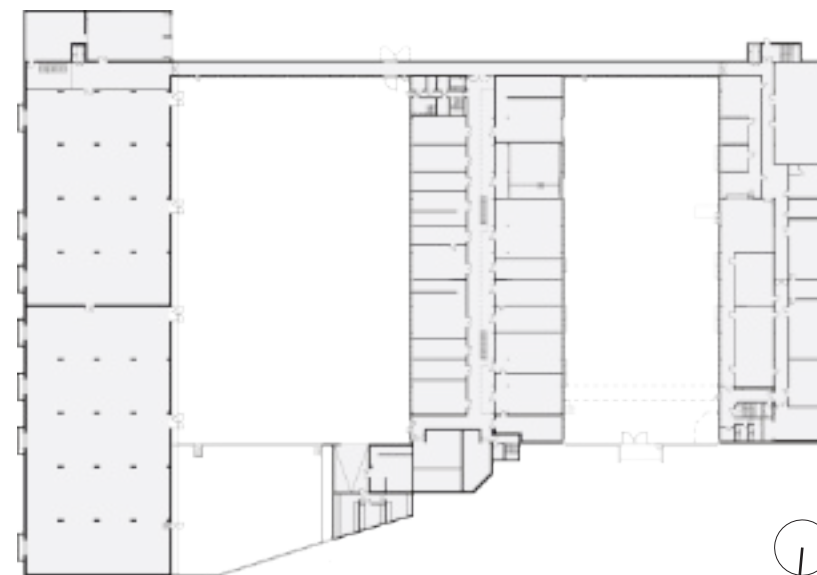




Images: Façade to the courtyard, slit of light in the outer façade, cultural goods store
Plans: floor plan ground floor and cross-section



The three existing arsenal halls and their courtyards now form a standalone complex with a new function. This features an object centre to house the collection, conservation and restoration studios, the conservation research and material analysis laboratory and a service centre with central reception area. The structures are linked via a corridor that simultaneously encloses the complex.

The majority of the existing structure has been retained. The untreated steel plates in the new façade signal the change of purpose. This is most apparent in the object centre, with a jagged joint representing the topographical altitude profile along the Swiss border running around the monolithic structure. Not only is this joint an integral structural element, it also symbolises the wealth of Swiss culture contained within the building.

The collection centre, built to the Minergie-P standard, provides a perfect indoor climate regardless of outdoor conditions. The room temperature can be kept constant all year round without cooling and with minimal heating. There is a huge emphasis on crisis resistance, with the use of passive systems: even if the electricity and building services fail, safe storage of the historic items is guaranteed for years. The complex also provides scope for future expansion.



Commission type: competition 1st prize
Client: Eidgenössisches Finanzdepartement, Bundesamt für Bauten und Logistik, Bern
Location: Lindenmoosstrasse 1, 8910 Affoltern am Albis
Budget (BKP 2): CHF 27 Mio.
Floor space: 20'090 m²
Room arrangement: Kulturgüterlager, Labors, Reinräume, Verwaltung
Planing phase: 2003–2006
Construction phase: 2005–2007
Sustainability label: Minergie-P

Architecture/General management: Stücheli Architekten, Zurich
Civil engineer: Basler & Hofmann, Zurich
Building physics: Lenum, Buchs
Façade: Neuschwander + Morf, Basel