



Press Release

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Where Science, Art and Society Meet

Last August, a public-private partnership enabled the launch of construction of the Under One Roof building, designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma to house three areas dedicated to interactions between science, art and society.

The symbolic first stone of the Under One Roof building was laid today, six months after the start of a construction project to be completed by autumn 2016. About half (CHF 18 million) of the total cost of the future building (39 million) is financed by the Swiss Government, while the balance is provided by sponsors including the Rolex watchmaking firm, the *Fondation Gandur pour l'Art* and a group of partners involved in the Montreux Jazz Digital Project.

The sleek, spectacular building still referred to under its project name (Under One Roof) was designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma and is being built by general contractor Marti Construction SA. It will fuel the heart of EPFL with new dynamics around the three areas brought together under its roof, close to 250 metres long. Each of these spaces aims to bridge science, art and society in its own way.

To the north of the new complex, the first **space will be dedicated to promoting key EPFL research projects**. In a spirit of knowledge sharing and interaction with the general public, the goal of this area is to stage the major scientific, technological and societal issues addressed by these projects through an ambitious exhibition design. Opening out onto the Esplanade, this main campus meeting point intends to provide a new Agora open to all. Supported by Rolex, it will initially host two projects of international scope – an exhibition on the Human Brain Project, in which the watchmaking brand is also involved, and the Venice Time Machine. The support by Rolex for this space is an extension to that which it already provides via the Rolex Learning Center. According to Bertrand Gros, Chairman of the Board of Rolex SA, “The Rolex Learning Center offered a bold setting to the learning sciences. We now accompany the EPFL towards a new frontier of knowledge at a crossroads between technology, cultural heritage and society. We look forward to help make major science ventures of today and tomorrow accessible to a wide audience.”

A **museum research and experimenting** area will fill the second space at the centre of the development. Serving as a lab to experiment exhibition designs of the future, it will allow the many research projects in digital humanities to test museum innovations *in situ*. “Creating novel interactions between the visitors and exhibits, enriching the experience, fostering the historical and symbolic understanding of a work of art... Such are the objectives of this space aiming at making museums more accessible, easier to understand and closer to the visitors”, says Jean Claude Gandur, Chairman of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (FGA). In addition to providing funding for this pavilion, the FGA will also contribute to developing its content by designing exhibition programmes in close cooperation with the EPFL, exhibiting artworks from its collections, and via research conducted in the framework of the

newly announced Fondation Gandur Chair. Dedicated first and foremost to experimentation, the pavilion will be open to the public and form future partnerships with other institutions.

Finally, the **Montreux Jazz Café at EPFL** will occupy the southern part of the complex overlooking Lake Geneva. More than just a food hall, and thanks to the support of Audemars Piguet SA, the Café will also be a hub of experimentation dedicated to enhancement of the Montreux Jazz Festival audio-visual archives digitised by the EPFL, which include over 5,000 hours of recordings (part of the UNESCO Memory of the World register since 2013). The public will be given opportunities to discover these, in particular via immersive visualisation and navigation devices developed at EPFL. These digitisation and enhancement operations were performed in the framework of the Montreux Jazz Digital Project thanks to support by Audemars Piguet as well as other partners who joined the initiative – Logitech SA for developing the demonstrators, the Ernst Göhner Foundation, Amplidata, the Fondation Lombard Odier, Loterie Romande as well as private sponsors.

Press Contacts

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Press materials and additional information

- [Documents, images](#)
- [About the Montreux Jazz Digital Project](#)

Under One Roof – The Building

Architects

Kengo Kuma and Associates, Tokyo, Japan. Local architect: CCHE Architecture et Design SA.

General Contractor

Marti Construction SA

Dimensions & Specifications

- Total volume 17,586 m³
- Total net area 3,360 m²
- Space to display major EPFL projects: net area 629 m², of which 260 m² of exhibition space; volume 3,932 m³
- Space for museum research and experimentation: net area 1,836 m², of which 618 m² of exhibition space; volume 9,676 m³
- Montreux Jazz Café at EPFL: net area 895m², including an audio-visual immersion area of 55 m² and an 87 m² reception and meeting space; restaurant area including EPFL demonstrators enhancing the Montreux Jazz Festival archives, with an indoor seating capacity of 73 + 40 seats on the terrace; volume 3,978 m³

Main building materials:

Slate roof tiles; wood/steel load-bearing structures; wood/glass facades.

Cost

- Total construction costs (CFC¹ 1-9): CHF 34,500,000
- Total cost of equipment, demonstrators and set displays: CHF 4,500,000.

¹ Building cost classification items

About Rolex

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history.

A truly integrated and independent manufacturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, exploration, sports, the spirit of enterprise and the environment through a broad range of sponsoring activities as well as philanthropic programmes.

About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was founded by Swiss art collector and entrepreneur Jean Claude Gandur in 2010 in order to preserve, enrich and exhibit his art collections developed over more than 40 years. Its mission includes making the collections available to museums, the academic world and the public. Reflecting its founder's conviction that culture should be accessible to everyone, the Foundation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and the publication of reference catalogues. It has also developed a number of partnerships, notably with Geneva's Art and History Museum (Switzerland), the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL – Switzerland) and the National Museum Centre of Arts Reina Sofia (Spain). The Foundation strictly adheres to the code of ethics established by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The Foundation's collections cover three distinct areas: archaeology with over 1,000 works of art from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East; more than 600 European paintings spanning the period 1940 – 1960, considered as the largest such collection after the major Paris and London museums; and decorative arts with over 400 pieces, including works of art and decorative objects from the twelfth to the eighteenth century, as well as furniture by master cabinetmakers of the eighteenth century.