

26 Years Euregional Prize for Architecture

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Fire station - Leverkusen

Participant info

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Project info

Based on a functional analysis in combination with a sociological consideration of a fireman's lifestyle in the twenty-four-hours shift system, this project is focused on creating a structure which succeeds in satisfying all spatial and functional requirements.

Two elongated buildings of exactly the same length contain all functions needed both for a fire station and its workshop. Processes inside these buildings are characterised by short ways and logical connections between the different departments, with the aim of a time optimized operation handling and an increase of safety factors. Sliding poles which are located opposite of the wet cells connect firemen's areas with the car level on the ground floor. The first floor is exclusively reserved for the fire engines. The administration level on the third floor is linked to the firemen's area. The hose tower is separated and accentuates one of the system's endings which is used as the public access.

The support structure accommodates the technical systems as well as all the wet areas and storage spaces. Consequently, a maximum of flexibility arises which grants the inclusion of the programme and its divergent technical and spatial requests. The structural system consists of u-shaped and subdivided columns, double beams and ceiling panels. This geometrical implementation allows a cable routing from the beams and columns directly into the ceiling area. Located on the roof, a technical unit of decentralised ventilation units is feeding the system, always responding to the various technical requirements.

The repetitive elements have its origin in the idea of serial production and in the end resulted in using a large degree of prefabricated concrete elements.

In this design clarity and simplicity are not just a formal gesture but rather the result of an integrative design process concentrated on the relation and here also interdependence between function and construction.

