

Esch-sur-Alzette (L)

School sports hall



Esch-sur-Alzette (L) Dellheicht school sports hall

On the site of the "École primaire Dellheicht" in the urban centre of Esch-sur-Alzette, an old gym has been replaced by a single-storey new building with a roofed concourse in front.

The concourse establishes a link between the new sports hall and the existing school building. The ensemble also screens off the school yard from the road.

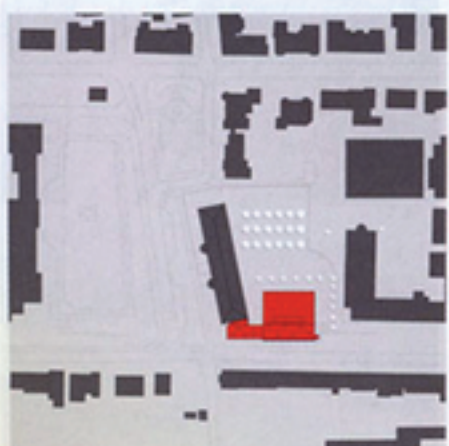
Two inserted wooden corpuses contain the access ways serving the sports hall in the basement and a side entrance. These wooden corpuses have been generously clad with laminated board, while the windows are frameless. The concourse in the form of a steel structure is illuminated with rooflights distributed over the roof surface.

The sports hall is a single-court hall with inner measurements of 18 m x 29.5 m and headroom of 7 m. This makes it large enough for use as a basketball hall. The hall is lowered 3 m into the ground.

In the basement beneath the concourse are the ancillary rooms (showers, changing rooms, equipment and plant rooms). The entrance to the hall is also located on this level. The part of the building above ground is glazed all round and allows views of the action inside.

The design of the sports hall continues that of the concourse. The steel frames for the hall span two fields. The interior finish level has been shifted inwards, which means that the load-bearing structure is visible from outside.

The entire glass façade of the concourse and of the sports hall have been enveloped in a mesh of steel fabric which has been ornamented on the side facing the road by the South African artist Sally Arnold. Her brief was to convert the wavy parallel lines and dynamic oval elements of a two-dimensional painting into a three-dimensional design on a roughly 30 metre long façade alongside the road. Stainless steel cable mesh and acrylic glass were chosen for the non-weathering and colourfast elements of this design.



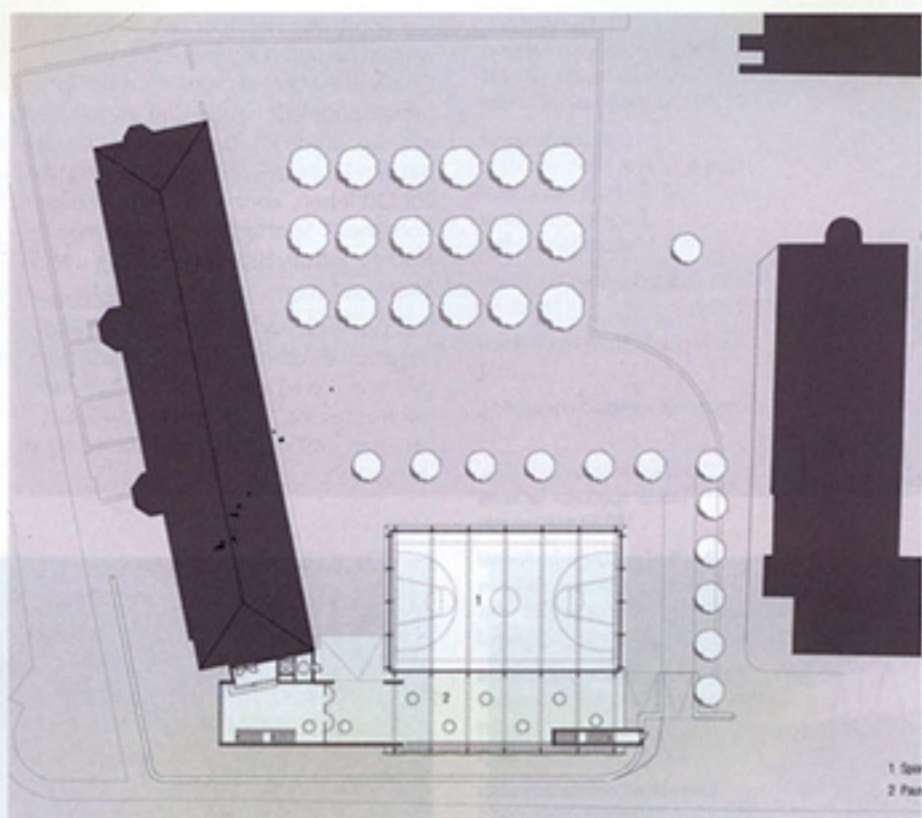
Salengro (F)

Equipment sports

For naturally exuberant primary school-children who do not have a spacious garden for their breaks, two shades of green were chosen for the acrylic glass shapes - a matt light green and a fluorescent, transparent turquoise to go with it. Reminiscent of human cell shapes, leaves or even decorative elements of the Sixties and Seventies, the dual acrylic glass paillettes establish a vibrant, rhythmic relationship with the artistically designed and precisely dimensioned wavy mesh and with the surrounding trees.

In the Jury's opinion, Dellheicht school sports hall is "one of the most impressive projects in an urban location. The outstanding features of this sports hall are the way it harmonizes with the existing school building without overpowering or conflicting with it.

At the same time, the sports building forms a new landmark in this district of the town. A remarkable feature is the extremely delicately worked green 'sculpture' on the outer façade, which recalls bushes and trees. The ground



level arrangement and the solution that the architect found for the co-existence of the new corpus with the old building were considered outstanding by the Jury."

