

## CHAPTER II ***ABOUT WBSC***

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### **WBSC Headquarters**

#### **WBSC HQ inaugural**

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) has officially opened its new and permanent global headquarters on Monday 6 July 2020 in Pully – Switzerland, directly adjacent to the Olympic capital city of Lausanne, to stay close to the Olympic Movement. The new headquarters have been named “Home Plate” and are owned and operated by the WBSC.



*IOC President Thomas Bach and WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari unveiling the WBSC HQ commemorative plaque on 6th July 2020.*

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari welcomed senior members of the Olympic Family, including International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and representatives from the Pully Municipality and Canton of Vaud for the official opening of the new WBSC headquarters.

At the opening, IOC President Bach said: “I’m really impressed by this new headquarters of the WBSC. Not because of its grandeur, but because of its elegance, its style, its functionality and its commitment to the environmental protection and the sustainable building.

Due to the coronavirus international travel restrictions and Switzerland’s COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, the inauguration ceremony was limited to 30 guests.

These included ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti, Pully Municipal Councillor of Town Planning and Environment Nicolas Leuba, Canton de Vaud Minister of Sport Philippe Leuba, IOC Director

General Christophe De Kepper, IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell and the WBSC's Switzerland-based staff.



*IOC and WBSC presidents cutting the red ribbon of WBSC HQ.*

For ASOIF President Ricci Bitti, being based in Pully illustrates the strong Olympic relationship which baseball and softball has, and this is very important for a sport which does not have its roots in Europe. The fact that baseball and softball is so close to the IOC provides a very strong message of unity. The WBSC is the first international sports federation to have chosen Pully as host city.



*Thomas Bach, IOC President and Riccardo Fraccari, WBSC President planting a tree, In Memory of the International Softball Federation and WBSC Co-Founder Don Porter.*

## Location of the HQ

The WBSC headquarters is located in the city of Pully. Pully is a municipality in Switzerland in the canton of Vaud, located in the district of Lavaux--Oron. It is one of the eastern suburbs of the city of Lausanne, located on the shores of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman) and at the foot of the vineyards of Lavaux on the road to Vevey and Montreux. Pully has a population of 19'000 inhabitants. Most of the population speaks French.

The address of WBSC HQ is Avenue Général-Guisan 45. Henri Guisan was the General of the Swiss Army during World War II, and he lived in Pully from 1903 until his death in 1960. His house is now a museum, presenting objects and documents about his life.



*Pully is situated by the lake Lemman, next to Lausanne city.*

## History of the HQ building

The house was erected in 1920 in the typical style of the villas of the Canton of Vaud overlooking Lake Léman.

The villa has a rather large property, with the main entrance on Avenue Général-Guisan on the north side and a large garden that gently slopes down to the lakeshore on the south side. The view from the garden sweeps across the lake, from east to west.

In the 1990s the property was divided into two plots and a modern building divided into apartments and called les Voiles du Léman was built in the plot closest to the lake.

The WBSC bought the property in the summer of 2018 and entrusted the renovation work to architect Enrico Muscioni, who already presented the heart of the project and his vision in September 2018 to the entire WBSC Executive Board in Viera, Florida, United States.

After months of collaboration with various design studios for the realisation of the final project and the approval of the same by the city of Pully, in the spring of 2019, the works could begin.



At the beginning, there were difficulties, as the villa was located in a residential area and having to change the destination of use from residence to office. In addition, the various municipal offices wanted to review the design plans and approve every detail, such as the artistic staircase and the fire-fighting compartmentation.

The heaviest renovations involved the internal structure, the opening of the large reception area, the creation of the elevator cage and of course the complete refurbishment of floors and walls insulation layers, floor heating and cooling systems, as well as of course the plumbing, electrical and technological systems.

On the outside nothing has been touched as a category 3 building of municipal interest. Characteristics are the stones of the lake (also used to build the Romanesque cathedral of Lausanne), the decorations on the windows, the original tiled roof and the decorative spiers.



*WBSC HQ main entrance and his barriers with shapes of base, from the Avenue Général-Guisan.*

### **Characteristics the house**

The new WBSC headquarters meets many of the world governing body's sustainability goals with 90% of the building's electricity coming from roof top solar panels. The new WBSC headquarters was constructed with the environment and sustainability at the centre of its planning. An underfloor heating and cooling system using hot and cold water maintains an ideal office climate, all lighting is made with low consumption led technology while the walls have been insulated with stone wool to maintain temperature levels.

The architect of the house, Enrico Muscioni, from San Marino, was born in Italy, in 1977. He graduated at the University IUAV of Venice in 2005 and was a pupil of famous Croatian architect Hrvoje Njiric. He collaborated with Japanese architect Tokyo Ito and American architect Steven Holl for the design of an exhibition space and a diffuse museum in the Republic of San Marino. In 2013 he won the prestigious Architectural Project Selection for European Under 40 Architects. In 2016 he received the Honorable Mention Boldness and Pragmatism, Creativity and Understanding. In 2018 he received the best Italian Interior Design award.

The HQ interior design is “minimal and contemporary”. The guideline of the project was to have history and the future coexist. That’s why the interior design respects the historical frame of the building. Baseball and softball have rich historical backgrounds. But baseball and softball have also a bright future in front of them.

The goal is that WBSC leadership, staff and guests experience an environment that make them aware of the past but that is also designed to make their day to day work experience easy. Baseball and softball can be easily identified by some objects: a ball, and above all its double stitches, a bat, the home plate. These objects work as thread for the visitor throughout the whole building.

A home plate, made of white and black marble, welcomes the visitor from the floor of the entrance hall of the new WBSC headquarters. Two steps, also made of white marble, leads to the welcome desk. It’s like stepping to the baseball and softball diamond and the visitor can feel the open space of a field.



*Entrance hall of WBSC HQ - the Home Plate, with view on the lake.*

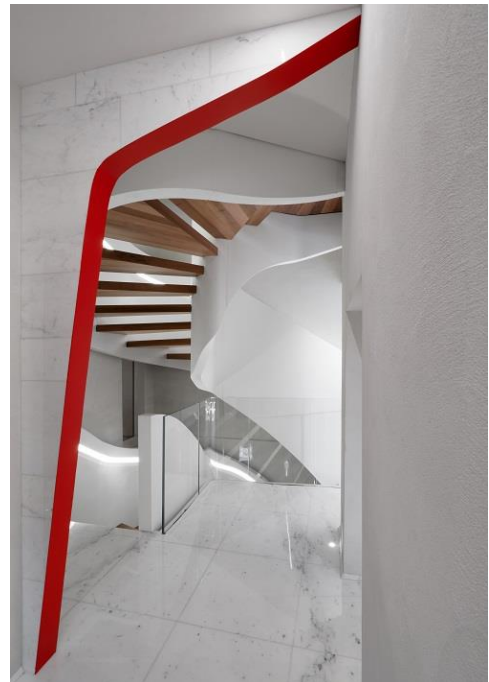


*HQ baseball shape lamp.*

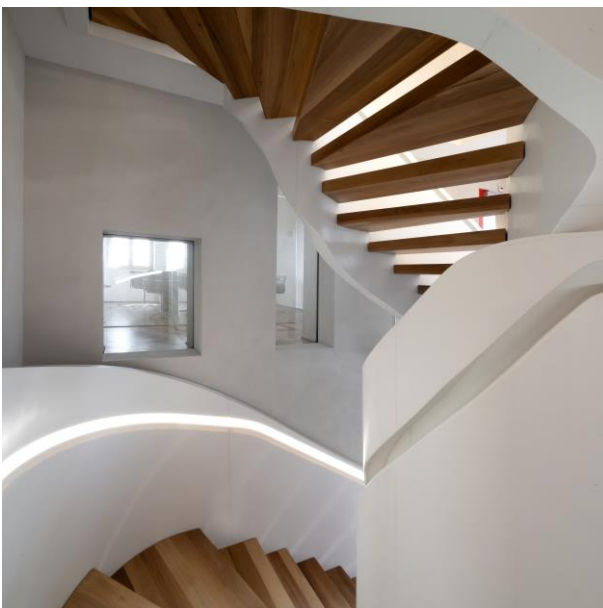
A sculptural staircase, made of a new generation solid surface called Krion, which has the ability to clean the air and prevent the formation of bacteria, is meant to be the heart of the design project. It is seen from every room of the four-floor building. It was conceived by the architect inspired by the movement of the baseball hitter's body. Its shape crystallizes this. White marble and glass, decorated on the interior with a metallic red mesh, are the materials chosen.



*View of staircase and entrance - ground floor.*



*View of staircase with 1<sup>st</sup> floor access.*



*View of the staircase – 1<sup>st</sup> floor.*



*Upper view of the staircase - from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.*



Besides the reception is situated a large meeting room for Executive Board meetings, fully equipped with translation booth, microphones and video conference system.



*Central view of WBSC HQ main conference room - ground floor.*



*WBSC HQ lobby at ground floor level – lake side.*



*Administration office at ground floor level.*

On first floor, the common area has been conceived in order to remind a baseball glove.



*Media director office, outside view – 1<sup>st</sup> floor.*



*Media director office, inside view – 1<sup>st</sup> floor.*

The offices of WBSC President and Executive Director are also on this floor.



*WBSC president's office – 1<sup>st</sup> floor of HQ.*



*WBSC executive director's office – 1<sup>st</sup> floor of HQ.*



*Executive conference room, called "Cheminée room" – 1<sup>st</sup> floor.*



*Terrasse with lake view from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.*



A series of multi-station offices are on second floor. The interior in all the offices is made of American walnut wood. An inlay reminds of the home plate shape.



*Office - 2nd floor.*



*Lounge office - 3rd floor.*

The basement is home to WBSC archives and storage area. Staff finds here a recreational area. Workstations for travelling staff or guests are also in the basement. All of designs encapsulate the spirit of the sport and the direction it is heading in. An exciting journey for all involved.



*Cafeteria view - basement of HQ.*



*External staff and storage area - basement of HQ.*

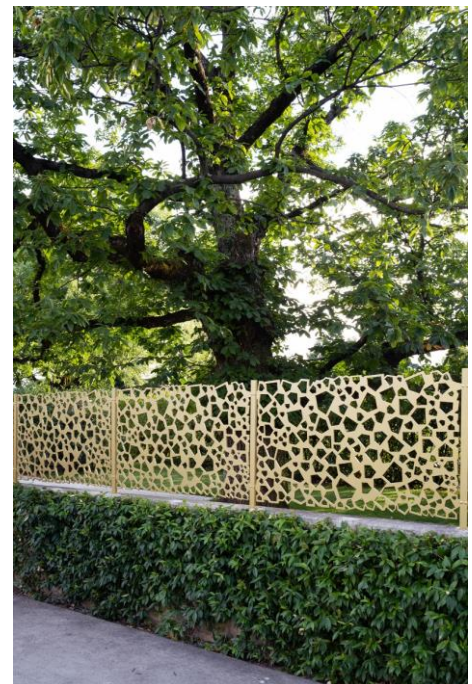




*Front view of WBSC HQ - garden and terrasse.*



*WBSC HQ fence made of Homeplate shapes.*



*Iconic HQ chestnut tree at entrance gate.*