

Europaplatz Bern

A transport hub with railway lines on two levels, and above all an eight-lane motorway: that's what characterises the core development area in Bern Ausserholligen.

The construction of Tram Bern West, an extension of the local tram network, and the completion of the Haus der Religionen (House of Religions) were considered the key catalysts to finally connect the already existing transport infrastructure with the urban realm. With very little creative leeway we follow a path between realistic exaggeration and surreal 'ready-made'.

The upgrade of the non-descriptive open space starts with the levelling of the base between its peripheric points and lines. The now lowered open space links key visual axes and improves overall visibility, connectivity and security.

The pillars that carry the motorway look like petrified tree trunks; uninvited props in this newly created urban stage. Following the model of classic columns, stepped seating elements form the base whilst lighting elements constitute the capital. At night, the columns appear like luminous volumes. A mesh of small sky-lights on metal ropes creates the impression of a starry night-time sky.

