L'Éphémère timber office building for the University of Lausanne

Ecublens, CH



Blumer Lehmann

Project details

Architecture	aaeo atélier
	d'architecture
	emmanuel oesch,
	Blumer-Lehmann AG
Project type	Office and
	administration,
	Education and
	research
Construction type	Modular construction
Services	JC
Construction	2021
Locality	Ecublens
Country	Switzerland

Two-storey temporary office building made out of timber

A temporary office building constructed using timber provides optimal working conditions and a comfortable indoor environment for staff at UNIL and EPFL. We planned and executed the two-storey building in the role of general contractor.

The temporary office building for UNIL was designed and built as a modular timber structure. The building features a covered entrance with an external staircase and a ramp for accessibility. The inspiration for the architectural concept of this temporary office space came from our earlier project for Lehmann organic bakery.

A total of 580 m² of gross floor area creates space for the offices and utility spaces. The workstations are distributed between five individual offices, 10 shared offices and three open-plan offices, each measuring up to 86 m². The temporary structure also features kitchens, a meeting space and other utility spaces.

By meeting Minergie-ECO standards as per UNIL's specifications, the building is of a high technical standard. For example, a fire alarm system monitors every aspect of the building and is managed remotely. District heating, a water pump/water heat pump and the installed PV system are used to supply environmentally friendly energy.

Specific Contact



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In addition to the entrance staircase, a ramp ensures the office building is accessible.







The name of the temporary office building is L'Éphémère, meaning transience. Yet the temporary structure with its vertical timber facade made of spruce and fir does not look makeshift, but instead of very high quality.

One of the five comfortable individual offices in the L'Éphémère temporary structure at the University of Lausanne.

There are two kitchens for staff working in the temporary office building.

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With their 25 m2 floor area, the 10 shared offices provide plenty of workspace.





On request of the client, the services in the corridors were left exposed to make them easily accessible.

Staff have access to a wide range of different spaces over two floors and covering just under 1,200 m2 of floor area, including individual and shared offices, open-plan offices, meeting spaces and kitchens.