



**Gletscher
Garten
Luzern**

**Glacier
Garden
Lucerne**

**Jardin des
Glaciers
Lucerne**

**Additional information to the press release "The new Felsenwelt in the Glacier Garden is a journey through time"
from July 15, 2021**

Financing

The Glacier Garden has invested a good 20 million francs in the large-scale renovation project. The canton and city of Lucerne each contributed three million francs. The Albert Koechlin Foundation Lucerne was the project's pioneer with its early pledge of 6 million francs. In total, numerous foundations and over 500 private individuals donated a sum of nearly 14 million francs. "We are very proud and grateful to have reached 99% of the fundraising goal of CHF 20 million, especially since the Covid crisis made it virtually impossible for us to make the final spurt in fundraising activities. Finances meant a lot of effort, and we have been rewarded", explains Corinne Fischer, President of the Glacier Garden Foundation Lucerne.

Preservation of historical monuments

The project was also supported in all phases by the preservation of historical monuments in the Canton of Lucerne. With contributions of 347,000 Swiss francs each from the federal government and the Canton, the conversion of the Swiss House and the restoration of the landscape garden were substantially supported by the preservation of historical monuments.

Scenography Felsenwelt

In the Felsenwelt the key chapters of the earth's history are thematized: from the formation of the rock at the bottom of the primordial sea; from the subtropical sandy beach that the Lucerne region was at that time; from the formation of the Alps; from the last Ice Age; finally, from the arrival of man, who used the sandstone, among other things, to build the city. Then the visitors reach the Felseensee and with it the present, the crossroad between the past and the future. Here, at the center of time, the water flows into the depths in an unfathomable vortex: the powers of nature are unstoppable, and any human presence is only brief and ephemeral. The subsequent ascent to the earth's surface leads through the future. Guests discover a cosmophone with which they can send a very personal message to eternity.

(For more on the scenography of the individual exhibition areas, see [Supplement 1 \(g\)](#) /Velvet Creative Office, Lucerne. wolfgang.moehrle@velvet.ch)

Architectural description

The realized project clarified the situation of the Swiss House by removing the annexes. By including the Sommerau, the area of the park could be considerably enlarged: this created the possibility of redefining the park as a large landscape garden and dividing it into coherent areas. Next to the Swiss House, a central square was created from which the various exhibition sections are accessible: the glacier pots, the mule track to the Sommerau, the entrances to the Felsenwelt, to the Swiss House and to the new Sandstone Pavilion in the north.

The strong spatial atmosphere in Felsenwelt is shaped by the predominant material, stone, and the more elementary experiences of light and dark, confinement and expanse, sound, and silence. The geometry and location of the spaces are oriented to the prevailing stratification of the sandstone, which is out of alignment due to the folding of the Alps and the existing gaps. This leads to oblique cross-sections of corridors and caverns, which enhances the specific perception of space relationship.

(More on the architectural concept in [Supplement 2 \(g\)](#) / Miller & Maranta, Basel. von_aarburg@millermaranta.ch)



Garden description

The garden design in the spirit of the historical landscape garden is a scenographic staging that relates present and history: in relation to each other materials, arrangements, views, and insights, but above all the vegetation span the arc from today's landscape to primordial seas and primeval vegetation, and thus back to geology as a theme of the garden. Species native here before the ice ages, such as the primeval sequoia, ginkgo, and amber tree, mingle with those considered native today. As a recurring element, they link the various garden areas together and carry the dimension of geological time periods into the garden via the vegetation. In selected places alpine plants complete the scenery.

(More on the garden description in [Supplement 3 \(g\)](#) / Müller Illien Landscape Architects, Zurich. r.illien@muellerillien.ch)

Geology

Zircons and flow ripples reveal the age of the sandstone. Recent investigations indicate that many mineral particles in the sandstone were formed by magmatic processes about 300 million years ago. Some, however, are much older with an age of no less than 1 billion years. Thus, the journey through time in the Glacier Garden is extended by whole new dimensions.

(Article by Dr. Franz Schenker, [Schweizer Strahler 2/21](#) and 3/21, [Supplement 4 extra \(g\)](#))

Facts and figures on the Glacier Garden Lucerne

- Sponsorship: Lucerne Glacier Garden Foundation (until 2008 Amrein-Troller Foundation)
- Autumn 1872: Discovery of the first glacier pots by Wilhelm Amrein-Troller
- May 1873: Opening of the Glacier Garden Lucerne
- 1898: Purchase and installation of the Mirror Maze built for the 1896 National Exhibition in Geneva
- Over 14 million guests since the foundation of the museum
- Number of visitors in the last 10 years: 115'000 per year (2/3 Switzerland, 1/3 abroad)
- Number of visitors in 2020: 55'000
- Employees: 20 (total 1100 full-time equivalents) plus temporary staff
- Annual operating budget: 1,5 Mio.
- Self-financing ratio: > 95

Information and more photos can also be found directly on the website of the Glacier Garden:

https://gletschergarten.ch/en/about_us/media

Further information:

Andreas Burri, Director of the Glacier Garden Lucerne: 041 410 43 40, andreas.burri@gletschergarten.ch

Press Coordination:

Karin Auf der Maur, admind pr Lucerne T +41 76 320 56 62, medien@gletschergarten.ch

Brigitte Heinrich, netzwerk Lucerne: T +41 41 242 08 08, medien@gletschergarten.ch