

Wunderkammer Parcel

Situated in the middle of the Thurgauerstrasse, a parcel, which belongs to the city of Zürich, but is in the limits of Opfikon, is now used by the Wunderkammer Verein. It is perhaps the most lively place of the whole Glattpark areal but has recently come under threat. Indeed, the city of Zürich rents it out to the Verein as a way to expand the cultural life of the neighbourhood. However, recently, the finances department decided to destroy the wooden structure the association built to host events, and might even be looking for a new tenant. The parcel is a very valuable piece of land, and the city does not wish to sell it to real estate investors like Opfikon did, but would rather see its profit increase, and maybe exchange it for other land in the future, or simply keep it as an investment. The intervention proposes a maximum flexibility for these different future outcomes.

A new building is erected in the middle of the parcel, and three tenants co-habit together in the simple structure that can be transformed easily. The high ceiling height also allows for future functions like growing indoor productive plants, like in the Gallery building for instance. The building hosts different types of tenants but is run by the city of Zürich, which becomes a mediator between different parties. One part of the structure is dedicated to a market for «ugly» products that are rejected from standard food chain procedures, and help to raise awareness in the neighbourhood. The second part of the building hosts the Verein, which up until now did not have a kitchen nor toilets, and allows them to host indoor events. The third part of the building is occupied by the people who run the compost centre. Indeed, as waste management is generally located outside urban areas, and does not require much infrastructure, it is an important visual element for educational purposes to understand what we produce as quantities in terms of waste. Waste being an important element of public debate, especially in our actual climate crisis, the compost centre completes a net of recycling facilities nearby. From the compost, the building is able to be independent energetically, as it uses the biogas produced from organic decomposition. Organic fertilisers and soil produced from the decomposing detritus are used in the nearby park. As a reminder of what Glattpark used to look like, a new park and urban garden produces some vegetables and could become part of the GemüseAckerdemie for the nearby schools, a program that allow schools to teach children about food habits and agrarian processes.

