

UB Law

The building

The library was part of the Faculty of Law at the University of Zurich until the University Library of Zurich was founded in 2022. Its collection includes around 230,000 books and around 500 subscribed journals and publication series, making it one of the largest law libraries in Switzerland.

Since 2004, the library has been located at Rämistrasse 74 in the inner courtyard redesigned by Spanish star architect Santiago Calatrava.

The project order for the new library was issued in 1989, but approval was granted in July 2000. The construction project comprised a new library building in the inner courtyard, a roof and basement for the inner courtyard, a two-storey extension to the north-west and north-east wings of the building, redesign of the entrance area and adaptations to the existing building structure.

Since 2004, the building has been the main location of the Faculty of Law and the new faculty library.

Santiago Calatrava

Santiago Calatrava, born in Valencia in 1951, comes from a family of merchants. At the age of thirteen years old, he went to Paris as an exchange student. In 1968, he returned to Valencia and studied at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura. In 1975, he enrolled at the ETH Zurich to study civil engineering, which he completed in 1981 with a doctoral thesis titled "On the Foldability of Space Frames". He then set up his own architectural practice in Zurich. The conversion of Stadelhofen train station in 1983 was his first major project. Santiago Calatrava is married to a lawyer he met in Zurich and has four children.

Bridge constructions such as those in Barcelona and Bilbao have established his international reputation. His projects include the Lyon train station, the Tenerife Opera House, the Olympic Stadium in Athens, the "Turning Torso" in Malmö and the Transportation Hub at the new World Trade Center in New York. Santiago Calatrava is also known as a painter and sculptor. He has received numerous awards, including 19 honorary doctorates (until 2013). (Source: unijournal, 34th year, No. 5/2004, Wikipedia, retrieved on 29.1.2015.)

[Einweihungsfeier: Der Himmel ist eine Bibliothek](#) (UZH, 21.11.2004)

[Interview mit Santiago Calatrava: «Wissen ist schwerelos – das wollte ich sichtbar machen»](#) (UZH, 21.11.2004)

UB Law

Information on the construction project and library building	
Project planning, construction time:	1989–1999, 2000–2005
Building Owner:	Hochbauamt, Baudirektion Kanton Zürich
Architect, engineer:	Santiago Calatrava
Construction costs:	CHF 65 Mio
Area, volume:	4'375 m ² , 24'000 m ³
Inner courtyard area:	720 m ²
Domed roof:	36/15/8,2 m (length/width/height)
Dome zenith, -weight	29,1 m, 120 t
Library infrastructure	
Books:	ca. 230'000
Journals, publication series:	ca. 500
Total length of shelves:	5'000
Study Spaces:	ca. 550