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PRESS RELEASE

Building D inaugurated at Clenia Private Clinic Schlössli in Oetwil am See

The new replacement building by architectural office Burckhardt+Partner for the Clenia Private Clinic Schlössli in Oetwil am See has been completed. This structure was the winning project in a 2014 competition. It impressed with its coherent integration into the structural context and simultaneous architectural independence. After a good two years of construction work, the new Building D has now been inaugurated.

The new building to replace one of the oldest inpatient wings at this clinic for psychiatry and psychotherapy now accommodates four wards, various therapy rooms and a public cafeteria. The new building was based on the clinic's development structure, which has grown over decades and is accordingly heterogeneous. Andreas Mast, member of the company management of Burckhardt+Partner: «Tachitohe new Building D coherently integrates into this context – and nevertheless provides an accentuating feature.»

The sedate yet strong exterior design of the new building, with concrete ledges and clinker brick, conveys reliability and security. The interior design, with natural materials, is warm, bright and friendly. Patient recovery is facilitated by a homelike flair and the fact that the patient rooms face the park landscape. In addition, an open spatial concept and ease of orientation generate a pleasant atmosphere: for patients, relatives and staff alike. Ingrid Wolf, Head of Nursing at Clenia Schlössli AG and Deputy Nursing Director, says: «As a user representative, I was involved in the project from the beginning. Working together with the architectural team, we were able to cater for the different project requirements in the planning phase. The high standard of the new building will benefit all our patients.»

Constructed with the clinic running

The two light wells play a key role in the new building. On the one hand, they bring daylight into the clinic on all levels, while on the other hand, a circulation route around the light wells aids orientation. The report room, the pivotal element of the ward floors, is in the immediate vicinity of the patient rooms, doctors' areas and therapy areas. This results in short routes for staff and patients, providing optimal conditions for improved workflows in the clinic's daily routines.

During implementation, particular attention was paid to the newly created connecting axis with the building services equipment on the new building's basement floor. The heating, cooling and water lines were rerouted, and a new high-and-low-voltage electricity system was installed. It is especially worth noting that the building services equipment was already put into operation before the rest of the construction work began. This meant that the provision of building services was guaranteed from the start and there was no need for costly makeshift arrangements.

Private Clinic Schlössli in Oetwil am See has a long history. Founded in 1889, the facility originally treated people suffering from mental illness. The clinic began expanding its operations in 1979, offering outpatient and partial inpatient services in Männedorf, Wetzikon and Uster. In 2008, the clinic merged its operations with those of the Psychiatric Hospital Littenheid, forming Switzerland's first psychiatric private hospital group under the new name Clenia. Today, the Schlössli has 219 beds and successfully unites tradition with modernity.

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About Burckhardt+Partner

Burckhardt+Partner is an internationally distinguished and technologically prominent architectural company. It was founded in 1951 in Basel and has continued to develop ever since. Over the past 65 years, Burckhardt+Partner has not only had a major influence on architecture in Switzerland, but has also been able to compete on the international stage. Burckhardt+Partner currently runs five branches in Switzerland and three in Germany.