

Nelly Wenger Associates

CONDUITE STRATÉGIQUE DE PROJETS COMPLEXES
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROJECTS

Biography

Trained as a civil engineer, Nelly Wenger began her career at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; then in 1982 she joined Urbaplan, a Lausanne-based bureau active in the field of project management, economic development, transport, the environment and urban planning. There she managed major transport infrastructure projects (road and rail), and was placed in charge of economic and urban development strategies in Switzerland and Africa. After becoming a partner and board member of Urbaplan in 1991, she developed an area of activity dedicated to the environment and oversaw the opening of branch offices in several cities in Switzerland and abroad.

In parallel to her work at Urbaplan, she also held teaching posts at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and the University of Geneva, where she set up and ran a postgraduate programme in urban management and construction.

She was subsequently appointed head of the regional planning department of the canton of Vaud. During her eight years in office, she carried out far-reaching reform of the department both at an organisational level and in terms of regional development and urban planning legislation and instruments.

She initiated and developed a policy aimed at creating economic development centres (365 hectares), introducing financial and tax incentive measures and guaranteeing efficient economic development. She was then tasked by the government to chair the committee in charge of implementing this policy.

In 1999, Nelly Wenger joined the board of management of Switzerland's national exhibition, Expo.02, a project comprising four sites of 40 hectares each, with more than 40 themed exhibitions, 1,300 cultural events and a budget of 1.6 billion Swiss francs.

Initially appointed as technical, security and logistics director in charge of the realisation of the exhibition sites constructed over the water in collaboration with internationally renowned architects and artists, she was then called upon to chair the management board following a managerial and financial crisis, and succeeded in transforming the event into an unqualified success, with more than 10 million admissions during the six-months that the exhibition was open to the public in 2002.

In 2003, she was appointed CEO of Nestlé Switzerland (with a turnover of CHF 1.4 billion, 2,500 employees and eight production sites).

On 1 October 2007, she founded her own company, Nelly Wenger Associates, an independent strategic management bureau operating on an international scale, with which she has successfully realised a number of major projects. In parallel to this activity, she also founded the World Architecture Summit, an institution dedicated to the promotion of contemporary architecture, of which she is president of the board of directors.

Currently, Nelly Wenger is director of the R4 project, and is responsible for concept development and realisation. This «Sculpture and Visual Arts Portal» occupies a site of more than 25,000 m² on Ile Seguin, an island in the Seine (Greater Paris).

She is also a member of the Strategy Advisory Board of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and of the Académie Suisse des Sciences Techniques.

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2011	Director of the R4 project and president of the SCI R4, responsible for the concept development and realisation of a «Sculpture and Visual Arts Portal» on Ile Seguin
2011	Member of the board of Losinger Marazzi, a Swiss construction and public works subsidiary of the Bouygues Group
2011	Member of the Strategy Advisory Board of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (since 2005)
2011	Member of the Académie Suisse des Sciences Techniques in Lausanne (since 2003)
2010	President of Ingenious Switzerland, an association set up by the Swiss authorities to promote Swiss architecture, engineering and design abroad
2007	Founder and president of the World Architecture Summit
2007	Founder and president of Nelly Wenger Associates
2003–2006	CEO of Nestlé Switzerland
2000–2003	President of the management board of the Swiss national exhibition Expo.02
1999–2000	Technical, security and logistics director of the Swiss national exhibition Expo.02
1997–1999	Head of the postgraduate urban management and construction programme at the Institute of Architecture of the University of Geneva
1994–1998	President of the committee for the economic development centres of the canton of Vaud
1991–1998	Head of the regional planning department of the canton of Vaud (Switzerland)
1982–1991	Partner and co-director of the management board of Urbaplan in Lausanne (project management, economic development, urban planning, transport and the environment)

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Nelly Wenger, Paris 2011,
portrait photograph taken during an
R4 work session

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