

COLOUR ME PERFECT

DANIELE MARQUES
SCHOOL
RIEHEN / SWITZERLAND



A VIVID RAINBOW OF COLOURS ADDS A SPARKLE TO LIFE IN A SWISS SCHOOL-HOUSE.

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Located at the edge of a suburb of Basel, a new school designed by Daniele Marques displays a clearly structured concept that is well known to those familiar with Swiss architecture. A low double gymnasium, a bike shelter and a three-storey classroom wing interlock; two playgrounds also connect on different levels. Classroom corridors leading to covered entranceways on either side of the complex

enable a free flow of traffic through the building. And a surprisingly bright colour scheme gives the interior a vibrant personality.

Grass-green stairwells contrast with light-blue corridors. Lemon-yellow classrooms shining through high narrow strips of fenestration are visible from the blue hallway. The gym is a glowing mandarin orange. Marques, who calls the palette a 'guide' to perception, says he used colour and other abstract resources to develop spatial awareness – to clarify the layout of the school, thus making it easier for people to find their way.

For Jörg Niederberger, the artist responsible for the colour scheme, choosing colours is a matter of instinct. Yellow not only radiates a

friendly atmosphere; it also reacts well to light. Blue has a calming effect on traffic in long corridors. Rational thought went into the choice of each colour used for walls, ceilings and floors. The selection of colours to be used in an interior can be compared to the selection of notes for a musical composition. In architecture, seasons and times of day must also be taken into account.

Marques explains his main motive for using bright colours: 'Colours are always perceived on an emotional level. They serve as a catalyst for integrating everyday objects into an overall composition.' At this Swiss school, even the furniture greets pupils with a cheery yellow grin. www.marques.ch