

Isa Stürm

born in Paris and living in Zürich completed her studies of architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, where she worked for the Adolf Max Vogt chair of Architectural Theory and History. Before establishing her own architectural practice with Urs Wolf in 1988 she was collaborating with Santiago Calatrava, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron.

Isa Stürm Urs Wolf SA operates in Switzerland as well as around the world. Their buildings and projects insist on performative forms while inventing possibilities for content and everyday use thus producing cutting-edge objects. They see architecture as an actor in the field of the arts and culture.

The firm's working practice includes projects for housing, museums, cultural institutions, industry, offices, urban planning as well as landscaping projects. Research, experiment and collaboration with practitioners in other fields are important means of stimulating professional discourse and finally transforming the clients needs into architectural form.

The early projects include the Plarena depot in the Grisons and the SVA office building and the Röntgenareal housing estate, both in Zürich. For the national exhibition Expo.02, the architects developed the pavilion 'Who am I?' for the Swiss Federation. They have also designed and executed exhibitions, shows and performance projects for Swiss Design Awards, Swiss Art Awards and Akris as well as interiors for the fashion designers Issey Miyake, Yoshi Yamamoto, Albert Kriemler and global fashion labels in Zürich and New York. In recent years they have worked on three significant projects: the automobile museum in Appenzell, the cultural centre in Gstaad and the housing cooperative Waidmatt in Zürich. They built the art museum Kunst(Zeug)Haus in Rapperswil-Jona and the cultural centre Lokremise in St.Gall. Recently the high-end fashion department store Weinberg in the heart of Zürich as well as the combined office and residential townhouse Neugasse in the creative downtown epicenter were inaugurated.

Theoretical discourse is another of Isa Stürm's main interests. She regularly sits on juries, acts as a visiting critic, writes texts and gives talks and lectures at worldwide schools and institutions. She also sits on the board of cultural and art institutions. She acted as an architectural consultant for the Federal Commission of Fine Arts and currently is a member of the Architecture Biennials Jury of Switzerland. She was teaching as visiting professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne. With the students she proposed contemporary habitats in the historic urban body of Venice contributing to the reanimation of the future European city.