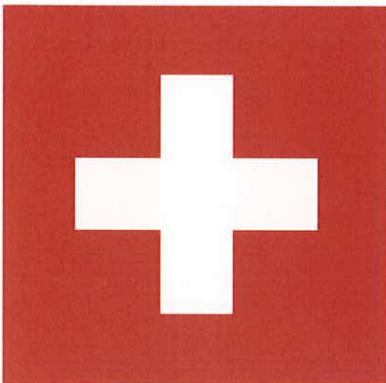


STUDY REPORT

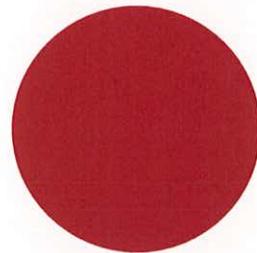
Exchange to Switzerland - ETH Zurich

Partners

Countries:



Switzerland



Japan

Universities:

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



1. APPLICATION TO ETH:

The application for an exchange program is a well organized process and need to be considered well in advance especially if language skills are required. I had the recommendation of the exchange program and information about the possible exchange semester through my previous colleagues in G30. The application is based on transcripts, a letter of recommendation of my professor and language skills. The hardest step in my application was the preparation for the toefl. I had a short period of time to be ready for the english examination because of my late application. Translations from english to japanese were complicated to me since I am not familiar with the japanese language. Many short translations were required to me. Probably, the process was much easier in my case since I was already studying in an English-speaking environment. I also prepared myself for the interview very carefully. I had to present my goals for studying at ETH, my learning curve, my ambitions and my motivation in front of two professors from the department of Engineering. I found it fair to be evaluated by professors external to the field of Architecture. Another important point in my application is the extension of my japanese visa. I had to attend a special event at the University of Tokyo to get more information. I also had to go the immigration office in Shinagawa with letters explaining my situation at the University of Tokyo and stamps of my professors. I got the extension of my visa some weeks later. I had to fulfil the last requirements with the ETH for the student card and others.

2. SCIENTIFIC REPORT:

It was a fantastic experience to study at ETH Zurich. I really appreciated the quality of each lecture selected and its organization. As an architecture student, I chose the studio of Angelo Bucci from Brazil, one lecture about wooden construction and its construction concept in german language, a second lecture about the negotiation of structural forms and its history also in german, a seminar as a one week internship in the metal/steel industry and finally CAD tutorials.

The studio of Angelo Bucci was really great in term of teaching and human interactions. It really helped me to develop a coherent project with a strong methodology and to economize time. I also appreciated that through this studio I could discover the Architecture of Ticino in a « brazilian » spirit. The critics invited, mostly from Ticino, made me understand the challenges they have to face in the Ticino area. Now, I am fascinated by the language they use for their Architecture that is at the edge between traditions, material and engineering sciences. Furthermore, they were really helpful to develop our projects by their critics with Professor Angelo Bucci. I am also very thankful to the assistants of this studio for their human qualities and their professionalism, Hüssner Karina and Andriussi Miguel Ciro Luis. I really enjoyed to develop ideas through our weekly talks similarly to other students. The topic of the studio « the use of geothermal water of the new gotthard tunnel for the construction of swimming pools » was particularly challenging. The simplicity and the ludic aspect gave me the will for Architecture. I am aware that one more semester would have been necessary to develop a really good project from the experience of the previous exchange students. Concerning the lecture about wooden construction comes directly in my mind our visit of a sawmill in the area of Zurich. We could understand on site each steps for an excellent timber, from the selection of the wood to its drying. I also learnt a lot about timber constructions in France and Japan, from traditional uses and fabrications to highly elaborated structures. The multiple lecturers with various backgrounds, from academics to professionals, gave us a large range of knowledge about timber. One of my exercise was to find a house in the Canton Bern built in 1784. The experience was fantastic to visit this house and to be sensitized to our past and the role of Architects. I appreciated to discuss with the local people for this short research. The most fascinating educational event at ETH was the final exhibition and reviews with all different studios. On three days, it was possible to follow other student presentations and to understand clearly the student's answers to other topics.

3. STAY IN SWITZERLAND:

The flat was really convenient and well located in Zurich. I really appreciated the large spaces of this new building and the easy use of the facilities. The kitchen was very well furnished. It was easy to meet other students from all over the world and from other departments. I lived with three other students of ETH : a Japanese from Sendai, an Australian from Sydney and an American from Chicago. We were all from different fields. The life style is different from Japan since restaurants are expensive in Switzerland. Convenient stores are also closing early and on Sundays. In Switzerland, I felt that people are much more dependant to their cooking skills. Zurich is a middle size city and walking from one point to an opposite point in the city is relatively fast. It is also relatively easy to save money on transportation.

I really enjoyed the events at ETH such as the multiple exhibitions (principally in the main building) but also social events such as the ball. The ball was an incredible experience. It was interesting to see the university transformed into multiple stages but also to see professors and students dancing.

I really appreciated the large number of activities available at ETH. I participated extensively to the free yoga classes. The teacher was very professional. The public pools in Switzerland are really different to the one in Japan. All swimming pools in Zurich are 50 meters long whereas in Japan it is usually 25 meters with very low depth.

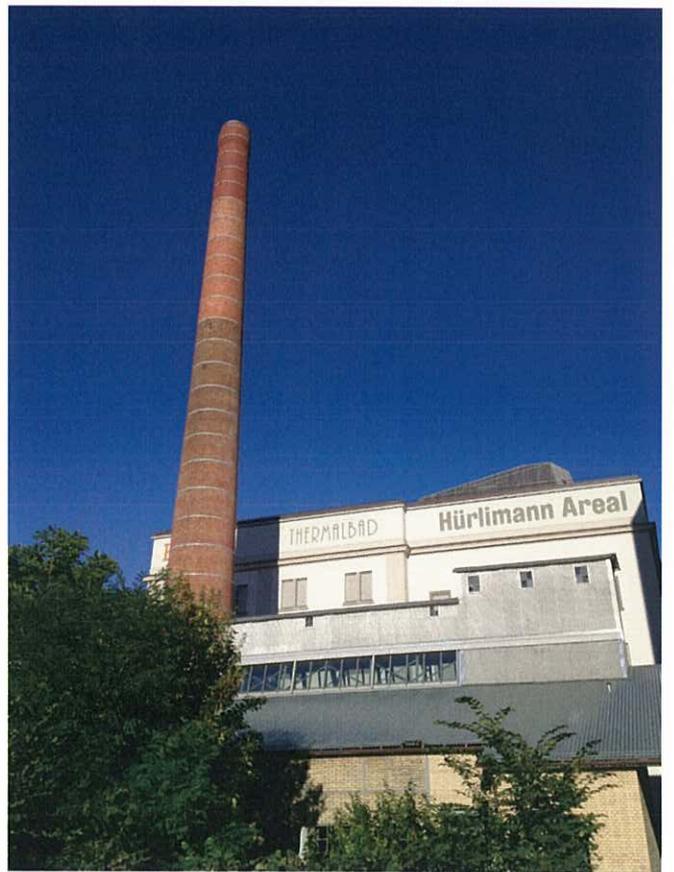
The contact to Swiss people is pretty easy. I found Swiss people quiet open to foreigners and not arrogant in general. Many times people helped me. I could learn a lot about Swiss people during my internship. On the construction site, the workers were very friendly. I really enjoyed the atmosphere even if the deadlines were stressful for the employees.

Zurich is a beautiful city in Switzerland but not as impressive as Basel. I felt that Zurich is more related to the surrounding nature with the lake and the hills. Walking around the lake or to have a panorama of Zurich is quiet relaxing. I organized my time in order to visit interesting buildings in Switzerland. I principally went to visit the Architecture of Renzo Piano and Peter Zumthor. I really enjoyed travelling in Switzerland and to discover the beautiful nature of Switzerland. This experience in Switzerland has been more than positive to me and I am very grateful of it. Thank you!

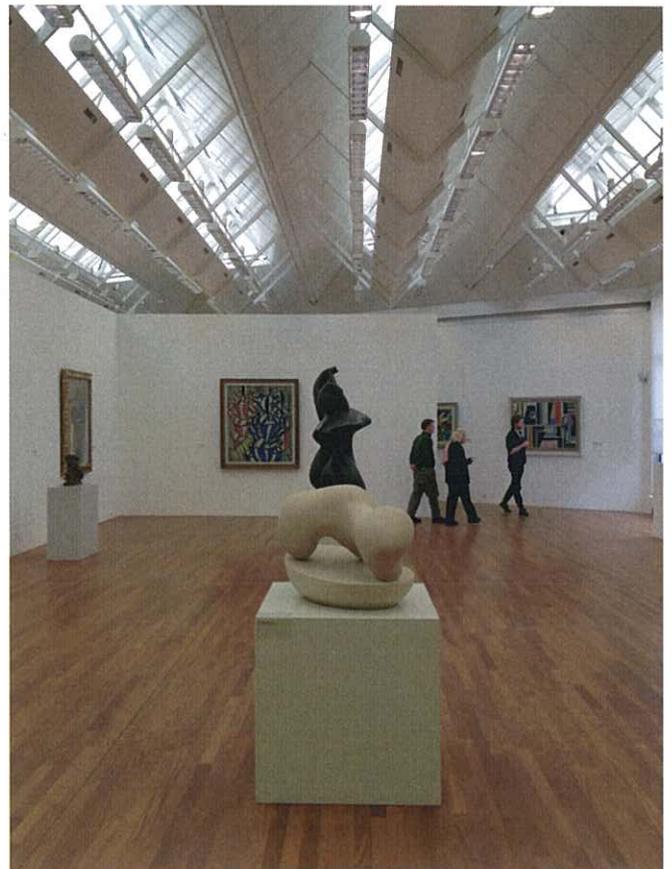
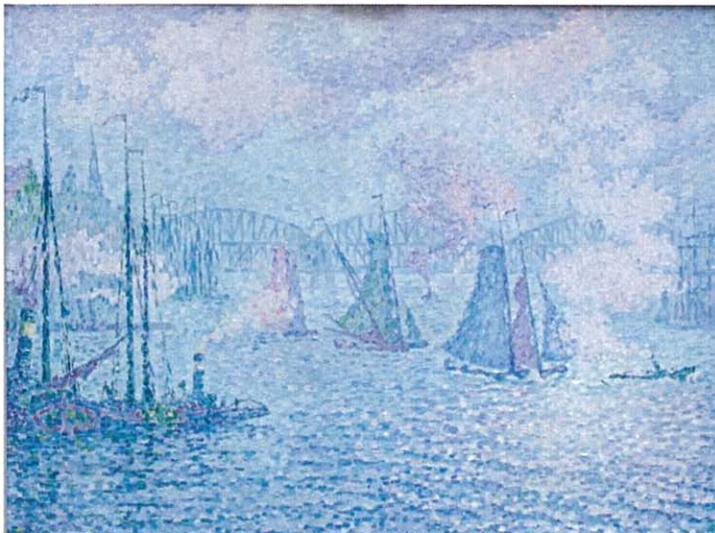
ZURICH



ZURICH



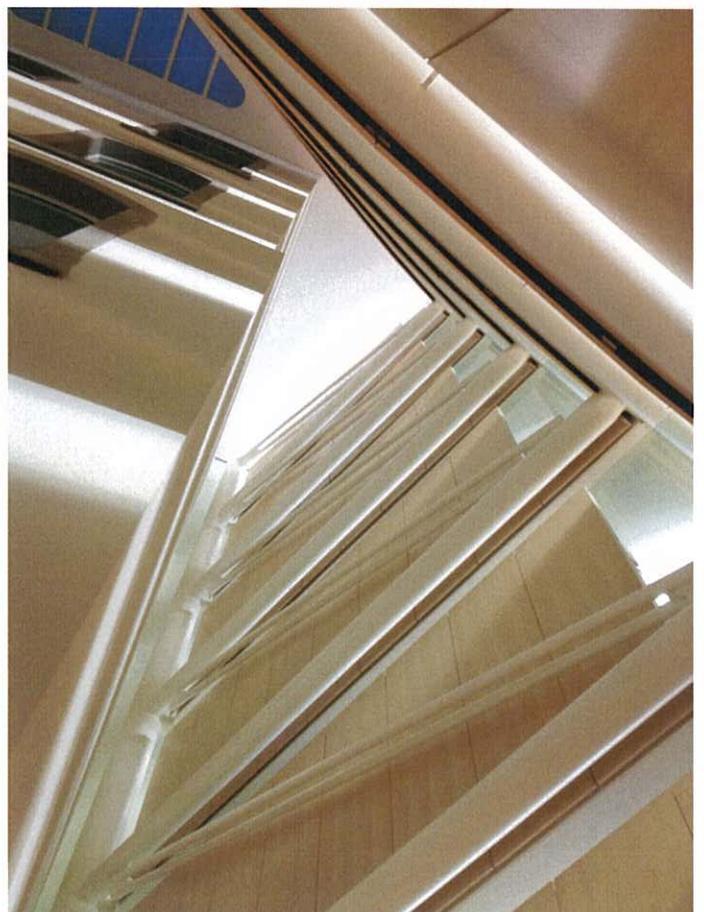
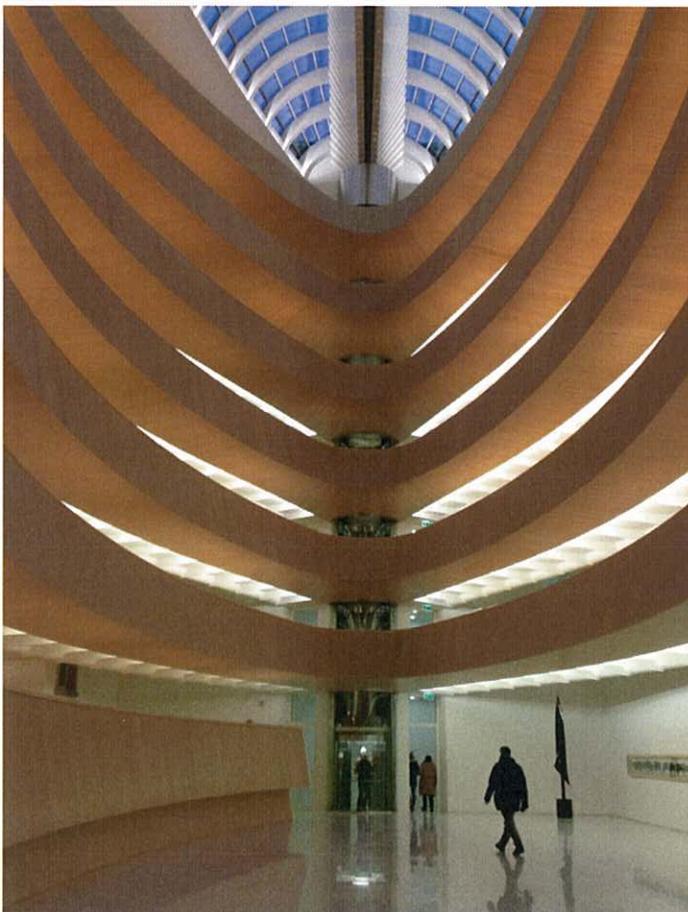
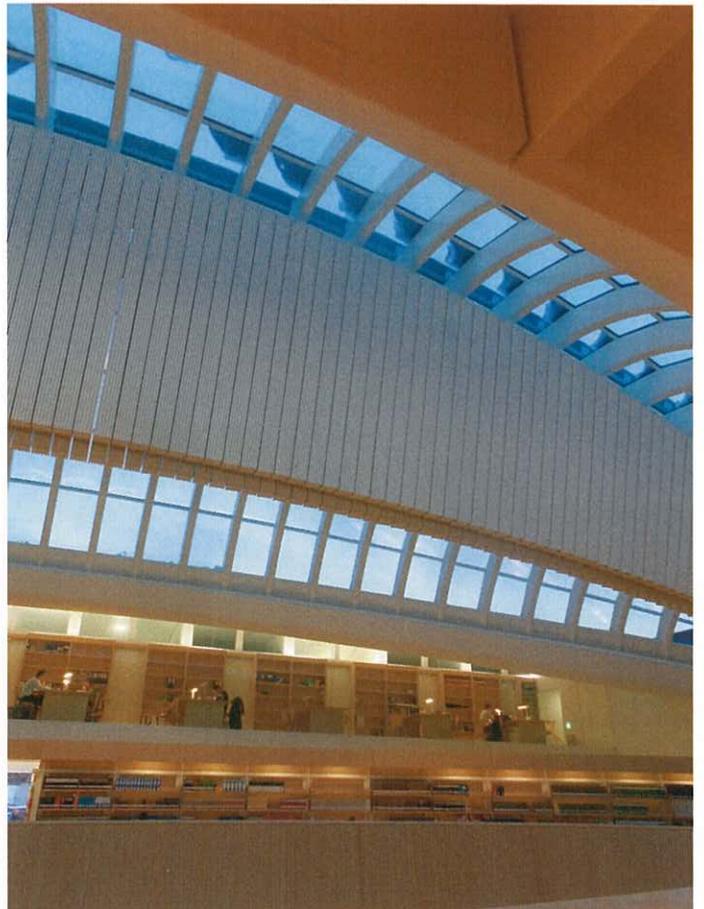
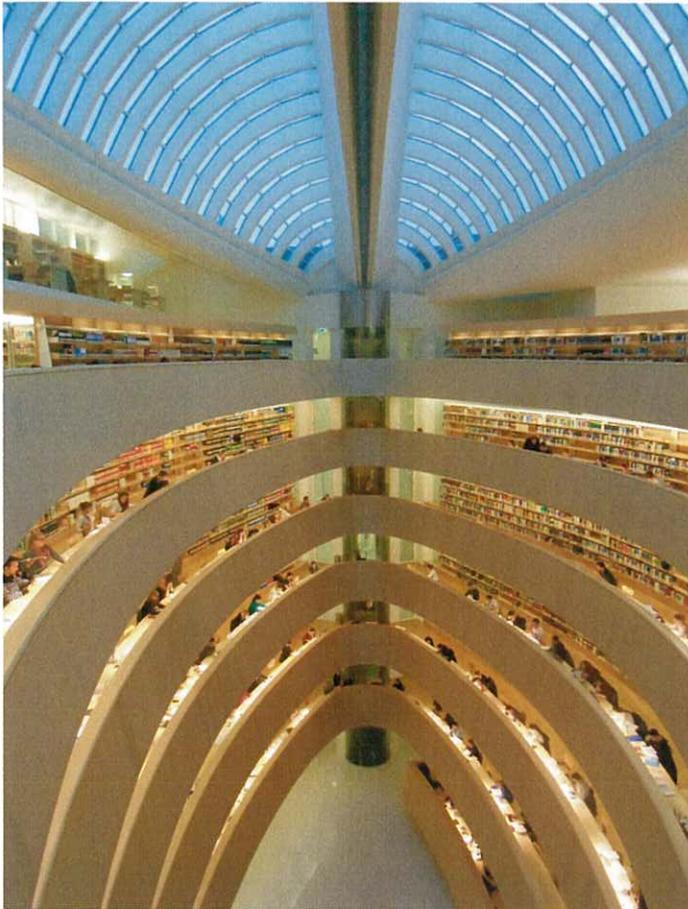
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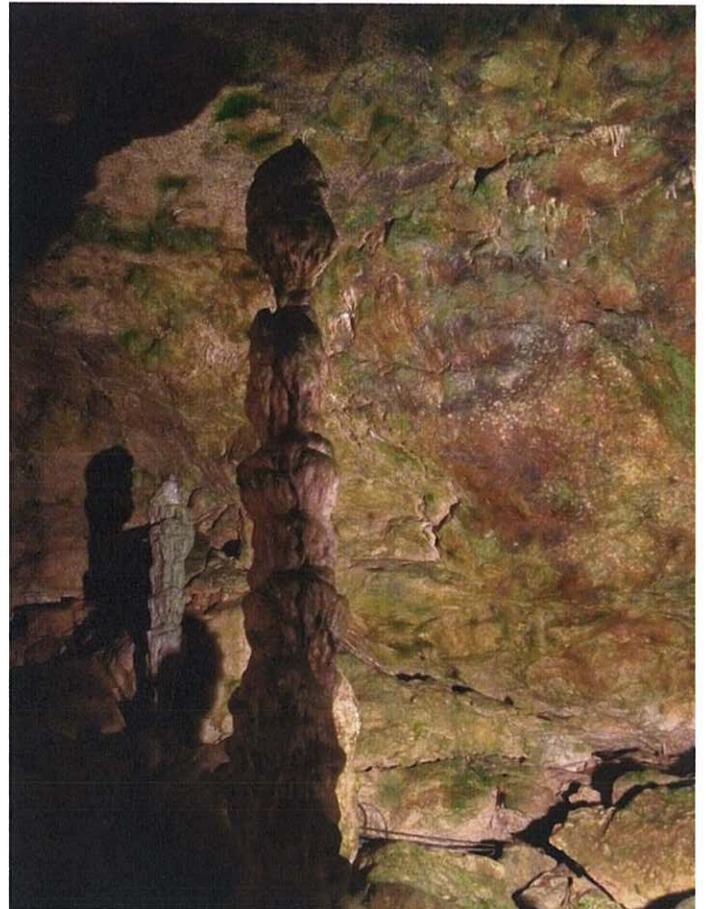
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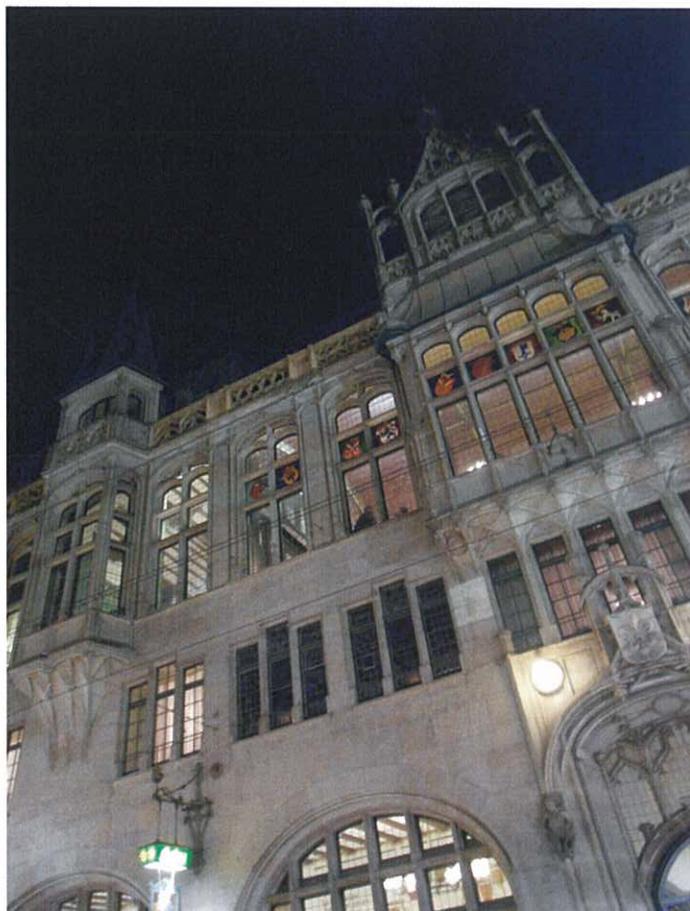
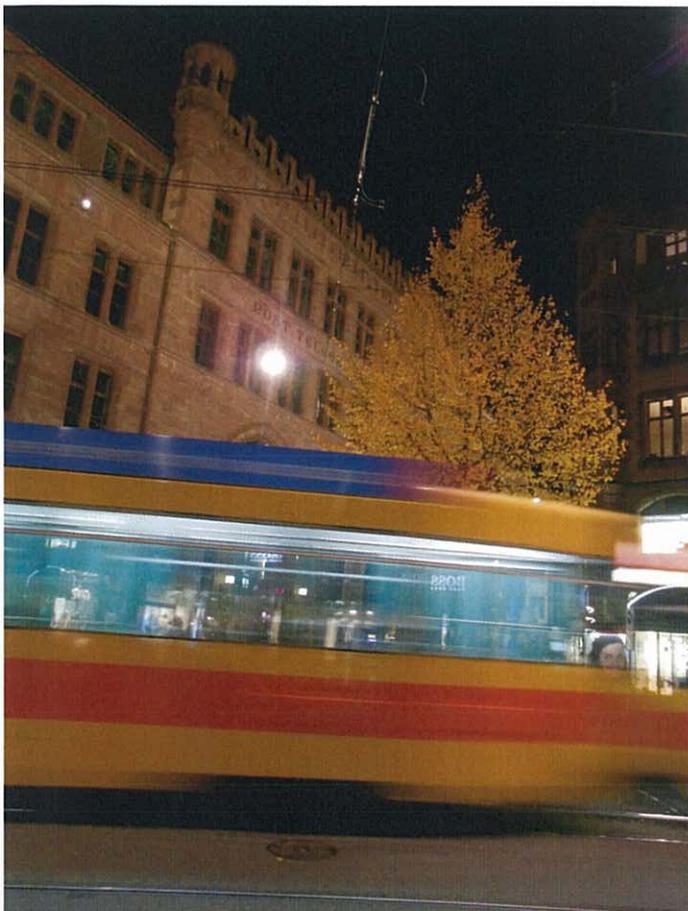
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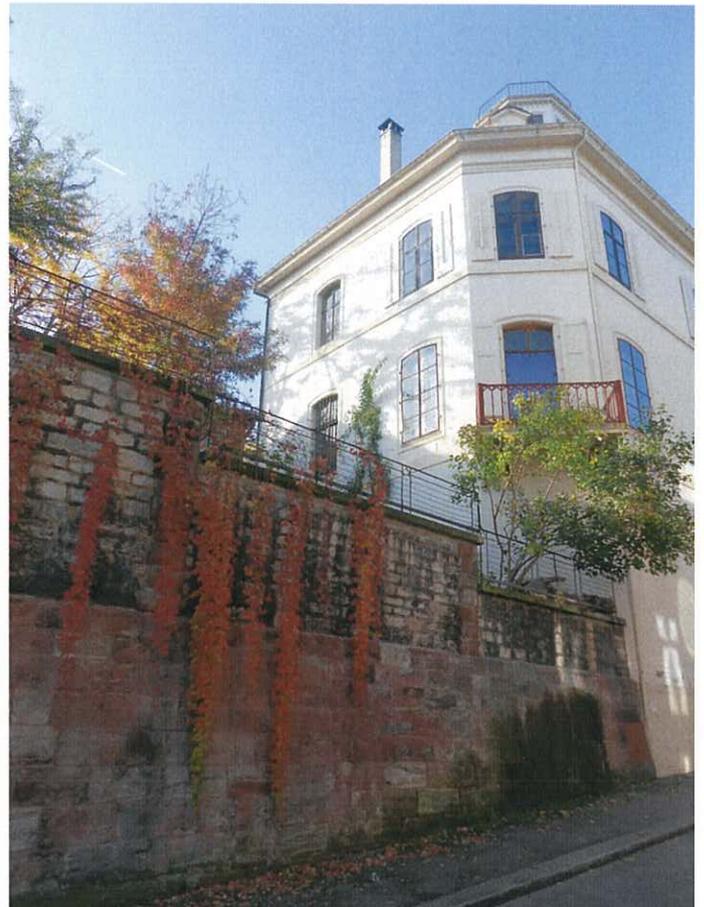
GERMANY



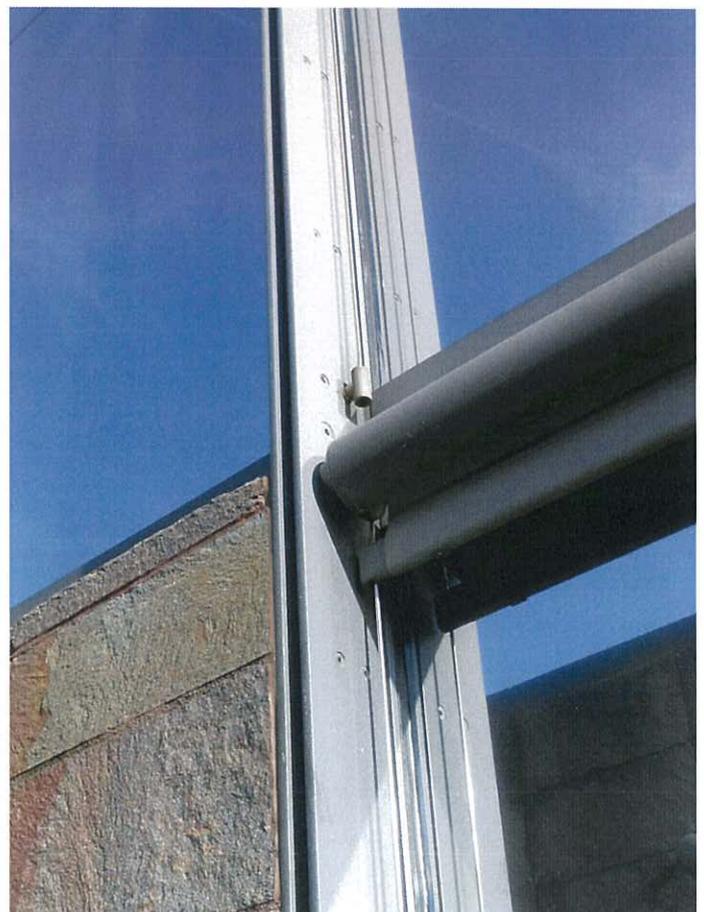
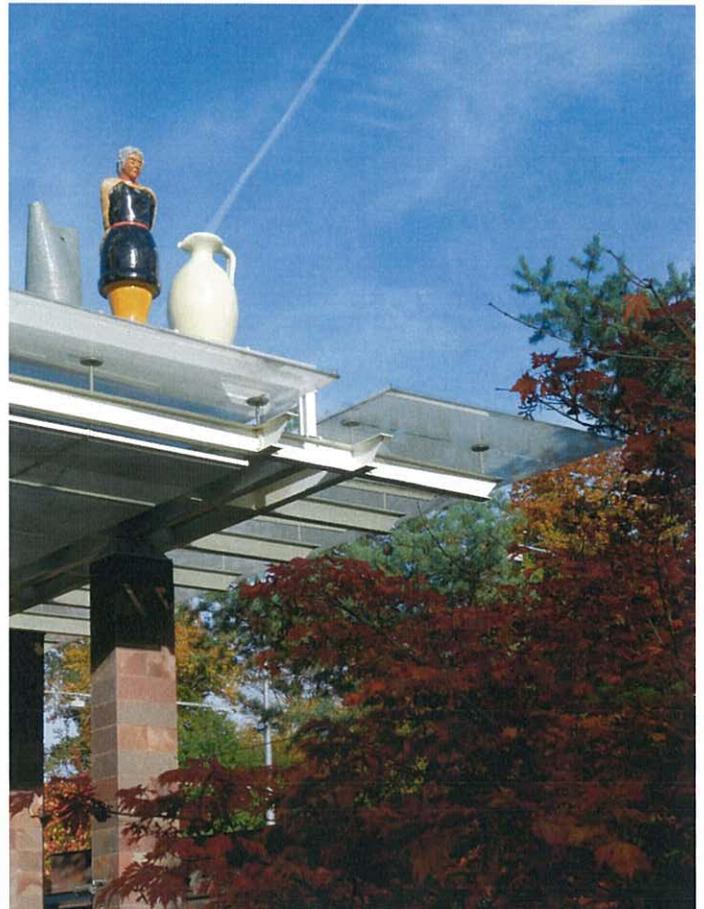
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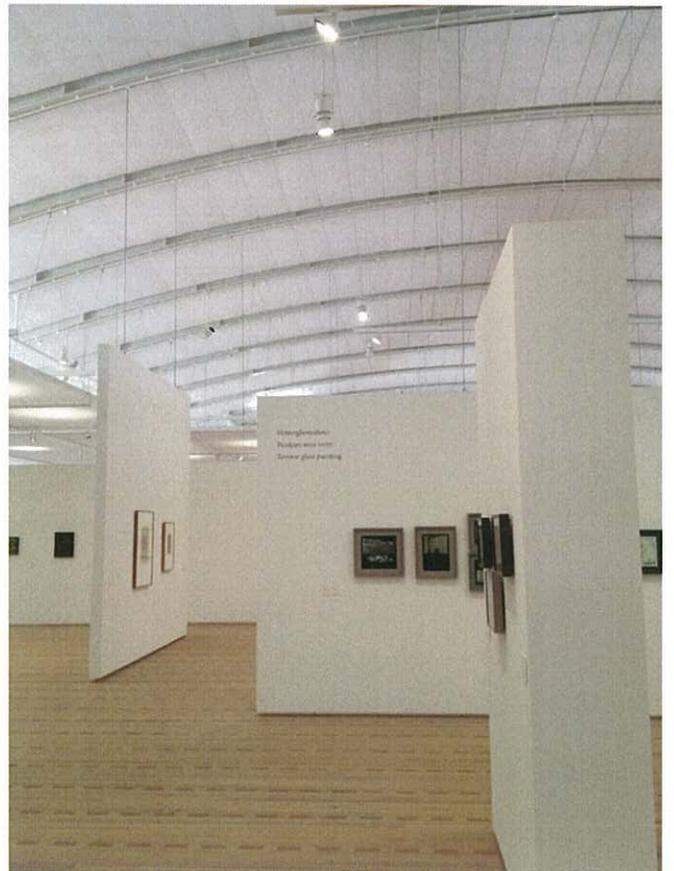
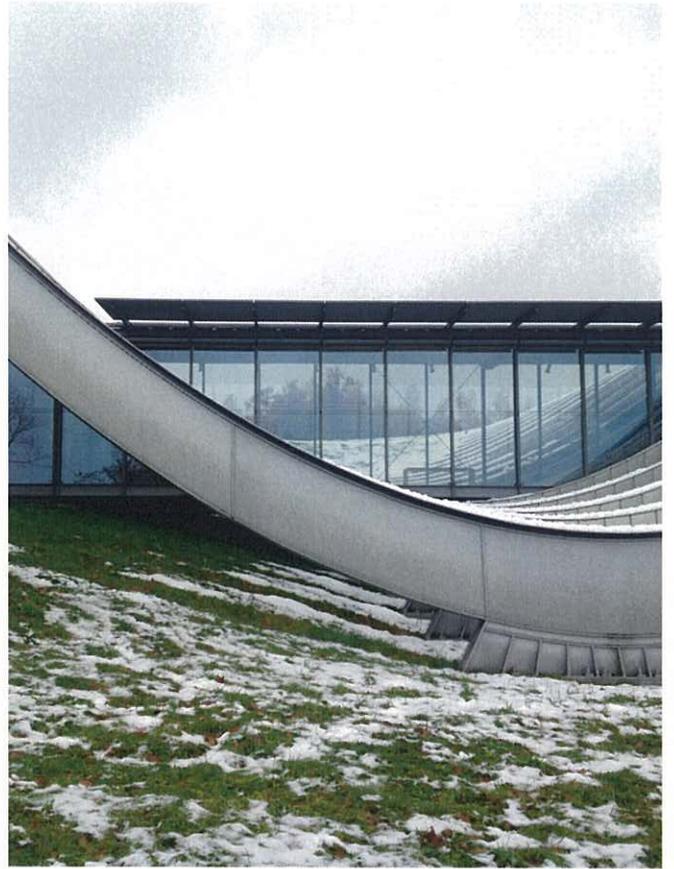
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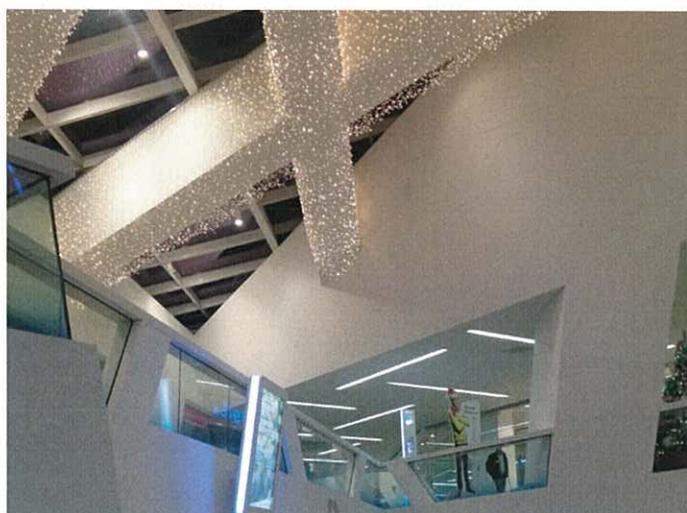
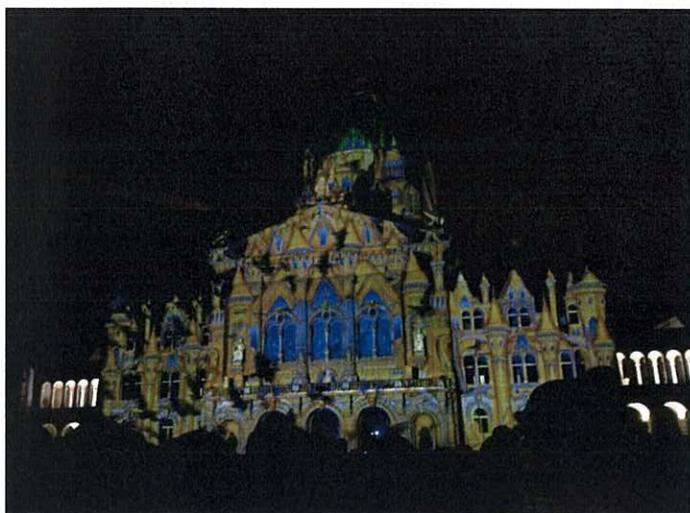
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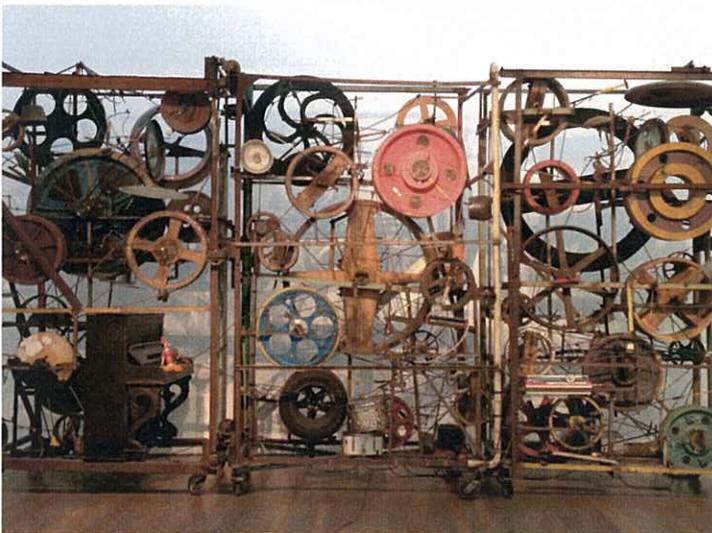
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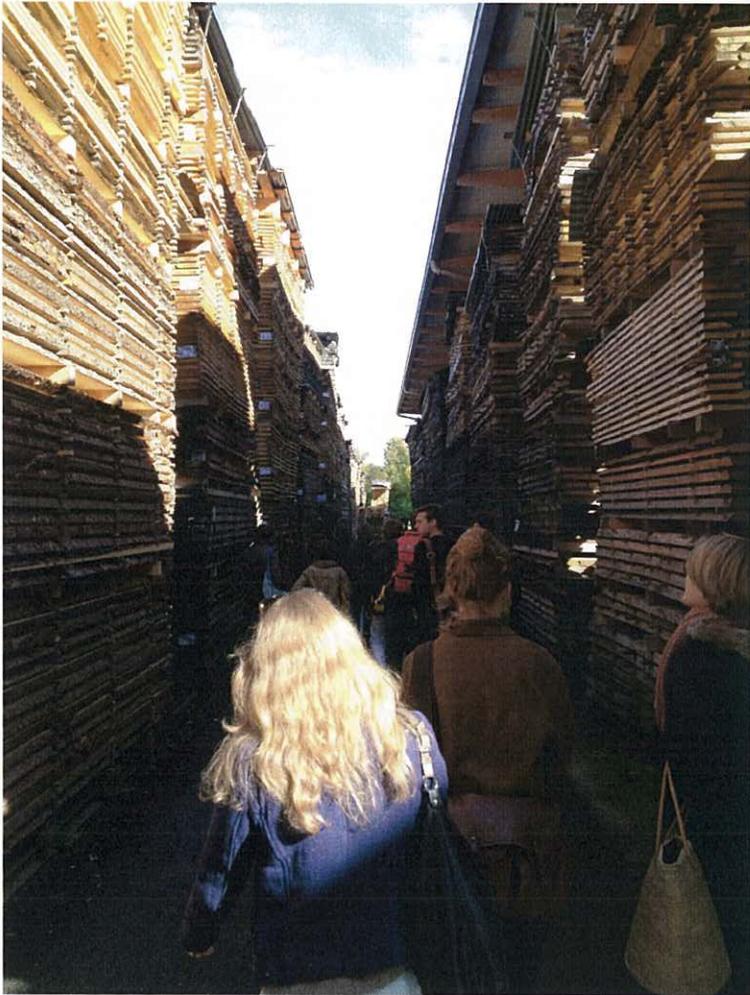
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LUZERN



VISIT OF A SAWMILL



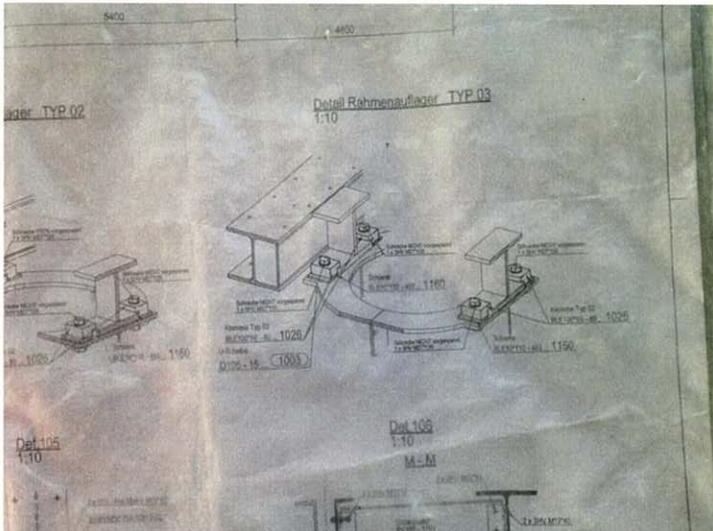
INTERNSHIP IN STEEL/METAL INDUSTRY



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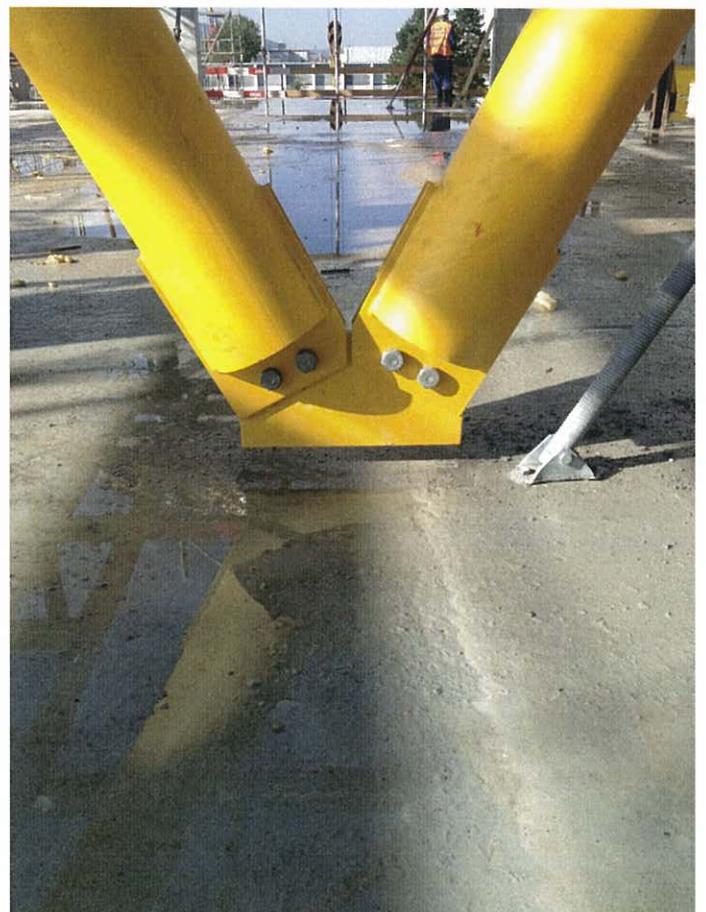
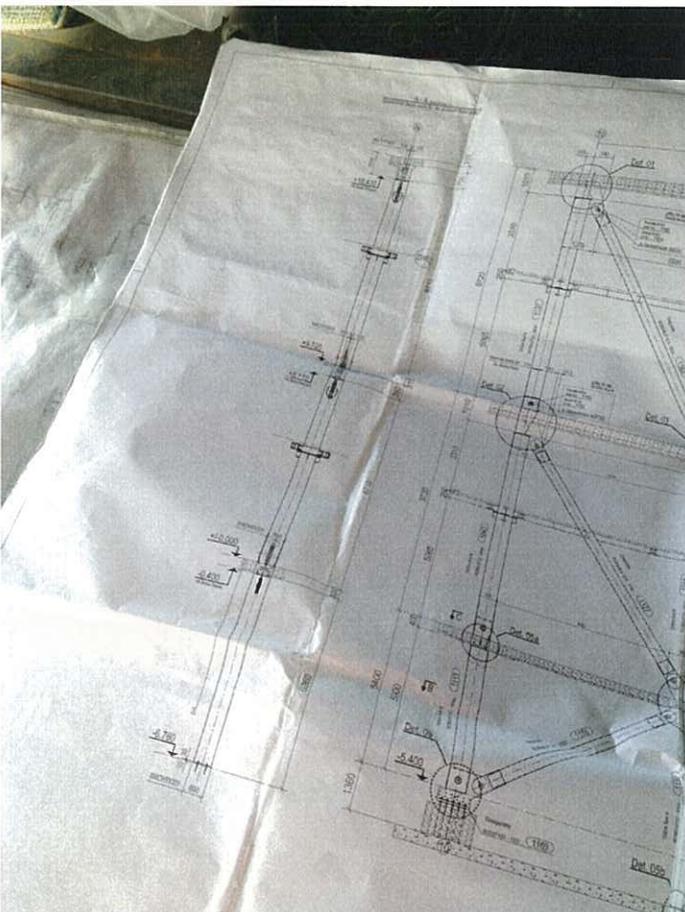
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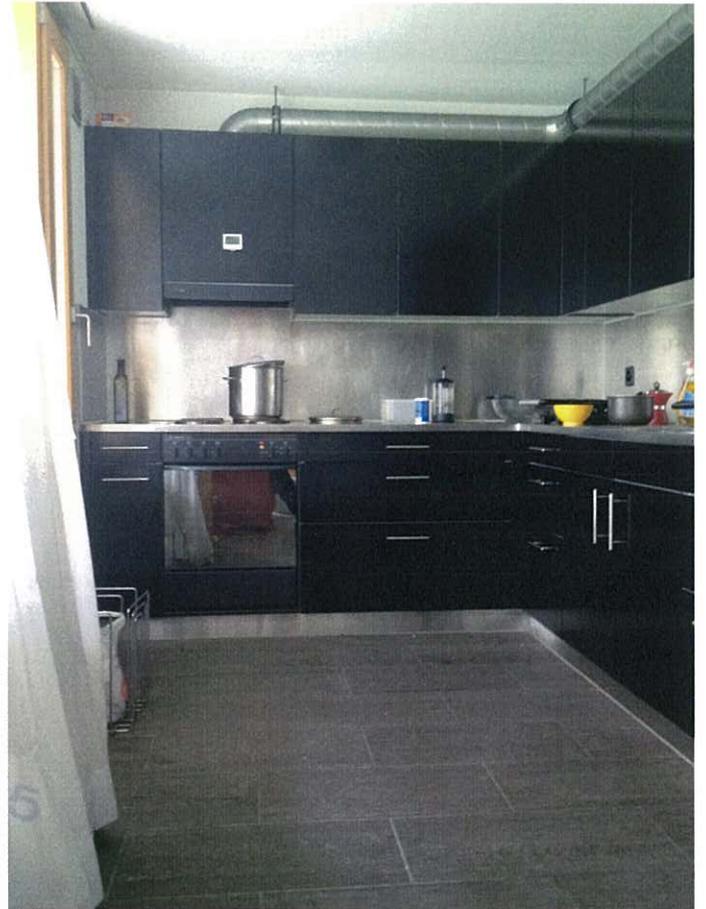
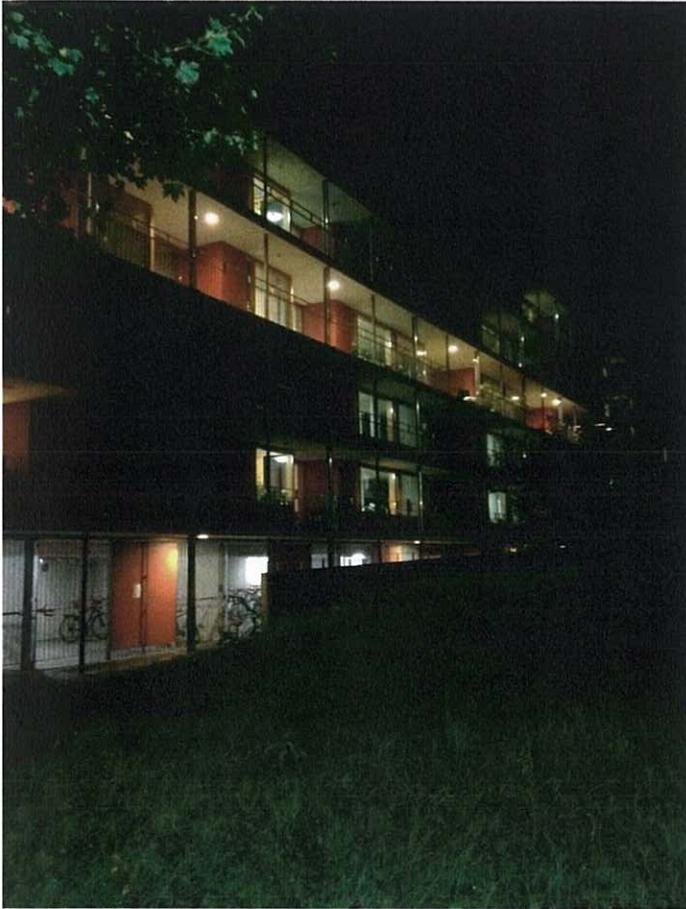
INTERNSHIP IN STEEL/METAL INDUSTRY



INTERNSHIP IN STEEL/METAL INDUSTRY



ROOM



ATELIER OF ARCHITECTURE AT ETH



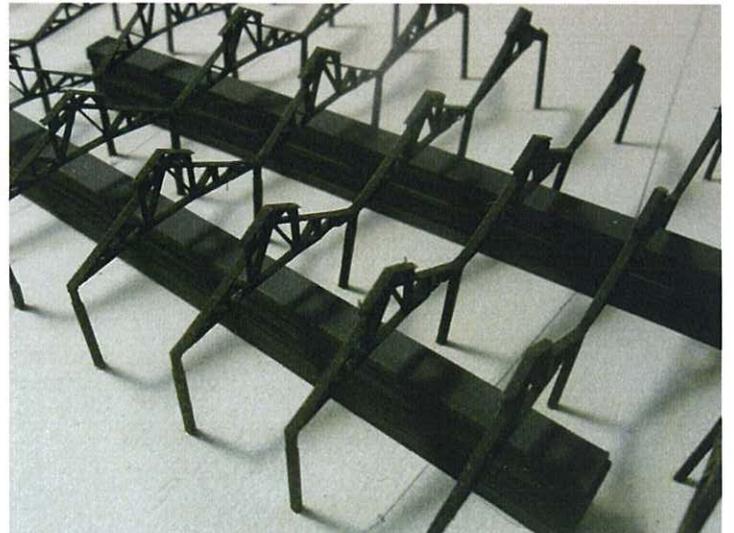
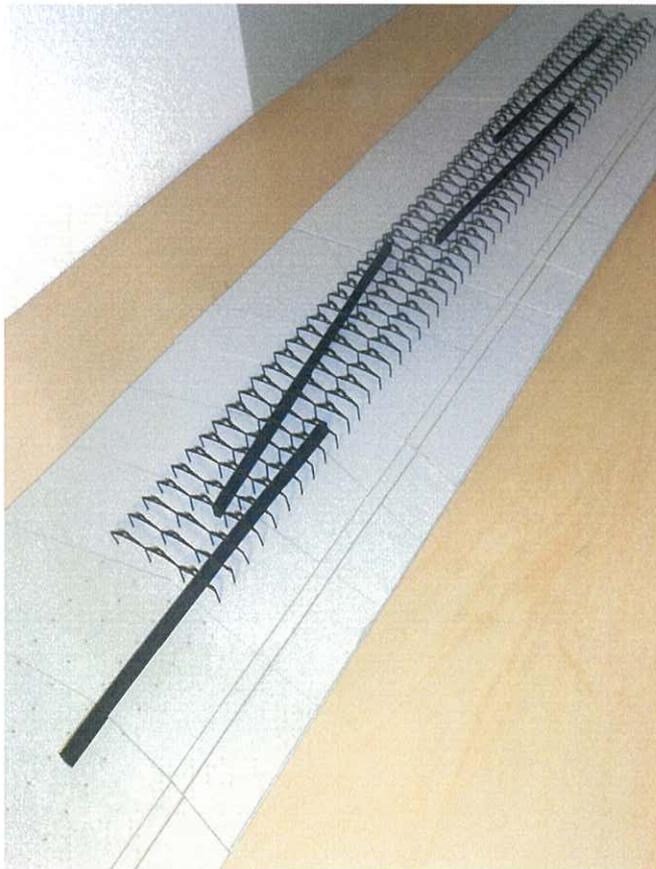
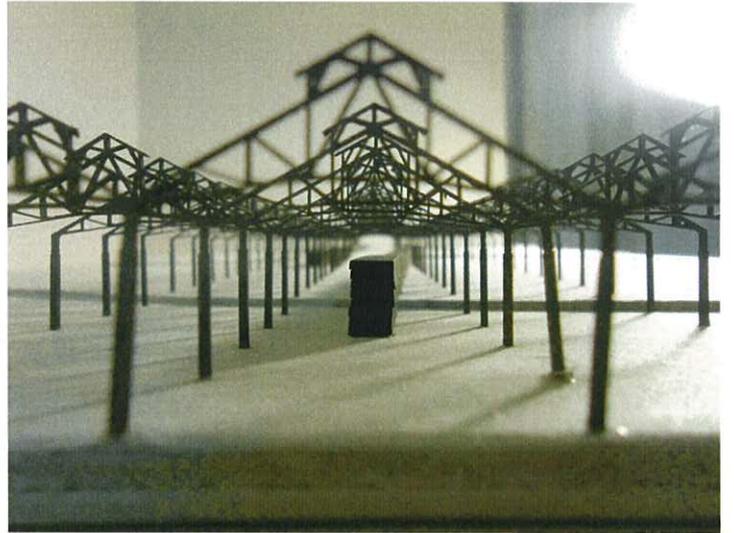
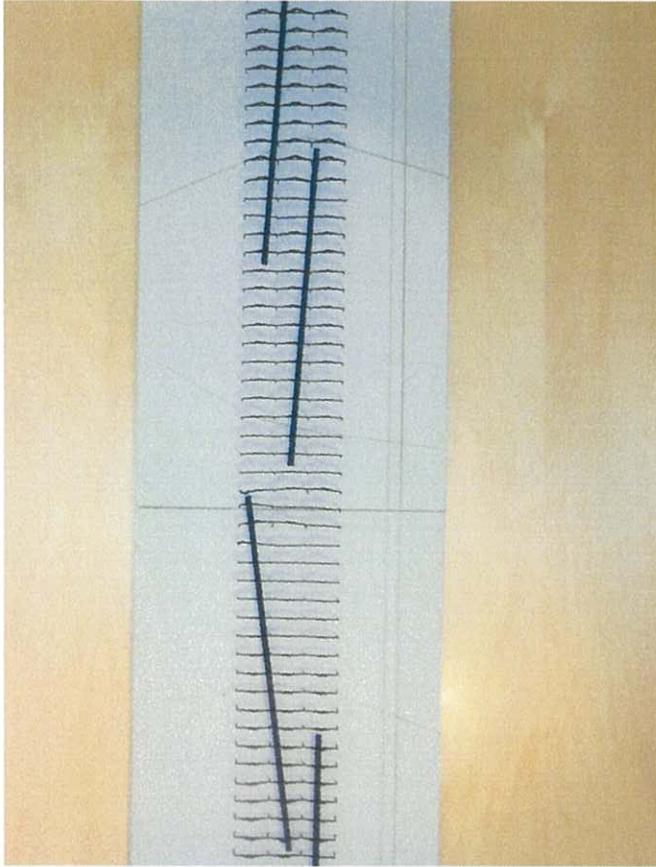
VISIT GOTTHARD TUNNEL



VISIT OF AN OLD FACTORY IN TICINO FOR THE DESIGN PROJECT



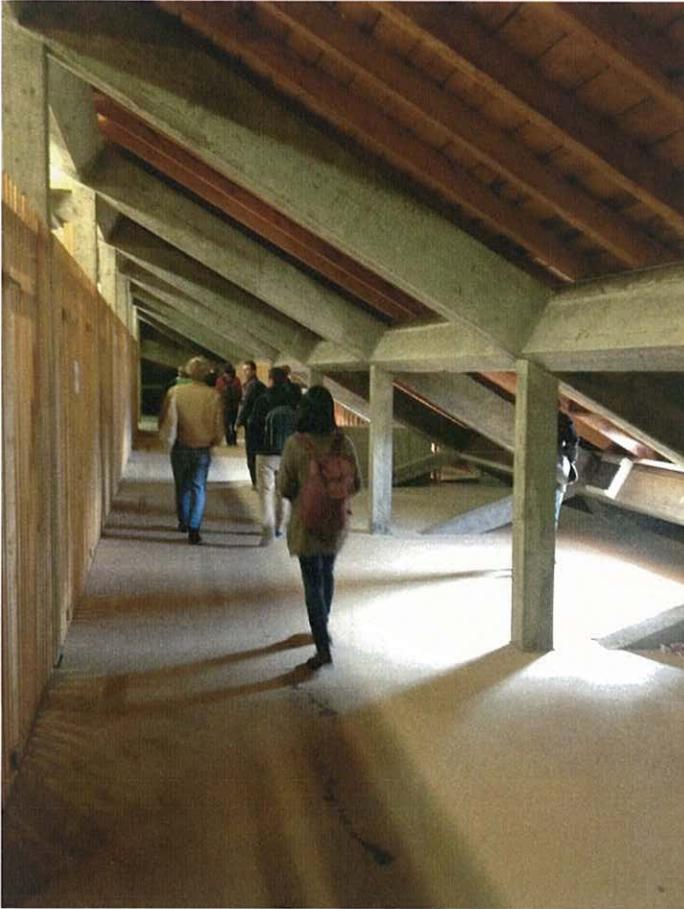
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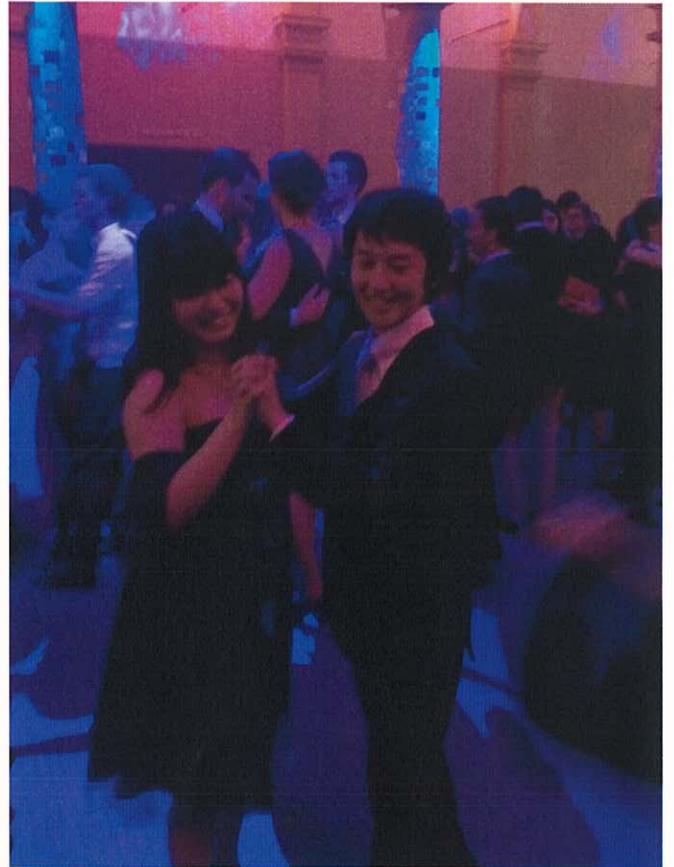
REVIEWS/EXHIBITIONS/VISITS/LECTURES AT ETH



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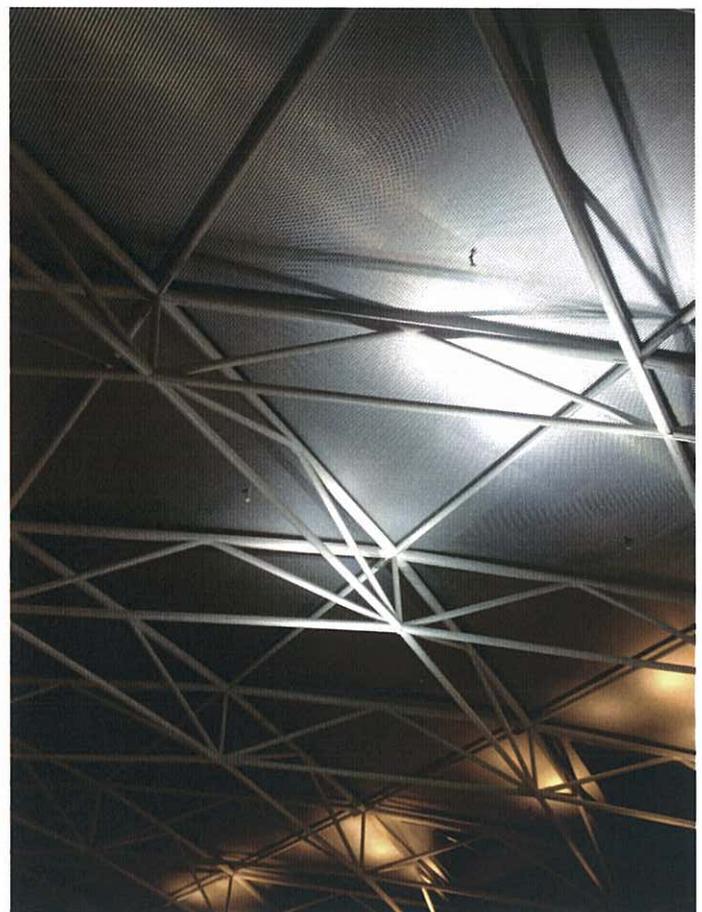
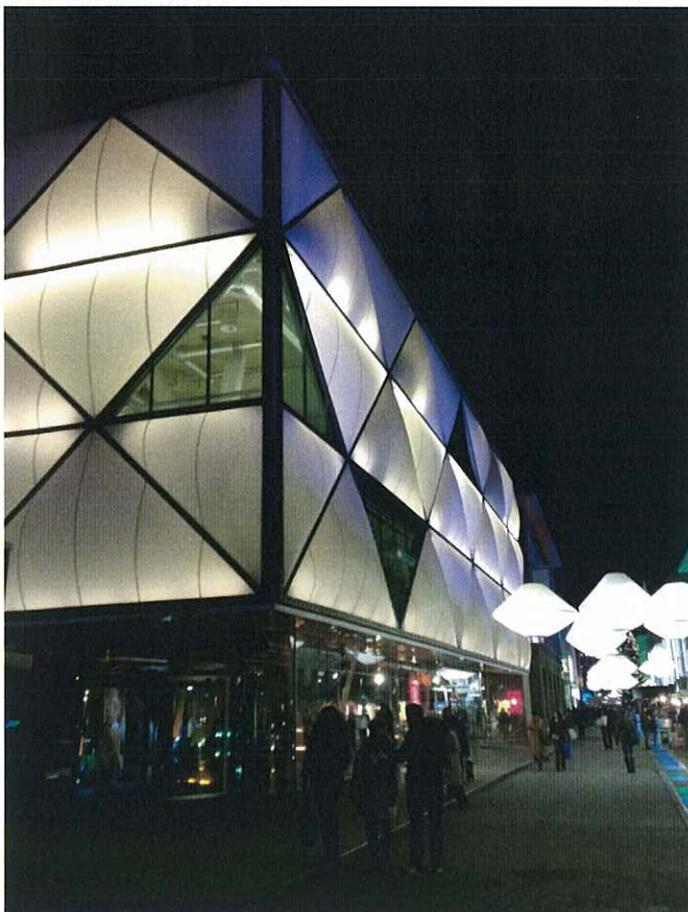
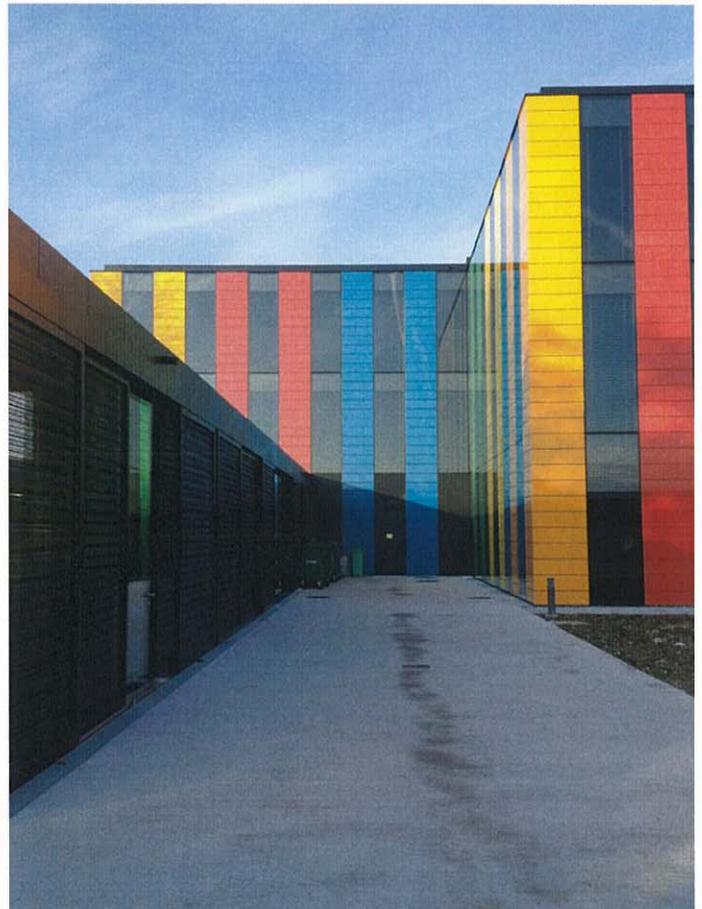
BALL/SUSHI PARTY



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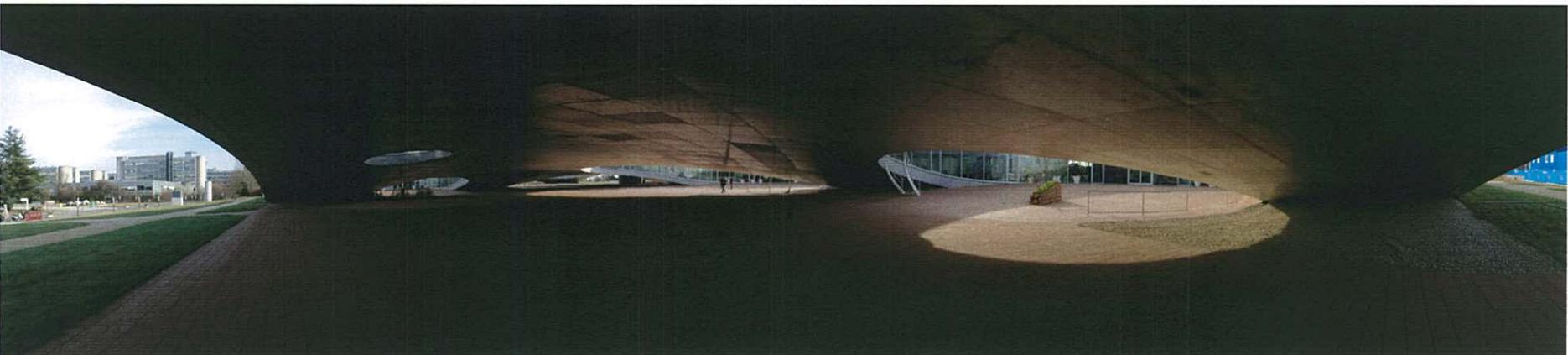


LAUSANNE





LAUSANNE/ROLEX CENTER



THANK YOU!

I am grateful to the staffs, Mrs. Marugata, Mrs. Sato and Mrs. Wussler who made this exchange possible.
I especially owe my gratitude to Mrs. Nakumura for her considerable time and patience,
and to the people who encouraged me to participate to this exchange.