

# EUROPAN 5 – BERN-AUSSERHOLLINGEN – SCHWEIZ/SUISSE

**Location:** Bern-Ausserholligen, Gangloff, Europaplatz  
**Population:** 126,000 inhab.; Conurbation: 319.000 inhab.  
**Area:** 1.7 ha



## CONURBATION

Bern, federal capital, has a historic city which is on the Unesco worldwide cultural heritage register. The town's environs, with the River Aar, the hilly landscape, and the Bernese Alps, form a singular holiday destination. High technology and the service sector account for most of the 180,000 jobs in the conurbation.

Bern is directly linked by motorway to all the major European towns. It is the only town in Europe to be connected to three high-speed train services (TGV for Paris, Pendolino for Milan, ICE for Berlin).

## SITE

Bern-Ausserholligen's development plan projects the construction of 500,000 to 600,000 sq m of gross floor area, destined for a variety of uses: offices, craft industries, leisure pursuits, conference centre, public spaces, and hou-

sing. The new zone will give rise to a distinctly forward-looking zone for professional activities. An innovative urbanistic concept will form the framework in which these sectors will be realised in phases.

The competition site is to the west of the limits of the old town, in a forested narrowing of the hills. The space is very small and includes a number of routes which make their mark on the topography and create considerable noise problems (motorway, railway, cantonal road).

Three stations on the Regional Express Railway mean the sector has easy access. It also has an optimal link with the urban public transport network, and a good connection with the road network which guarantees it an advantageous situation.

Part of the land belongs to the Gangloff Coachworks, that wants to sell its parcel and give it a new use. The rest belongs to the town of Bern.

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## OBJECTIVES

Plans for the Gangloff site must provide for good connections with the other sectors, and with the existing district. Public spaces have to be created. The zone plan that has recently come into force provides for a particularly dense phased development in the sector in question. Plans include towers, and a public square linked with the Regional Express Railway stations. The present square (Europaplatz) situated between the two stations, must be remodelled.

The alignment of a new tramway to be created, including stops, must be incorporated into the project.

## PROGRAMME

The present use and land ownership of the Gangloff site creates a division into four parts. The heart of the economic activity is next to the motorway viaduct, that of the housing in two separated zones, and the Europaplatz is separate.

Minimal use is called for (gross floor area of between 25,000 sq m and 35,000 sq m). Implementation of the programme must be split into economically and concretely autonomous phases. Housing must account for 30% of the pro-

gramme. High-rise construction is possible. The programme must provide for mixed use through the siting and organisation of the buildings, but not must not apply within individual buildings. A district centre, of 1,000 to 2,000 sq m, including shops, must be included within the project. On the Europaplatz itself, provision must be made for connection between the different public transport stations.

## THEME

Derelict urban land close to the town centre must be enhanced by the creation of a mixed urban fabric. The site's potential, at the meeting point of several infrastructures, must be exploited. However, innovative responses must be found to the problems created by these very infrastructures.