mumbai, Work in progress

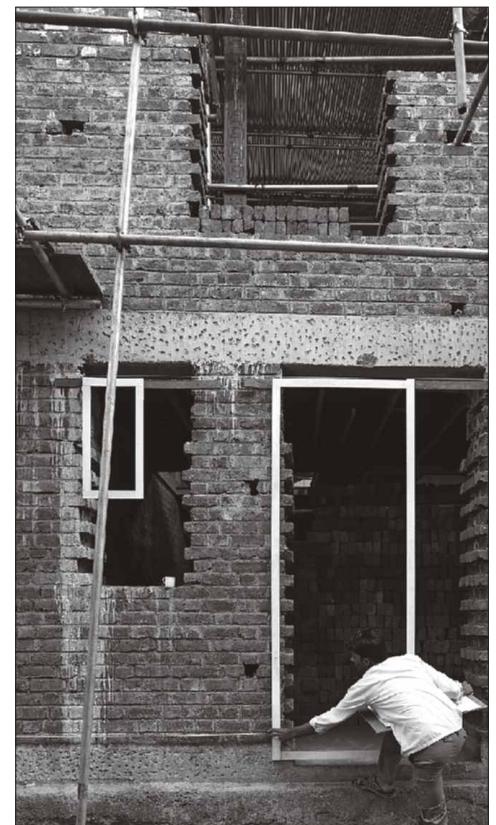


Photo: Ariel Huber

Build. Photography focusing on Swiss architecture

January to April 2014

Mumbai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Bangalore

Exhibition curated by Hubertus Adam and Elena Kossovskaja

It is often the case that our perception of contemporary architecture is not based on impressions that we obtain on site; instead, they are mediated by images. In a society which, as a result of the 'iconic turn', is influenced more by images than by text, photography takes on decisive significance, also in the mediation of architecture. Build. Photography focusing on Swiss architecture is conceived as a panorama of the last 25

years of Swiss architecture. Buildings which have contributed to the worldwide success of Swiss construction are presented solely via the medium of photography. Here, artistic positions enter into a dialog with architectural photography. Rather than limiting itself to stringing together exemplary photographs, the presentation also sheds light on the different aspects of the relationship between image and architecture in an analytical section. What role do images play in the design process? Which architects prefer which photographs? How can three-dimensional architecture be transferred to two-dimensional images?

Guided walks will be conducted for interested groups.

Peter Zumthor, Spa Vals, Graubunden, Switzerland, 1996



Photo: swissword.org

50! The Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi

February 2014

New Delhi

Book launch

Edited by Bruno Maurer, foreword by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, with photographs by Ariel Huber, published by gta publishers, Zurich in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in India and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich)

The Swiss Embassy in New Delhi is the architectural symbol of a special political relationship. Designed by Hans Hofmann (1897-1957) and built after his death by Walter Rüegg (*1930), his young office assistant, this architectural monument is a living organism: it has a history, a personality and an aura that has impressed thousands of visitors and guests ever since the building was first opened in 1963, in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Embassy building stands, whether explicitly or implicitly, for values and ideas. It represents one country within another – Switzerland in India.

Hans Hofmann was directly commissioned by the Swiss government to design the representative building in the diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri. With his experience in using semantic potential of modern architecture, Hofmann created an outstanding example of Swiss architecture, that was also

well-adapted to local cultural and climatic conditions. Against the background of today's "global architecture", it is a model case. The impressive architecture of the Swiss Embassy is also the result of an Indo-Swiss cooperation. The construction work on this building was assigned to the Indian company Tirath Ram Ahuja. The Embassy staff quarters built on the same site were designed and constructed by the architectural firm Kanvinde & Rai.

Construction work, Embassy of Switzerland, 1962



Photo: Walter Rüegg

Seminars on sustainable architecture: Integrated approach to energy-efficient building design

July 2013 to April 2014

New Delhi

Switzerland has been at the forefront of promoting energy efficiency in its building sector since 1979. The buildings in Switzerland use significantly less energy compared to buildings elsewhere. The on-going Indo-Swiss Project on Building Energy Efficiency is based on a memorandum of understanding between the two governments and brings together experts like Ashok B. Lall, Pierre Jaboyedoff, Pierre Hollmuller, and Willi Frei, with prominent builders and developers, laboratories and state agencies to enhance energy efficient design of new buildings.

The project aims at creating a culture of energy-efficient integrated building design. Interdisciplinary workshops for 24 large commercial building projects are organised for this purpose.

The project reinforces testing capacity of Indian laboratories for insulation material through equipment, pilot testing and on-the-job training. The project also facilitates the development of guidelines, labels and tools to support energy efficient design. It is planned to develop and adapt the Swiss Minergie® label to the Indian context. The seminars will mainly reach out to builders, developers, local authorities, policy makers and building sector professionals. By invitation only.

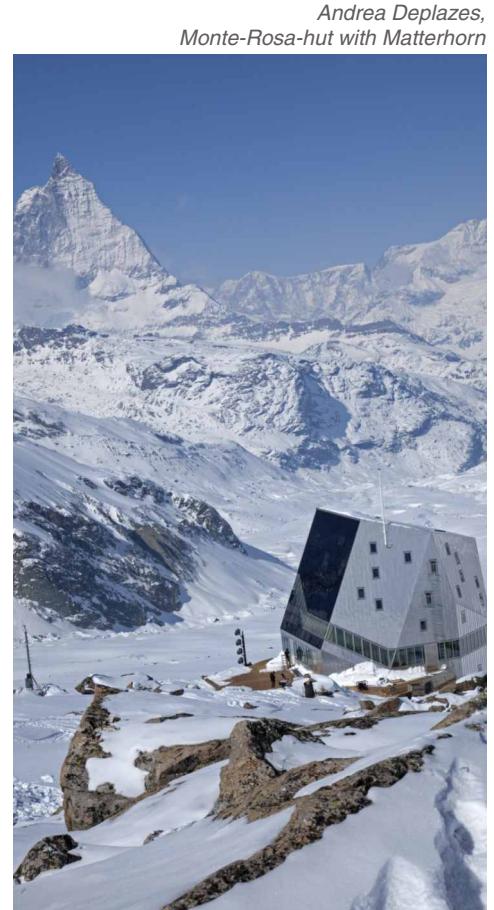


Photo FDFA, Presence Switzerland

Shaping the urban future

April 2013 to February 2014

Bangalore and New Delhi

In the past decade, the world has become an urban planet, with the majority of the world's population living in cities. Reflecting this global trend, India's urban population is expected to increase from less than 350 million in 2011 to about 800 million by the middle of the 21st century. At this point, urban India will account for more than half of the country's population and will thus make a historic transition from a largely rural and agrarian society to one that is predominantly urban.

This will be more than just an economic transition: the effects of urbanisation will resonate within Indian society, culture, politics



and environment. However, existing urban centres, as well as many new ones, will find themselves enormously strained as urbanisation gathers momentum.

swissnex India and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) have co-organised this lecture series on the challenges related to the global urbanisation process and its implications for India. The series comprises sessions by various Swiss experts, like Alfredo Brillembourg, Jean Claude Bolay, Christoph Luethi, Gerhard Schmitt, and René Véron, from a wide range of fields including architecture, social geography, urban sociology and environmental science. They provide an opportunity to interact with experts and gain insights on various topics related to urbanisation.

Game Gazer: excellence in Swiss game design

August to September 2013
Goa and Bangalore

Exhibition presented by Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and swissnex India

Game Gazer showcases games and apps that have been developed by students from Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD) and Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK).

The game jam in Bangalore will be a creative, face to face and hands-on event where people of various backgrounds (primarily game players, game developers and game designers) will come together and work on a shared theme. The participants will work together to derive and design new storyboards for games, new user experiences and new game themes/designs, learn new skills and attitudes, and meet new collaborators from India and Switzerland.



Come in, come play, and come explore the latest innovations in gaming and interaction, dive into space with a mesmerising journey navigating some of the most wonderful images from the NASA database. The game was awarded the Swisscom Best iOS app 2012.

Game Gazer was previously shown at swissnex San Francisco during the Game Developers Conference (GDC) supported by Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and swissnex San Francisco.

Clever crafts for green steel: Workshops on industrial design and handicrafts

April 2013 to February 2014
Bangalore and New Delhi

motoco is an international movement for designers and design schools. motoco stands for “more to come” and has grown quickly since its launch in spring 2012. It creates equipment and strategies for design under post-industrial conditions. The results are open sourced, actively shared and for free.

Mischa Schaub, director of the HyperWerk Institute for Post-Industrial Design at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, is convinced that the movement will provide a significant impulse to design education. In two recent

workshops in Basel, motoco brought together Swiss students with students and teachers from India. The staff and students from HyperWerk, will travel from Bangalore to New Delhi via Mumbai and collaborate with students from Indian design and engineering institutes.

The participants explore the design potential of bamboo – also called “green steel”. This cooperation project will be documented by the Swiss-Indian film maker Kamal Musale.

The results of the project will be displayed on the premises of the Swiss Embassy between 11th and 16th November 2013.

Laser-cut bamboo handicrafts



Highlights

50th anniversary celebration of the Swiss Embassy building in the presence of the Swiss Foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter.

11th November 2013. Reception at the Swiss residence, by invitation only.

Constructing the future, an international symposium on architecture, urban planning, design and engineering with participation from Swiss and Indian experts.

13th, 14th and 15th November 2013. Open to architects, urban planners, designers, engineers, media, students and interested audience. Entry free, pre-registration required due to limited seats.

Open house at the Embassy of Switzerland, 16th November 2013. Open access to the refurbished Swiss residence. Guided tours through the day with prior registration.

50! The Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi, launch of the book on the Embassy of Switzerland. February 2014, during Indian Design 2014.

Calendar of events*

April 2013 to February 2014

Lecture series: Shaping the urban future

Bangalore and New Delhi

Organised by swissnex India in partnership with Indian Institute of Human Settlements

July 2013 to April 2014

Seminars on sustainable architecture: Integrated approach to energy-efficient building design

New Delhi

Organised by the Climate Change and Development section, Embassy of Switzerland in partnership with BEEPS

August to September 2013

Exhibition: Game Gazer – excellence in Swiss game design

Goa and Bangalore

Organised by Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and swissnex India

September to October 2013

Exhibition: Swiss positions – 33 takes on sustainable architecture

swissnex India, Bangalore

In collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Bangalore

Government Museum and Art Gallery,

Chandigarh

In collaboration with the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

November to December 2013

Exhibition: Architecture as an open process. Recent works of Studio Mumbai Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

In collaboration with the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Design Gallery, NID, Ahmedabad

In collaboration with National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

Studio X, Mumbai

In collaboration with Studio X, Mumbai

11th November 2013

50 years reception at the Swiss residence in presence of the Swiss Foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter

Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi

13th to 15th November 2013

Constructing the future – International symposium on architecture, urban planning, design and engineering

C.D. Deshmukh auditorium,
India International Centre, New Delhi

13th to 15th November 2013

Focus on architecture through films

M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Française, New Delhi

In collaboration with Alliance Française de Delhi

October to November 2013

Clever crafts for green steel – motoco: Workshops on industrial design and handicrafts

Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi

In collaboration with HyperWerks Institute for Post-Industrial Design, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

16th November 2013

Open House – day long event at the Embassy with exhibitions, projections, music and performances

Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi

28th January 2014

On the occasion of the 6th edition of India Art Fair, late evening cocktail at the Swiss residence.

Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi

February to April 2014

Exhibition: Build. Photography focusing on Swiss Architecture

Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

In collaboration with the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Design Gallery, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

In collaboration with National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

swissnex India, Bangalore

In collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Bangalore

February 2014

50! The Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi

Book launch

14th to 16th February 2014

On the occasion of the 3rd India Design Week, cocktail reception at the Swiss residence.

Embassy of Switzerland in collaboration with Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council and India Design

*Subject to change

Updated information and participation details will be available nearer to the event dates at www.eda.admin.ch/newdelhi