framing architecture : Chur

European Studies 2001-2002
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In the Swiss city of Chur, located in the Swiss-German Canton of Graubunden, a project was developed for Radio Romaunch (RTR). The program called for a mixed use facility housing recording, production and broadcasting facilities for both radio and television programming.
The site is situated in the middle of the valley just north of the old city wall on axis with the main road through the center of Chur. Sitting not unlike a rock in the river, the building diverts traffic, both pedestrian and automotive, while simultaneously allowing for the flow of traffic to enter the building on axis.
Spatially, the building is separated into 4 independent steel frame structures, with each silo housing 1 of a given set of primary functions: administration, vertical services, technical, and production. The voids between the structures then become the primary horizontal circulation.
Programmatically, those functions requiring more privacy and acoustic control are located furthest from the corner, and elevated away from the street, thus providing several opportunities for integrating public spaces and functions at street level, while maintaining a clear delineation between public and private spaces. Therefore, the primary entrance to the building is located on the corner, opening the building as the terminus to Grabenstrasse.
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A set of self-contained modular wooden wall and floor units are inserted into the 4 steel frames, based on the programmatic delineation of spaces. This allows each room to be simultaneously insulated acoustically, while internally allowing for brief reverberation times, ideal for production. The structures are then wrapped in copper, which is peeled back as needed to provide openings and windows, with the ground floor being almost entirely open to allow for a 5,000 sqft. public events hall, and a cafe. Resultant in-between spaces are then in-filled to become the primary horizontal circulation. As the circulation spaces are generally semi-public they are simply enclosed with a glass curtain wall.
Structural Model

news room

service

circulation
Unit Models

- Acoustic sandwich panel system
- Acid bathed standing seam copper skin
- Copper transition at exterior/interior