PRESS RELEASE

Swiss Embassy opens in Seoul – architecture by Burckhardt+Partner

The new Swiss Embassy in Seoul was opened on May 17th, 2019, in the South Korean capital. The building's design comes from Swiss architectural office Burckhardt+Partner. The embassy building, inspired by a traditional hanok, successfully represents the bond between the two countries.

In the middle of a densely populated residential neighborhood in the megacity Seoul and surrounded by high-rises, the embassy is the only building in the traditional style and comes across as an oasis. After winning the architectural competition seven years ago, Burckhardt+Partner was commissioned to realize the embassy by the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL). Inspired by the traditional Korean dwelling, the architects developed a multifunctional building that accommodates an embassy's manifold usage requirements. On 3,540 m² of space, the embassy building combines the ambassador's residence, representative rooms and the office.

With its spiral shape, the building adapts to the topography, rising from two to three stories. As a result of cooperation between Burckhardt+Partner and local companies, extraordinary details have been implemented. For instance, Burckhardt+Partner used traditional Korean formwork to shape the exterior exposed-concrete facade, in which the formwork's wooden structure is visible. The wooden slats typical of Korean courtyard houses also constitute a key element of the embassy's design. The interior courtyard, which all rooms face, has a significant role: It connects people with each other and with nature.

The architecture by Burckhardt+Partner establishes a dialog: The embassy building serves as a symbol for integration and openness, for that which is native and that which is foreign, as well as for the urban space and the diplomatic space.

Contact person for media professionals
Samuel Schultze, CEO
via Burckhardt+Partner Communications
+41 61 338 34 95
kommunikation@burckhardtpartner.ch

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.