



Zurich  
International  
School

## Building for International Education Final Report



The future has begun



**“The new school is a home, a place of learning, an invitation to the local community, and a place for our students to be, act, learn, and live together. This is our commitment to our students today and for the future, and this is the heart and soul of what the new school is about.”**

ZIS Director Peter C. Mott, answering the question of “what is the new Upper School” at the May 18, 2004 Campaign strategy evening



*Exterior from the new playing fields*



*First floor stairways*



Douglas O. Marston, Chair, ZIS Board of Trustees, and Peter C. Mott, Director, ZIS

## We have achieved our dream!

We have successfully completed both **Building for International Education** and the Campaign for **Building for International Education** and invite you to join us in celebrating our state-of-the-art new Upper School and permanent home for our Middle School.

Just as the Campaign supported more than a new building, so the new Upper School supports more than additional space for more students. This modern, sleek building represents also a tangible commitment to principles of learning and teaching which we believe will make ZIS a landmark on the international school landscape.

The birth of this vision occurred over six years ago when the school's Board of Trustees and Leadership Team first began to look at a new Upper School facility. Over time, the project evolved – from the initial “Minimal” option to the final “Optimal 450” version which opened its doors on August 19. We could not have walked this path without the creativity, commitment, and determination of Board members, administrators, faculty and staff, parents, students, architects and planners. We have also benefitted greatly from the support of both the Canton and City of Zurich, as well as the local government of Adliswil. All of these groups have one crucial common element: they all believe in ZIS and what it stands for. We therefore gratefully acknowledge all who were willing to act on a “what if ...” proposition. Their belief that we were about to accomplish something important and worthwhile placed the dream within our reach. Because we dared boldly, we achieved beyond our dreams.

**Building for International Education** did not happen through sheer wishful thinking alone, and we thank the many individuals who volunteered their time and talents to raise more than CHF 10.6 million towards this project. Without the leadership of Campaign Co-Chairs Michaela Seeger and Philip Ryan, the dream would have remained exactly that – a dream. Our thanks extend equally to our Development Office which held all the threads together.

Lest the obvious be forgotten: each of you who contributed to this project deserves our profoundest gratitude. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student who delivered CHF 200 to the school office because he “wanted to give something back to his school” exemplifies what **Building for International Education** was and is ultimately about: learning, caring, challenging, and leading.

**“I am very fortunate to have had an excellent education, which has made me what I am today. I therefore have made it my priority to help ZIS continue to deliver a world-class education by supporting *Building for International Education*. This project will allow ZIS to continue to prepare our children and future children to be world-class citizens.”**

Campaign Co-Chair Michaela Seeger speaking at the May 18, 2004 Campaign strategy evening



Michaela Seeger and Philip K. Ryan  
Co-Chairs, Campaign for **Building for International Education**

## Our thanks to each of you for your support!

The Campaign for **Building for International Education** concluded on June 30, 2008, having raised over CHF 10.6 million. The Campaign is the first broad-based fundraising effort conducted by ZIS, and we are so pleased to report that it received support from across the ZIS community: primary corporate sponsors, parents, Trustees, faculty and staff, alumni, grandparents, past parents, friends, corporations, Swiss foundations, and students. Each gift was important, each gift has made a difference, and, most importantly, each of our students is already benefiting from the generosity of our community.

At the ZIS strategic retreat in 2002, it became clear that, in order to offer our students and community the desired level of programs and facilities, we needed to introduce a broad ZIS community fundraising program and culture. The success of the Campaign is a critical step in this process and lays a strong foundation for our future efforts to ensure the school's financial stability and fully realize its potential.

Projects of the scope and significance of **Building for International Education** and the Campaign for **Building for International Education** do not and cannot happen without the support and involvement of many. Thank you to the many members of the ZIS community who gave of themselves and their time to ensure the success of the project and the Campaign.

Finally, a very special thank you to ZIS Director Peter C. Mott. His vision, enthusiasm, and unwavering belief in what ZIS and its community working together can achieve have taken the school farther than anyone else ever believed possible.

**Building for International Education** is ultimately not about a building but about international education. The two of us together with the ZIS community share a deep belief in the importance of both international education and the kind of people and leaders it fosters in an increasingly complex and international world. This fantastic facility will allow ZIS to continue to provide our students with the top-quality international education they need to succeed and lead in this world.

## What is *Building for International Education*?

In 2002 the ZIS Board committed the school to meeting a series of strategic objectives by 2008, including:

- expanding curricular and extracurricular programs to provide the breadth and depth of educational experiences necessary to meet the needs of the ZIS community;
- providing the facilities to accommodate and the resources to implement this strategy;
- ensuring that ZIS students are prepared for the world beyond the school; and
- securing a commitment to continuous improvement at ZIS.

**Building for International Education** is part of the school's strategic plan to meet these goals through (i) constructing a new Upper School for 450 students, (ii) creating a permanent home for the Middle School in the current Upper School Villa, (iii) developing all-school facilities, such as a triple gym, sports fields, and multi-purpose performance space, and (iv) ensuring ongoing enhancement of curricular and extracurricular programs. Offering the desired breadth and depth of programs requires a critical student enrollment of 1300–1350.

**Building for International Education** will allow ZIS to expand to this critical size.



# Design Principles of the ZIS Upper School in Adliswil

Firms participating in the spring 2004 architectural competition to design the new ZIS Upper School received a comprehensive set of design principles regarding the look of the new school. These principles encompassed aesthetic and pedagogical values, as well as practical guidelines regarding use of the space, and were intended to encourage creative, out-of-the-box thinking and designing. Excerpts from the design principles are provided below.

## Educational/Aesthetic Principles

- Reflect importance of teamwork/cooperative learning, rather than a traditional model of chairs in rows
- Create a “central core” (“The Core”); bright, open, transparent; a center for socializing, interactions, meetings
- Facilitate project-oriented work; independent research; spaces which encourage creativity; which facilitate application to real-world problems; interdisciplinary orientation; reallocation of faculty office space to encourage cross-disciplinary connections
- Future-oriented architecture – suggestive of distinctive international/multi-cultural nature of school; creative architecture: curves rather than corners; surprising use of space; avoid institutional look
- Transparent, open spaces; lots of light; open to surrounding community (but balance with security concerns)
- Space(s) which encourage quiet meditation and reflection
- Studying is not limited to classrooms and is not limited to students: creates a community of learners
- No separate administration wing; spread faculty out among students; offices accessible to public
- Balance need of faculty to mix with students with need to have faculty work with each other
- Environment/energy-conscious design (i.e., recycling site; energy-saving devices; solar panels)
- A school which is at the same time a home, a place for learning, an opportunity for interacting with other cultures, and an invitation to the local community
- A landscaped setting with minimal concrete/stone and maximum of green space with large variety of flora (also suggestive of school’s international character); e.g., a Japanese rock garden

“Academics are tailored to meet the needs of every student and to help each student meet his or her highest potential.”

“Because everyone in the ZIS community is different, this makes us all the same.”

“Our children love to go to school in the morning.”

Some of the answers to the question “What Makes ZIS Special?” generated at the May 18, 2004 Campaign strategy evening



*Adliswil Mayor Thomas Heiniger (left) and ZIS Director Peter C. Mott signing the September 2003 letter of intent between ZIS and Adliswil*

*Site of the new ZIS Upper School in the Leberen area of Adliswil*

## February 2002

First ZIS community strategic offsite, which concludes that (i) the school needs to expand to 1300–1350 students to be able to offer the required depth and breadth of programs, and (ii) a new facility is needed to allow this expansion.

## September 23, 2003

ZIS concludes letter of intent with the City of Adliswil committing both sides to negotiate a long-term land lease agreement on approximately 20 000 square meters of land in Adliswil for the new ZIS Upper School.

## February 2004

Launch of architectural competition to design new ZIS Upper School.



*ZIS parents, faculty members and Trustees strategize fundraising for the new Upper School at the May 18, 2004 Campaign strategy evening*



*agps team members Reto Pfenninger (left) and Hanspeter Oester together with their winning model for the new ZIS Upper School at the June 2004 press conference announcing that agps architecture will design the new ZIS Upper School*



*ZIS community members discuss what makes a building important at the September 4, 2004 community workshop*

## May 18, 2004

ZIS workshop on engaging the school community in Building for International Education and the Campaign.

## June 2004

agps architecture selected to design the new ZIS Upper School.

## September 2004

ZIS holds two community workshops on bringing the new Upper School to life, the first with faculty, staff, students, parents, Trustees, alumni, and the architects, and the second with Upper School faculty, Leadership Team, and the architects.

“The new ZIS Upper School provides the school with the opportunity to not only address problems that are in need of fixing with our current facilities but to also, perhaps more importantly, translate what ZIS is about into physical space.”

Outcome, September 4, 2004 community workshop



Plan for entire site, including building, landscaping and sports fields



agps rendering of the new Upper School exterior (May 2006)

## January 2005

Launch of silent phase of Campaign for Building for International Education.

## October 2005

Campaign reaches CHF 5 million.



The site in July 2006, a month before ground-breaking



Members of the ZIS community celebrate the public launch of **Building for International Education** in August 2006 after walking from the current Upper School villa to the site of the new Upper School in Adliswil



Lower School PE teacher Ibrahim Oubda with Pre-K student Matt Rabinowitz in goal at the August 2006 kick-off picnic



(Left to right) Hanspeter Oester, agps architecture; ZIS Director Peter C. Mott; and Adliswil Mayor Thomas Heiniger breaking ground for the project in August 2006

## August 7, 2006

Groundbreaking for new ZIS Upper School.

## August 27, 2006

Community kick-off picnic for the public phase of **Building for International Education** and the Campaign for **Building for International Education**.

## November 2006

Campaign reaches CHF 7.5 million.



Swiss Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard visited ZIS in August 2007 to meet and speak with students. Regine Aeppli, Head of the Zurich Cantonal Department of Education, introduced FC Leuthard, who spoke on the importance of education and the competitive advantage that a good education provides. FC Leuthard then answered questions from Upper School students on a variety of topics. Her visit was preceded by a session for governmental and corporate representatives addressing the importance of international schools for Zurich.

*(Left to right) ZIS Board Chair Douglas O. Marston, Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, Cantonal Councillor Regine Aeppli, ZIS Director Peter C. Mott*

## August 24, 2007

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard visits ZIS.



*The gym being constructed in April 2007*



*The interior staircases are a key element of the building's vertical integration (August 2007)*

“I hope that you never tire of hearing your praises sung or remember to sing a refrain to all your incredible teachers, staff, volunteer parents and remarkable students. It was good to ‘go home again’ and remember just how refreshing and vibrant ZIS can make the educational experience.”

E-mail from former ZIS teacher Tim Clune to Lower School Principal Rob Risch following a visit to ZIS by Tim’s current Swiss high school students in February 2005



*(Front row) Matthias Kobelt, agps architecture; Hanspeter Oester, agps architecture; Peter C. Mott, ZIS; Guido Manser, GMS Partner (kneeling); Daniel Gantner, GMS Partner; (back row) Marta Marszal, agps architecture; Gabi Hauser, agps architecture; Mic Hendriksen, agps architecture, at the October 2007 Aufrichte*



*ZIS Director Peter C. Mott signing the photo of the new ZIS Upper School at the October 2007 Aufrichte*

## October 19, 2007

## November 2007



*The multi-purpose performance space in August 2007*

ZIS hosts the *Aufrichte* for the new Upper School.

Campaign reaches CHF 10 million.



*Cafeteria*



*Triple gym*

**From the drawing board to reality**

On the left of these images is the architectural drawing of the space from early 2006. On the right is a photograph of the space taken in October 2007.

**May 2008**

ZIS successfully reaches the Campaign goal, with pledges received totaling over CHF 10.57 million.



*January 2008: The access road next to the school opens*



*May 2008: Community tours of the new ZIS Upper School*

“The move to the Kilchberg villa is a monumental step in the history of the Middle School, as we will now have a permanent home for the first time. We are all very excited about the villa – it is such a lovely old building with beautiful grounds and play space for our students. We can’t wait to move!”

Middle School Principal Mark Hemphill, May 2008



*Built in Nidelbadstrasse in 1909 for the Spinnergut family, the Spinnergut villa became the home of the American International School of Zurich in 1963 when the school was established. It served as the home for the American International School of Zurich and, subsequently, the ZIS Upper School until summer 2008*



*Members of the Upper School community bid farewell to the Kilchberg villa as the home for the Upper School at the end-of-year barbecue*

## June 12, 2008

The Upper School prepares to leave its former home at the Kilchberg villa.

## June 16, 2008

The Middle School starts moving into its new home at the Kilchberg villa.



*Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Hatkoski and Principal Mark Hemphill moving into the villa*



*ZIS Director Peter C. Mott receiving the keys to the new Upper School at the July 14 handover (left to right: Hanspeter Oester, agps architecture; Guido Manser, GMS Partner; Peter C. Mott, ZIS; Mic Hendriksen, agps architecture)*



*A moving van preparing to unload outside the new Upper School*

## June 30, 2008

Campaign closes, having raised over CHF 10.6 million.

## July 14, 2008

ZIS officially receives occupancy of the new Upper School from agps architecture.

## July 2008

The ZIS Upper School starts moving into the new building.

# “The building is not a Rolls Royce, and we don’t want it to be a Rolls Royce. We want what happens in the building to be the Rolls Royce.”

ZIS Director Peter C. Mott, responding to a question in January 2005 as to whether the new ZIS Upper School would be a “Rolls Royce”



*The new building begins to fill with life*

*Students trying out the new playing field*



*Working in one of the new science labs*

## August 19, 2008

New ZIS Upper School and home for the Middle School officially open with the start of the 2008/2009 school year.

## August 22–23, 2008

ZIS community opening celebrations for new Upper School.

## Grade 9 Student Work on *Building for International Education*

Students in Marcia Freeman's Grade 9 Introduction to Writing class in fall 2007 used **Building for International Education** as a platform to explore a variety of writing forms. Working in pairs, students focused on a major area of the new Upper School, including architectural design, interior design, project finance, transportation, common areas, and the triple gym. The project goal was for all students to become completely familiar with their area and be able to give tours of the building.

Student projects included frequently-asked questions and answers about their area of expertise, interviews with ZIS Trustees and faculty members, poetry, posters, word searches, and even graffiti. In October 2007, the students visited agps architecture, where they viewed plans and models of the new Upper School and asked questions of the architects.

The project culminated with the students giving tours of the new Upper School to ZIS Upper School faculty and staff members in January 2008.



Graffiti representing the new Upper School in Adliswil with the Uetliberg in the background, done by Grade 9 student Sebastian Frisch. Sebastian described his picture as follows: *"On the mountain, you see 'ZIS' on a rock spur, similar to the sign in Hollywood. The style I used for this graffiti is three-dimensional tagging, with colors that grab your attention."*

Adliswil new school

New location, modern

Classrooms all aligned.

Sonia W. Kolner, "Haikus – New Upper School" (excerpt)

School starts every day at nine o'clock.

When you walk to your locker, all your books are still stocked ...

Then you go to class for a second time,

And you hope that this time your homework will be fine ...

Now finally it's lunch!

All you hear around you is crunch, slunge, munch ...

Fabian de Vos, "A Normal School Day" (excerpt)

Noisy students fill the corridors

Environmentally friendly

Warm and welcoming

Spacious rooms

Charismatic feel all around

Harmonic sounds from the music rooms

Oodles of students

Optimistic, open minds

Lovely, friendly ...

Mhairi Hutchison, "The New School"

"While walking down the corridors, you will be able to see and feel the joy, as the school will be alive with laughter and fun, as students of ZIS get accustomed to their new surroundings ... Every pupil will be proud to use this new, world-class learning facility, and will certainly be amazed by its great features."

Daniel Pearce, "A Great New Addition – essay" (excerpt)



Lower School Photo Club students used a photo of the new Upper School to experiment with the PhotoShop brush tool

**Grade 9 students:** *How did you come up with the design for the new Upper School?*

**agps:** We originally envisioned a traditional campus with multiple separate "houses" – the House of Science, House of Books, etc. However, the site was very compact, so we ended up putting all of the Houses together in one big "house." Everything is connected – the building is like a little city with a main street with alleyways going off it where people can meet, hide, etc. The bigger "house" is also connected via the stairway cut-outs – you can look up and down and feel that you are part of a bigger whole. From question and answer session during the October 2007 student visit to agps architecture



*Lead architect Hanspeter Oester responding to a student question regarding the new ZIS Upper School*

We are all excitedly waiting for the first school day to come. It will be a great experience to explore all edges and corners of the new building. It is huge compared to our building now, Stretched, with two floors, and in- and outdoor sports fields and a lot more. I can imagine that the first day is going to be different, but the building will quickly turn into a familiar home for us. Vincent Buehler, "New Upper School (Poem)" (excerpt)

Through a door and down a corridor  
I come to the triple gym.  
Slipping off my shoes I run straight into the middle.  
Finally! No more bus rides!  
I find a basketball in the corner  
I run over to it, I pick it up ...  
I bring it up in front of my head  
And flick my fingers, letting it fly.  
It soars in the air for a few seconds,  
Then silently swishes through the net of a nearby hoop.  
Oliver Telford, "The First Day (Poem)" (excerpt)

Hours and hours are spent in the school having fun. Outside lies the never-ending entertainment we have from the soccer field, basketball and tennis courts. Opening the main doors everyday to enter is always the most thrilling part of a day."

Sakkti Elangovan, "Being a Part of This New High (Acrostic Poem)" (excerpt)

It is 8:00  
The kids enter the new school  
Pushing and kicking through the front door  
Tired from their vacation  
And with a slight disappointment of being back  
But they are all excited to finally see  
The long awaited upper school  
Ziv Reichert, "Envisioning Being in the New Building (Poem)" (excerpt)

Brooke- j this school has so much to offer! it has a triple gym. zis can hold home tournaments here and no prob. wit transport. for P.E. or after school sports ...  
Brooke- dontya c how big the coreways r?! ... there is enough room for chillin. it is so tight.  
Ali Quinones, "SMS Convo Between Brooke and Jordan About the New Upper School" (excerpt)

"A school which we are going to move to is  
Deluxe and superb. It  
Lies in Adliswil  
Its skylights open up the school  
Staircases make students look up to their  
Wide and wise future."  
Hongjin Kim, "Adliswil School (Acrostic Poem)" (excerpt)



*Grade 9 students giving tours of the new Upper School to Upper School faculty and staff in January 2008*

## List of Donors

The Campaign for **Building for International Education** was launched in August 2006 to give ZIS community members the chance to support and become involved in **Building for International Education**. The Campaign ran for the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 academic years and had a financial goal of CHF 10.3 million. The Campaign closed on June 30, 2008, having raised over CHF 10.6 million. ZIS thanks everyone who contributed to the Campaign and helped to ensure the success of **Building for International Education**.

### Corporations

ABB Ltd.  
Bauknecht Capital AG  
Baxter Healthcare SA, Wallisellen, Switzerland  
Caterpillar Financial  
Cilag GmbH International, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies  
Cofra Holding AG  
Coutts Bank von Ernst, Zurich  
Credit Suisse  
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Dow Chemical Company Genesis Award (allocated to ZIS by Davida Johnson)  
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### Foundations

René und Susanne Braginsky Stiftung  
Fritz-Gerber-Stiftung  
The Marc Rich Foundation for Education, Culture and Welfare

### Parents, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Past Parents, Trustees, Students and Friends of ZIS

Heinz and Brigitte Aebi  
Akhmerov Family  
Chris Akin and Sandra Madge Rivero  
Adel and Gladys Al-Saleh  
Aleisa Family  
Peter and Karen Alexander  
Thomas and Sigrun Amstutz  
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Heiner Baumgartner  
Reto Beller and  
Luz Dalila Beller-Riascos Godoy  
Johann and Gretchen Bernard  
Orawan and Will Bertram  
Astrid Blümlein Hugentobler  
Boakes Family

**“As our grandchildren are developing at ZIS in a highly stimulating environment with students from all over the world, we are more than happy to support the construction of the new school.”**

Gun-Britt and Owe Rydell, grandparents of ZIS students Alexander and Emma Svensson

Carl Böttker '07	Ann and Ingo Fritzen	Kelvin Jones and
Christopher and Beatriz Böttker	Gailey Family	Kathleen Webster-Jones
Bottoni Family	Garaventa Family	Christine Jordan
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Jamie and Charlotte Oosterbaan	Rolf Streuli	Stephen and Gaby Youd
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Laura and Ian Overton	Edgar Suppiger and Charlotte Milz	ZIS Parents' Association
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Catherine Palermo-Gambotto	Martin and Sarah Sutcliffe	Louis and Paula Zuckerbraun
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Stephen and Christine Pearce	Emma Svensson '13	Jürg Zundel
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Robin and Gian Andrea Pola	Lisbeth Svensson	
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Sebastian Prieto '13	Terruzzi Family	
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Jan and Ann Secher	Viale Family	
Michaela and Wolfgang Seeger	Vogel Family	
Fabian and Marianne Shey	Sima Graefin von Hoensbroech,	

# Campaign Volunteers

A project of the scope of the Campaign for **Building for International Education** does not and cannot happen without volunteer support. ZIS sincerely thanks the following people who gave of themselves and their time to ensure the success of the Campaign.

## Campaign Co-Chairs

Philip K. Ryan  
Michaela Seeger

## Campaign Volunteers

Renee Allain-Stockton  
Anette Allde  
Beatriz Bödtker  
Christopher Bödtker  
Alberto Bottoni  
Hanspeter Brunner  
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Patti Kimball  
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Nevenka Ljeskovic  
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Jack McNally  
Marnin Michaels  
Alice O'Mahoney  
George Quinn  
Camille Rinato  
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Hilma Roest  
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Urte Sabelus  
Franz Stadler  
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Brenda Veenendaal-Leighton  
Ivan Vercoutere  
Catherine Vogel  
Lisa White  
Jodi Engelberg Zundel  
Jürg Zundel

**“We hope that the new Upper School will be a building in which the ideas exemplified by the Core can be absorbed by the students. However, the building will be successful only if the students leaving it change the world.”**

ZIS Director Peter C. Mott, speaking at the September 4, 2004 community workshop





Zurich  
International  
School

## Building for International Education

- Construction of a new Upper School
- Creation of a permanent home for the Middle School
- Development of all-school facilities, including a triple gym
- Enhancement of curricular and extracurricular programs

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