

MONOCLE

- 1 Agenda**
- Soft power in the post
 - Foreign ministry manga
 - Berlin's elephantine bind
 - The issue with third parties

- 2 Global views**
- Election watch: Bengaluru
 - The EU's travelling circus
 - Inside line on the queue
 - An Athenian retail revival

- 3 Inventory**
- The horny side of Istanbul
 - A fresh Tokyo food market
 - Palma's palatial new stay
 - Lisbon's hospitality holdout

Meet the new kids on the block

INSIDE: *Designs to delight, architects to admire and projects to inspire.*

Building Better + Global Fixes

Monocle's blueprint for a smartly designed world.



Instructions:

STEP 1

Benchmark: Our annual pick of the best in buildings, brands and products.

STEP 2

Read up: People we admire on the books they adore.

STEP 3

Take action: Meet the city-shapers at Mipim – the property world's premier fair.



0.5
UK £8 USD \$15 DE/AT €12 CHF 14
DKK 129.95 FIN €12 BENELUX €12 JPY ¥2,200 (tax)
AUD \$17.00 (est) SGD \$19.90 (est) CAD \$20.00 (est) ES/IT €12

9 771753 243020

50

BEST IN TRANSIT
Zürich Hauptbahnhof
 Switzerland

Zürich Hauptbahnhof's is Switzerland's busiest train station – and a recent renovation of its oldest building ensures it now serves as a grand entrance to the city. Berne-based Aebi & Vincent Architekten were commissioned by the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), which gave the architects a complex task and a project that took more than 14 years to finally complete, with the final stage opened to the public at the end of 2023.

The wait has proven to be worth it. The overhaul of the heritage-protected 1871 sandstone building has resulted in the restoration of many historic elements, with the replacement or repair of 500 rosettes, 300 ceiling cassettes, 180 archways, 80 angels, lions, Hermes and Atlas figures. Naturally, for a building of its age, there were some surprises along the way, including the discovery of original marble columns. “These were hidden under 13 different layers of paint,” explains Beatrice Bichsel, head of SBB Real Estate.

Efforts have also been made to create a space that serves commuters and travellers as well as local businesses, ensuring the building remains lively at all times. New ticket offices, retailers (including a branch of Zürich-made soap brand Soeder), health clinics, offices and restaurants. There's also a newly finished passageway linking the station hall to Bahnhofstrasse, Zürich's main downtown street.

A highlight is Brasserie Süd, an all-day dining offering courtesy of local duo Nenad Mlinarevic and Valentin Diem. The bright space has instantly become a centre point thanks to its delicious fare, intimate bar and the bright and welcoming interior. “We took inspiration from the menu that Nenad and Valentin created as our starting point, but it was essential for us to work with historic matter and create a balance through the new and old,” explains Deborah Suter of architects Suter Plus who designed the brasserie, which is now filled with businessmen, families and tourists.

The project is a reminder of the power of a transit hub to not only connect its community, but reflect and serve it, too. Zürich Hauptbahnhof has got its groove back, meaning we'd be happy to wait for the next train just a little longer. — CS
aebi-vincent.ch, suterplus.ch



PHOTOGRAPHER: Samuel Schleich