

# **Metron and Sustainability – Merging Social, Economical and Ecological Aspects**

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**ABSTRACT:** The interdisciplinary planning firm Metron, which embraces architecture, traffic planning, spatial planning and landscape architecture disciplines, was founded in 1965. The integration of socio-economic research in the planning process was the foundation for its innovative projects in the sixties. The architecture office worked with modular systems, flexible floor plans and clever, affordable construction solutions with high social qualities. After the oil crisis in 1973, minimizing the costs of construction was added as a priority design principle. With this focus, an aesthetic of simpleness was developed which influenced strongly the Metron image.

In the early eighties Metron integrated the third field of sustainability 'ecology' in its overall planning concept. Exemplary buildings of this period are the office and residential building 'Stahlrain' in Brugg (European Solar Prize 1994) and the housing development Niederholzboden in Riehen; a pilot project within the scope of 'Energie 2000' (a program launched by the Swiss Department of Energy). Metron's environmental team participated actively in the Swiss sustainable development. For instance it co-managed the project DIANE-Öeko-Bau as part of 'Energie 2000' which promoted ecological, low-energy architecture.

Current goals at Metron are to raise the energy-efficiency standard of its projects and focus on demographical challenges of today's society an example of which are habitation demands of the elder generations and inter-generational living.

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