culminates in a brightly lit interior with Louis XIV furniture. Mayer's building incorporates similar stylistic contrasts: the art gallery fluorescent ceiling and the undersides of the cases are clearly contemporary, but the general brown colour scheme and golden-draped registry office allude to the 1970s. Throughout, detailing is fastidiously minimal, but some details play playful homage to data avalanches and the joys of administration—for instance, the incredibly dense (and hence illegible) number codes printed on carpets or on ventilation grids. It is a virtuoso play with perception of space, colour, texture and stylistic memory. With this unusual civic centre, Jürgen Mayer H has achieved the impossible and transformed the traditional experiential tristesse of administrative architecture. The endless monotony of corridors and doors has disappeared. 

CHRISTIAN BRENSING

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Rubber floor
Freudenberg Nonplan

Lighting consultant
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Photographs
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Municipal gallery in basement.
4, 5 Minimalist detailing offset by...

...strange 1970s references.

1. entrance bridge
2. entrance lobby
3. pool
4. library
5. library advice
6. office
7. media
8. void over gallery
9. social hall
10. registry office
11. gym
12. terrace
13. kitchen
14. kitchen
15. void over hall
16. adult education

first floor

north-south section through gallery and stairs

second floor

west-east section through artificial sky and market

ground floor (scale approx. 1:1000)