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Coop Headquarters TH12, Basel

Situated near the entrance to Basel railway station, the Coop headquarters marks the start of the city's Gundeldingen district. We respectfully converted the late 1970s high-rise into a modern office building, carrying out an extensive refurbishment that will increase its service life by up to forty years.

Client

Coop Immobilien AG

Task

Architecture, general planning, implementation

Awards

Recognition Architecture Award for Building-Integrated Solar Technology (2022), Swiss Solar Prize (2021)

Period of time

2018–2021

Photos

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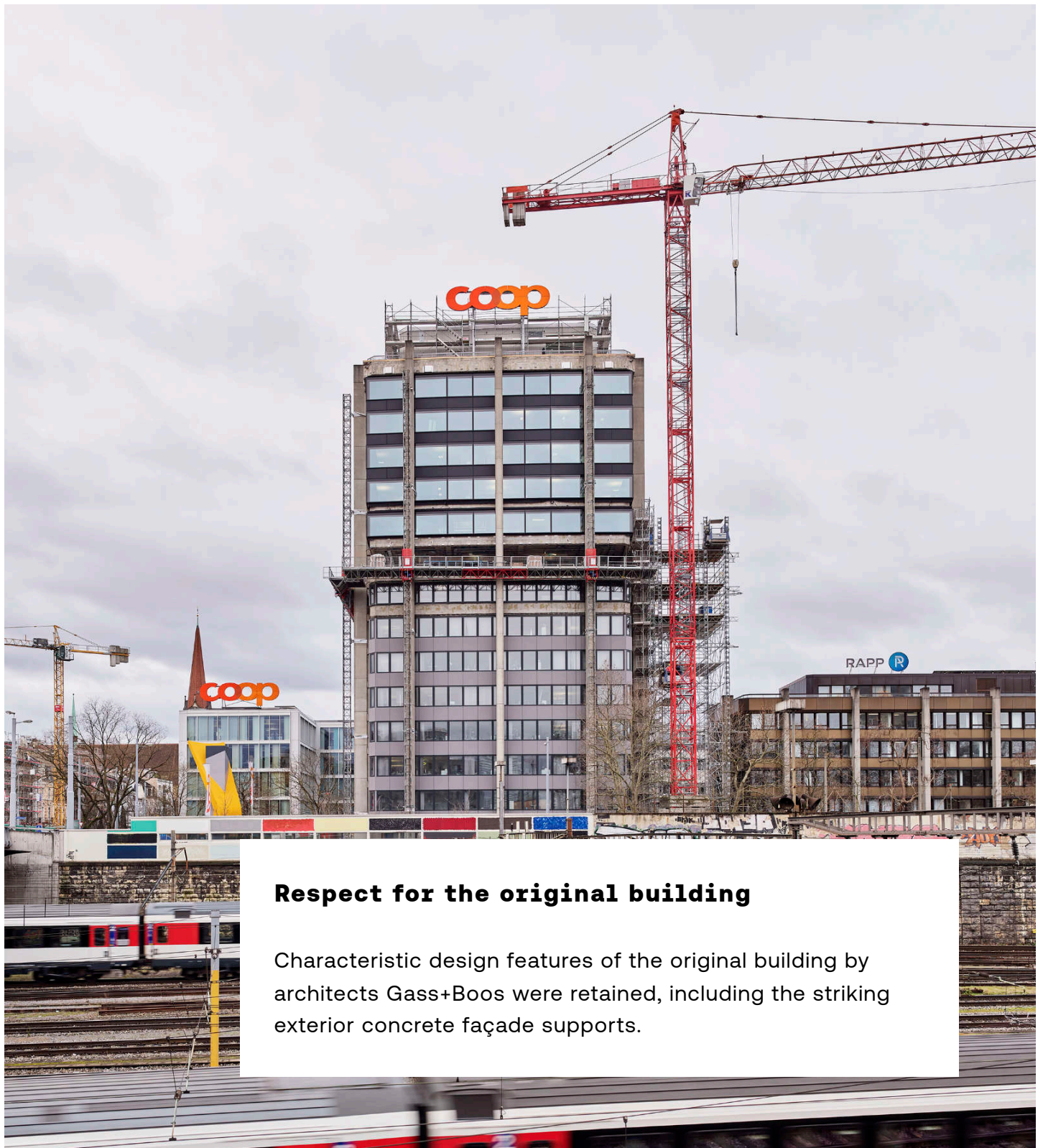
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Typology

Administration, Transformation & Renovation

Office

Basel, Schweiz



Technology and aesthetics

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New photovoltaic elements make up the parapet cladding, underscoring the façade's layered appearance. The conversion successfully preserves elements that add to the character of the building while rendering its modern technology visible and adopting a contemporary architectural idiom.

The photovoltaic modules have a printed glass surface with a satin finish that gives them a uniform appearance. The individual photovoltaic cells within them are almost indiscernible. Therefore, as in the original building, the cladding has the appearance of a continuous surface. The photovoltaic elements cover around ten percent of the building's electricity requirements. In addition, the improvements to the building envelope reduce heating-related energy requirements by around a third.

With its aesthetic and multi-award-winning solar facade, the Coop headquarters is presented by Hochparterre in the Solaris #08 issue.



Patrick Flückiger, Mitglied der Standortleitung Basel und Projektleiter

«The smooth running of this complex project required precise planning and considerable care from everyone involved.»



Panoramic workspaces

The rooms were converted into flexible open-space offices, with new meeting areas to encourage exchanges between colleagues. This remodeling increases the number of workspaces by around a third. The absence of exterior frames on the new large-format glass windows enhances the panoramic effect of the windows and creates bright, light-filled rooms that make for a pleasant working atmosphere and spectacular views.



A challenging implementation

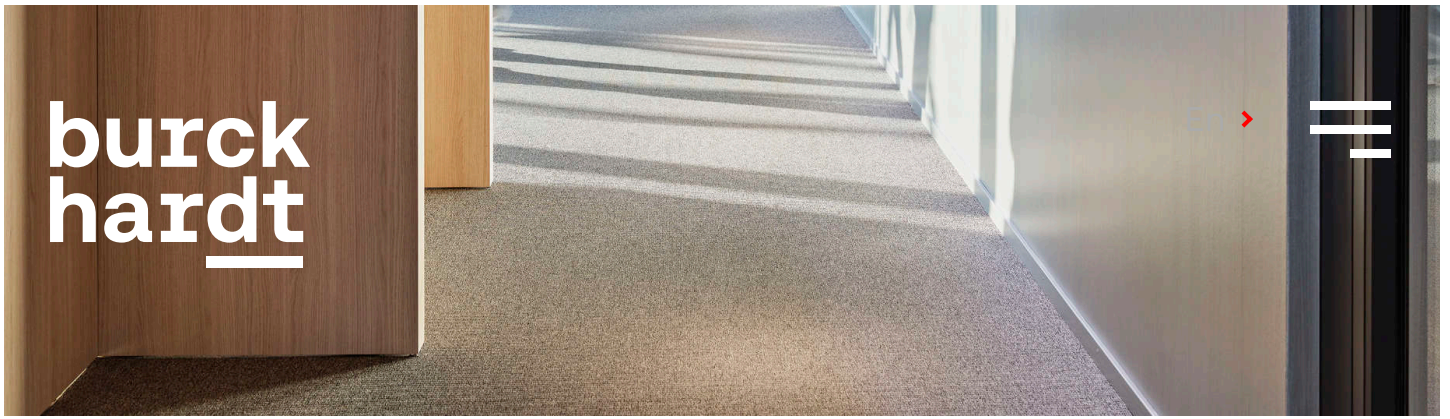
To allow the building to remain in service throughout the refurbishment, the construction areas were accessed via exterior scaffolding hoists and platforms, and the high-rise was converted from top to bottom on a floor-by-floor basis.

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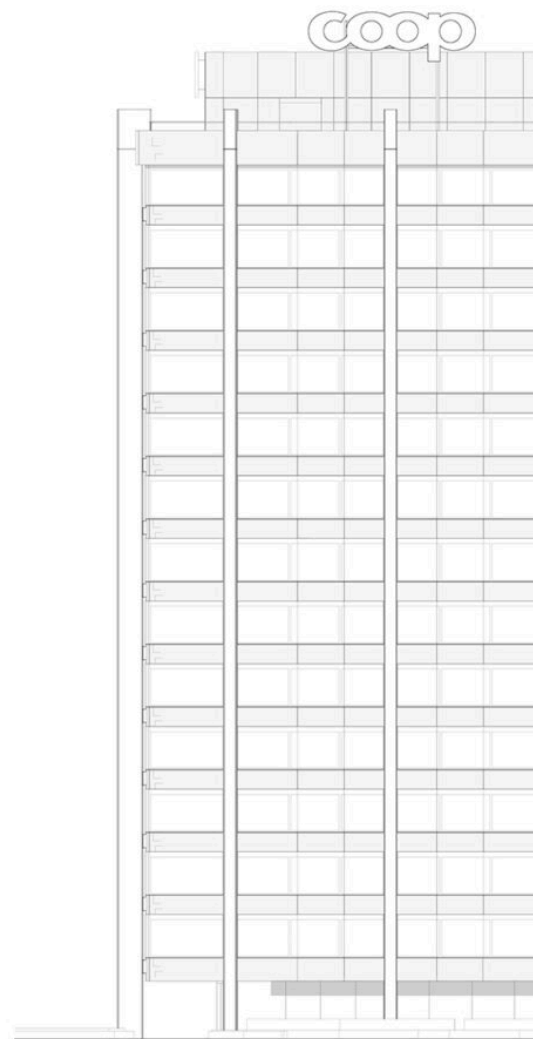
Christian Coppey, Head of Real Estate at Coop.

«The refurbishment succeeded in optimizing the office space whilst improving the working environment, which we see as a huge plus.»





Project plans



More Projects

Administration

Grosspeter Tower, Basel

The first high-rise in Switzerland with a solar-cell facade



Leisure & Culture

MFO-Park, Zürich

Pergola for public use at the heart of a dense city neighborhood



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