

## Hirslanden Cardiac Clinic, Zurich, Switzerland

A leading Swiss health care organization sought an effective, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound method of enhancing the acoustic integrity of their Zurich clinic. The solution was effective and, eye-catching.



With 14 hospitals in all of the greater Swiss cities and a staff of over 1600 doctors, Hirslanden Group is one of the major privately-held health care forces in Switzerland, with roots that go back to the early 1930s. - As one of the centerpieces of the Group's operations The Hirslanden Cardiac Clinic in Zurich provides the entire spectrum of modern cardiac surgery through its team of international specialists. [www.hirslanden.ch/global/de/startseite/kliniken\\_zentren/zentren\\_institute/zuersch/herzlinik.html](http://www.hirslanden.ch/global/de/startseite/kliniken_zentren/zentren_institute/zuersch/herzlinik.html)

When it became necessary to expand the clinic to enhance patient services, Dost Architecture ([www.dost.org](http://www.dost.org)) was mandated to develop a workflow and an interior design concept that offers uncompromised functionality while also reflecting the values of the Hirslanden Group. The result – a careful blend of minimalist design, surprising detailing and a remarkably continuous lighting scheme establish a welcome dialogue between clinical precision and human / environmental concerns.

As Dominic Meister, Art Director and one of the Founders of Dost Architecture comments: "In all of our projects we like to be thinking a great deal about the immediate visitor experience. It is our belief that acoustics play a major – and sometimes probably underestimated – role in human perception of the built environment – hence we focus specifically on the sonic quality of our designs."

WSDG ([www.wsdg.com](http://www.wsdg.com)) was brought on board to study all aspects of room and structural acoustics – the latter being critical due to the privacy issues in doctor-to-patient conversation. A range of eight specific room acoustical treatments was developed over the course of the acoustical studies. The clinic's rooms were all individually analyzed, and a matrix was created to determine which of these eight types of

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treatments was most appropriate for each of the rooms – with most rooms ending up needing a judicious combination of elements from the various eight measures.

One of the cornerstones of the room acoustical treatment are the transparent and highly efficient acoustic curtains from the “Silent Space Collection” designed and manufactured by Annette Douglas from Douglas Textiles ([www.douglas-textiles.ch](http://www.douglas-textiles.ch)). A second cornerstone – specifically specified by Dost Architects – are the eye-catching living plant wall murals by Verticalis ([www.verticalis.ch](http://www.verticalis.ch)) which can be installed like a painting, and require only natural or artificial light and some watering every three weeks. These elements have an absorption value comparable to that of a standard acoustical wall panel. The third cornerstone – mainly for the hallways and waiting areas – is the acoustically absorbing Baswa ceiling treatment ([www.baswa.com](http://www.baswa.com)).

## Photos



- Interior Architecture by Dost Architects ([www.dost.org](http://www.dost.org))
- Photography by Buerobureau (<http://www.buerobureau.com>)

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