



ATLAS

OF

BRUTALIST

ARCHITECTURE

PHAIDON



REBERG HOUSE ←
 Hans Demarmels
 Zurich (CH), 1965
 Residential

CONDITION  USE  STATUS 

Built on a plot of land between two rows of houses, in the settlement of Höngg, Rebberg House sits on a steep hillside overlooking Zurich. Designed by Swiss architect Hans Demarmels, it was built between 1963 and 1965. The family home is flanked by two other buildings in similar style, also by Demarmels, divided into two and three apartments, respectively.

In the three-storey architect's house, the design combines the horizontal and the vertical, recessed and projecting space into a harmonious whole. Occupying four split-level storeys, (children's rooms on the top floor; parents below; the living area on the ground floor and studios in the basement) the interior layout centres on a hearth, around which wraps a concrete staircase. The various half-levels – seven in all – create a variety of spaces and nooks, making the most of the building's modest footprint. Few doors divide the interior: rooms flow seamlessly into one another, allowing glimpses from one space into the next. The fireplace is constructed of carefully placed horizontal slabs, and it has its own built-in concrete seating. The floor surface is made of red clinker, adding warmth to the colour scheme. The building has been heritage protected since 2012, and it was renovated in 2015.



JAKOBSGUT SETTLEMENT ↑
 Otto Glaus
 Zurich (CH), 1969
 Residential

CONDITION  USE 

This pleasant low-rise development in the Zurich suburb of Höngg was designed by Otto Glaus. While designing this, he was also working on the Asphof housing development in the city, which made similarly sculptural use of concrete and has many details in common with Jakobsgut. Glaus worked in Le Corbusier's atelier before he completed his studies, and his work displays an impressive outworking of the plastic qualities of concrete, as used by Le Corbusier

at Chandigarh, Unité d'Habitation (1952) and La Tourette (1959). Glaus also adopted the Corbusian 'modulor' system of proportions in the three-to-five-storey blocks. Jakobsgut is situated on Limmattalstrasse, consisting of three separate blocks on a sloping, south-facing plot: two are set back from the road with a large grassy courtyard between them, the third is directly adjacent to the street. A characteristic quality of Glaus's work is the

imaginative use of concrete's plasticity to create an aesthetically harmonious place to live. Particular noteworthy are the numerous concrete projections deployed, including on the balconies and at the edges of the flat roofs that give the facades a pleasingly abstract and irregular rhythm. Concrete mouldings in Cubist patterns, squares and rectangles decorate each individually designed balcony, creating a visual connection between the individual apartments.