

Biography

Born in Lucerne, Switzerland on September 21, 1974

“After collaborating with many artist and architects I focus mainly on my own work now. I have a strong interest in site specificity and time. All my work should relate to something bigger or something outside its direct context. It should connect humans to space, to matter, and to the social and urban environment, ideally to the cosmos. It often revolves around the desire to give a physical presence to something that is not physical.” Christian Wassmann

In 2005, Christian Wassmann opened his own office in SoHo where he works with a small and talented team. His most visible venture is the East Village Radio station on 1st Avenue, which was nominated for the Swiss Art Award in 2007. He also designed The Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation gallery and offices in DUMBO, a beauty salon on Houston Street, a clothing store on Lafayette St., an apartment for a photographer and his family, and a Loft for Joseph Kosuth and his staff. He is also involved in the creation of temporary installations and happenings such as the first Internet Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2009, a water/rainbow installation for a public art exhibition in the Berkshires, a DJ booth for the Whitney Biennial 2008 and another DJ booth for Terence Koh's gallery Asia Song Society (ASS), and exhibition designs for the annual fund raising events at the Kitchen and HERE artist residency. He currently works on site-specific art installations, furniture designs, stage sets, interior projects in New York City, and a house in Miami.

From 2000 to 2005 he worked for Steven Holl Architects where he was in charge of exhibitions; he designed the furniture for a dormitory at MIT and was project architect of the award winning Loisium Hotel Wine and Spa Resort in Langenlois, Austria. With Steven Holl he was also a co-professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University.

From 1997 to 2007 he collaborated closely with Robert Wilson, with whom he designed the traveling exhibition “Isamu Noguchi – Sculptural Design” for the Vitra Design Museum, the MTA subway terminal in Coney Island and many other permanent and temporary art and stage installations.

In 2000 he graduated from the University of Art and Design in Zurich with a project about the Menil Collection in Houston, after a formative year as a guest student in the Master Class of Wolf D. Prix at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. At age 15 Christian started a four-year apprenticeship as an architectural draftsman and afterwards studied the architecture of Oscar Niemeyer on an extended journey throughout South America.

Curriculum Vitae

Own office for architecture, design, exhibitions, events and art projects in New York since May 05:

Sep. 09 – ongoing	Loft of Robert Wilson, offices/gallery/archive Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation, Chelsea, NY
Aug. 09 – ongoing	“Oloid” club for 3 in an existing club, collaboration with Michael Portnoy
Apr. - Nov. 09	“Pages” first Internet pavilion, 53rd Biennale di Venezia
Mar. - Nov. 09	“GIRLMACHINE” stage installation for a Futurist performance, Performa09, Italian Academy, NY
Mar. 09	“INVEN.TORY” fashion store SoHo, NY
Feb. 09	“Lido NY” urban summer architecture installation on Governors Island, NY
Dec. 08 – ongoing	“47E3” townhouse transformation, East Village, New York
Oct. 08 – ongoing	“Safari Ivory” furniture collection
Jul. – Sep. 08	“Moving Walls” for Atomic City theater performance at La MaMa E.T.C. New York
Jun. - Aug. 08	Loft design proposal for Knight Landesman, NoHo, New York
Apr. – May 08	“HERE” design and transformation of a temporary exhibition space, Seaport, NY
Apr. - May 08	Loft design proposal for Melissa Dubbin and Aaron Davidson, Brooklyn, New York
Feb. – Jul. 08	“Georgia” hair salon and store in NoLIta, New York
Feb. – Oct. 08	Loft design for Joseph Kosuth Financial District, New York
Feb. – May 08	Loft bed, desk shelf, NoHo, New York
Jan. 08 – ongoing	Modular children furniture system
Dec. 07 – Apr. 08	“Cafe Helvetica” restaurant and grill design, SoHo, New York
Nov. 07 – Jan. 08	“Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation”, gallery and office design, Dumbo, NY
Jun. – Oct. 07	“15° Photographers Chair and Table” for a photography bookstore, New York
May 07 – Jul. 07	“Swiss Institute” proposal redesign and light design, SoHo, New York
Mar. 07 – Nov. 08	“Photographers Apartment” renovation and furniture, New York
Nov. 06 – ongoing	“Curved Wall House” extension and renovation of a residency, Miami Beach, FL
Sep. – Oct. 07	“6 Greene Street Loft” design and build my own office in SoHo New York
Jun 07	“Wandbiss” design of an installation of Michael Portnoy for the Swiss Institute NY, Art Basel
Jan. – May 07	Verner Panton exhibition design for Vitra furniture company, flagship store, NY
Sep. – Dec 06	Christmas exhibition design for Vitra furniture company, flagship store, New York
May – Aug. 06	Radio station with storefront window for www.eastvillageradio.com
Mar. – May 06	Fire place in an apartment in Brooklyn
Feb. 06	Multifunctional theater seating for “Hanjo Redux” at CRS Studio Theater, NY
Nov. 05	Event and exhibition design for the annual fund raising gala of The Kitchen, NY
Summer 05	Proposal for re-designing the exhibition space at The Kitchen center for music, video, dance, performance, film and literature, New York

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Exhibitions of my work:

Jun. - Aug. 09	TESTOSPEROM' installation in former car dealership, Great Barrington, MA
Apr. - Nov. 09	"Pages" first Internet pavilion, 53rd Biennale di Venezia
Jun. 09	"Excess is More" installation at "Swiss Art Awards" category architecture, during Art Basel
Nov. - Dec. 08	"8 1/2x11" A4" drawing show at James Fuentes LLC, New York
Sep. 08	"Some Girls Bar" at Lichtfeld 8 exhibition Basel, Switzerland, collaboration with Hubert Kretzschmar
Aug. 08	"Endless Sparkler" suspended DJ Booth for Asian Song Society Gallery, New York
Mar. 08	Mobile DJ Booth for the Whitney Biennial 2008, New York
Mar. - Jul 08	"Constantin" fold and stackable chair, base and column included in "Adventure with Objects - the von Vegesack Collection" at the The Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli Torino, Italy
Jun. 07	"East Village Radio" station design at "Swiss Art Awards" category architecture, during Art Basel
Feb - May 07	"Smarty" electric cable extension in "Plastic" show at the Musee d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva
May 02 - Jun 07	"Constantin" fold and stackable chair, base and column included in "Living in Motion" by the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein and Berlin; Museu de Les Arts Decoratives, Barcelona; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Museu Serralves, Porto; Kunsthaus Graz; Z33, Hasselt; Fundaciòn Canal, Madrid; Museum Hilversum, Hilversum; ICA, Boston; City Art Centre, Edinburgh
Nov. 98	"Constantin" fold and stackable chair, base and column at "Werkforum '98" at J. Bally&Co. Zurich
Dec. 96	Christmas exhibition of Candlestick at M.O.B. Gallery, Zurich, "l'un sur l'autre"

Teaching/Lectures:

Dec. 09	Guest critic at the final review of Prof. Yehuda Safran at GSAPP at Columbia University, NY
Nov. 09	"Not For Sale: Ideal Performance Spaces" lecture and discussion Perfoma 09, NY
Oct. - Dec. 09	Roving critic of Prof. Galia Solomonoff at GSAPP at Columbia University, NY
Sep. 09	Guest lecture for computer scientists, World Evolved Services LLC, NY
Jul. 09	Eye-On-Eye lecture on Frank Lloyd Wright, Guggenheim Museum, NY
Mar. - May 09	Guest Critic of Prof. Steven Holl's first, mid term and final review GSAPP Columbia University, NY
Oct. 08	Guest Critic OMA Studio mid term review at Cornell University, New York
May 08	"Occasion and Place" lecture with Adina Popescu, HERE exhibition, NY
Apr. 08	Guest Critic of Prof Karla Maria Rothstein final review at the GSAPP at Columbia University, NY
Sep. 07	Guest Critic of Prof. Mark Foster Gage mid term review at Yale School of Architecture, NH
Mar. - May 07	Guest Critic of Prof. Lebbeus Woods mid term and final review Cooper Union School of Architecture
Feb. - Apr. 07	Guest Critic of Prof. Steven Holl's first, mid term and final review GSAPP Columbia University, NY
Apr. 06	Guest critic at the final review of Prof. Enrique Walker at GSAPP at Columbia University, NY
Apr. 06	Guest critic at the final review of Prof. Monica Tiulesco at the Barnard College, NY
Jan. - May 06	Co-Professor of Steven Holl at the Graduate School of Architecture at Columbia University New York, with a project for a Center of Sound and Space in Budapest
Sep. 05	Thesis critic Interior Department at the University of Art and Design in Basel
Apr. 05	Lecture at the International Convention of Architecture in Budapest, Hungary
Mar. 05	Lecture and guest critic Undergraduate Photography Department at the school of Visual Arts, NY
Mar. 03	Guest critic at the mid term review of Prof. Andrew McNair at GSAPP at Columbia University, NY

Employments:

Oct 00 - Nov. 06	Steven Holl Architects in New York: Project architect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hotel with 82 rooms, restaurant, bar, conference rooms and an Aveda wine-spa in Langenlois, A- Visitor center of a winery in Langenlois, near Vienna- Turbulence Chair collaborating with the artist Richard Tuttle- Furniture concept and design of a modular system for 350 student rooms, custom furniture in all public spaces, Simmons Hall dormitory, MIT University Design and organization of exhibitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Work in Progress" at MIT, Cambridge; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor- "City to Desert" in the Palladio Basilica in Vicenza- "Idea and Phenomena" in the Architecture Center Vienna; Architecture Museum, Stockholm; Garanti Gallery, Istanbul (including concept collaboration of the exhibition catalog and project coordination of "Written in Water" book both published by Lars Müller)- "Parallax" at Max Protetch Gallery New York; AMA, Milano; American Academy in Rome Design competitions project team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- LMDC, New World Trade Center (with Richard Meier, Peter Eisenman, Gwathmey Siegel)- School of Architecture at Cornell University, Ithaca (1st price)- Musee du Confluence, Lyon (2nd price)
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- Spring 98 Hannes Wettstein in Zurich
- Furniture package for Hyatt Hotel Potsdamer Platz, Berlin
- Jan. 95 - Aug. 96 dai ag in Zurich, design-agency for interior architecture, product design and planning:
- Renovation and reorganization of a dwelling house near Lucerne
- Office reorganization of the head office of Winterthur insurance company
- Development of an office system "eleven22" for USM
- Cooperation in smaller design and furniture projects
- Fall 94 Employment in an architecture office in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay

Collaborations with Robert Wilson:

- 02 - ongoing Member of the art auction committee for the Annual Watermill Summer Benefit
Jul. 07 Proposal for a light installation for the Manhattan Bridge in Dumbo, New York
Apr. 06 Event design for the Watermill Center Spring Benefit at the Stephen Weiss Studio, New York in collaboration with Donna Karan
- Dec. 04 – Sep. 06 Arts Plaza in Orange County, park and permanent art installation, in collaboration with Richard Serra, Peter Walker Landscape Architecture and Cesar Pelli Architects
- Oct. 04 Design of a fund raising benefit for the Watermill Center at BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music
Jul. 00 - Oct. 02 "un ange passe" two pavilions in Murten at expo02, the Swiss National Exhibition
Mar. 02 - May 06 First prize in the competition for a permanent art installation in the subway terminal Coney Island, NY, for MTA Arts in Transit
- Oct. 01 Event design annual benefit DIA Center for the Arts NY, in collaboration with Donna Karan
Jul. 99 – May 06 "Isamu Noguchi - Sculptural Design" exhibition in the Design Museum London, following venues: Vitra Design Museum, Germany; Maison de la Culture Japonais a Paris, MART in Rovereto, Kunsthall Rotterdam, Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum in NY, Seattle Art Museum, Japanese American National Museum LA
- Jul. 99 - Jun. 00 z2 laser installation in a transformed ocean container and on a roof in Vienna for Zurich Cosmos Insuran.
Jul. - Aug. 99 First prize in a competition for an art glass window for a new theater and a stage set for Istanbul
Jul. - Aug. 98 Stage set and research assistant "Domus, 70 Angles on the Facade" a piece for the 70th anniversary of "Domus Magazine" at Piccolo Teatro, Milan
- Aug. - Sep. 97 1st Internship at the Watermill Center on Long Island, New York, architecture and design team

Various projects:

- Nov. 04 First prize event design for Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave Gala
Fall 04 Competition for a permanent art installation at the University of Applied Sciences, Krems, Austria, in collaboration with Markus Wetzel
- Spring 04 Design for an extension to an old house in Upstate NY
Dec. 02 and May 03 "SX Street", banana box seating for a dance and theatre performance, Lower East Side, NY
Sep. 01 "Gordon" a 16' bookshelf for my apartment
Mar. 99 Fair shop for the MUBA in Basel for the architecture and design magazine "Hochparterre"
Jan. 99 Wooden bridge for an art exhibition of the painter Rosina Kuhn in an old power station in Zurich, in collaboration with Michel Schranz
- Jun. – Jul. 98 Stage design and props for "Literatur" a play from Arthur Schnitzler in the Kaufleutensaal in Zurich
Feb. 97 Architecture project: addition to an apartment building in Zurich
Winter 97 Office and workshop reconstruction Atelier Wassmann, Zug
Fall 96 Candlestick project "l'un sur l'autre" production and sale of 500 units

Education:

- Jul. 00 Diploma as Interior Architect HFG at the HGKZ with a project about The Menil Collection Houston
Mar. 99 - Feb. 00 Guest year at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, in the architecture design studio of Prof. Wolf D. Prix (Coop Himmelb(l)au)
- Sep. 96 - Jul. 00 HGKZ (University of Art and Design, Zurich) Interior Architecture and Product Design Department
1990 – 1994 Apprenticeship as a draftsman at Rüegg and Sieger architects, Zurich. Various construction and design courses. In summer 1994 I passed the final examination.

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