

Peter Märkli (1953), one of the most prominent Swiss contemporary architects, studied architecture at the ETH (Federal Institute of Technology) in Zurich. Among those who greatly influenced his education and inspired his work are architect Rudolf Olgiati and sculptor Hans Josephsohn. He opened his own office in 1978, he taught Design at ETH from 2003 to 2015. He lives and works in Zurich.

His main works include numerous residential buildings, large and small, and La Congiunta (Giornico, 1992), hosting and displaying Hans Josephsohn's works, Basel's cathedral new organ (2003), the enlargement and refurbishment of Viktor Hufnagl's model-school in Wörgl (Austria, 2003), Im Birch school in Zurich (2006 Novartis Visitors Centre in Basel (2006), Picassoplatz office building in Basel (2008), Cave Fin Bec, in Valais (2012), Synthes Headquarters in Soletta (2012), Belvoirpark hotel management school in Zurich (2014), the residential building in Gutstrasse, Zurich (2013), Gutstrasse Masterplan, Zurich (2015-2017), the new zoning and building Code for Glarus Nord (2015-2017).

Publications on his work include: *Approximations: The Architecture of Peter Märkli*, ed. by Mohsen Mostafavi, London: Architecture Association Publications (2002), *Peter Märkli. Zeichnungen/Drawings Peter Märkli*, ed. by Fabio Don and Claudia Mion, Lucerne: Quart (2015), *Märkli Professur für Architektur an der ETH Zürich/Chair of Architecture at the ETH Zurich 2002-2015*, ed. by Chantal Imoberdorf, Zurich: gta Verlag (2016), *Everything One Invents is True*, ed. by Pamela Johnston, Lucerne: Quart (2017), *In Search of a Language. A Journey through Peter Märkli's Imaginary*, by Giorgio Azzariti, Paris: Cosa Mentale (2019). *Peter Märkli. Dessins, disegni*, ed. by Fabio Don and Claudia Mion, Caryatide 2023 is the French/Italian enlarged and updated edition of 2015 book.





All drawings are neither dated nor titled. The techniques are: ballpoint pen on paper, pencil on paper, coloured pencil on paper.

Peter Märkli. Drawings

Peter Märkli's drawings can be studied prior to the constructed work or irrespective of it.

Sometimes we can see the merging of these drawings into the built work but, in general, they are potential projects or, more precisely, potential design issues.

To Märkli, drawing is an elaboration that is sensitive to stimuli and suggestions— the personal appropriation of an experience.

At times, the drawings contain signs of erasures and hesitations. These can be detected as overlapping layers that allow multiple levels of reading, in thickness and depth: it is clearly a search for an answer.

The idea is separated into variations: colour, proportion, hierarchy, order, solids and voids, and movement. It is, therefore, a place where the idea is not “just” represented or described, but more specifically, the circuitous journey in which it is generated, developed and clarified. That's why these are “drawings” and not “sketches”. It could be described as a sort of heritage of thoughts.

A strictly chronological sequence was not possible as the drawings, organized by the architect into stacks of A4 sheets, are not dated.

The only sorting carried out by the architect was to separate the output into three phases: 1980–1999, 2000–2013, 2016–2023.

The selection is displayed according to the sequence Märkli with Fabio Don and Claudia Mion had established during several encounters in his Hardstrasse studio, in view of the first edition of the book, Peter Märkli. Zeichnungen, drawings, Quart Verlag 2015. The sequence was reprised in the second edition of the book and the exhibition at Saint-Étienne École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture (2023). It reflects the associations emerged during those meetings, where copies of the drawings were hanged onto the wall, moved and grouped again. But, precisely because of their character of endless exploration of forms, spaces and colours, the drawings lend themselves to further associations, to new sequences arising from a theme, a detail.

Exhibition curated by:

Fernanda De Maio, Michela Maguolo, Claudia Mion

Upon the publication of *Peter Märkli. Dessins, disegni* (edited by Fabio Don and Claudia Mion, Caryatide 2023).