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Riviera-Chablais Hospital, Vaud-Valais

Press Release

groupe-6

PRESS CONTACT

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In April 2011, Groupe-6 and GD architects were named as winners of the competition to design the future Riviera-Chablais hospital in Rennaz. The project passed another milestone in October 2013 when planning permission was granted, leading to the start of construction work in 2014.

A hospital uniting two cantons

The future Riviera-Chablais Hospital is located in the commune of Rennaz, strategically located on the border between the cantons of Vaud and Valais. This inter-cantonal acute care facility features 350 hospital beds, a large technical plateau and out-patient services. Developed for technical and economic reasons, and to ensure sustainable, high-quality care in the Vaud Riviera and Chablais, the Riviera-Chablais hospital will replace the two hospitals of Riviera and Chablais and five existing acute care centres. By grouping acute care on a single site, the new hospital will better respond to the need for specialization, as well as the increase in chronic diseases and polypathologies related to the ageing population. It will form the core of a new hospital complex, serving a population of 180,000 when the hospital opens. It will accommodate some 2,000 people.

Care and a broad landscape

Built on three levels, the building fits horizontally into the landscape. Nestling in the valley, it is scaled in proportion to both the surrounding region and the neighbouring village. Respectful of the area, it stands directly onto the ground, with no basement level. At its summit, the top floors interact with the silhouette of the roofs of Rennaz. This compact building unfolds its horizontal lines and radically daring façades, without competing with the village.

Composed of superimposed strata, the building is made up of three main components :

- The top floor, which houses the accommodation area, is composed of a dark mineral façade which evokes the rock of the mountains. Shielded from the disturbances of the busy roads, the patient rooms open out onto internal courtyards. Only the panorama of the mountains is visible. The atmosphere

is protective, it inspires tranquillity and rest. It is a healing environment.

- The first two levels accommodate emergency medical functions, imaging, intensive care, operating rooms, the out-patients block, etc. The frontage, enveloped in glass, unifies these two levels in an interaction of reflection and transparency, translating the intensity and the to-and-fro of medical activity. On the west side, a single vast opening forms the entrance to the hospital.

- Two metal-fronted independent volumes join the volumetry of the first two levels in the same kind of way, reflective and enveloping. The first, in the foreground of the main façade, corresponds to the entrance to A&E and provides a direct link with the road. The second, located to the east, combines the various logistical connections. These volumes, which link the hospital to the outside world, anchor the building to the ground.

These projected volumes on the first two levels facilitate the building's overall legibility and help guide visitors : two main entrances, A&E and out-patients / visitors, are clearly identifiable on the main facade. Inside, orientation is simple : the majority of the reception terminals are visible from the entrance, and the flow of visitors and consultants is naturally lit, opening onto the landscape for better orientation.

An efficient distribution of access flows and the quality of the surroundings supports this readability. Flows are distributed in three zones : in the north, in-patients, A&E, personnel, and goods ; in the west, visitors and out-patients ; in the east, logistics. Through its landscaping, the building fits into a densely wooded area, providing an orientation for the site and creating a transition with the roads. Highlighting the entrance to the site, the western frontage and its reception areas are fully clear, opening onto an esplanade which travels between a relaxing terrace and a planted “flowered meadow” space, which features a water retention pond.

Expandability and flexibility of the hospital structure

In addition to the superposition of horizontal layers, the Riviera-Chablais hospital also combines three frames to allow for internal modifications and extensions :

- A medical frame : it structures the medical terminals along a North-South backbone;
- A technical frame : located not in the basement but on the roof, based on a network made up of the backbone and perpendicular galleries, to allow for easy maintenance and easy development of the hospital on itself;
- A safety frame : with a balanced distribution of fire escapes throughout the unit, to allow for future scalability.

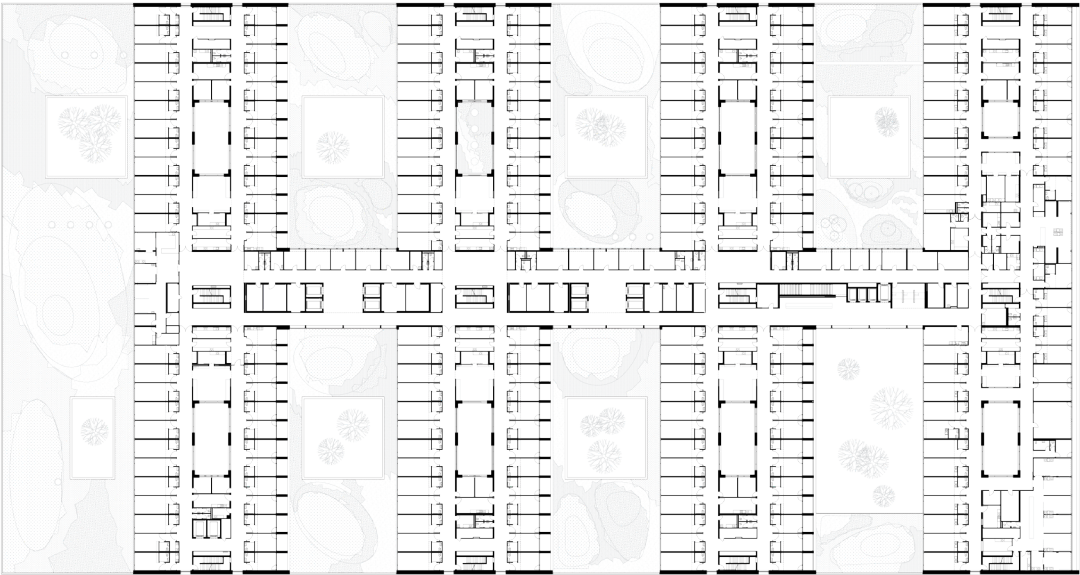
Through its composition and structure, Riviera-Chablais hospital can develop on itself : expandable and accessible technical framework roofing, structural framework post/flexible beam 7.50 x 7. 50, substantial ceiling heights, generous traffic areas. The widths of traffic are intentionally very comfortable (3.75 m on logistical driveways, 3 m for driveway to the surgical unit, 2.40 m minimum in traffic where beds cross), to anticipate future developments, including transport logistics and healthcare beds. Its location on the site provides possibilities for extension : a reserve allowing the construction of 30% more surface is defined to the north of the plot. The building aims to achieve MINERGIE® certification.



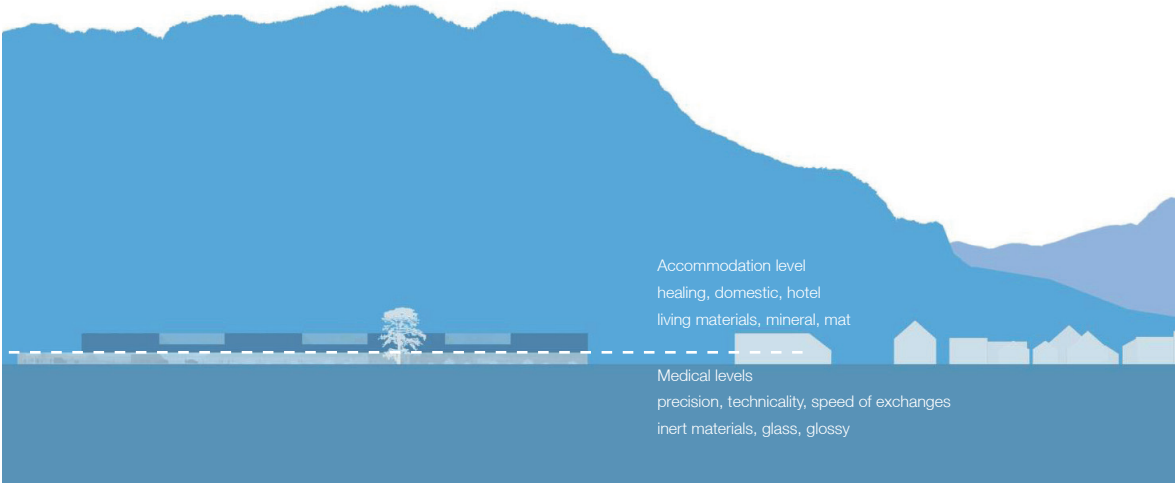
Site plan



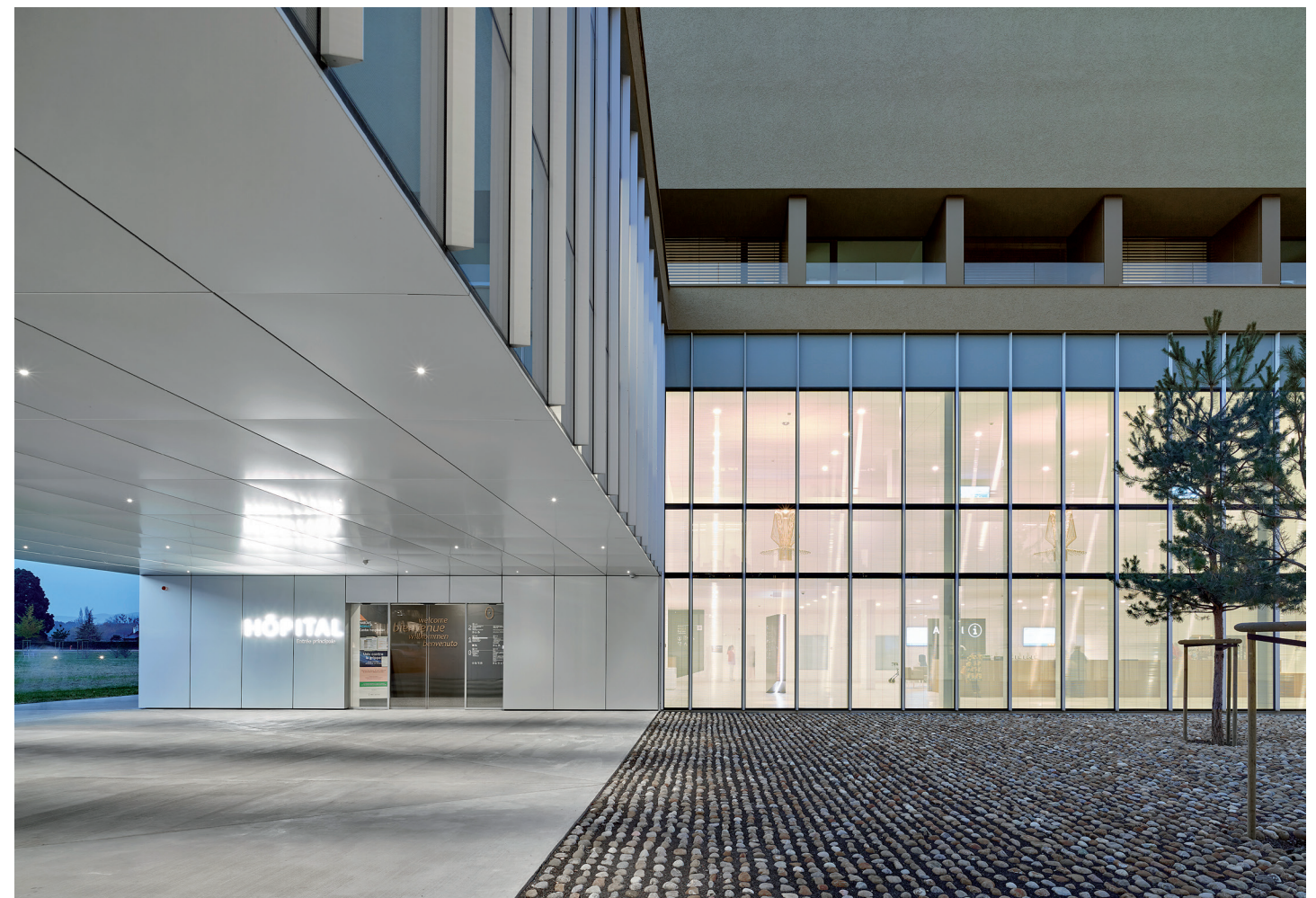
Longitudinal section



Second floor : Accommodation



Care and great Landscape, on the scale of the landscape and on the scale of the village of Rennaz. Superposition of two universes, one medical and the other domestic.



Transparency, openness, level access: the hospital's entrance is legible, obvious, accompanying.



For visitors, access is comfortable and preserved from medical or technical ambiances, via the hall and its staircase.



Bright and generous interior spaces, a resolutely domestic image: the ambiances are soothing and enhance the world of care.



By its inscription in the site, its horizontality, its framings and its views, the hospital affirms its relationship to the landscape.





Fiche technique

Operation : Acute care facility

Location : Rennaz (VD), Suisse

Project Owner : Riviera-Chablais Hospital Governing Board, Vaud-Valais

Architects : Groupe-6 architectes (Denis Bouvier, Yves Tailfer) / GD architectes (Laurent Geninasca, Philippe von Bergen)

Technical engineering : Daniel Willi SA (Civil Engineering), Betelec SA then Christian Risse SA and SRG engineering (electricity, automatic control systems), Weinmann Energies (CVC), TP SA (Sanitary engineer, medical fluids, technical coordination), Emmer Pfenniger (Facade engineer), Ignis Salutem (Security Engineer), Karakas & Français (Special foundations), Biol Conseils (Landscape), B+C ingénieurs (Surveyor-Environmental Engineer), Quartal (Economist), Schématec (Kitchen specialist), Frigo Consulting (Cold specialist).

Net surface area : 67 000 sq m net floor area

Number of beds : 358

Construction costs : 218 M€ HT / 240 M CHF

Schedule : Architectural design competition: 2011 (winner) ; estimated delivery : 2019

Pictures : Michel Denancé and Thomas Jantscher

Groupe-6, a team of architects covering a range of disciplines

Founded in 1970 and one of France's leading architectural agency, Groupe-6 is an architecture office with some 130 employees in two agencies in Paris and Grenoble.

With the strength of its multidisciplinary skills, Groupe-6 offers responses adapted to the diversity of public and private programs: hospitals and health facilities, mixed commercial programs, cultural and sports facilities, office buildings, research centres and technology campuses, urban development.

Through its achievements, Groupe-6 has developed a method and know-how in the management of complex and large-scale projects, offering the best balance between functional requirements, qualities of spaces, flexibility and sustainability.

Groupe-6 has designed many remarkable projects, as the Sud-Francilien hospital, near Paris, the Cité numérique/EM du Havre and the headquarters of Schneider Electric and the Musée des Beaux-Arts, in Grenoble, or the Hospital Riviera-Chablais in Switzerland. Groupe-6 is currently expanding the Centre Hospitalier de Reims, the Arena de Chartres and the CRBS laboratories in Strasbourg.

Its achievements demonstrate the versatility of Groupe-6, its always contextual approach, the wealth of its architectural vocabulary, its constant attention to detail and constructive quality, and its constant attention to uses, in these complex programs for which Groupe-6 architects have developed a rare expertise.

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