

Biomimicry

Stuttgart 21 in Dialogue with Nature

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The exhibition "Biomimicry: Stuttgart 21 in Dialogue with Nature" presents a fascinating comparison of architecture and organic forms. The focus is on the controversial Stuttgart 21 railway station project, whose architectural design enters into a visual dialogue with natural structures.

Through a carefully curated selection of photographs, the exhibition reveals surprising parallels between human engineering and nature's construction principles. The exhibits are divided into two complementary series:

On one side, impressive black and white photographs of the Stuttgart 21 station under construction are shown. These prints, handcrafted on classic baryta paper, capture the monumental structures and flowing lines of the large-scale project. The abstract perspectives reveal an almost organic design language amid concrete and steel.

In contrast, there are delicate images of shells and crustacean parts, captured using the historical technique of wet plate photography on glass. These nature studies reveal a striking structural similarity to the architectural elements of the station.

Additional Information

The exhibition demonstrates the concept of biomimicry – a design philosophy and innovation method that considers nature as a source for sustainable solutions. The term, coined by biologist Janine Benyus, combines the Greek words "bios" (life) and "mimesis" (imitation). Biomimicry goes beyond superficial imitation of natural forms. It is rather a profound approach aimed at understanding and adapting nature's strategies and systems, optimized over millions of years, for human challenges. In architecture, this can manifest in energy-efficient ventilation systems inspired by termite mounds, or in facade structures modeled after the self-cleaning properties of lotus leaves.

In juxtaposing Stuttgart 21 and the delicate structures of marine life, the exhibition invites us to reflect on possible – conscious or unconscious – influences of natural construction principles on modern architecture. It encourages us to reconsider the boundaries between nature and technology, between organic growth and planned construction, and to appreciate nature's timeless inspiration for human creation.