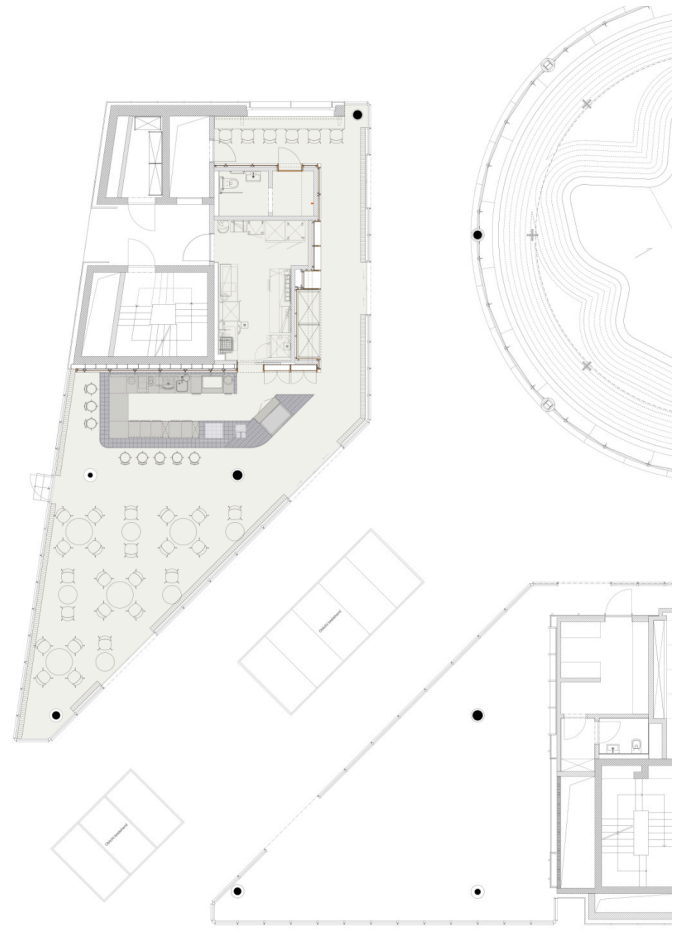


Lingo Café - EF Education First, Zurich



Images: Interior of the café, detail of solid oak wall cladding, detail of tiled counter at the window, detail of blue-tiled bar counter, glazed façade facing the courtyard
Photos: Studio Willen
Drawing: Ground floor plan



The Lingo Café lends EF Education First’s language school, now housed in the “Neue Börse”, a visible presence in the public realm. From Selnaustrasse, the glass-fronted café opens itself to the street, inviting passers-by to pause and take a break. The granite that defines the architectural expression of the building extends into the access areas and continues seamlessly through the café, creating a material continuity between exterior and interior.

The spatial backbone of the tapered interior is defined by a blue-tiled bar counter and a central wooden volume. Clad in solid oak moldings, the monolithic structure is articulated with subtle detailing, transforming it into an elegant, space-defining piece of furniture. Discreetly integrated within are a compact kitchen, a restroom, built-in appliances, and storage units that extend all the way to the ceiling efficiently concealed from view. At the rear of the café, a secondary counter is thoughtfully positioned, inviting guests to linger and observe the rhythms of the street through a distinctive round window.

The southern corner of the building follows a symmetrical design and is mirrored by an adjacent room of identical geometry, available for seminars or small events. This space is defined by a timber-clad rear wall, a stone floor, and an exposed concrete ceiling—material elements that echo those of the café, forming a cohesive spatial ensemble around the central passageway. Outfitted with a large screen facing the street, the seminar room doubles as a secondary showcase for the language school.

Client: EF Education First
Location: Selnaustrasse 30, 8001 Zurich
Area: Ground floor 148 m², Basement 21 m²
Room program: Hospitality venue with 37 seats, staff cloakroom
Planning: 2023 — 2024
Realization: 2024

Interior Design: Design & Creative Team, EF Education First, London
Architectural Planning & Execution: Stücheli Architekten AG, Zurich