

OPEN CALL INTERIOR DESIGN CONCEPT

Limmathaus in Zurich (CH)
2025



Interior Design Concept for Limmathaus Zurich (CH)

“Impact Hub Zurich is seeking a studio or collective to co-design our new space at the Limmathaus in Zurich (CH) – a vibrant place of encounter for citizens.”

Who are we:

We are locally rooted in the city of Zurich and globally connected through the Impact Hub global network. Impact Hub curates Switzerland’s largest network of creatives, startups, and techies, connecting entrepreneurs, NGOs, companies, public institutions, and change-makers to a unique ecosystem. We bring people together and create spaces and opportunities for positive change. We combine culture, gastronomy, business and society. We are locally rooted and globally connected.

What will the renovated Limmathaus be?

The renovated Limmathaus (ca. 3000m²) will be about fresh ideas, bold action, and meaningful conversations. Impact Hub Zurich is taking over the iconic Limmathaus – a 1931 gem of modern architecture – and turning it into a vibrant hub for connection, collaboration, and events, all centered around sustainability and positive change. It will host a restaurant, bar, club events, concerts, art exhibitions, coworking spaces, political panels, neighbourhood gatherings, pop-ups, dance classes, and more—almost around the clock. The opening will be in 2029, major general and indispensable renovations happen in the meantime.

Dimensions of areas to be designed:

Gastronomy area: ~ 1000m² incl. kitchen, cellar & hybrid zones (Garden 600m²)

Culture & event area: ~700m² (Space for theater, exhibitions, panels, talks...)

Office area: ~ 2000m² (Coworking)

Who are we looking for?

We look for partners based in Europe (Individual designers, architects, interior architects, duos, collectives, studios), who are passionate to collaboratively design the interior for this space. The focus lies on the gastronomy, hospitality and culture areas. We need partners who can handle a tight budget and are open to adapt to changing circumstances.

COMPETITION PROCEDURE

🔥 PHASE 1 – CALL FOR PORTFOLIOS 🔥 (NOW ON, DEADLINE 11. MAY 2025)

PHASE 2 – PAID MINI CONCEPT PROPOSAL & COST ESTIMATE (BY APPROX. END JUNE)

PHASE 3 – SOCIAL FIT IN ZURICH (IN JULY/AUGUST)

PHASE 4 – PAID CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT (BETWEEN AUTUMN–WINTER 2025)

What happens after phase 4? Who will implement the concept?

We focus on the concept delivery by the end of 2025.

Based on the capabilities of the selected studio/collective we can imagine to extend this collaboration for the execution phase. This will be decided along the way.

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🔥 Phase 1 – Call for portfolios, (now on, Deadline 11. May 2025, 23:59 (GMT+1))

First we organise this call for portfolios, where we ask you to send us a documentation of your work and answer some questions to your work style.

Submission documents:

- PDF Documentation of min. 3, max. 5 recent works incl. client reference, date of execution and the client name. → Please upload each project PDF separately
- Approach & value fit Q&A
- Short personal intro video so we see that you are real:)
- Link to Website and/or social media

The application can be in English or German.

Only applications following the guidelines above will be considered for review.

Submission Link: limmathaus.com/de/opencall

Submission Deadline: 11. May 2025, 23:59 (GMT+1), announcement of winners mid May

Phase 2 – Paid mini concept proposal & quote (by approx. end June)

We select up to 6 studios/collectives to whom we hand out a mini brief to design a specific area in the Limmathaus. This phase is paid with Euro 3'500.-.

Submission documents:

- Visualisations, moods and ideas for the interior flow
- Estimated quotation for full concept development based on your fees and our full project brief

Submission Link: Will be sent to the selected studios/collectives

Submission Deadline: End of June, beginning of July 2025

Phase 3 – Social fit in Zurich, (in July/August)

We invite 2 of the 6 studios/collectives that matched the most to Zurich for a social fit, to see whether we click also in person. We select the studios based on their skills, experience, style and work approach.

Timing: July/August

Phase 4 – Paid concept development, (between Autumn–Winter 2025)

The winning studio/collective is selected and together we design the interior concept. This phase includes a design retreat where we all meet in person in Zurich for about 3 weeks to kick-off and work out a big part of the concept. The rest will happen continuously after.

Scope of the concept development:

- Detailed design & construction concept for gastronomy, hospitality and culture areas incl. materials for flooring, walls, ceilings, light, furniture, carpentry, people flows and activities.
- Mapping of time and activities: which activities are happening at what time, in which area of the building and in which intensity, and how does the space design support this
- Detailed cost estimation for the execution of the developed interior design concept

Timing: Deadline for the concept development is end of 2025.

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DETAILED SUBMISSION INFORMATION FOR PHASE 1 – CALL FOR PORTFOLIOS

Selection criteria's

- a. Based in Europe
- b. Experience in the spatial experience and interior design of hospitality, gastronomy and culture interiors (Material, acoustics, light, gastronomy flows. Basic knowledge of HVAC, sanitary, carpentry...), Interested in the future of work and how spaces influence behaviours.
- c. Resources at hand (time & people) to manage this project, final concept incl. timeline and budget expected by the end of 2025
- d. Openness for collaboration, humility and a team-first mindset. We're not looking for egos.
- e. You are not a furniture reseller. If you are, this is not your call but we are happy to partner with you to equip our space during the execution phase → send us an e-mail limmathaus-ausschreibung@impacthub.net
- f. 🗨️ This open call looks for creatives who design with empathy and intention. Spatial UX, user journeys, ergonomic flows and service design in mind.

💛 **We're looking for a true partner—someone who feels like an extension of our team, not just a studio fulfilling a client brief. Let's build something great together.**



What do you need to hand in for phase 1 – Call for portfolios:

PDF Documentation of min. 3, max. 5 recent works incl. client reference, date of execution and the client name.

→ Single PDF (no other format) for each project

→ Please upload the 3-5 PDFs separately

→ Projects need to be relevant to our project but can be from all stags, i.e. they don't need to be implemented yet

Approach and value fit Q&A

Based on our values and criteria's, we would like you to answer three questions regarding the topics of:

Collaboration & Teamwork, Tools & Technologies, Bespoke design

You will find them in the application form.

Short intro video so we see that you are real:)

Please upload a short video introducing the team that would be working with us. We'd love to hear a few words about who you are, so we can get a sense of your personalities.

THE HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

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The heritage-listed building 'Limmathaus' was constructed in 1931 and is now set to undergo a major renovation, planned by the Limmathaus Zürich Foundation. The renovation aims to restore the building to its original purpose as a meeting place for people in the neighbourhood, as well as in and around Zurich, and as a house of work and culture.

The "Volksgenossenschaft Zürich 5" built the Limmathaus in 1930/1931.

The Limmathaus is an iconic Bauhaus-style building and, together with the nearby School of Applied Arts, serves as a testament to the "New Building" movement of the 1930s. For this reason, the building is listed as a heritage site. Through the Hans Bader Hall, it is connected to the adjacent Johanneschurch, a reformed church dating back to 1898.

VISION 30IES

It was to be a place of encounter as well as socio-cultural exchange—a meeting space for political and social life, but also for everyday interactions. From the very beginning, the building housed a post office and a restaurant.

HISTORICAL IMAGE FROM CA. 1940



THE FUTURE

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THE VISION

With the comprehensive renovation and a change in leaseholder, the use of the Limmathaus is set to expand, bringing it closer to its original purpose and vision.

→

The entire building is to be accessible and lively (almost) around the clock—featuring a restaurant and bar, club events and concerts (both commercial and non-commercial), art exhibitions in digital and analog formats, coworking and innovation spaces, political events and panel discussions, as well as neighbourhood events, pop-up formats, dance classes, and much more that we haven't even imagined yet.

FUTURE USE

The key differences from the past 25 years, introduced with the change in leaseholder, include:

- Open office spaces (coworking & offices) replacing hotel rooms on the 1st to 4th floors along Limmatstrasse and above the former post office, with the exception of four remaining hotel rooms.
- Expansion of the ground-floor restaurant area at the expense of the former hotel entrance.
- “Opening up” the forecourt between the ‘Limmathaus’, Hans Bader Hall, and Johannes church as a publicly accessible space.
- Transforming the ground-floor foyer below the great hall into an event space instead of using it for cloakrooms and restrooms.
- Relocating the main entrance and exit for guests of the great hall and foyer to the “back side” of the building on Ausstellungsstrasse, instead of via the forecourt.

OUR FUTURE GUESTS

The Limmathaus aims to be a place where as many people as possible feel comfortable and find something that suits them. Our offerings are designed to encourage diversity on multiple levels—bringing together different age groups, cultures, people at various life stages and in different situations, short-term visitors and those who stay longer, as well as locals from Zurich and guests from elsewhere.

OUR INSPIRATION



INTERIOR ZONES

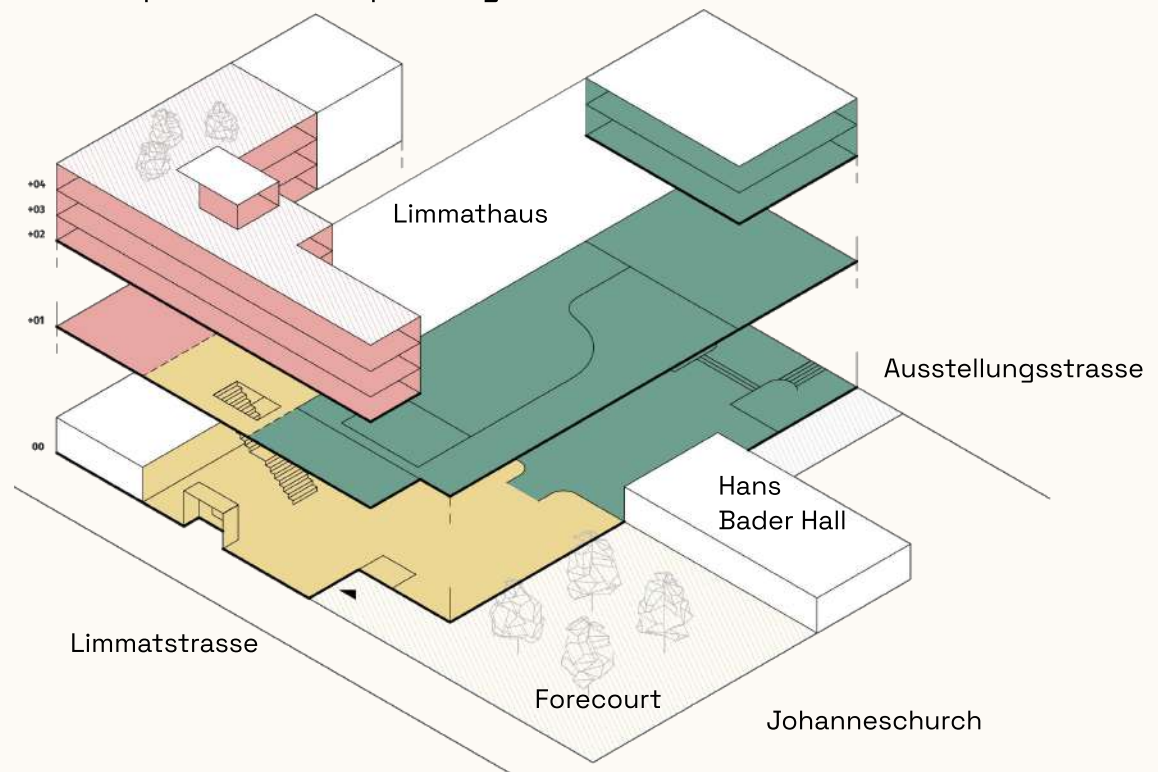
APPLY NOW

THE HOUSE IN THE FUTURE

THE 3 ZONES AND THE OPERATING MODELS:

The whole house is divided up into 3 main operating models:

- Hospitality
- Culture
- Office



THE HOSPITALITY AREA

The Limmathaus Restaurant is a vibrant gathering place in the neighbourhood, offering food and drinks in a welcoming atmosphere. It seamlessly combines gastronomy, culture, and community. This should be reflected in the interior design.

THE CULTURE AREA

The Limmathaus has been a central cultural venue in the city of Zurich for decades—and it will remain so. The spaces within the Limmathaus, especially the great hall and the foyer, will continue to shape Zurich's cultural scene with concerts, exhibitions, parties, and other cultural events. In addition to hosting commercial and well-established events, we also provide space for neighbourhood activities and emerging cultural events with limited budgets.

THE OFFICE AREA

We bring people together and create spaces and opportunities for positive change. It is a global and locally anchored network of like-minded people who are committed to sustainability and collaboration. To make this possible, we offer flexible workspaces, inspiring events and valuable contacts.

For the concept, we look for a studio/collective that considers how guests, staff and community members navigate and experience the space. From arrival to engagement to departure.

SUMMARY

[APPLY NOW](#)

WE LOOK FOR...

...we look for partners, who are passionate to collaboratively design the interior for this space. The focus lies on the gastronomy area. We need someone who can handle a tight budget and is open to adapt to changing circumstances.

This submission outlines the interior concept for 'Limmathaus.' The execution partner will be decided in the next phase.

WHO ARE WE

Impact Hub Zurich curates Switzerland's largest network of creatives, startups, and techies, connecting entrepreneurs, NGOs, companies, public institutions, and change-makers to a unique ecosystem. We bring people together and create spaces and opportunities for positive change. We combine culture, gastronomy, business and society. Locally rooted and globally connected.

Our current locations in the heart of Zurich:

Check them out:

[Kraftwerk Zürich](#)

[Colab Zürich](#)

[Viadukt Zürich](#)

OUR CURRENT LOCATIONS



IMPRINT

ADRESS

IMPACT HUB ZURICH

SIHLQUAI 131, 8005 ZÜRICH

TECH SUPPORT

In case of technical issues contact this address:

→ limmathaus-ausschreibung@impacthub.net

DATA SECURITY

The handed in Data will be used for the jury process. It will be stored for 12 month after the submission deadline.

APPLICATION TOOL

→ ZEALOUS