Modular W timber construction for school site

Winterthur, CH



Project details

Client	Stadt Winterthur, Departement Schule und Sport
Architecture	Bauart Architekten und Planer AG
Project type	Education and research, Temporary buildings
Construction type	Modular construction
Services	General contractor services (GC)
Construction	2021
Locality	Winterthur
Country	Switzerland

The first second-generation ‘Modular W’ modular timber construction

Langwiesen was the first school in Winterthur to receive additional classroom space made of high-quality modular timber constructions – the second-generation Modular W models. Designed by Bauart Architekten and installed by Blumer Lehmann, the modular timber constructions have been addressing the urgent need for classroom space in the city of Winterthur since 2021.

With the Modular W system, the city is making up for the lack of classroom space with a flexible and customisable solution. At Langwiesen, the modular timber structure with Minergie-P-ECO certification and a main floor area of 450 m^2 has provided urgently needed classroom space since August 2021. At the same time, the existing school building is being renovated and extended. The temporary timber school building will then be dismantled and installed at another location in 2028. The modular timber construction at Langwiesen was planned and completed in just six months, which also included the implementation planning. The two-story building houses classrooms for craft lessons, a kindergarten class, group rooms and an after-school care facility with an attached kitchen. The temporary school building has two storeys, each with 18 timber modules.

Instead of renting the timber modules as originally planned, the city of Winterthur decided to purchase the Modular W classroom solution to allow them to respond to the shortage of space in a targeted, swift and flexible way. In doing so, it was able to expand existing facilities and erect modular constructions whenever there was a short-term and/or temporary need for space.

Specific Contact



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The facade has an understated design with its fine vertical wooden slats.



Both the entrance area and the interior of the school extension building are painted in an inviting blue colour.





Thanks to their aspect ratio of 2:1, the basic modules measuring 7.2 × 3.6 m can be arranged both longitudinally and transversally.

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The facade design emphasises the modular construction of the extension building.



During the pre-greying treatment, wooden slats are given a grey tone, which is then replaced by natural greying over time.



The blue colour of the entrance area continues inside the school building.

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