



LINN

Lindt 

CHOCOLATE COMPETENCE
FOUNDATION

OT & SPRÜNGLI



Chocolate Competence Center – a vision takes shape

The building of the Chocolate Competence Center marks a major milestone in Lindt & Sprüngli's history as the world's largest premium chocolate manufacturer. Founded in 2013, the charitable Lindt Chocolate Competence Foundation is funding and realizing this major project on Lindt & Sprüngli's factory premises in Kilchberg.

The plans for the multifunctional building were drawn up by Basel-based architects Christ & Gantenbein. The modern design presents a striking counterbalance to the historical Lindt & Sprüngli factory building from 1899 and fits perfectly into the existing surroundings in Kilchberg. The visionary construction project at Lindt & Sprüngli's headquarters in Kilchberg has the aim of strengthening Switzerland as a business location for chocolate for the long term.

The excavation work for the new building started in early 2017. A total of 133,590 tonnes of earth was dug up to expose a football field-sized building pit.

The five floors of the Chocolate Competence Center will boast a multi-media and interactive exhibition, a research facility and show production, the world's largest Lindt Chocolate Shop, a Chocolate Café and a Chocoleria for chocolate courses. A special highlight of the center, however, is the world's largest chocolate foundation which can be found in the entrance area. Located in close vicinity and with ideal transport links to Zurich, the new center is set to become an attractive day-trip destination for 350,000 chocolate fans from Switzerland and abroad.

First stage win: Laying the foundation stone

On September 12, 2017, Ernst Tanner, President of the Lindt Chocolate Competence Foundation's Board, held a celebration for the laying of the foundation stone for the large building. As well as the Board Members of the Lindt Chocolate Competence Foundation, the mayors of Kilchberg and numerous media representatives, around 50 other partners and guests climbed into the pit to symbolically fire the starting gun for the building construction by burying a time capsule. Ernst Tanner told the guests he had invited about his vision of the Chocolate Competence Center contributing towards the future of Switzerland as a business location for chocolate and continuing the pioneering work of the former founding directors. With their spirit of invention and business nous, the pioneers made Swiss chocolate famous across the world and embedded it into the national identity.

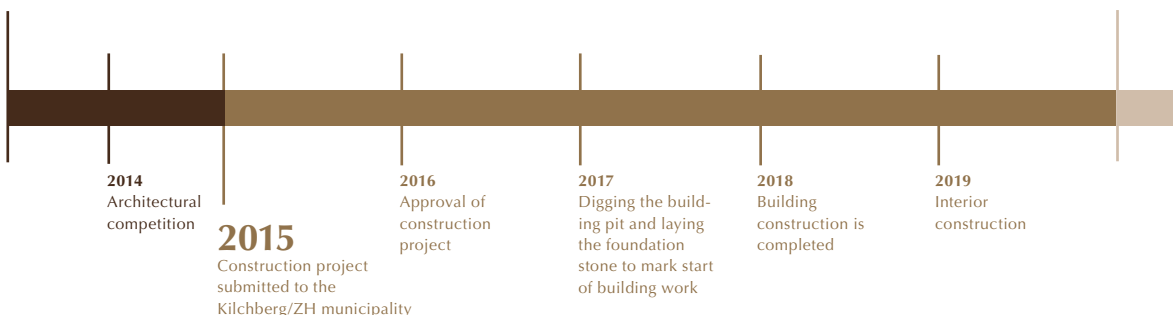
On the back of this, the unique project with the research facility is to sustainably strengthen the innovative spirit of the whole industry. During the ceremony, Ernst Tanner filled the capsule with a chocolate bar produced following the original recipe by Rodolphe Lindt and an annual report from 2015 – the year in which the planning application was submitted. The two items both stand for the tradition and the current success of Lindt & Sprüngli. In addition to the best wishes offered by employees, the other symbols are to bring good luck for the rest of the building construction until the center opens its doors in 2020.

2013

Development of visionary idea of a Chocolate Competence Center

2020

Opening of Chocolate Competence Center





8 meters

The Lindor Chocolate Fountain in the entrance of the center is eight meters tall, making it the largest of its kind in the world.

500 square meters

The world's largest Lindt Chocolate Shop measures 500 m².

250 tonnes

250 tonnes of steel support the slope along the railway line.

The Chocolate Competence Center's interactive exhibition comprises seven different chocolate experience worlds and invites visitors on a journey to discover the origins of cocoa, among other things.



President of the Foundation, Ernst Tanner, fills the time capsules with Lindt & Sprüngli symbols from the past and present.

