

Description of the intervention

The Sechseläuten meadow and former Theaterplatz have been transformed into an open space in the middle of the city. It is paved with Valser quartzite and with a size of 16,000 m² it is now Switzerland's second largest urban square. Because of its size and accessibility, it offers people the chance to spend quality time there along with flexible usage opportunities. People can move over this expanded outdoor patio of the Opera House without any obstacles, always feeling safe. Three islands of trees planted with 35 liriiodendrons (tulip trees) and 21 red oaks as well as two pavilions, lighting, flexible brightly coloured chairs and a water feature with 51 jets contribute to the space's visual and acoustic excitement and make it extremely attractive to spend time there. As concerns available seating, this is provided with, among other things, freely movable chairs which are not chained down or permanently secured to the ground.

This square is intended to be an inviting place to spend time, not only during the day but also in the evening. People can stroll, relax – even sleep – arrange to meet there, enjoy a conversation over a cup of coffee or watch children play. The residents of Zurich and their guests can now incorporate the Sechseläutenplatz into their daily lives.

This new square still remains available for special events. However, the usage concept for the Sechseläutenplatz which the City Council passed in 2011 limits the amount of time for such events. The square must be available to the general public for normal use for at least 180 days each year.

