euro inox
The European Stainless Steel Development Association

Paul Klee Centre in Berne

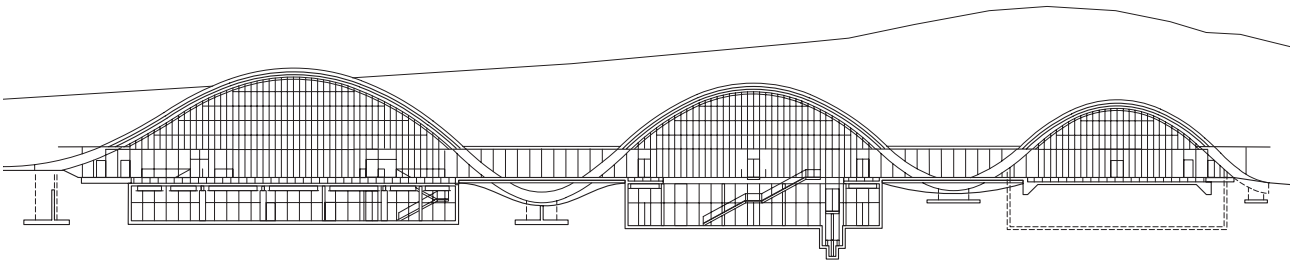
Site plan scale 1:5000

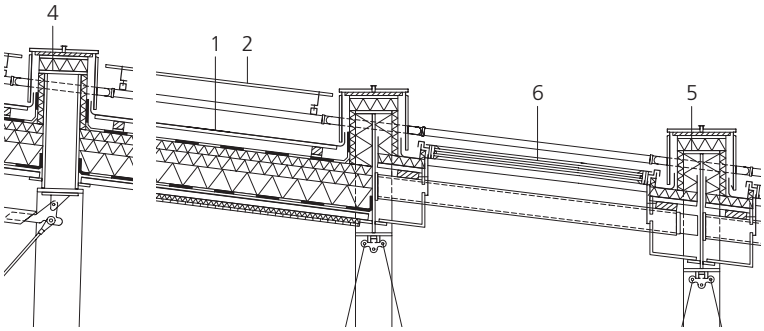
Visitors enter the museum via a narrow walkway.

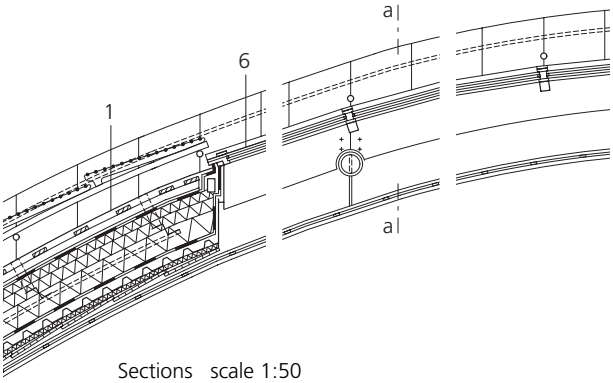
A narrow walkway marks the entrance to this museum. The undulating shape of the complex takes its cue from the morainic landscape around Berne. Three wave-like structures, each with a different function, seem to rise and fall out of the ground. The 'wave' on the south side is used as an information area; it contains computer workplaces, seminar rooms and research facilities. Gathered together in the central section is a collection of artworks by Paul Klee. And in the north section is a children's museum, café and auditorium. Running through all three undulations is an internal 'street' connecting all the different parts of the museum together.

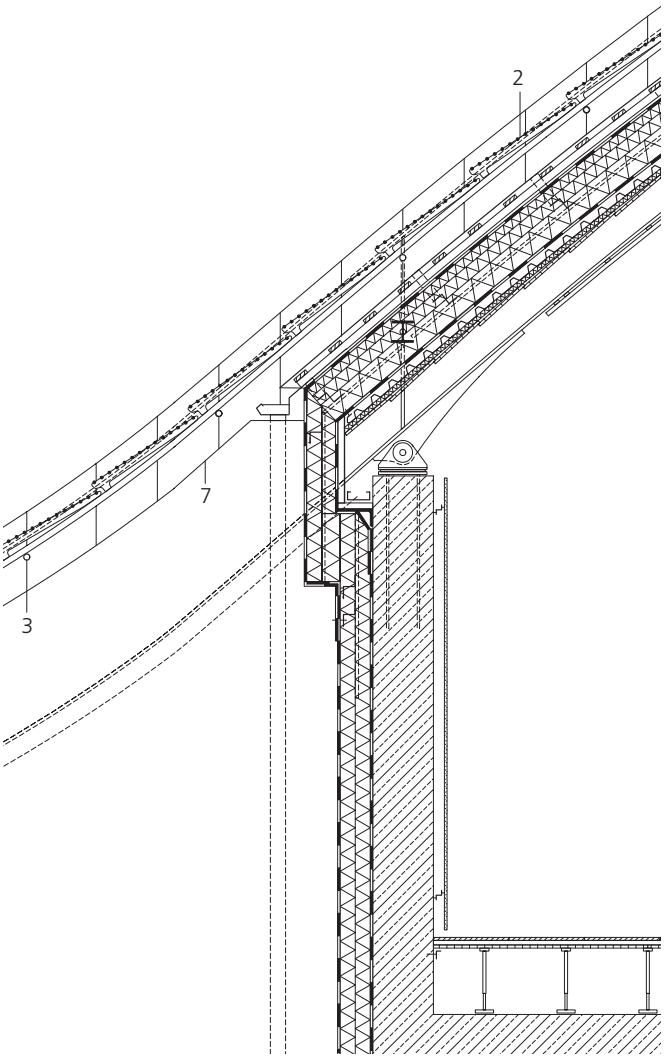
The steel ribs of the building's frame were cut using CNC flame-cutting equipment and welded by hand. The entire roof surface is clad with 0.4 mm stainless-steel sheet. Grids of steel tubes span between the closely placed ribs, which continue on into the earth-filled tanks between the 'waves', thus creating a smooth transition with the surrounding landscape. The decision to choose stainless steel was made after careful analysis and comparison of a range of materials, based on ecological, economic and technical criteria.

Section scale 1:1000









Sections scale 1:50
1 0.4 mm matt-rolled stainless-steel sheet
(grade: EN 1.4404)
24/100 mm battens
50/70 mm counterbattens on spacer profiles
foil roof lining
280 mm glass wool
bitumen layer
40 mm trapezoid sheet
2 Ø 16 mm tubular aluminium grid
3 Ø 40 mm steel tube
4 300/800-1200/20 mm welded steel box girder
5 320/800-1200/20 mm welded steel section
6 double glazing
7 subsoil

A walk around the museum reveals the concept behind the design. The undulations in the surrounding countryside are mirrored in the sweeping lines of this complex.

The steel ribs, clad with stainless steel, blend in with the patterns found in the surrounding fields.

Euro Inox
Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
1030 Brussels, Belgium
Phone +32 2 706 82 67
Fax +32 2 706 82 69
E-mail info@euro-inox.org
Internet www.euro-inox.org

Client: Maurice E. and Martha Müller Foundation, Berne, Switzerland
Architects: Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Paris, France
Bernard Plattner (senior partner) in cooperation with ARB Architekten, Berne, Switzerland
Structural engineers: Ove Arup & Partners, London, UK
B+S Ingenieure, Berne, Switzerland
Text and layout: circa drei, Munich, Germany
Translation: Ingrid Taylor, Munich, Germany
Photos: Michel Denancé, Paris, France (cover, p.3 bottom),
Thomas Dix/architekturphoto, Düsseldorf, Germany (p.1, p.3 top, middle),
rpbw/Attila Eris, Paris, France (p.2 top),
Alexander Gempeler, Berne, Switzerland (p.2 bottom)
Drawings: DETAIL – *Zeitschrift für Architektur + Baudetail,* 7-8/2005