

DESIGN INNOVATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

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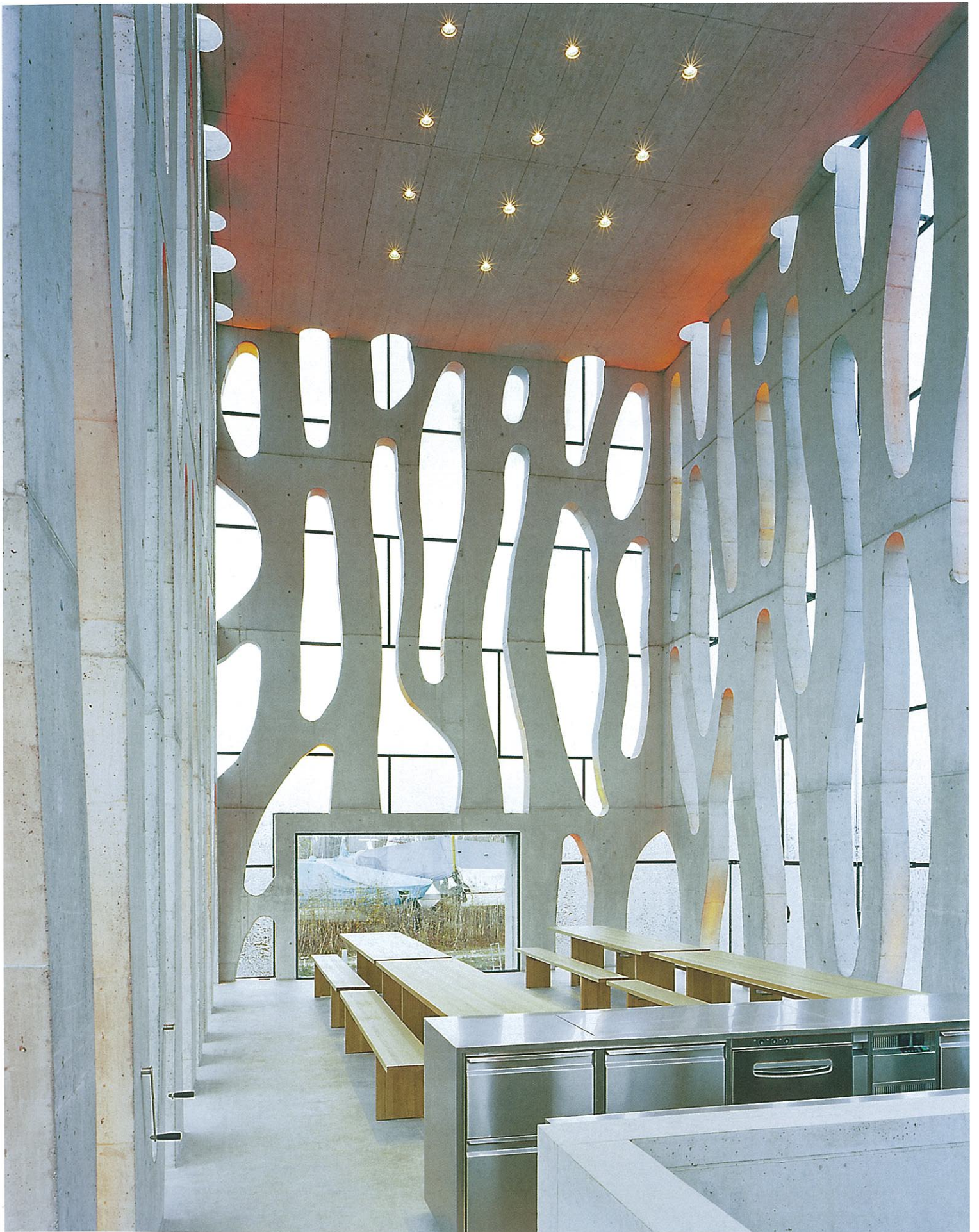


nordwesthaus // fussach @ austria

ARCHITECTURE: BAUMSCHLAGER EBERLE

PHOTO: INES LEONG © ARCHPHOTO.COM, EDUARD HUEBER © ARCHPHOTO.COM





In Fussach (Austria), a former gravel pit has been converted into a new harbour on the Lake Constance. An architectural response to the concrete volume erected in 2000 for the head of the marina and a new meeting point for the sailing community, the freshly built 14m-tall Nordwesthaus rises directly out of the water. The boat box is positioned at the water level; a connecting floor provides access from the shore to the clubroom upstairs. Raised 8,8m above ground, this «room with a view» represents the core of the Nordwesthaus.

Placing their creation right on the edge of the moorings, architects Baumschlager Eberle focused on the interaction between the supporting concrete structure and its outer envelope made of see-through glass. The irregular pattern of the concrete walls is contrasted with the rectangles of glazing sheets, while the random frosty decoration upon the glass surface adds a dimension of subtlety to this contrast. The combination of glass and macro-porous concrete provides a canvas for the play of light and shadows. During the day, those inside the building enjoy a kaleidoscopic view of the landscape, while the rippling water reflects on the building's outer skin. After dark, the eye-catcher task is taken over by LED lighting. Dynamic, DMX-controlled colour sequences bring the facade to life, while emphasizing in an X-ray manner the graphic aspect of the concrete structure. Slow changes of colour are mirrored in the lake to produce fascinating reflections of infinite variety. Inside the building, the lighting scenery gives the entire space a captivating atmosphere without being intrusive. The easy-to-use lighting solution has been provided by Ledon, an LED applications specialist. The spotlights developed in cooperation with Baumschlager Eberle specifically for this project are arranged in the facade of the building to produce an optimum effect; 12 integrated RGB LEDs per luminaire offer a range of more than 16 million colours, allowing the sequence to flow smoothly from one shade to the next throughout the entire colour spectrum. The compact built-in spotlights are fitted with asymmetrical optics to ensure that the amoeba-shaped voids in the concrete walls are fully illuminated. The optics distributes light within the voids, over the walls and ceiling of the clubroom and to the outside in a way that leaves very little scattered light inside the building and thus ensures that the visitor's eyes are not disturbed.





