

Connect from people to people to nature

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VISITOR CENTER

Every major tourist attraction has visitor center, a place where entrants can get information, buy tickets and other products. Not only is it a location for visitors to orient themselves with the facilities, and even buy a cup of coffee, it's also a chance for architecture to set the tone and make an iconic first impression of their destination. However, it is ~~literally~~ not only for visitor from other cities, but also it plays role as community center for surrounding community. Finally, it is provided a mixed and gathering point between different user groups.

Particularly, visitor center in nature people gather for enjoy the nature. So, fundamental design purpose of visitor center should not ruin the nature as an artifact. In this point we can consider about what visitor center shows to people as an artifact. Visitor center have to be least or transparent for camouflage. Finally, people figure out architecture is weaker than nature and nature is the best architecture. It has to help people enjoy the nature more confident and more comfortable way. Making an indoor space can be good place for observing eye-catching view whether weather is bad or not. Also, opening and closing made framing and suggest different angle for people such as panorama view.

Visitor center is usually not a huge size and type can be categorized which is building type, pavilion type and viewing tower type. Building type can be more well-equipped with amenities, Pavilion type is opener to contact nature as it permeates into nature, and viewing tower composed by stairs, can be provided different view that impossible for a man themselves along different heights and directions. These three types can be independent or combined together.

SITE ANALYSIS + SELECTION

Firstly, the site selection takes several factors into consideration, such as view spots, accessibility and so on. We think the site in the below picture will be a good choice for the visitor center.

In details, it is close to nearby villages and roads, which make sure of the sufficient supply of necessary materials, like the food, water, and power, especially in emergency or in case. It is also chosen between the three hotels, which can provide the visitors with more choices. During the second or the first half part of the journey, it will be an ideal place for the visitors to take a break, besides the hotels. Taking the scenery into consideration, at the corner of the Hochstrasser, people come from both sides will take a good view of the visitor center, which will not be block by the hill or the high trees. As for the building, it will demonstrate differently according to the terrain and the distance from it. Visitors will enjoy the different sections, forms, or part of the building, providing unique experiences when travelling.



Fig.1. Map of distance

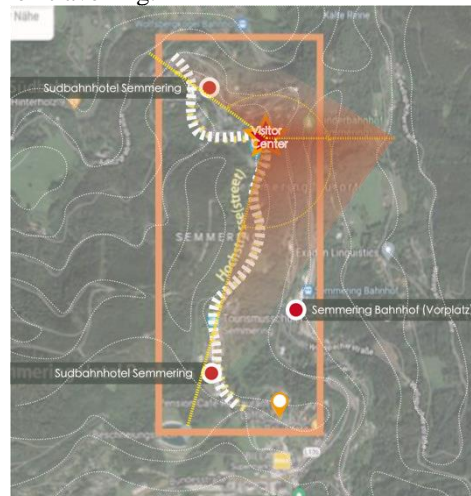


Fig.2. Map of sight

DESIGN CONCEPT

We noticed that the site is located in a beautiful mountain range, which is low lying and flanked by mountains, so our design language is a corridor, or a bridge.

The concept of our design is connection -- connecting the two sides of the mountain in the traffic, so that tourists have a more convenient tour path; Connect people and nature on the landscape, so that artificial buildings and natural environment better integration, harmonious coexistence; Culturally connecting the city and the countryside, different functional blocks are placed on both sides of the corridor, respectively representing the needs and culture of urban residents and rural residents, so that the building can balance the use needs of the two groups of people.

At the same time, a beautiful glass gallery bridge over the countryside can better limit people's line of sight, forming a beautiful scenery frame. Also, the materials for the building are expected to be glass and red brick. Glass can reduce the presence of the building and make it better integrated into the environment. Other local materials, such as red brick, can make buildings more regional.