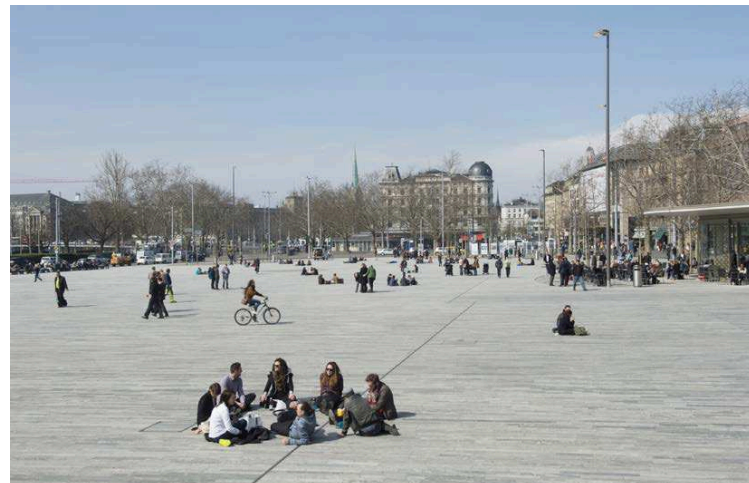


Aim of the intervention

As early as the 1990s, the City Council made multiple proposals to upgrade the area. One of the assumptions to reach this goal was to free the area from parking cars and to build an underground parking lot. As part of this scheme, a plan for the redesign and new layout of the Sechseläutenplatz and the expansion of the Opera House was prepared. It was approved by a large majority of Zurich's voters in July 2003. The Sechseläutenplatz redesign concept was dominated by three fundamental principles: the opening of the public square as a spacious area, adding more trees and allowing for flexible usage.

Evaluation

The opening of the Sechseläutenplatz was in April 2014. This urban square with its international aura has taken on a prominent role in Zurich's urban fabric, through its location and design as well as its size and dynamics. It has met with very high acceptance among people in the city from the day it was opened. A few things in particular add a new scale to urban life in the city – they include simply being able to sit and stretch out on the ground, the spacious area that can accommodate major events, an innovative Christmas market, the Sechseläuten festival as well as high everyday usage.



Photography: M. Bauer, Winterthur