



PalaCinema Locarno - Locarno, Switzerland

Author: Cristina Polo (SUPSI)

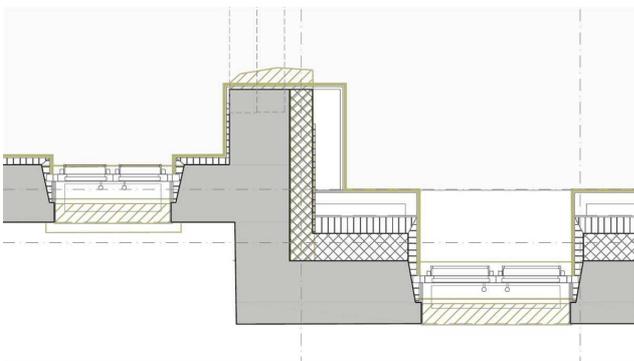
Stone masonry wall with concrete structure

Walls

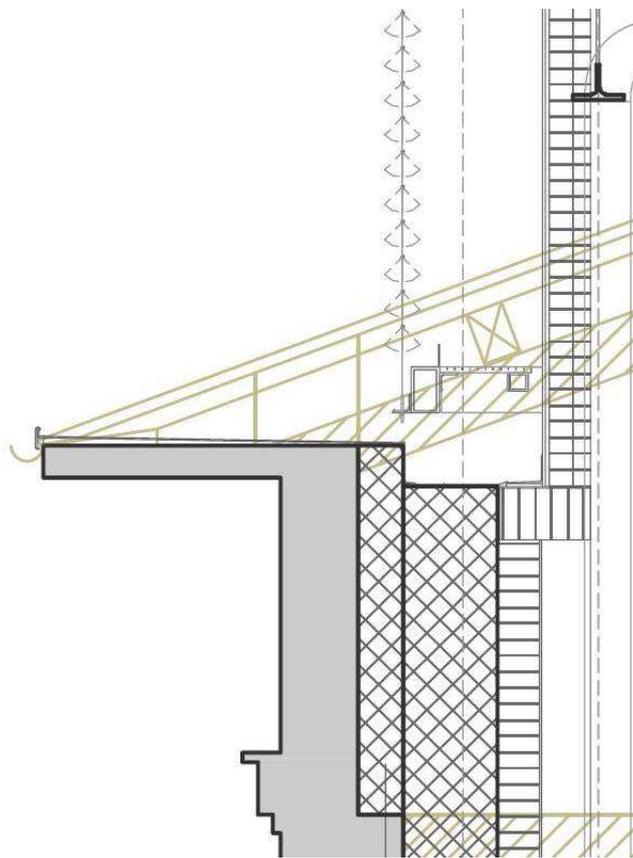
What is the solution?

The original structure has been largely maintained as far as the outer ring of the building is concerned, while the central part has been demolished to make room for the new spaces of the building with that change the use completely. The new building rises reusing the pre-existing structure of the Palazzo Scolastico in Piazza Remo Rossi in Locarno, Switzerland to be reconverted in the new PalaCinema, a multicultural platform for the cinematic arts located in the historical centre of the city. The new core of the building was inserted inside the old building by fortifying the external existing plastered stone walls (60 cm thick) with an additional 30 cm thick of reinforced concrete structure, thermally and internally insulated with 18 cm of mineral wool. In addition to this insulation, a vapour control layer and a drywall (type Knauf, double plate) of 1.25 cm were placed from the inside.

Cross section of the wall build-up, available pictures of the solution:



Floor section of the connection between the core and the wing © AZPML



Section between the new structure and elevation © AZPML

Why does the solution work in terms of compatibility with conservation, moisture safety and energy improvement?

The building has been internally insulated with 18 cm on the new structure. The minimum thickness necessary to reach the Minergie standard has been inserted, with the purpose to lose as little internal space as possible. This way the original façade remains exposed. As regards the renovation of the external surface, measures have been taken to allow images to be projected onto the façade. The plaster has in fact been carried out entirely in white. Initially the entire surface, including the ashlar, was to be plastered, but for conservation reasons this was not permitted. The intervention is already very invasive and completely covering the original façade would have ruined the intention of keeping part of its original expression alive.

Description of the context:

In the aftermath of the 2007 global financial crisis and rampant global warming –and perhaps the demise of “starchitecture” as a default procedure to build urban identity–, the Palazzo del Cinema Locarno project is guided by principles of economy, trying to capitalise in the existing structure and the public affection for the Palazzo Scolastico –which used to host the local schools and now hosts a variety of NGOs and community associations, to provide an architectural identity for the new cinema complex in Piazza Remo Rossi in

Locarno, in the shores of Maggiore Lake. At a time when energy resources are dwindling and climate change has become a crucial problem for our cities, it would have been irresponsible to simply discard the existing building in order to build an entirely new one, with the corresponding expenditure of vital resources. Urban Recycling is a more adequate strategy for this intervention. Three levels of action to reduce the emissions have been considered: demand reduction, improved energy efficiency of systems and improved building management.

Pros and cons of the solution:

The solution allows to show also externally and scenically the function of the building and the importance of the Locarno film festival, projecting images on its surface. On the other hand, the risk of completely covering the original appearance of the building was too high, in fact in the end the surface is not completely white but keeps the original grey ashlar and the various frames on display.

Type of data available (level of information, simulation):

None.

Additional Information:

Climatic zone Dfc (snow, fully humid, cool summer)

Is there any related publication? If yes, please provide any available link or document for further reading



Pre intervention © AZPML



Pre intervention © AZPML



Court pre intervention © AZPML



© G. Marafioti

Link to best practice example (Hiberatlas):

<https://www.hiberatlas.com/en/palacinema-locarno-locarno-switzerland--2-254.html>