



HYSOLAR

STUTTGART, GERMANY, 2008-2010

Client

Universitätsbauamt Stuttgart und
Hohenheim

Architect

1987, Behnisch & Partner

Renovation and modernization

2008-2010, Stefan Behnisch with
Harder Ill Stumpf

Address

Allmandring 19
70569 Stuttgart
Germany

Considered an important example of deconstructivist architecture, the Hysolar Research Institute building was realized in 1987, at the University of Stuttgart campus in Stuttgart-Vaihingen. The project was completed under the leadership of Günter Behnisch, who, at that time, directed the practice Behnisch & Partner together with partners Winfried Büxel, Manfred Sabatke and Erhard Tränkner.

The building originally accommodated two institutes – one for solar cell research, the other for the development of cost-effective methods of separating the elements of water. The program for the building consisted offices, some laboratories, a storehouse, and ancillary service rooms. A scaffold in front of the building carried various solar cells.

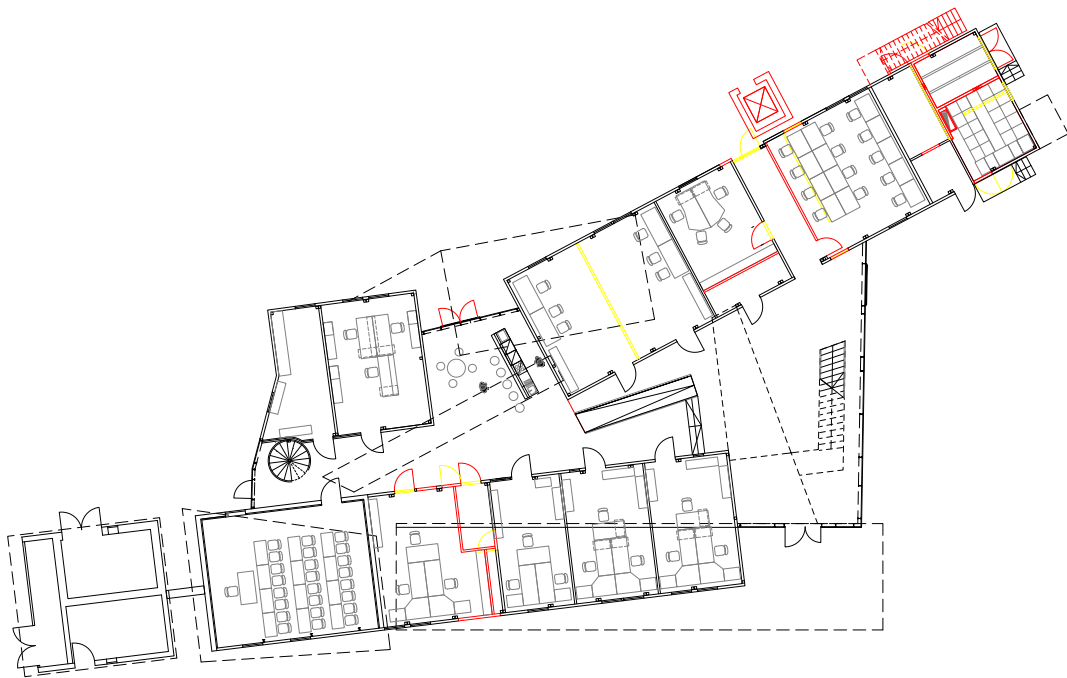
The project had to be completed on a tight schedule and budget, so there were advantages in partly using factory-made containers for the laboratory rooms. For Behnisch & Partner this was a good opportunity to explore ways of using prefabricated elements in an unorthodox manner, a collage of elements which seemed to float in a free, spatial equilibrium. Unfortunately, the Hysolar building stood empty for many years after the original tenants, for whom the building had been designed, vacated the property. In 2006, the University of Stuttgart decided to commission Günter Behnisch again with a study in order to find out how the building could be restored, renovated and extended to accommodate the newly established Institute for Visualisation & Interactive Systems (VISUS).



Some time after the completion of the study, the planning process for the renovation and addition to the building was carried out jointly between Behnisch Architekten and Harder III Stumpf. Harder III Stumpf were commissioned with the planning of the extension to the building, while Stefan Behnisch (Behnisch Architekten) was commissioned with the restoration and modernisation of the original Hysolar building.

Under the architectural leadership of Stefan Behnisch, the building was restored in collaboration with Harder III Stumpf in such a manner that its characteristic appearance and its typical features remained exactly as they were, while the building systems were updated to meet today's advanced technical standards.

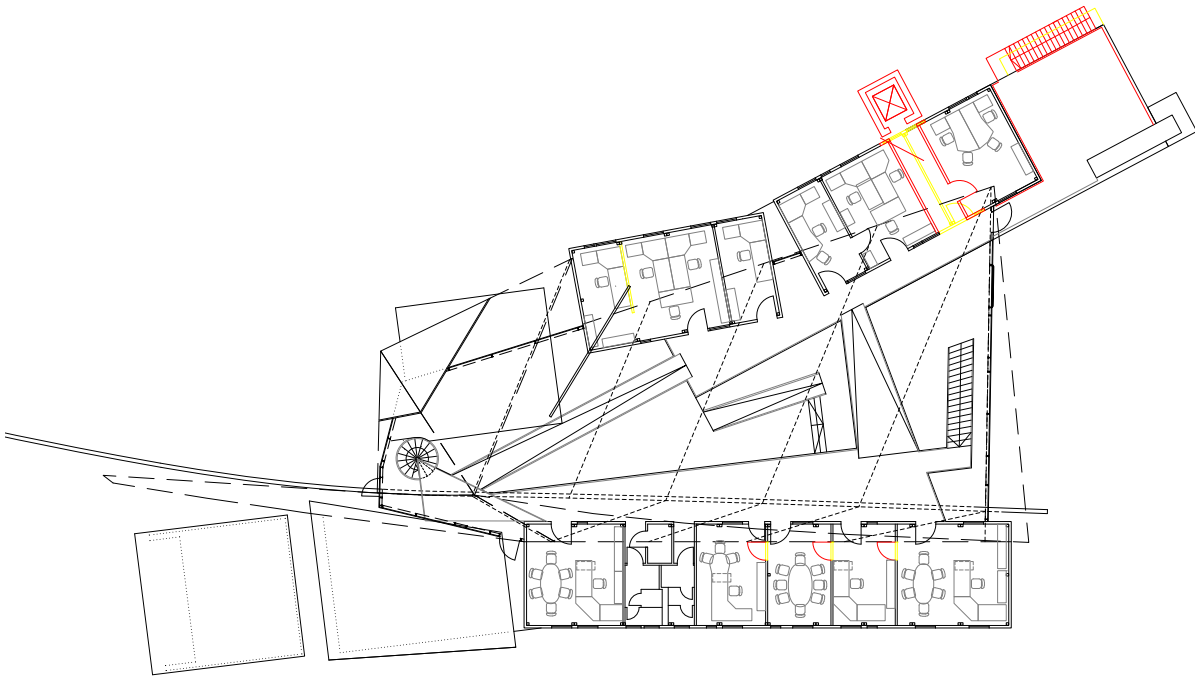
Both the technical equipment and the building envelope were completely renewed to meet the requirements of future generations of scientists. These upgrades were carried out in such a manner that they are virtually imperceptible and do not adversely affect the unique character of the building. In addition, the photovoltaic plant, which had been removed in the past, was also re-installed. It now contributes to the building's energy supply.



Level 1







Level 2

