

Watercourse at Herne-Sodingen Academy

forming obstacles that produce interesting currents. The watercourse ends in the 'Depths', a triangular pool in which the water only seems to seep away. In fact 40 centimetres of water remain in it, and the water that flows in is pumped back from here to the pools in the Academy building. Herbert Dreiseitl sees these 'Depths' as a sculpture, rather than as a working pool of water. On one side visitors stand above the 'Depths', behind a barrier to prevent them falling made up of crude steel sheets 3 millimetres thick. The water falls one metre down from the channel into the pool under their feet. Opposite, rusty sheets of metal are placed on a metal plinth, arranged apparently randomly as steps. This is not a place for sitting down, but more a place for looking, for remembering the region's iron and steel days. Floodlights mounted under the sheets forming the steps plunge the 'Depths' into a mysterious light after dark. The 'Fissure' also makes a more powerful effect at night because it is lit. Water vapour emerges from illuminated chinks, an illusion to the underground mining activities that used to take place here.



The water disappears down into the depths.

As in numerous IBA projects, the 'Fissure' and the 'Depths' are intended to symbolize the transition from one epoch to another.

A flow phenomenon detail at a slight change in level in the cascade – here the water starts to pulsate.



The water fissure under construction, showing the steel structure of the foundations. The Academy is in the background, with the largest solar roof in Europe.

