



Halen, Atelier 5, 1961.

Siedlung

If Switzerland is to accommodate the 1.5 million more people over the coming generation, every community from city centre to countryside will need to play its part. Ambivalent about big cities, Switzerland has evolved a highly sophisticated, decentralized version of density in the Siedlung. But like so many things evolving naturally, Siedlungen are difficult to define: residential, but not simply housing. And while never completely urban in spirit, they are found in cities. Not bucolic rural, yet they draw qualities from the countryside. Public and private distinctions are of no help, as a

Siedlung can be either.

There are many exceptional Siedlungen in the story of Swiss modernism. Could the generosity of social and landscape infrastructures and the architectural imagination that define the finest example be more than nostalgic utopias from better times and support additional communities – both human and non-human? Could the best Siedlungen be the beginnings of greater things for the greater good without consuming more land and yet more resources?