ingenhoven

Starting House, Ski World Cup, Zermatt

Location
Zermatt

Built

Modular and energy self-sufficient start house for the Ski World Cup in Zermatt.

The World Cup Start House by ingenhoven associates is a lightweight, modular, energy self-sufficient and easy to dismantle pavilion made of high-tech recycled materials with integrated solar panels that can withstand extreme weather conditions. The Start House developed by ingenhoven associates for the Alpine Ski World Cup on the Matterhorn is characterised above all by its energy self-sufficiency and sustainability. The innovative start facility at an altitude of 3,700 metres embodies a pioneering concept for temporary sports infrastructures in the Alps.Energy independence is at the centre of the design. 40 integrated solar panels generate a peak output of 11 kilowatts, powering the internal monitors, launch equipment and lighting. This self-sufficiency not only eliminates the need for additional energy infrastructure, but also significantly reduces the carbon emissions associated with its operation. As part of the 'Snowstainability' initiative, the project promotes sustainable practices in snow sports and sets new standards for environmentally friendly solutions at alpine sports events.The construction of the Start House is based on a lightweight, modular concept that can withstand the extreme weather conditions at high altitudes. With a total

weight of just 600 kilograms, the structure can be easily packed and transported in four boxes. The centrepiece consists of air-filled cushions made of PVC-free, recyclable technical fabric. These cushions are stabilised by connecting fibres between the inner and outer layers, ensuring robust support against alpine weather conditions.The pavilion is anchored using 22 screws that are drilled 1.6 metres deep into the ice. This innovative fastening method enables residue-free removal and thus minimises the ecological footprint. The igloo-inspired shape and shiny silver surface of the Start House blend harmoniously into the snow-covered landscape while offering protection from extreme weather conditions such as wind speeds of up to 200 km/h and temperatures of up to -20°C.By combining advanced engineering, sustainable materials and renewable energy, the Start House tackles the environmental impact of snow sports in an innovative way. It sets new standards for temporary sports facilities and shows how functionality, aesthetics and environmental protection can be harmoniously combined. This pioneering project inspires the snow sports community to champion sustainability and ensure that future generations can enjoy the alpine environment. The renowned design magazine dezeen has presented the project in 2023: >> read article

Awards, Nominations

Team