



Location
Gümligen, Switzerland

Client/operator
Foundation Jugendförderung Berner Handball
Managing Director Willy Glaus
Rohrmattstrasse 8
CH – 3073 Gümligen
www.stiftung-jugendfoerderung.ch

Architects
Sven Stucki Architekten SIA AG
Morillonstrasse 11
CH - 3007 Bern
www.stucki.net

Engineer
Ingenta AG, Bern

HLKS-engineer
Grünig & Partner AG, Liebefeld Bern

Electrical engineer
Bering AG, Bern

Author
Willy Glaus, Sven Stucki

Photos
Alain Rychener, Remo Ubezio

Pie charts
Bundesamt für Sport BASPO,
Fachstelle Sportanlagen

Official opening
August 2018

Construction costs
CHF 17 million (EUR 15 million)

FOR HANDBALL THE FOUNDATION ITSELF LENDS A HAND

MOBILIAR ARENA BALL SPORTS HALL IN GÜMLIGEN

The sports and event hall designed by Sven Stucki Architekten AG is privately financed. The 'Stiftung Jugendförderung Berner Handball', a foundation encouraging youth handball, procured the funds, bears the risk and is also the operator of the hall with 1,500 seats, 500 standing places, three restaurants, four conference rooms and a fitness room. The hall is primarily used for ball sports such as handball, futsal, volleyball and floorball, but also provides space for other indoor sports and functions as an event hall.

"Efficient, atmospheric and affordable" were the client's requirements. The very limited and precious building land called for new and innovative solutions. On the difficult building ground in the moor with a groundwater level just 1.5 m below the natural terrain, the 25 x 46 m playing court had to be anchored on piles to prevent subsidence and uplift. In all other rooms, the floor level could be positioned above the water table with the aid of ramps and steps, which saved considerable cost. Despite these measures, the hall is fully accessible.

Balanced operating account

The dream of having one's own ball sports hall began in 2011 with the preparation of a feasibility study. Seven years later, the 'Stiftung Jugendförderung Berner Handball' built the Mobiliar Arena. With its dual-use concept, the ball sports hall serves both children's and youth sport (around 80 %) and top-class sport (20 %). It is home to the national handball, futsal and volleyball centre. The earnings from top-class competition guarantee a balanced operating account. Operating expenses amount to CHF 700,000



Photo: Nick Steinmann



Photo: Ulf Schiller

per year. The main tenant BSV Bern uses around two thirds of capacity; further rental income comes from national sports associations and sports events attracting an audience, which are supplemented by additional income from name sponsoring and the operation of the solar roof.

Outside staircase as a spectator stand

The entrance to the hall runs along the Walk of Fame tiled with sponsors' plaques to the steep outside staircase, which also serves as a spectator stand for the outdoor sports facilities. The striking large canopy with its playfully offset inclined columns emphasises the main entrance, illuminated in the official club colours of the home team on match days.

A focus on the essential

inside the building, the playing court comes immediately into view. A foyer-like approach zone was deliberately

omitted so as to immediately focus attention on the sporting event. The gently sloping lean-to roof with the triple-span main girder and the articulated diagonal columns with tension bands in the façades as well as the reduced building width to the southwest create an exciting contrast to the plain and elegant interior design.

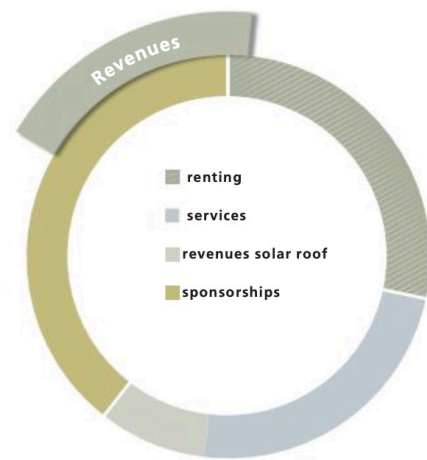
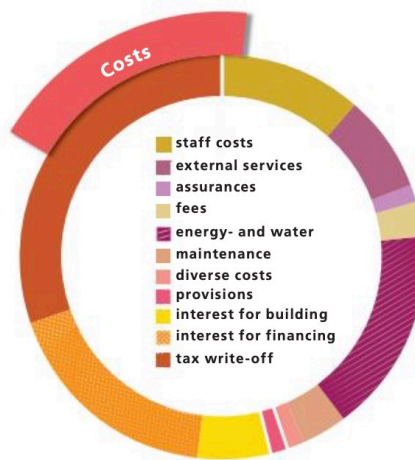
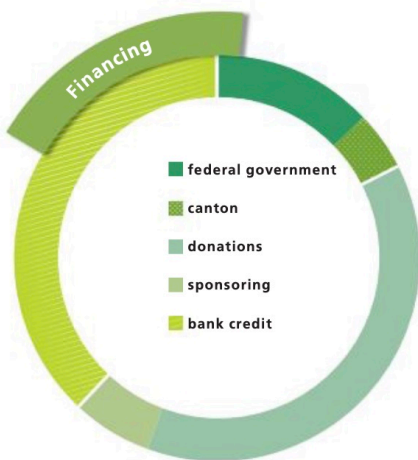
The consistently grey and anthracite interior lends the hall additional clarity. The rows of seats in a seemingly random red-and-grey arrangement create the illusion of full stands even during junior matches. In the basement, in addition to the six players' changing rooms, there are sanitary and doping control rooms, storage and materials rooms, a weights room, building services and the link to the neighbouring gymnasium.

The restaurant area is divided into three sections: the large 150-seat VIP lounge for club sponsors, the snack area for finger food and drinks, and the History Sports



Construction Cost: CHF 16,900,000

Operation Cost 2018: CHF 700,000



Bar for post-match relaxation. On the upper floor there are also conference and office rooms (for press conferences, meetings and training) as well as the office of the home team.

Synergy with neighbouring school

A photovoltaic system for electricity generation and a solar collector system for hot water serve the ball sports hall as well as the adjacent school complex.

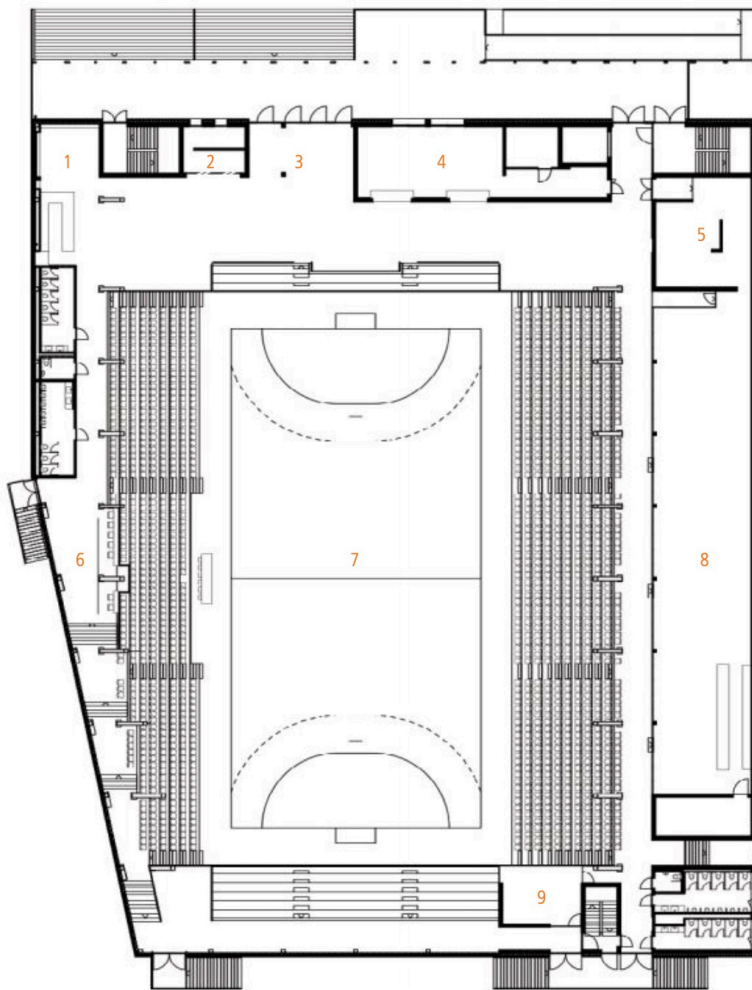
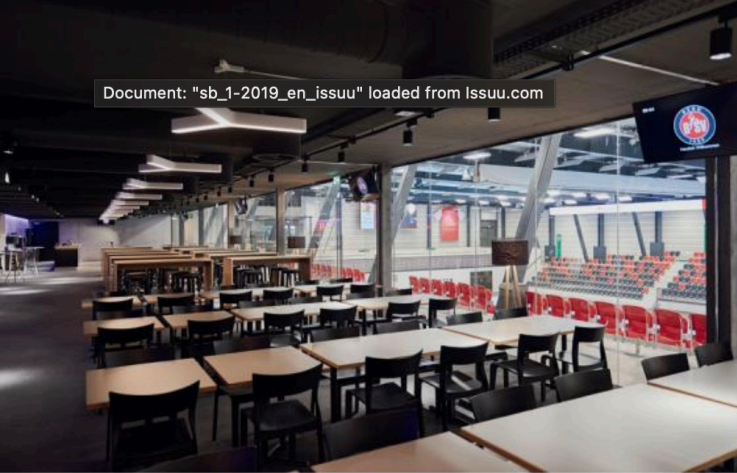
In return, the heat output is exploited by the school complex. Thanks to its own energy generation, an optimised building envelope and LED lighting throughout, the hall even exceeds the Minergie requirements.

Electronic equipment for international sporting events

Two large LED advertising banners each 40 metres long are located on the long sides of the playing court, one of which

is permanently installed. The other is mobile and is only placed in front of the first row of seats along the playing court during spectator events. A large LED screen measuring 7 x 3 metres at the south end permits the top-quality display of match information, videos and advertising. The total of 15 television screens located in the Mobilier Arena are intended for the distribution of information, the screening of TV programmes and in-house advertising.

An operating and control room has been created on the upper floor for the operation of all this hard- and software. This is where the infotainment infrastructure in the Mobilier Arena is managed, i.e. preparation of the material before and during the current sports event. Comprehensive cabling permits live TV broadcasts in the hall. The assigned camera locations all have the necessary equipment sockets.



- 1 History Sports Bar
- 2 Fan-Shop / Ticketing
- 3 Main entrance
- 4 Food court
- 5 Catering
- 6 Press
- 7 Court
- 8 VIP-Lounge
- 9 Lounge
- 10 Mooshalle (existing)

