



Gerber Architekten



Institute of Chemistry and Lecture Hall Building for the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen

Project information

The planning for Justus Liebig University in Gießen included on the one hand the new lecture hall building and on the other hand the new build for the chemical department. Both structures provide the urban framework for a new public square, the so-called Piazza South, at the southern end of the main circulation axis of the campus. The chemical department with a clear east-west orientation continues the structure of the existing buildings, whilst the lecture hall complex forms the structural termination of the campus axis with a north-south orientation.

A glass-roofed main axis running from the west to the east provides access to be new build for the chemical department as internal public footpath and divides the building into an elongated section and a U-shaped volume, which both surround a generous terraced garden courtyard. The main circulation axis separates the student training laboratories in the northern wing from the rather closed-off

internal institute areas in the U-shaped building, whilst simultaneously allowing for the ground-level location of institutes and corresponding student training laboratories. Connecting glass bridges are intended on all levels in order to optimise the network of paths. The deep laboratory units of the U-shaped building section are orientated towards the courtyard, whilst the offices on the opposite side are arranged towards the outside.

According to latest knowledge, the laboratories are laid out as large, flexible and open units, thus allowing for interdisciplinary research in every way. The solid exterior wall surfaces of the new build from fair-faced concrete encase the secondary post-and-beam construction on the building's lateral sides. Daylight enters the deep laboratories through the floor-to-ceiling glass façade via light guiding lamellas. At the Piazza South, the lecture hall building, which is also constructed from fair-faced concrete, is designed as a two-storey volume. Due to the terrain sloping towards the east, the basement opens up in the direction of a green area at ground level. A large flight of stairs in the foyer leads down into the basement, which is in turn directly connected with the chemistry building to allow for a use as congress and meeting venue. The lecture hall building is accessed via the main entrance on Piazza South; the large auditorium is situated directly on the entrance level, whilst the medium-sized and smaller lecture halls as well as cloakrooms and restrooms are accommodated in the basement.

<https://www.gerberarchitekten.de/en/project/institute-of-chemistry-and-lecture-hall-building-justus-liebig-university-giessen/>





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