



Long Section



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Photos Leo Fabrizio

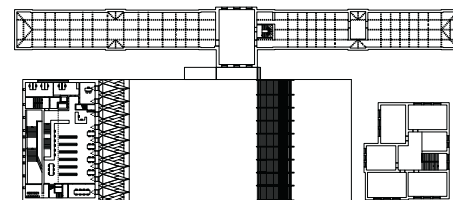
Strolling through the Quartier des Bains in Geneva, sooner or later you're sure to come upon a curious-looking building, the Musée d'Ethnographie de Genève (MEG). It's next to a former school building that until recently housed the museum's collection. The new building is reminiscent of a giant Persian rug that on the street side folds down from a sharply pitched roof and, on the other side, juts out over the full length of the façade to form a canopy. 'Its striking geometry gives the above-ground part of the new museum an iconographic quality,' says Marco Graber of Graber Pulver.

On the ground floor of the part of the building visible to passers-by are a foyer, a café, a ticket desk and a museum shop. Tucked beneath the peak of the roof is a library. The bulk of the exhibition space lies under a newly designed square. Graber Pulver's concept addresses several aspects of the brief. The new building adds a great deal of space to the museum and more greenery to a densely built-up neighbourhood. The firm also fulfilled the client's wish for a 'black box' exhibition space. The first underground level houses an auditorium, depots and mechanical systems. The exhibition space on the floor below has an area of more than 2,000 m² uninterrupted by columns; the layout can be configured to accommodate the permanent collection as well as special exhibitions. 'Geneva is home to people from some 190 countries,' says museum director Boris Wastiau, 'who can visit the MEG and get acquainted with over a hundred cultures from five continents.'

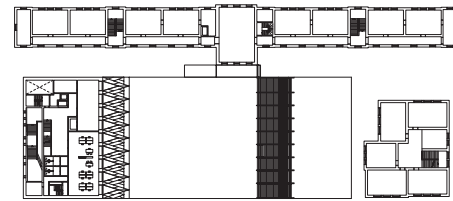
The focal point of the new museum is the roof, with its diamond-shaped pattern of anodized-aluminium panels and windows, including skylights that flood the library with an almost celestial radiance and, depending on the time of day, create a play of light and shadow.

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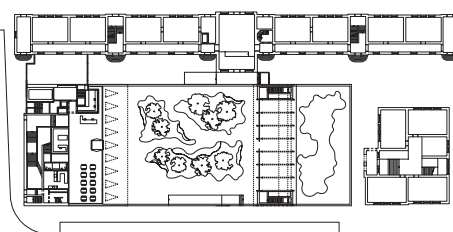
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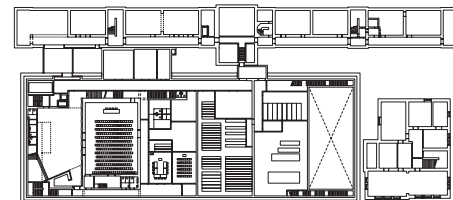
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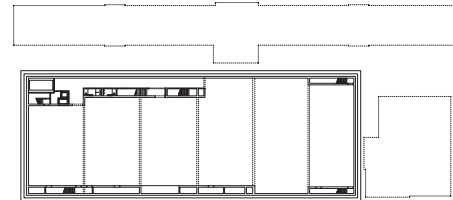
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Graber Pulver **collects cultures under the carpet**

Model.

