FREIE WALDORFSCHULE UHLANDSHOEHE – NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

STUTTGART, GERMANY, 2022

Client
Verein für ein freies Schulwesen, Waldorfschulverein e.V
Architect
Behnisch Architekten, Stuttgart
Competition
2014
Planning and construction
2015-2022
Gross
5.490 m^2 / 59,094 ft^2
Volume
20.730 m^3 / 732,080 ft^3
Address
Haussmannstrasse 44
70188 Stuttgart
Germany

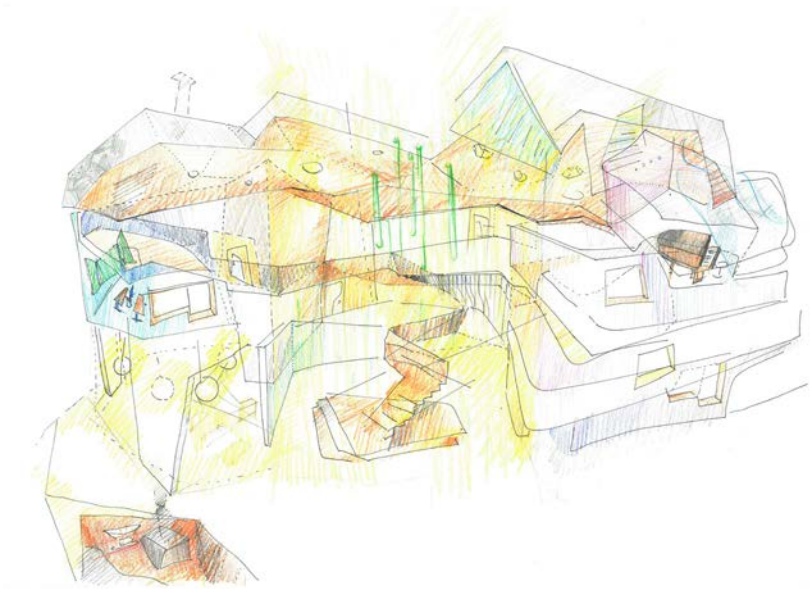
The campus of the Freie Walddorfschule Uhlandshoehe is home to world's first Waldorf school, founded in September 1919 by Emil Molt and Rudolf Steiner. It is situated in an exposed site half-way up the hills on which Stuttgart is built, in a neighborhood with genteel villas below the Uhlandshoehe in the East of Stuttgart. The greater part of the buildings dates back to the post-war period.

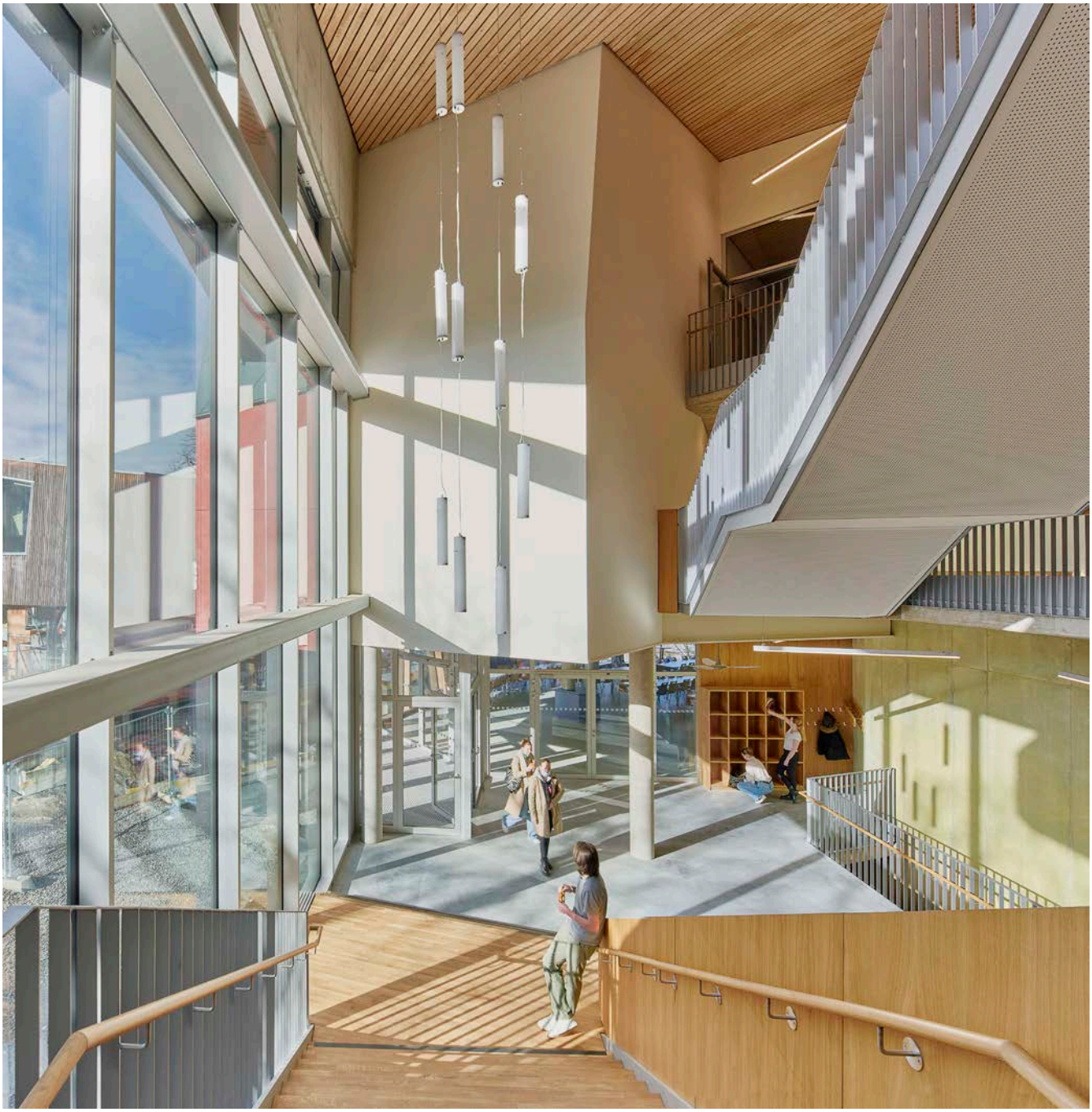
The new building for the senior Oberstufe grades offers state-of-the-art facilities, which are necessary for modern teaching: science and arts classrooms, an eurythmy hall as well as a new refectory. Its design concept is that of a "villa with an annexe" to make it blend in naturally with its surroundings which are characterized by free-standing buildings. It comprises three different volumes which frame the schoolyard opposite the main school building and the day-care facility, each of them displaying different characteristics of form and use of material. Towards the Haussmannstrasse, it presents the appearance of a monolithic "villa", while towards the schoolyard, it has been designed as a horizontally supported "annex", characterized by its staggered levels and mediates between the existing buildings. Both parts are interconnected by a transparent atrium which continues the school's exterior space as a "vertical schoolyard" inside the building. The design of the roof stretched over the annex and atrium is similarly free. It develops downward as a mansard and is largely covered with PV shingles.

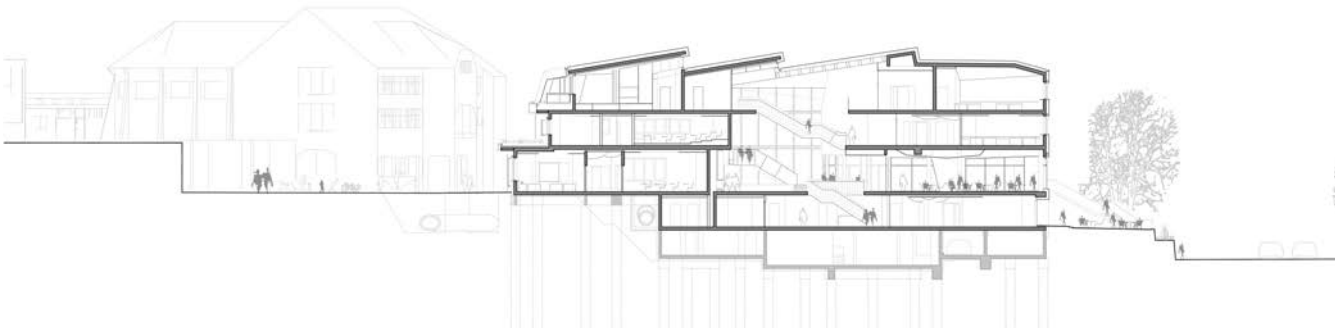
The atrium is the heart of the new building onto which all pathways converge. It is brought close to the class rooms by means of spacious corridors. These areas are not simply access routes but offer a range of different settings during breaks, space for the

users to meet, and for casual exchanges or exhibitions. The classrooms are arranged in a geometrically freer way. The atrium gives access to the classrooms and technical rooms distributed across all levels of the building, while the refectory can also be reached through a vestibule serving as an air lock. The rooms for arts lessons and the eurythmy hall are situated on the third story, where studio glazing and skylights offer a wide range of different views and bring in plenty of light into the building. The garden level below the schoolyard level utilizes the well-lit space underneath the “villa” for a metal workshop, biology lab with its collection and the computer room.

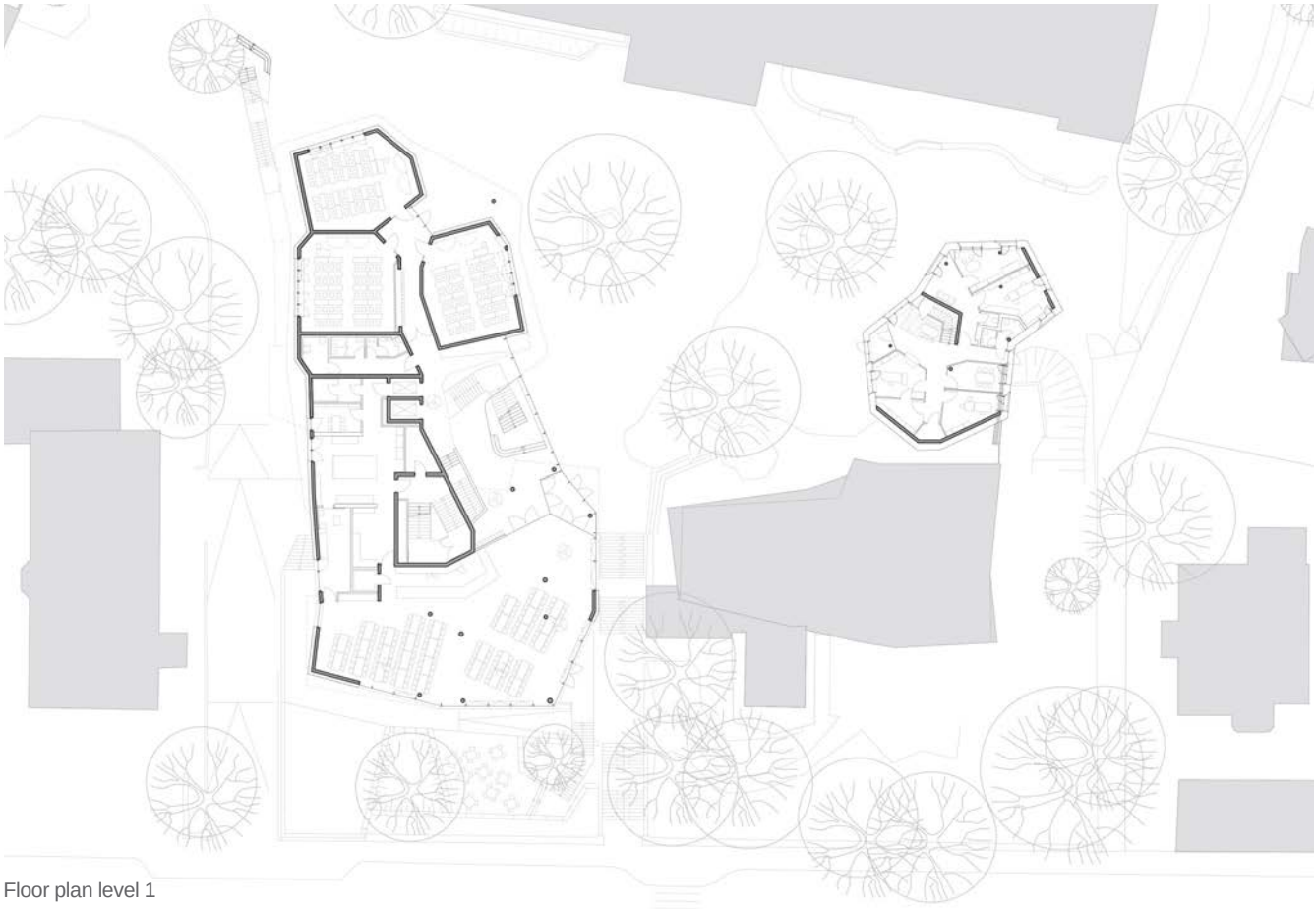
A sustainable building with a high-quality user environment was created, where energy-efficient technologies are an integral part of the architecture.







Section



Floor plan level 1