

Herzog & de Meuron

Introduction

Herzog & de Meuron is a Swiss architecture firm with an international reputation. The firm was founded in 1978 by Jacques Herzog (born April 19, 1950 in Basel) and Pierre de Meuron (born May 8, 1950 in Basel).

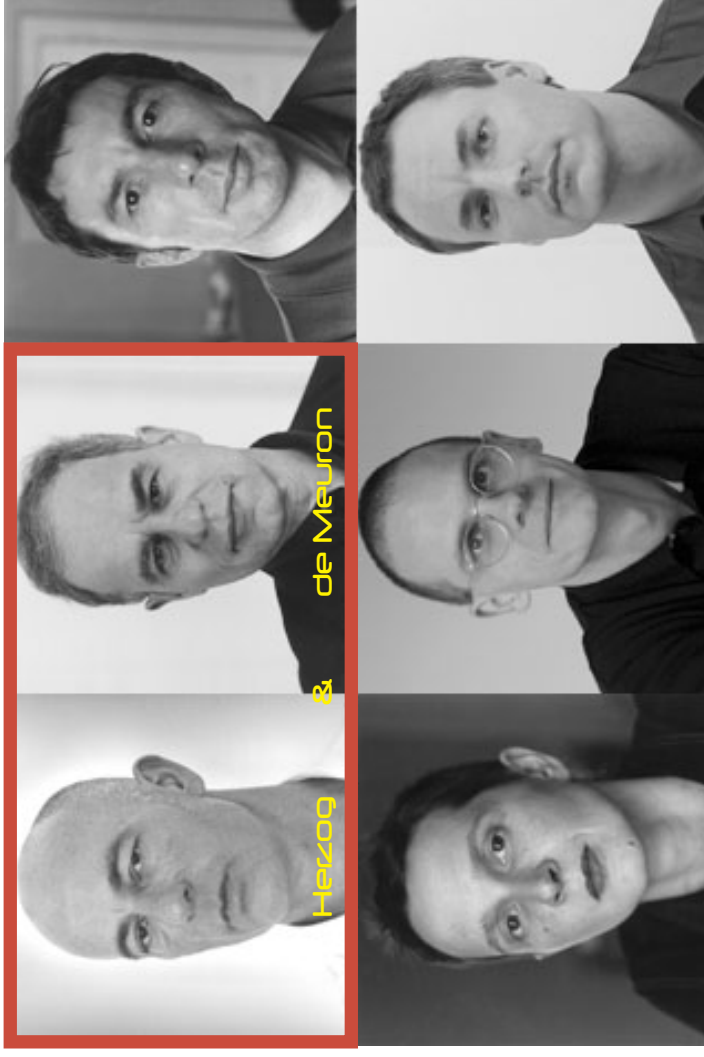
Herzog & de Meuron's early works were reductivist pieces of modernity that registered on the same level as minimalist art. They have projects in England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Japan, and of course, in their native Switzerland. There they have built residences, several apartment buildings, libraries, schools, a sports complex, a photographic studio, museums, hotels, railway utility buildings, as well as office and factory buildings.

Though their commitment to the primacy of materiality shows through all their projects, the manipulation of form has gone from boxy modernism to volumetric prisms of equal if not greater presence. The architects often cite Joseph Beuys as an enduring artistic inspiration and collaborate with different artists on each architectural project.

Critics attribute the success of the firm to their skills in revealing unfamiliar or unknown relationships through familiar materials.

Herzog & de Meuron Partners:

Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Harry Guggler (upper row),
Christine Binswanger, Robert Hösl, Ascan Mergenthaler (lower row)



Photos: © Margherita Spiluttini

Herzog & de Meuron Quick Profile:

- 1975 architecture diplomas at the ETH Zurich, after study with Aldo Rossi and Dolf Schnebli
- 1977 assistant professors for Dolf Schnebli, ETH Zurich
- 1978 opened Herzog & de Meuron in Basel
- 1983 Guest Professors at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 1987 Guest Professors at the Academy of the Arts in Berlin, Germany
- 1989 Guest Professors at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1991 Guest Professors at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Joseph Beuys (pronounced "boyce") (May 12, 1921 – January 23, 1986) was a German Conceptual artist who produced work in a number of forms including sculpture, performance art, video art and installations. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential European artists of the second half of the 20th century.



Designs as "Energy Sources"



"Social Sculpture"

Herzog and de Meuron work together as architect partners, and are often classified by critics as “Modernists.” The designs for most of their buildings have a common nature which is often expressed in the simple form of a box, which consists of a flat roof and large windows. While aesthetically one may not guess it, their designs fall into the category of “organic architecture” because the building is designed to fit its natural surroundings. Even the form of the building is developed from its environment. Herzog and de Meuron’s building seem to grow out of their natural surroundings. In short, Herzog and de Meuron design buildings in their natural form, customizing their forms to the environment.

Herzog and de Meuron believe that architectural form must ultimately be determined in each case by the particular function of the building. Thus, the building’s environment and the type of materials employed in the structure carries out the reason why such material is chosen for the building.



Ada Louise Huxtable, architecture critic, commented about Herzog and de Meuron, “They refine the traditions of modernism to elemental simplicity, while transforming materials and surfaces through the exploration of new treatments and techniques.”

M. H. de Young Memorial Museum San Francisco, 2005

The M. H. de Young Memorial Museum is a fine arts museum located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It is named for early San Francisco newspaperman M. H. de Young. It originally opened in 1895, was severely damaged during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, and was rebuilt and ultimately reopened on October 15, 2005. Architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron created the new building. The present structure is surrounded by copper plating, which will change colors as they're exposed to the elements. It includes a 144 ft. observation tower, allowing visitors to see much of Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse.



M. H. de Young Museum / Mark Darley



Chronicle / Mike Kepka

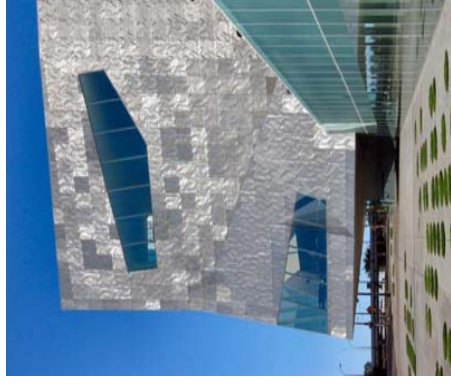
M. H. de Young Memorial Museum

Walker Art Center Expansion Minneapolis, 2005

The Walker Art Center sits on a 17 acre urban campus that includes both buildings and parks. The north wing of the building opened in 1971 and was designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes. In 2005 an expansion designed by Herzog & de Meuron opened that doubled the size of the museum. The series culminates in the tallest volume—which resembles a bulky block of ice—rising five stories and housing the art center's new theater, restaurant, and event space. Instead of mirroring, engulfing, or grafting onto the original building, the Herzog & de Meuron scheme offers the new and the old as a collection of related objects, all connected by a glass passageway.



Walker Art Center Expansion



Herzog & de Meuron - Allianz Arena

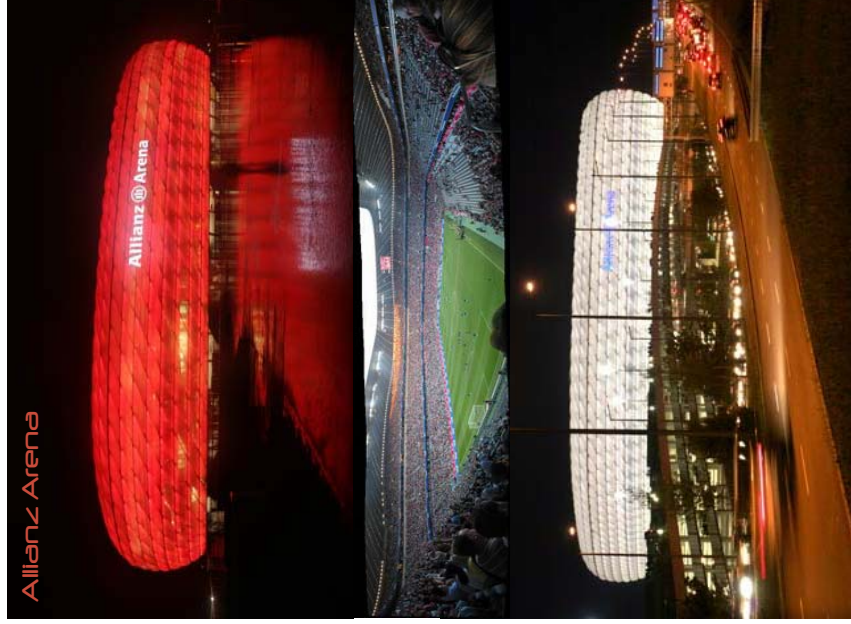
Tate Modern
Bankside, London 1995–2000

The Tate Modern is housed in the former Bankside Power Station, which was originally designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott between 1947 and 1963. The power station closed in 1981 and the building was converted by Herzog & de Meuron into the Tate Modern. Galleries are located on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the building and are naturally lit. Thematically-arranged exhibitions from the gallery's permanent collection are located on the third and fifth floors, while temporary exhibitions are located on the fourth floor. The main hall of the building, which originally housed the power station's turbine, is also used for temporary exhibitions.



Allianz Arena
Munich, 2005

The Allianz Arena is a football stadium in the north of Munich that will be known as "FIFA World Cup Stadium" during the 2006 World Cup. The facade of the stadium is made of a patterned translucent cover that allows different color combinations. The structure was designed to guarantee closeness to the game field. The enormous parking lot has been designed under an artificial garden - an "esplanade" slightly sloped towards the stadium. The total cost for the arena is estimated at Euro 285 million. Sustainable waste management concepts have been developed for the stadium levels (0-7); Parking lots (under Esplanade); Esplanade with integrated shops; Ticket office and waiting area; Parking place for bus/cars; and Green area and access roads. The sustainable concept includes these principles for avoiding waste: Selling beverages with fund deposit; Serving specified foods such as Bratwürste, Wiener Würst, pizza on paper napkins; Plate-return system at restaurants; Higher level restaurants with service and source separation methods to encourage composting and materials recovery.



Dominus Winery Napa Valley, CA, 1999

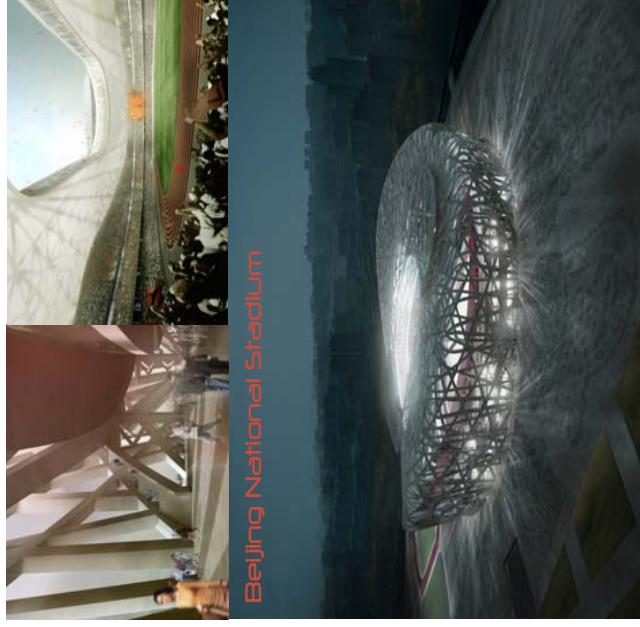
The building is a wine cellar which also incorporates the winery's offices. Instead of reducing the visual impact of the building's size, Herzog and de Mueron chose to emphasize its disproportionate measures. Also, they came up with an aesthetically new but functionally correct way of using materials. The building's "skin" is made of modular gabions of wire mesh containing masses of locally quarried stone -made rigid by a metal structure, also modular, on the interior. On the outside, the building blends into the surrounding landscape, and becomes a simple horizontal line, only slightly more structured than the lines of the grapevines. On the inside, the quantity of stone contained in individual gabions varies to permit differentiation of the thickness of the masonry: this moderates extremes of temperature, as in old buildings, while providing ventilation and natural lighting, even though the larger stones are placed on top and the smaller stones on the bottom.



Dominus Winery

Beijing National Stadium for the 2008 Summer Olympics

This stadium is the main track and field arena for the 2008 Olympics. The stadium will seat 100,000 spectators and will cost up to 400 Million Dollars. The stadium's appearance is one of synergy, with no distinction made between the facade and the superstructure. The structural elements support each other and converge into a grid-like formation - like a bird's nest with its interwoven twigs. The stadium was conceived as a large collective vessel - for example, the lobby is a covered urban space with restaurants and stores that invite visitors to stroll around. While the rain was to be collected for rainwater recuperation, the sunlight was to filter through the translucent roof, providing the lawn with essential ultraviolet radiation. To date, the roof had been cut from the original design in an effort to save money. On the facade, inflated cushions will be mounted on the inside of the structure to provide wind protection. Since all of the facilities -- restaurants, suites, shops and restrooms are all self-contained units, it is possible to do largely without a solid, enclosed facade. This allows for natural ventilation of the stadium, which is the most important aspect of the stadium's sustainable design.



Beijing National Stadium

Herzog & de Meuron

Forum Building - Laban Dance Centre

Forum Building Barcelona, 2004

The Forum Building is considered by some to be an icon of the "New Barcelona." However, local opinion on its aesthetic and functional merits is deeply divided. The Forum is a triangular building measuring 180 meters on each side and 25 meters in height. It was the symbol of the controversial 2004 Universal Forum of Cultures and the serious flaws that arose during its construction were widely covered in the press. The building has lain empty since the Forum and is beginning to show marked deterioration. The walls of the Forum Building are built of coral-like blue concrete, awash with water flowing from the roof to keep it cool. The building has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 3,200 and an exhibition hall covering nearly 5,000 square meters.

Forum Building



Forum Building

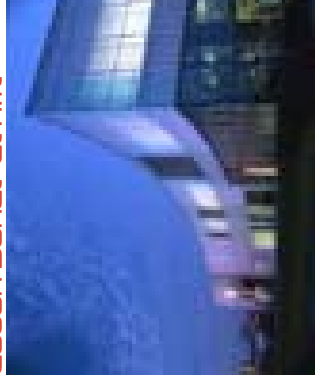
Laban Dance Centre Deptford Creek, London, 2003

Laban is a purpose-built centre for contemporary dance, and includes 13 dance studios, a 300-seat theatre, library and café. The \$23.1 million Laban Center in London, England, has won the 2003 Stirling Prize for architecture. Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the dance center is constructed of a simple shell made of glass and polycarbonate sheathing and is naturally lighted and ventilated.

Laban Dance Centre



Laban Dance Centre



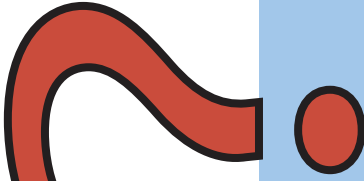
Herzog & de Meuron

Location and Contact Information



Herzog & de Meuron
CH-4056 Basel
Rheinschanze 6
Switzerland
Tel. +41-61 385 57 57
Fax. +41-61 385 57 58
Info@herzogdemeuron.ch

The secret is OUT!



576 Miles
from LONDON, ENGLAND
to BASEL, SWITZERLAND



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www.br-online.de/.../foto/architekten.jpg

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