

Matteo Thun

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# Basket case

Matteo Thun's design for a Hugo Boss office is anything but crazy

Hugo Boss's new Strategic Business Unit in Coldrerio, Switzerland, is not your average office slab. Designed by Milan-based Matteo Thun, its oversized, lattice-like wooden structure seems almost to float, and shrouds the curtain wall construction behind it. The lattice not only gives the building a distinct identity but also forms a harmonious link to its surroundings. More than a mere design element, the timber cage, with its translucent textile membrane roof, actually protects the building from the harsh elements »

WRITER: NICK VINSON

PLANKS A LOT  
The timber cage protects the building from harsh Swiss winters and from the sun in summer





NEWSPAPER

ARCHITECTURE

HERE HUGO  
This picture, the open  
office landscape  
Below, the lattice  
creates covered  
walkways along the  
building's façade



in winter and too much sun in the summer, allowing for maximum energy efficiency within.

Inside, an atrium rises above the ample ground-floor piazza; in addition to housing the reception, it's a place for staff to meet and interact. This leads to the canteen, which, in the summer, spills outside on to the grassy riverbank. The construction system allows large spans, so the entire first and second floors are completely open plan; waist-high, modular USM furniture divides the open spaces into more intimate zones. Without challenging the overall transparency or the 360-degree views, glass-walled 'brainstorming' rooms provide space for meetings.

Where internal walls are needed, perforated noise-absorbing panels prove surprisingly tactile and complement the wooden floors and Ruckstuhl wool carpet. They also reduce the effects of some 350 people conversing in three different languages (the official language is English, Hugo Boss is a German company, and Colderio is in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland).

The unit's main function is product development and supply-chain management. Hugo Boss chose Colderio for logistical reasons – it is halfway between the design team in Metzingen, Germany, and some of the production teams in Italy. Thanks to Matteo Thun, it's now firmly on the map. ✪

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