

serge
schoemaker
architects

JONSWIL VILLA

Jonschwil Villa

In 2025, construction began on an exceptional villa at the edge of a steep river valley in the canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland. The robust home is conceived as two contrasting living atmospheres: a sheltered lower level, partially embedded in the slope, and a light-filled upper level that opens up to air, space, and expansive views.

The design and preparation process spanned three years, during which client and architect carefully refined every aspect of the project. A solid, high-quality construction and durable, weather-resistant finishes were selected to ensure the house will endure for generations. Built to Swiss Minergie standards, the villa incorporates an energy-efficient building envelope, a heat-recovery ventilation system, and solar panels integrated into the roof.

The lower floor is defined by two monolithic volumes, one of which is embedded into the hillside. This level accommodates covered parking, guest rooms, and a wellness area. Walls constructed from local natural stone anchor the building firmly within its landscape and establish a strong dialogue with the terrain.

Between the two stone volumes, an open living space connects the entrance on the valley side with a terrace at the rear. A continuous floor finish and large sliding glass doors reinforce this spatial continuity. Beneath the terrace, a swimming pool can be revealed by means of a manoeuvrable platform.

A circular, wood-clad staircase connects the stone-clad lower level to the light and airy upper floor. This upper living level is conceived as an open concrete frame that appears to rest lightly on the landscape below. The main living spaces are arranged around floor-to-ceiling glazing, framing panoramic views of the surrounding greenery.

In contrast to the more enclosed lower level, the upper floor features an open-plan layout. At its centre stands a sculptural, furniture-like core, around which circulation unfolds along the panoramic facade. In the sunniest corner, a covered balcony offers sweeping views across the dramatic river valley.

LOCATION	Jonschwil, Switzerland
YEAR	2021-2026
STATUS	Ongoing
CLIENT	Private
PROJECT TEAM	Serge Schoemaker, Henrik Holte Maiara Camilotti, Farimah Chaman Zadeh, Lara Fehimovic, Ottavia Profumo













