



PARTY CENTRAL

MÜLLER SIGRIST ARCHITECTS

COMMUNITY CENTRE

AMRISWIL / SWITZERLAND



INSPIRED BY THE AMBIANCE OF A FORMER FESTIVITIES HALL, MÜLLER SIGRIST ARCHITECTS DEVELOPED A COMMUNITY HALL BASED ON THEIR INTERPRETATION OF A FESTIVAL TENT.

TEXT KATHARINA MARCHALL
PHOTOS PHILIPP RIESEN

The new Pentorama, as the community hall in Amriswil is called, transforms not only the small Swiss town, but also neighbouring communities which will soon use the festival room for concerts, Christmas parties and annual community meetings.

How did a place like Amriswil get such

unusual architecture? The slightly distorted polygonal exterior form is a modern interpretation of the festival tent, which has long played a central role in village communities. Its name, bestowed on it by the municipal council, refers to the structure's five-sided floor plan. By day, the surface of the building – which lies at the edge of the village centre – shines through the exterior façade, which is uniformly clad in copper. By night the entire front of the glassed entry foyer is lit from within, luring visitors inside. The architects chose the central space's typology to place the audience in the centre of what's happening: after passing through the silver-grey foyer into the 835-m² hall, the 12 m-high ceil-

ing rises directly to the middle of the pentagonal floor plan. The interior cladding of perforated acoustic overlays in various yellow and brown tones is irritating at first, but then the view stretches through the huge windows into the green space behind the building. The interior skin's unified design strengthens the central space's character. Useful features like the stage, two audience galleries, technology and secondary rooms are arranged as a subordinate second layer around the main space. This way, the kiosk-like hatch to the kitchen – which looks like a baroque hidden door – disappears behind the overlays.

WWW.MUELLERSIGRIST.CH