



Gilbert Bretterbauer  
at Garden Lounge  
Swiss Re CGD Rueschlikon



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Gilbert Bretterbauer has been working in Vienna, Japan and the United States throughout the course of his career, designing interiors, producing furniture and creating art objects and installations. Abstraction plays a crucial role in Bretterbauer's versatile practice, manipulating ancient weaving techniques with audacity and wit. He is mostly known for his art carpets, his lamp objects and his furniture made from twisted steel-pipes. Using intense colours, compelling textures, sinuous lines and chaotic perspectives, his objects are never strictly functional but rather seem to be oscillating between art and design.

When speaking about his textiles for the redesign of the Garden Lounge at the Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue in Rueschlikon, Gilbert Bretterbauer points out the multifunctionality of the room, and how its different usages informed the choice of textiles and colours that can be found in the space. Whether the room is set up as a traditional library, a place to hold panel discussions or being used for client trainings, all components can be arranged accordingly in a truly modular fashion, while always maintaining a well-balanced overall appearance.

The conference chairs, armchairs as well as the lounge sofas all differ from each other not only through unique colour schemes but also through different fabrics, while the carpet, the library's center piece, works as a unifying element that encompasses the entire room.

For the furniture, designed by the Austrian architects Hermann Czech and Adolf Krischanitz, Bretterbauer uses a colour palette that is reminiscent of US American painter Mary Heilman, one of the preeminent contemporary abstract painters, also featured prominently in Swiss Re's art collection.

All the while, the light blue curtains in front of the windows mirror the surface of the nearby lake. Thus, with slight gestures he emphasizes and underlines not only the concept's relation to contemporary art and design, but also its direct link to the everyday usage of the room and its surroundings.



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