



## Objectives

### Bench

To encourage a pause in time appropriate to contemplating the site.

### Water fountain

To evoke the collective efforts made by the inhabitants of Visperterminen to bring water to the village.

### Stable and manure pit

To maintain the current utility of the site.

## Insertion into the mineral stratum

A unity in the utilisation of materials characterises the entire village. The stone foundations give over to wood for housing and barns.

The square is perceived as a « great grey basin » from the passer-by's point of view. The paving of the square and the building foundations surrounding it constitute a homogenous mineral unit. The proposed interventions integrate into this mineral stratum and reinforce its character by the use of cold materials.

The wall and the fountain, anchored into the light grey paving, offers a more luminous aspect; they are smooth, in white-sand concrete. In this manner, their tone and texture stand out from the various other cements, stuccoes, and concrete of the square.

## Revalorizing the hillside

In order to reinforce the characteristics of the site, the new elements are designed to accentuate the slope of the terrain. They are arranged according to the orientation of the slope, and they determine horizontal lines.

The screen that rises in front of the manure pit creates a pendant, and follows the geometry of the foundation of the village hall, which defines the square on the opposite side. It backs up to the farm building which it follows without touching it. It is only partially visible from the main street.

The fountain, on the other hand, includes a basin for domestic use in its upper element, and in the lower element contains a watering trough.

## Reinterpreting traditional elements



### Metallic plates

In order to evoke the path followed by water throughout the steep territory of the region, we take our inspiration from the metallic plates which serve to regulate the flow from the *bisses*, or traditional irrigation canals. This symbolic dimension linked to irrigation techniques appears important, in order to avoid reducing this watering point to a simple functional object.

A metal box is inserted into a single basin, which it divides into two bodies of water. This element is perforated in the exposed half, and allows the overflow from one part of the basin to drain toward the other.

### Wooden landings

The bench reinterprets the cantilevered wooden landings used to access the haylofts. The benches are in plywood, reinforced by metal. They are stained to suggest the dark colour of the log structures overhanging the square.

Translation by B. Bouldin, architect EAUG-SIA,  
BA Johns Hopkins University, 29 VII 1996



