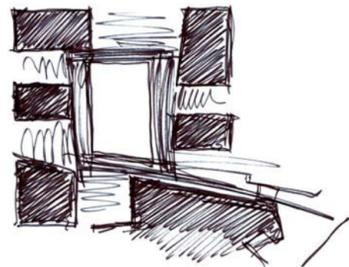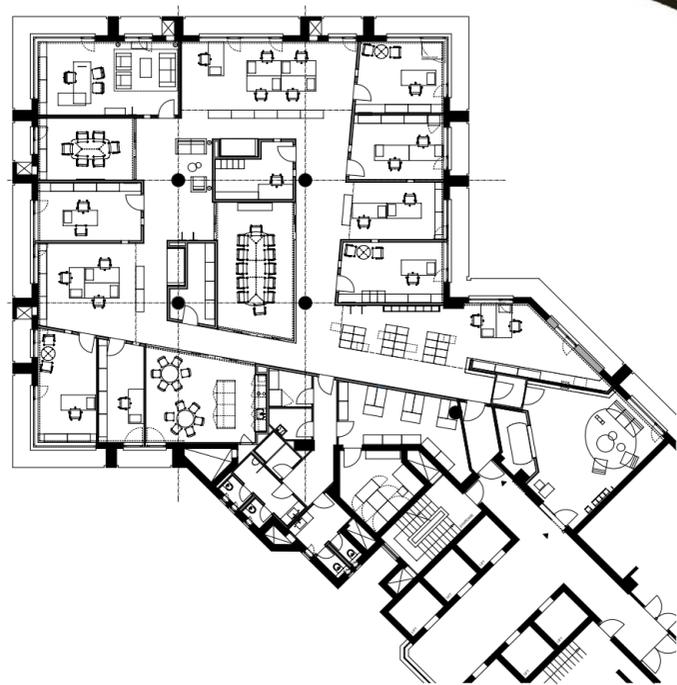# CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MUMBAI
Planning Process and Spatial Concept

In fall 2015 the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics commissioned MACH Architecture to renovate the Swiss Consulate General in Mumbai. Besides the task of remodeling the premises, another task was to programmatically redefine the Consulate by integrating Swiss Business Hub, Switzerland Tourism and Swissnex.

Building the Consulate in Mumbai, as seen today, is only possible with a dedicated and passionate team. This includes the client, the user, consultants, architects and contractors, both Swiss and Indian. From project start to moving-in, the process took 1 year and 5 months, thousands of hours of persistent and hard work by everybody involved.

The spatial concept was the idea of creating a hub for the four entities in the form of a village. A village forms a community, so each entity got one or several houses, depending on their size. The wooden houses provide an identity for each member and at the same time form neighbourhoods, streets and plazas, the communal spaces that enable and foster communication between its citizens. It is a simple yet strong concept, which architecturally also allows daylight to flow deep into the centre of the building. The arrangement of the houses and open spaces generates long vistas and perspectives making the entire space more generous and support communication among the staff members and with guests.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MUMBAI
Material Concept

Wooden houses are traditionally quite common throughout Switzerland. The ash wood panelling for the houses was produced in Switzerland, the main reason being that the Consulate has to represent Switzerland in its host-country India, the other reason was that the contemporary detailing that represents Swiss precision is not available in India. The panels and doors were prefabricated in Switzerland and installed within 10 days.

The floor and ceiling had to be of a light colour to let the daylight reflect and bounce between the houses deep into the village to the communal spaces. White Terrazzo was the first choice from the beginning. With its subtle shades it evokes images of snow-clad mountains and glaciers both of the Alps and the Himalayas. Though expensive in Switzerland it is a cost saving and readily available material in India.

The elevator lobby was in dire need of a renovation as well and is the first impression a guest perceives when visiting the Consulate. Stone was the only option to withstand the traffic in this public space. The texture of the silver travertine starts a dialogue with the texture of the ash wood panelling and thus extends and visually enlarges the premises of the Consulate.

MACH ARCHITEKTUR
About us

MACH offers a wide range of services in the fields of architecture, interior design, project and product development. Since its inception in 2000, MACH has completed a variety of projects from developing corporate design concepts for large international companies to designing apartments and residences for private clients. MACH also designs and develops furniture products.

David Marquardt + Jan Fischer (Partners MACH Architektur)

MACH designed and developed architecture concepts for major corporate clients including Bally, The Blackstone Group, the City of Zurich, DHC, IWC Schaffhausen, SWISS, Monocle, Roger Dubuis, Ping Pong Group, Toto, Twinings and Novartis. It has also created solutions for small and local enterprises, and private clients. Over the last 17 years MACH has designed and developed more than 250 projects on five continents. MACH frequently collaborates with brand building agencies such as Winkreative (London), Red Green Zebra (Stockholm), and Branders (Zurich). MACH is a firm whose members are committed to Swiss precision down to the last detail. Whatever the project, MACH believes that form should not simply follow function but should also add lasting value to every project.

Stéphanie Monney (Project Leader Consulate General)

Credits
Client: Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics
User: Consulate General of Switzerland in Mumbai
Architects: Mach Architektur (Zurich) + _opolis architects (Mumbai)
MEP Consultants: designbureau (Mumbai)
Security Consultant: BDS Security (Bern)
Wall Letters Helvetica: Weicher Umbruch (Zurich)