Cantonal Court, Lausanne

2025





The extension fits perfectly into the south-eastern part of the existing Lausanne cantonal court building and brings together all the courtrooms on the L'Hermitage site in Lausanne.

The project

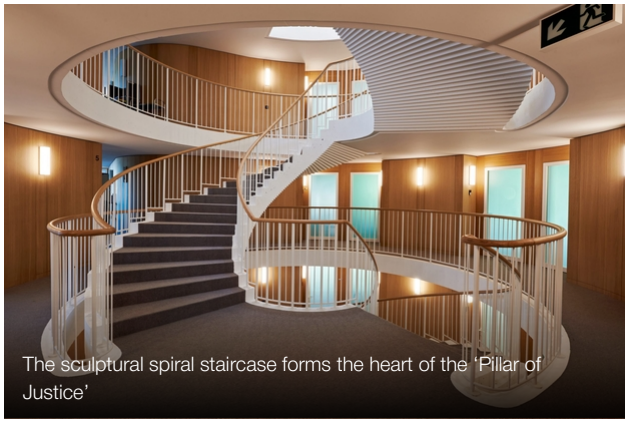
The rounded extension consists of seven above-ground floors constructed from wood, accessed via a central spiral staircase made from reinforced concrete. This staircase also serves as a vertical escape route. The walls of the court offices follow the cylindrical shape of the building and open onto the outside, offering a beautiful view of the park. Engineers from the Timbatec office assisted the Makiol Wiederkehr office with project management and also handled the entire process related to the use of wood, particularly beech from nearby forests.

The construction method

The crown-shaped post-and-beam structure is made of laminated beech wood elements. The twenty-five rays formed by the beams of the wood-concrete slabs rest in the center against the concrete core and on the facade on beech posts. The roof rests on beams inserted in the center into a ring of laminated wood, and the exterior facade is slightly offset, providing a generous terrace.

The challenge

The reinforced concrete slabs were prefabricated and lifted in blocks. The 20 sections forming the slab are statically connected to the beams using a cast-in-place connection and working in conjunction with the beech beams. Good management of the stages was essential to ensure quality.



The sculptural spiral staircase forms the heart of the 'Pillar of Justice'



Load-bearing beams and columns made of beech wood sourced from the forests of Vaud



The star-shaped wooden ribs channel daylight deep into the building. They emphasise the tower's circular geometry.



View through the glazed doors into the circular atrium

Project information

- Height: 21 m
- Diameter: 23 m
- Beech wood volume: 93 m^3

Construction costs

- Costs BKP: CHF 1'115'000

Design stages

- SIA Phasen 32 - 53

Design services

- Structural Engineering and Analysis
- Construction

Additional Expertise

- Management of the wood production process, including felling, sawing, drying, and gluing of beech products.
- Technical Construction Management and Site Inspections

Client

Makiol Wiederkehr AG
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Architecture

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Photography

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