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Bern

My building is a shop in which to hire or buy bikes, kayaks, hiking or climbing gear. Situated in the centre of Bern, these are activities common to the area surrounding it, such as the river Aare and numerous mountains. For the design of the shop, I had to consider the size of the floor space needed to try out the equipment as well as quite a large storage space. I have used an amethyst stone as inspiration for my design as it is a natural form and this shop sells products to be used in nature. This inspiration can be seen in the external cladding of the building. Clad in a dark, rough material, on all the externally visible parts of the structure whilst revealing the unusual textured reflective shapes on all walls that cut back into the building. I wanted to replicate the way that light reflects off the different shapes inside the amethyst on these walls so I have made them differ in angle, colour and transparency. My design differs from the masonry style building common to Bern, however, I think it addresses the lifestyle, climate and needs of Switzerland.

