GYMNASIUM BUCHLOE
PUBLIC PROJECT

LIGHTING DESIGNER
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PHOTOGRAPHER
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Project Description

While the use of effective heat insulation and passive house components has by now become standard in building engineering, energy efficiency in lighting lags behind considerably. It is precisely the lighting supply, however, that contributes substantially to a building’s electricity consumption. Depending on the type of use, the proportion of consumption is between 10% (industry) and about 50% (schools).

A current school project that received the German Innovation Award shows how one can increase the willingness to use efficient lighting in the public sector. A secondary school in Buchloe, Swabia, the commissioned construction company took on not just the cost of the construction but also the maintenance and running costs (for a period of 20 years) as the operator of the building. As a result, cost-effective and highly efficient systems and components were used for the technical building equipment. Additionally, a large, transverse skylight that can be seen from a great distance as the centre of the complex provides the hall with sufficient daylight.

The architects succeeded in using the elongated building structure to respond to the rather heterogeneous conditions of the environment. The right and left arms of the H-shaped structure are occupied mainly by classrooms while the horizontal connector accommodates the auditorium and entry hall. The partition walls in the hallway are a special feature; as prefabricated components, they are shaped to form wall niches that can be used for seating areas, closet walls, or wardrobes.

The external appearance of the building incorporates the use of traditional materials that are customary in this location: roughly plastered stone facades for the main entrances to the large hall and wood veneer in the classroom sections, which are offered protection by the roof's wide overhang.

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