Entrance Montbrillant
Access Parking Nations
Pedestrian passage
Site perimeter
Controlled perimeter fence
Natural lightning
Security
Access point for visitors, staff, VIP
Main entrance
Level +3.70
Parking
Motorcycle / bicycle
Rain water fountain
Pedestrian passage
Avenue d’France
+3.7
+3.7
+3.7
Lounge delegates
320
+3.7
Gallery / Lounge
Access to interpretation cabins for Popov hall
330
+3.7
Public space
230
Temporary exhibition space
+3.7
Cultural spaces
Information
100
Reception
Public elevator
Access delegates to conference building
Cyber cafe 70
Meeting room 16 pl.
45
Meeting room 30 pl.
100
Training room
40
Storage room
20
Control center
40
Changing
18
Passage
UIT Montbrillant - UIT New Building
Meeting room 20 pl.
60
Meeting room 16 pers
45
Meeting room 12 pl.
37
Meeting room 16 pl.
45
Access delegates to cloackrooms and Popov hall
On the ground floor, generous spaces to meet, and clear distribution of the different groups following security levels (public, delegates and staff). 1:200

Effervescence
Concours Nouveau Bâtiment – UIT Genève
Expressive objects and neutral posture

In the chaotic constellation of the Place des Nations, the New Building of the ITU takes a neutral posture. Its typology recalls that of the historically strong institutions, like the Neue Pinakothek in Munich, with a public character. A main body is flanked with two wings, with the main entrance in its center. This simple arrangement thus organised provides stability and clarity that allows the building to address two sides of a given situation and being almost neutral in its morphology. Its north wing, the Montbrillant building emphasizes the entrance of the Place whilst its south wing takes some liberties: without abandoning its role and waves back through the park at the Place des Nations and even further to the Palace. The New Building formally address the street and at the same time offers a serene horizon to the park and onto the Place des Nations.

Together apart

A few minutes away from the city center and the railway station, the Place des Nations is a world of its own. At first it was arable land, this arcadia did not last long in the postwar enthusiasm and Switzerland growing diplomatic position in the western world. From a garden, it became an area populated by large, strange isolated objects. The international organisations gathered one after the other in front of the pater familias, the Palais des Nations Unies. They were joined by a few grand ensembles, witnesses of the experiments of the 1950's, and later on even by some fragments of New Urbanism. The rest was slowly eaten out by the densifying tissue of the periphery. The Varembé building of the ITU was one of the first on site. Celebrating his time, it did not bother to define neither street nor place and settled in the field, facing the lake and the Jet d'Eau. The later extensions of the ITU pursued this logic, adding new objects to the composition.

Effervescence

Concours Nouveau Bâtiment – UIT Genève
Moments in space

Vertical circulation

Standing to reflect

Effervescence
Ready to cast off

The open terrace gives the visitor the impression to cast off. Suspended above the
neighbouring roofs, the views towards the Mont-Blanc are astonishing. A fully glazed
undulated wall recalls the gentle waves of the lake Léman, which seem to be within hand
reach. At once, the entire length of the Main Building is made visible, offering a sense of
scale.

Specific structures for a specific identity

Linking up with the Montbrillant building, the extension is composed by the main office
building and the more compact conference building. To support that choice, the optimal,
static system is chosen in relation to its functions. The office building has a mixed structure
of wood and concrete, offering an efficient and economical system, as well as a sculptural
and flexible environment within the spaces. The slabs are in concrete, as well as the cores
and the outer columns. The large inner columns are in glulam timber. Starting from a
diameter of 120 cm in the lower floors to cope with the important loads, they reduce size
up to 80 cm in the upper floor. Following two different ideal radius of 8m and 6m, the
intersections of the circles indicate the zones where a column should be placed, and thus
generating reasonable span. As there are far more intersections than needed, the fitting
location of each column can be chosen following spatial opportunities and architectonical
compositions. The very large, apparently randomly placed wooden columns provide a
strong spatial identity without any expressive gesture.

The conference building offers mainly spacious conference halls and meeting rooms
requesting a structure with a long span (no central pillars). The 90cm concrete frames
create a 750 m2 space without pillars in the centre of the building, freeing the borders for
circulation, lounges and views to the park through a light curtain-wall façade.

Effervescence
Take a stroll
On the top of the West Wing, above the conference halls, lies a winter garden. Cacti, yuccas, succulents and other plants of semi-arid regions create rich compositions and call for contemplation and relaxation. Meandering ways give access to various hideouts in between vegetation and wooden pillars. Exterior venetian blinds prevent overheating in summer and protect plants and visitors in case of burning sun. Under a humble pitched roof, a hidden jewel faces the Place des Nations, the future Geneva Philharmonic and, further, the UN Palace. Tired? Go for a walk on the 5th floor, West Wing.

Effervescence

The building's cultural, functional and functional structure that promotes the cooling and heating cost in the winter and in the summer. The volume of the building creates an important thermal mass. The concrete core and slabs provide inertia. The surface of the facade is minimised. The structure, although being specific, remains simple. The compact volume of the building, the optimisation of the insulation and the openings on the facade allow to attain the Minergie-P label. The conception of the technical rooms plan to use some energy sources available on site (air, water from the lac, rainwater, energy from the sun).

A winter sun brushes past the new ITU building. The volumes provide a clear orientation, and a discrete but strong identity.