The new town square in Gummersbach

Idea sketch for the new Lindenplatz, a square in the town centre, formerly just a big car park.

The main entrance to the Sparkasse bank in Lindenplatz is accented by a 15 metres high light, glass and water sculpture. The horizontal, glowing lines of inlaid glass appear in vertical form here and blend into the space beyond the dimensions of the building.





towards Lindenplatz, quided by round prefabricated concrete units and running over cascades; on the way it disappears briefly underground, to provide a roadway for delivery traffic and rhythm to the running water. At the top of the square the water runs under an artistically punched-out covering into a jagged pool walled in natural stone. Long steps intended for people to sit on thrust out from the jagged pool into the square. In the pool the water flows over a surface that is designed with great variety, with little mounted bronze waves, for example, or shallow, curved cascades that create exciting patterns in the current. Floodlights plunge the water into a scene that is strange but made familiar by the medium of water, in which everything seems to have water flowing around it. At the end of this pool the water is taken back underground to its fanshaped source.

The local savings bank is an immediate neighbour, and has taken up the water theme separately itself. A unique line of water made up of glowing, coloured inlaid glass and built into the floor covering links the wave pattern in the pool with a water-and-glass object in the façade extending over four storeys. As in the Nuremberg 'Prism' building, Herbert Dreiseitl commissioned the Dieriq glass design workshop to melt several layers of colour into a flowing form, producing an unframed, self-supported sheet of glass. Water falls between two sheets of glass from a height of 4.5 metres into a planted pool of water in the entrance area, drawing in air from the outside through a slit as it does so, thus providing an air-conditioning effect. This gives the square its second landmark.



The inlaid glass is lit by fibre optics.



Particularly impressive at night, horizontal and vertical light structures are interpreted and reflected by moving water. It has become a popular attraction for people.



