

THE ALPINA GSTAAD

PR BACKGROUNDER: Jaggi & Partner AG

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I. Project Scope

Lead architect to The Alpina Gstaad project based in Gstaad, Switzerland.

II. Profile

The firm Jaggi & Partner AG has been planning and executing architectural and interior design projects for over thirty years and has earned recognition for a variety of commissions, particularly in the fields of private homes and hotels.

The projects range from modest alpine huts in the Bernese Alps to 5-star hotels, from the renovation of a chateau above Lake Geneva to a private villa in Mallorca, and from an event venue to a preliminary project for a school campus in Gstaad.

The visions and ideas of discerning clients are enthusiastically embraced in order to create durable and personalized solutions that always relate to their natural surroundings. The conflict between traditional and modern means that rooms and buildings emerge that are characterized by a judicious choice of materials and meticulous attention to detail. Ecological and economical aspects, the balance between functionality and coziness, the flow of the rooms and also the effects of light must always be considered.

These guiding principles, adopted by the firm's founder, have been successfully passed on to the next generation of decision-makers and are still adhered to by a group of twenty professional planners today.

III. Architectural Exterior Description

The Alpina is located in Oberbort about one hundred metres above the village of Gstaad. It is incorporated in a big park which extends to the south in front of the building with a spectacular view of the Bernese Alps.

The building is constructed on a north/south orientated plan with a classic Swiss structure from the region: A protruding middle section widens to a slightly angled east and west wing. The four building corners are each marked with a square tower.

The hotel's entertainment and restaurant facilities with direct access to the outside terrace and garden is the visual foundation with the biggest extension and apsis-like curves covered with massive blocks of Ringgenberg, an anthracite brown natural limestone that comes from a small quarry in the region. Five stone masons worked full time for 2 years to cut and hand-chisel each block of Ringgenberg stone.

The three room levels above has a light colored exterior facade which dominates the protruding four corner towers with wooden balconies interspersed with sections in the north and south side with wooden wallcovering and balconies.

Three more upper levels above becomes a part of the multifarious roof made of natural slate characterized by numerous hip roofs, dormers, balconies and peaks in the four pyramid roofs of the towers.

The wood in the exterior of the hotel is made of original fir-wood from Swiss farmhouses that are hundreds of years old.

The architecture of the new building is inspired by the local hotel architecture of the previous Grand Hotel Alpina from the beginning of the 20th century. This is also the beginning of alpinism in the Bernese Oberland and the beginning of the success story of Gstaad.

The Alpina Gstaad is rooted in the tradition of the Saanenland and at the same time, it revives the pioneering spirit of the past to "dare something great" and to "be ahead of the times". This is evident in the planning of a gallery entrance to avoid any visible traffic and pollution, and in the latest technical equipment.

IV. Architectural Interior Description

At the upper end of Alpinastrasse, guests will arrive at the "Gallery Entrance" made of old wood and Ringgenberg natural stone. This Gallery access is composed of several materials found throughout the building: old wood, Ringgenberg limestone, sheet metal and plaster together with light and water.

The Gallery entry and driveway leads to a waterfall structure and a circular driveway with a round opening to the sky above the entrance area of the hotel.

The hotel entrance has a glass façade, so the hotel lobby, reception and grand central staircase is visible to all arriving guests. The hall is dominated by old wooden ceilings and walls in line with natural stone coverings, warm carpets and an inviting sitting area in front of the big authentic fireplace. A 2,000 sq.mtr. (21,500 Six Senses spa and a ballroom, boardroom and two boutique facility is located on this floor.

A magnificent antique wood carved ceiling is installed above the grand central staircases which leads to the open area entertainment and dining areas (lounge, restaurants, wine room and fumoir). Swiss old wood ceiling extends throughout the open floor plan. Large ceiling-to-floor windows on the east and south side leads to the wrap-around terrace and show a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains.

NOTE:

For more information on the interior, see PR Backgrounder from Hirsch Bedner Associates, Noe DuChaufour-Lawrance and P49.

V. Interesting Details on the Making of The Alpina Gstaad

Interesting Details	European Measurements	USA Measurements
Amount of excavated earth	165,000 cubic meters	5,826,920 cubic ft.
# of trips for truck to remove earth	13,000 trips	13,000 trips
Amount of cement used	34,000 cubic meters	1,200,699 cubic ft.
Amount of steel use	3,700 tons	3,700 tons
Slate roof area	3,900 m2	41,979 sq.ft.
Amount of wood for roof structure	300 m2	3,229 sq.ft.
Length of conduit pipes for electric wires inside concrete	160km	100 miles
Amount of Ringgenberg limestone used (Note: This took five men two years to cut and hand chisel the stone)	Ext-Hotel : 1,100 m2 Gallery : 600 m2 TOTAL : 1,700 m2	Ext-Hotel: 11,840 sq.ft. Gallery : 6,458 sq.ft. TOTAL : 18,299 sq.ft.
Amount of old wood surface inside	13,000 m2	139,931 sq.ft.
# of windows	540	540
# of doors	1000	1000
#Workers present daily	250	
#Workers daily from May 2012 onwards	450	