

## 'Maison Relais' with Music Hall, Soleuvre (LUX)

project	<b>Construction of a 'Maison Relais' and a rehearsal room for the music club</b>
awarding authority	<b>Administration Communale de Sanem, Belvaux (LUX)</b>
award	<b>2nd prize, expert opinion process</b>
services	<b>WW+, Esch-sur-Alzette (LUX) / Trier (GER) architecture</b>
rendering	rendertaxi, Aachen (GER)
facts	<b>- extension of an existing school - independent volume located in the park - rooftop playground - rehearsal room for the music club - two construction phases</b>
dates and numbers	
gfa	<b>3.968 m<sup>2</sup></b>
ufa	<b>2.500 m<sup>2</sup></b>
gv	<b>12.296 m<sup>3</sup></b>
total area	<b>1,5 ha</b>
competition phase	<b>05/2017 - 06/2017</b>

*"Education can make you very happy and easy."  
Günther Jauch (Spiegel 2009)*

### Genius Loci 'House in the park'

The available build parameters form a park-like area located southeast of Sanem's town centre, which has grown around the Place de l'Indépendance. The building site is characterised by the existing school and the dense tree population on Rue de Belvaux. In terms of traffic, the area can be accessed via the western Rue de Belvaux as well as the pedestrian pathways from Rue Charles de Gaulle and Rue d'Esch. The trees – which are to be retained – and the existing sewerage network prevent the new construction from being erected immediately on Rue de Belvaux. The result is the underlying concept of the new construction as a 'house in the park'.

### Functional solution

The design of the Maison Relais as a two-storey structure with a connecting, one-storey rehearsal room for the local music society allows for two independent construction phases. The topographical factors are skillfully absorbed by both buildings and used to differentiate the necessary room heights. The architectonic concept foresees a compact building form in a bid to reduce built-up surfaces in favour of a green setting. The building's clear form and structuring provides its users with both an optimal sense of direction and a sense of security. The choice of materials and energy concept are deliberately focused on fewer materials that are durable and sustainable. This scaling down to just a few materials with robust durable surfaces ensures a low environmental impact. These materials are easy to care for and maintain their appearance over a long period of time. Generous glass surfaces allow for a myriad of views – both in and out – and create a flowing transition between the building and the landscape. The scaling down of the construction and development to just a few authentic materials results in a discreet and timeless aesthetic. A differentiated façade design featuring natural materials, such as timber and plaster elements, creates a



elevation



elevation



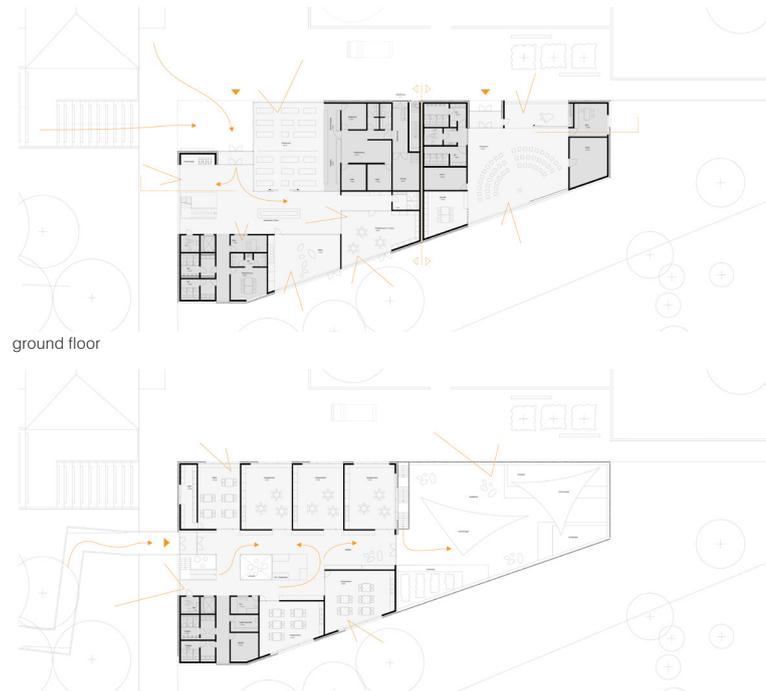
contemporary, sophisticated appearance and also provides a cost-effective solution. The roof of the music room houses a roof terrace, used by the Maison Relais as an additional green play and common area. The direct proximity of the 'Maison Relais' to the existing school building allows for a maximum interaction and seamless functioning between the buildings.

### Maison Relais

Arriving from the Kiss & Go area or the bus stop on Rue de Belvaux, children can directly and safely access the large and bright entrance of the 'Maison Relais' on the ground floor via the connection axis of the thoroughfare and its seating steps. The entrance accommodates the storage facilities for pushchairs and the waiting area for parents. The connecting dining area and its kitchen – on the same level as the canteen and sports hall of the existing building – open up to the existing school courtyard. The group room for children aged 2-4 and one of the workshop rooms – as well as the staff area incorporated into one functional block and comprising office, common area and the necessary wet rooms – occupy a more introverted location, looking out on the southern green corridor, with its tree population that has been deemed worthy of preservation. Inside, a generous staircase and an elevator connect the ground-floor foyer to the upper floor. An airy space also creates a spatial connection between the two levels, its varied perspectives ensuring the interaction between the storeys. This spacious and welcoming play hall is surrounded by the remaining group rooms and the second workshop, alongside the play terrace on the roof of the music room. Generous glass surfaces with opening casements within the rooms ensure the latter are optimally provided with natural light and natural ventilation and extraction. The balustrade elements are designed as a seating bench. The proposed wooden battens in front of the opening casements provide the necessary guardrails for when windows are open. These wooden façade elements are continued in terms of design and functionality as a 'fence' in the roof terrace area and allow for hazard-free play. As a shade element, they also provide a comfortable climate on the terrace. An exterior staircase that can be closed off provides a direct connection between the terrace and the school courtyard on the ground floor. It also provides the required second escape route from the upper floor. As an additional attraction the upper foyer can also be accessed via a footbridge, connecting the stopping zones for the moving traffic with the house in the park while providing a fun 'tree top pathway' for children.



site plan



ground floor

first floor

### Music room

The northern, bright and spacious entrance provides ground-level and direct access to the large rehearsal room, which forms the heart of the second building section. Flanked by the ancillary functions, this space extends from one end to the other and is supplied with natural light as well as a natural ventilation and extraction system. Large, ceiling-height windows in the north and south façades reveal views from the rehearsal room onto the park. The room and the landscape merge into one another, giving the impression of playing music in nature. A mobile folding wall allows the space to be separated into two independent smaller rooms. The two instrument storage areas, in the centre of the music room, support this option. Diffusely reflecting and depth-absorbing surfaces on the ceiling and the walls as well as variable acoustic measures in the form of curtains provide good acoustic conditions in the music room. The room can be easily converted for concerts, rehearsals or even individual lessons. The office in the eastern part of the building and the bar in the southern part of the building also benefit from a generous supply of natural light and natural ventilation. The toilet facilities occupy a logical spot right near the entrance. Deliveries are carried out via the already existing access road to the north of the existing school.

### Energy concept

A further important component of the design is its energy concept. The very well insulated building envelope, reducing the energy input into the building, and a mechanical ventilation and extraction system of all the functional areas contribute to the feeling of comfort within the building. A central HVAC system is conceivable and can be supplied via an underground duct. The conduit distribution is housed primarily in the suspended ceilings of the hallways. The ventilation of the group rooms takes place according to requirements (CO2 controlled). The rooms can also be supplied with fresh air via ventilation flaps that can be opened. The mechanical ventilation system is also used for night air flushing. A concrete core temperature control system in the ceilings of the use areas can be activated via a heat pump, also for the purpose of cooling during the summer months.