

SKIMU VADUZ

Alpine Heritage, Stored Upright

For decades, Liechtenstein housed one of the world's most significant ski collections: thousands of skis, bindings, trophies, documents, and machines gathered by former Olympic ski racer Noldi Beck. His museum in Vaduz was more than an exhibition, it was a personal mission to preserve the material culture of Alpine sport. But after Beck's unexpected death in 2014, the un-inventoried and loosely managed collection fell into uncertainty.

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The Vertical Archive is conceived as a clear architectural response to this history, a new way of safeguarding, presenting, and understanding cultural heritage.

Instead of recreating a traditional museum, the project embraces the idea of visible security. The complete ski collection is housed in a closed high-rack storage tower, accessible to the public only through carefully placed, narrow viewing openings. The objects are not displayed as curated highlights but remain in their raw, structural order, visible yet protected.

This approach transforms storage into an exhibition medium. The tower becomes a physical and symbolic stabilisation of the past, a space where disappearance is no longer possible. From the Liechtenstein Center on the ground floor, visitors can glimpse the archive rising above them, forming the vertical spine of the building. The collection shapes the architecture rather than the other way around.

The design acknowledges the lessons of the old museum: collections built on passion alone are vulnerable, collections with structure endure.

By storing Alpine heritage upright, secured, ordered, and publicly visible, The Vertical Archive turns preservation into an architectural experience. It reconnects Vaduz with a cultural legacy that was once lost and offers a new model for how memory can inhabit space: not through display cases, but through the quiet authority of a protected vertical core.



Figure Ground Plan of Vaduz

1:5000



Situation Plan

1:500

