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37

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IN THIS ISSUE

Knitted and burst open
Creating space sustainably
Heavenwards, step by step



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Wienerberger



THE FUTURE OF CONSTRUCTION LIES IN CREATING SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE (LIVING) SPACES

To respond to the challenges and megatrends of our time, we need concepts that create appealing, affordable and sustainable housing. Flagship architecture projects without exception rely on a combination of utility, ambience and creative problem solving. Successful architecture combines sustainable design and innovative technology, exudes stability and creates enduring values that signpost the way to a greener and more resilient future for construction.

Creating homes that are a joy to live in and embedding construction projects in the public space requires innovative approaches and ecological solutions that create an attractive and living landscape. Projects must offer high quality at an affordable price, make responsible use of resources and express the functional aesthetics of the materials used in harmony with nature.

This latest edition of *architectum* shows how international construction projects can be realized in a way that beautifully combines green building culture, energy efficiency and contemporary solutions – even in a historic ensemble. Particular attention was paid to the successful integration of function, sustainability, climate resilience and energy efficiency.

The following pages provide insights into selected best-practice examples of modern architecture that are as appealing as they are sustainable. From a house that amplifies space while consuming fewer resources thanks to the targeted use of narrow bricks to a historic town center with pavers chosen to authentically combine modernity and the rustic.

I am sure you will enjoy reading about them as much as I did.

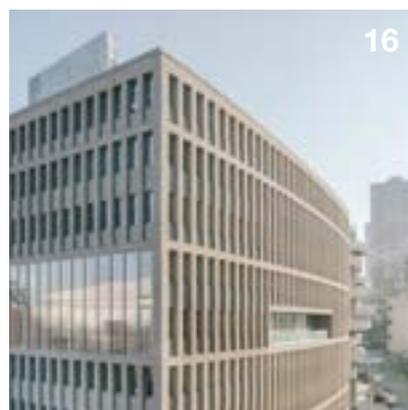
Heimo Scheuch
CEO Wienerberger AG



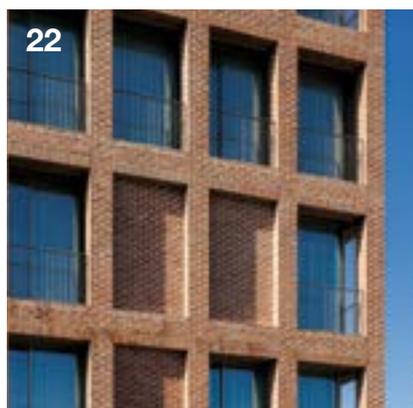
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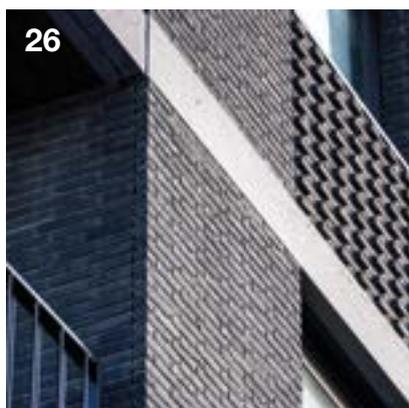
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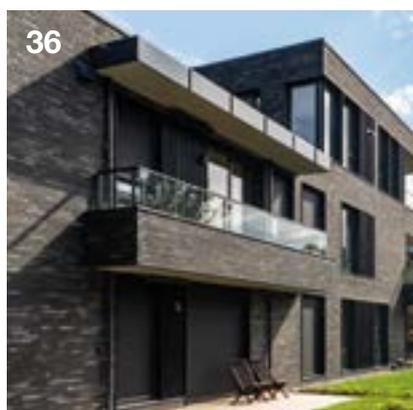
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CLAY BRICK IN THREE PLACES

Like a custom-tailored suit: This residence in Hasbergen was tailored to the needs of its residents both inside and out. For the façade, walls, and entryway, the Engelshove architecture and engineering office relied on a natural product – bricks.



← Flowing façade made of bricks which frames the large windows toward the street – the representative front of the house is also its entryway. >

This house in Hasbergen, near the German city of Osnabrück, draws attention to itself by using bricks in three places – in the façade, walls, and paving. When during the planning process did it become clear that bricks would be the right material here?

Anja Engelshove: The front of the house faces the street on the south and is the representative side from which you enter the building. Behind the house, there is a patch of forest with some old trees. Therefore, the

idea was for the façade to make a strong visual impression and for the building materials to provide long service life and low maintenance despite the proximity to the forest and humidity. From the very start, these aspects dictated that we would use bricks for all three purposes.

What were the arguments for using clay bricks for these three different purposes?

Anja Engelshove: We are very fond of façade bricks, and in our planning, we often rely >

↘ In the interest of privacy, the house was positioned on the slope such that the edges of the lot hide the house's private outdoor spaces from the gaze of passers-by. From the street, only the upper edge of the first-story window is visible.

↓ Sustainable, stable, and good-looking: As a true all-rounder, brick creates a uniform overall look despite the many colours.



> on clay bricks as building material, for façades as well as on the roof and for garden paths and paving. Bricks are a sustainable natural product which remains beautiful for a long time. They do not change shape or colour. They are UV-resistant, and they are stable and extremely durable. When building walls, they offer heat insulation and ensure a good interior climate; on the façade and for paving, they provide aesthetic advantages since they can be used to create a uniform image. We designed the entryway in dark clay, which is reflected in the façade, but at the same time, the façade also distinguishes itself through contrast. Laying the bricks in different ways offers another opportunity to play with different looks.

Did the principals have any special requests for this project?

Anja Engelshove: The family wanted to build a barrier-free house for the next stage of their lives, one which can later be used as a resi-

dence for older people and provide space for children and guests. The upper stories can be converted into a separate residential unit later on, for example. The customer also had very clear ideas with regard to the selection of the material and the colour concept. The request was for a very classic, calm façade which incorporated colour play and thus was also interesting. That's why we selected bricks as the material for the façade.

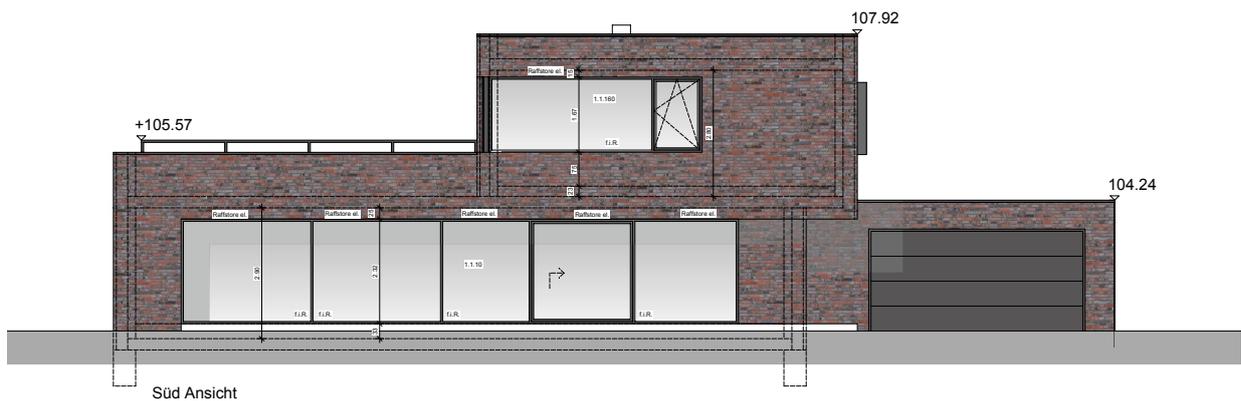
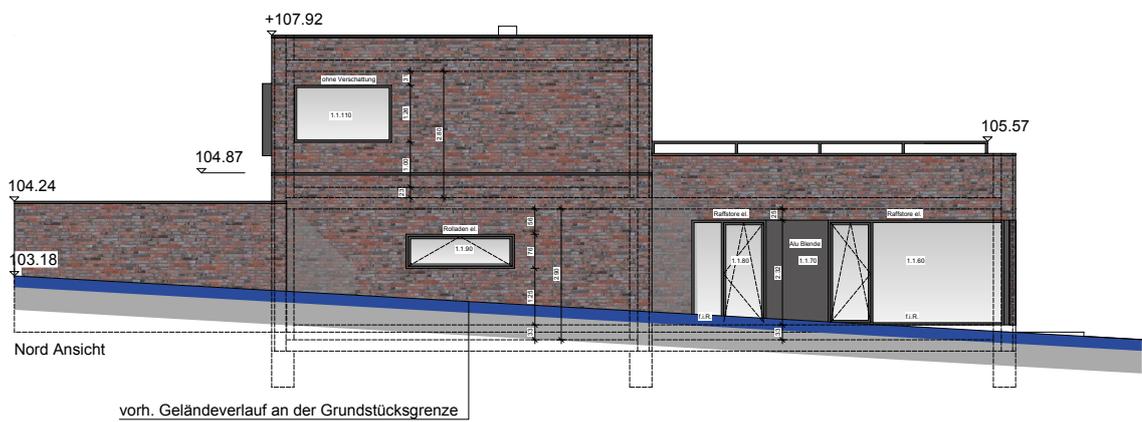
Why did you select Terca Eco-brick® for the façade?

Jochen Engelshove: Shortly before we started planning, we were at the construction trade show Batibouw in Brussels, where the new Terca Eco-brick® was presented. We were really interested in the product: On the one hand, these bricks are sustainable due to their low mass, for a narrower brick means less energy during firing, less clay, and lower resource costs. On the other hand, we also gained space thanks to the narrower size. We were convinced of the advantages and wanted to try out the Terca Eco-brick® right away. In the meantime, we've been using this sustainable product in many projects.

Anja Engelshove: The emphasis on the size was not as important for the project in Hasbergen since the construction site allowed a flexible building size. Of course, it was still an advantage in the planning and resulted in a few square meters of additional living space. The decisive aspects for selection of the façade brick were the look and the variety of colours available in this product line. The mixture of brown, natural-coloured, and somewhat earthy tones, as well as the classic red appealed to us a great deal.

How were you able to persuade the customer of the virtues of a façade brick which was not yet widely used in the construction industry?

Jochen Engelshove: During the second client meeting, we take specific visualizations of concepts to our customers. We always use Wienerberger's textures for this, so that >





Space is gained with the narrow bricks. Furthermore, a narrower brick means less energy during firing, less clay, and lower resource costs.

Jochen and Anja Engelshove



Jochen and Anja Engelshove manage the Engelshove architecture and engineering office, and they were in charge of the project for this residence in Hasbergen.

← Whether by day or night: This residence in Hasbergen is a real eye-catcher all the time.

→ The façade bricks, paved paths, and garden design with pavers must create a uniform whole to meet the standards of the Engelshove architects.

> it's easy to see the surfaces and effect of the façade in the visualization. Furthermore, we work with samples, which show the interplay of bricks and mortar close-up.

Anja Engelshove: We selected a mixture of colours and prepared sample surfaces. The colour mixture was then finalised directly on the sample surface: The principal wanted to have a little more red in the mixture, for example, which resulted in this unique composition.

You work primarily in private residential construction. Are customers asking for anything different with regard to sustainability?

Jochen Engelshove: Yes, absolutely. Everyone is talking about the topic of sustainability in construction, and customers explicitly ask about this. When it comes to funding, the framework conditions have changed: Applicants can only obtain loans on favourable terms or qualify for particular subsidies if certain sustainability aspects are taken into account. Therefore, there is a real focus on this topic.

What, in your opinion, makes a beautiful façade?

Anja Engelshove: We always like it if all the bricks produce a uniform surface and harmonise with the paver bricks in the garden – or, as things are here: with the paver bricks in the entryway. Bricks retain their look over the years because they are UV-resistant and they can be cleaned again and again. In particular for this project, which is right next to the forest, the benefits of a brick façade are clear: A plaster façade would have required renovation after just a few years; the brick,

by contrast, will retain its look for the long term. That's certainly a requirement for our architecture: We want to build timeless projects. A façade is a decision which will last for years and decades. Therefore, timelessness plays a key role in both the look and construction.

Which aspects of the house in Hasbergen do you especially like to remember?

Anja Engelshove: We built a beautiful building, one in which the large expanses of glass and the bricks go together perfectly. The flowing façade surrounds the generous openings in the building and forms a visual frame of brick. The solid brick façade and playful bricks – that's what we find the most inspiring. ◀



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Single-family house, Hasbergen, Germany

Architecture

Engelshove Ingenieurbüro | Architektur | Bauunternehmen, Neuenkirchen

Client

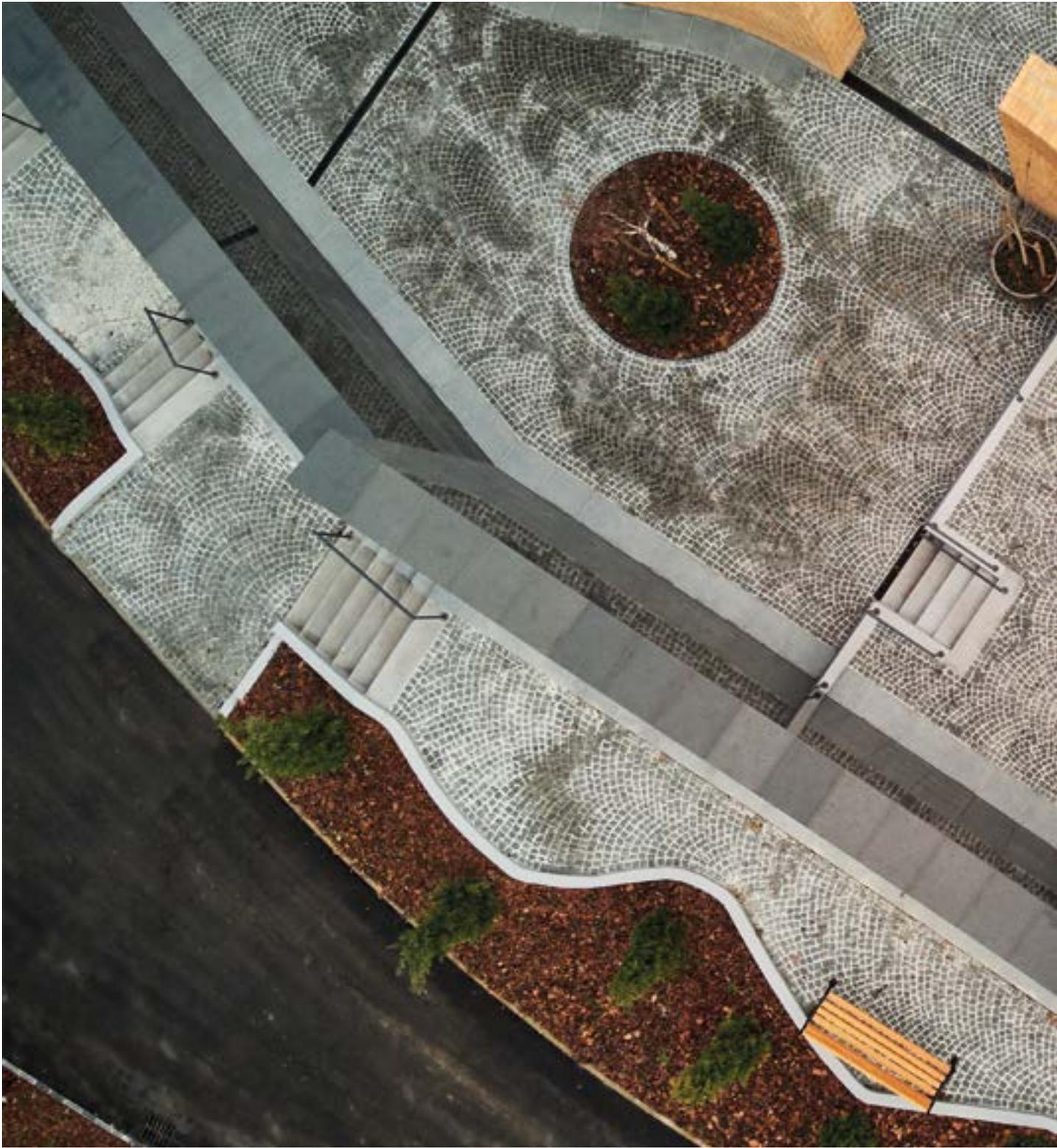
Private

Products used

Façade: Terca Eco-brick®, individual object sorting (Archipolis Onyx Zwart and Cadet Zwart), Wall: Wienerberger Poroton Plan-T and Poroton Hochlochziegel-Plan-T, Pavers: Penter Ares in black nuances

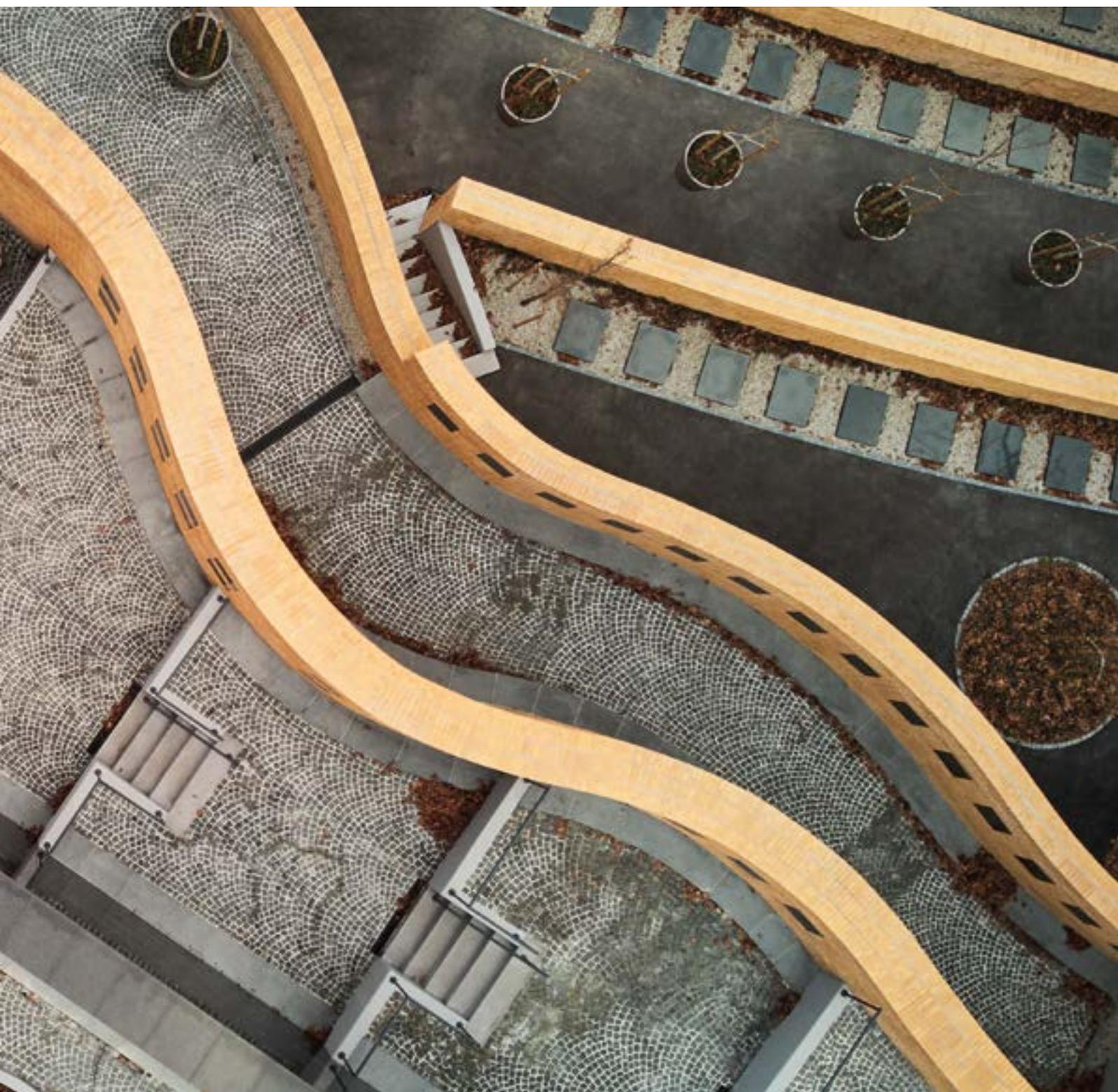
Year of completion

2020



HEAVENWARDS, STEP BY STEP

Bright and organic, with peaceful, private areas: The new urn grove in Zagreb was built as a welcoming place for the contemporary culture of remembrance.



A place to linger in commemoration with a sweeping view over Zagreb, surrounded by natural landscape: The Mirogoj cemetery in Croatia is situated on the slope of the Medvednica mountain. An urn grove was built here in keeping with the style of the crematorium. Since its inaugura-

tion 30 years ago, the crematorium, made of light-coloured brick, has been one of the most important projects in Zagreb. The same architectural firm has now designed an impressive urn grove, which received the BIG SEE Award in 2022 in the category "Landscape and Urban Spaces". >



↑ Light-coloured brickwork in shades of ochre lends personality to the walls of this urn grove. This continues the colour scheme of the adjacent crematorium.

> CURVING PARALLEL LINES

The terrain of the cemetery slopes sharply downward: The 20m incline has been bridged using staircases and ramps. In this green, sloping setting, the burial urns are separated into several levels by the design of the light-coloured brick walls. “The change of elevation that is very striking and dramatic at this site underscores the existing harmony and creates new functional advantages,” explain the architects. Eleven walls run in parallel curving paths along the mountainside and connect directly to the crematorium. The language of shapes and colours and the choice of material for the

design are directly related to the existing architecture: To match the crematorium, Terca Havelland was used, a light-coloured, extruded clinker brick in warm shades of ochre.

PEACEFUL NICHES

The walls run along curving paths, sometimes becoming broader and then narrower again. As they go, they form small, peaceful courtyards, protected from onlookers, and places of greater privacy for remembrance. Benches and resting places for sitting are arranged in an open area. The project was designed around a fundamental approach to the >

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Urn grove near the crematorium, Zagreb, Croatia

Architecture

Arhitektonski atelier Hrčić (Marijan Hrčić, Andrea Hrčić Šesnić); Co-Author: Davor Mance

Client

City of Zagreb

Product used

Terca Havelland / Roja, extruded, in yellow

Year of completion

2021

The cremation cemetery flows gently into the landscape and takes on the shapes and colours of its environment.



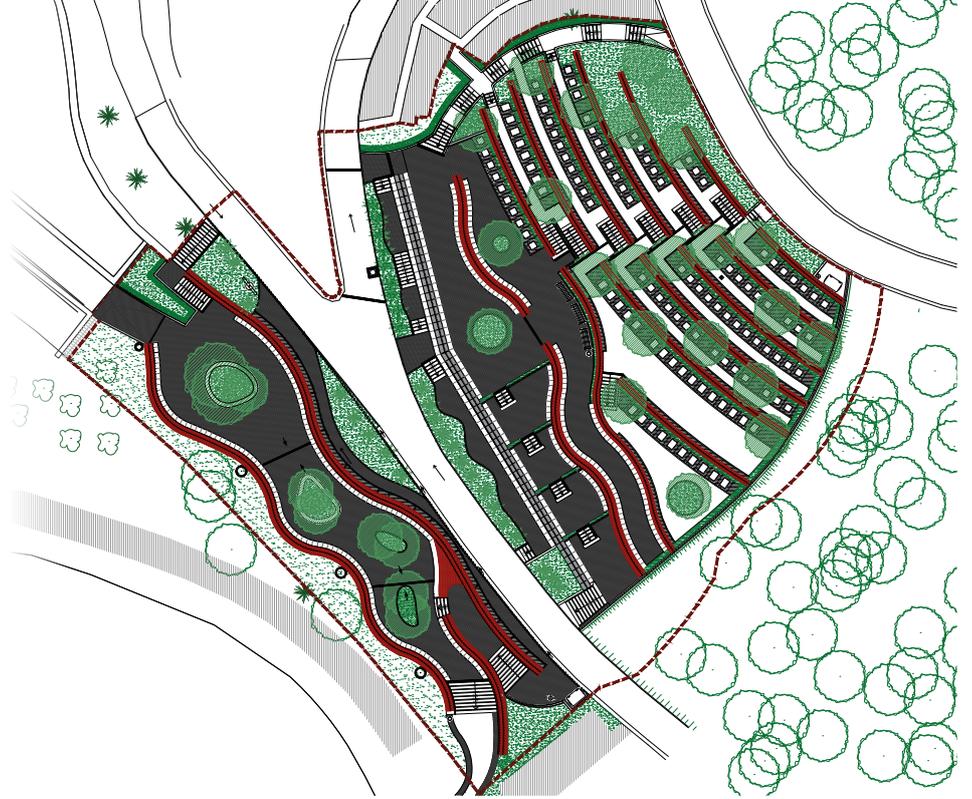


© Photos: Marko Mihaljević / Arhitekonski ateljer Hrzić

← Water-supplying, draining, acid-resistant: The bricks must fulfill various requirements here. That's why the material was selected so that the cemetery walls satisfy all these requirements and will offer a sophisticated, elegant atmosphere in the next hundred years as well.

→ A slope of up to 20m in the terrain had to be bridged, and so the walkways of the urn grove are arranged in various levels.

↓ The new urn grove can be understood as a continuation of the crematorium: The crematorium was planned 30 years ago by the same architectural firm in Zagreb.



> natural material of clay as a basis and to the living natural surroundings as a setting: The architects regard the crematorium architecture as a component “of the dialogue between the ground and the rippling walls submerged into the beyond”. One special element is the black wall made of polished granite. It is the only wall that is not curved. Reflec-

tions of the other walls, of the crematorium and the cenotaph of the cemetery, in which an eternal flame has burned since 1985, are cast onto the polished surface of this wall. The architects chose a reserved and easily interpretable design and consciously integrated the natural surroundings as an element of life within the walls of eternity. ◀



INTERPLAY OF LINES OF VISION

This university building in Nanterre is located in a highly heterogeneous urban area. The matte building envelope, huge window fronts and a scarcely noticeable curvature achieve the impossible.

Nanterre is situated among the office towers and car parks of the business district of La Défense, on the western outskirts of Paris. Multi-storey flat blocks are distributed among huge parking complexes and glass skyscrapers. The disparate as-

pects of the cityscape leave their mark on the district. The Leonardo da Vinci Institute is situated among the mixture of designs and stylistic elements that has cropped up in Nanterre. The architects wanted to create a structural connection between the university centre and the different scales of its urban setting using precise architectural elements. The cube shape and also the matte clinker brick façade played a crucial role in this.

The D914 passes by the building, and the Puteaux Cemetery provides an important green recreational space for residents of the district. The planners integrated the Leonardo da Vinci Institute into this variegated cityscape.





➤ The façade features matte, silver-grey brickwork. This means that the building does not reflect any light and is set apart from the surrounding buildings.

LEANING INTO THE CURVE

The university building is located directly on the D914 motorway and discreetly traces its curvature. Huge window fronts, more than two stories high, give a view in the direction of La Défense and city centre Paris. This creates the first, central line of vision, which provides magnificent views of the city of Paris while also allowing passers-by to get a glimpse into the university and the learning process at the institute. The second line of vision and interaction is in the interior of the classroom building: The spaces were designed to enable fast and easy exchange between students, educators and administrators. The two-storey aperture of many spaces transforms the university into a vertical campus where classrooms, atria and common areas, as well as hallways, staircases and terraces contribute to increase exchange between the students.

DELIBERATELY NON-REFLECTING

The silver-grey façade brick, Terca Agora, creates a chromatic transition to the adjacent residential building, while its ribbed and delicately sandblasted surface speaks in an earthy language that creates a connection to the green area of the cemetery in front of the building. Its matte surface does not reflect any sunlight, making the institute stand out among the textures of the adjacent buildings. The combination of huge window fronts in a gently curving cube-shaped building makes a striking impression from far away. 🗨️

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Institut d'enseignement supérieur Léonard de Vinci, Paris, France

Architecture

LAN (Local Architecture Network)

Client

Nacarat – Bati Conseil

Product used

Terca Agora Silver Grey

Year of completion

2022

➔ Huge window fronts offer a view of the business district La Défense and the city of Paris, and at the same time provide a glimpse into the daily routine of the students.



→ Two different paving bricks in different sizes, as well as the use of natural stone slabs, create an authentic and at the same time modern atmosphere in the squares and the promenade.

RUSTIC, MODERN, AND LIVELY AGAIN

New centre for Zevenbergen: To breathe new life into the town centre around the historic port, clay paving bricks were used, a construction material that creates an authentic connection between the modern and the rustic.

For many centuries, the Dutch town of Zevenbergen had its own port. In the 1970s, however, it became less important and was forced to make way for shopping centres, car parks and multi-purpose spaces. The canal was filled in and disappeared from the map along with the port for several decades. But then, around the year 2000, local politicians and businesses began to take an interest in the town centre once more: They drew up plans for reopening the canal and posed the question of how the area around the former port could be redesigned. One important factor was to ensure water supply, and an additional aim was for the town centre to become a lively place for passing time in the Old Town once again, so that people could hang out in cafés, attend events or simply enjoy strolling by the water. In the end, the repaving of the port and the adjacent squares became an essential part of this successful revitalization: The paving

of the squares and the five bridges over the canal structured the space and created an attractive atmosphere.

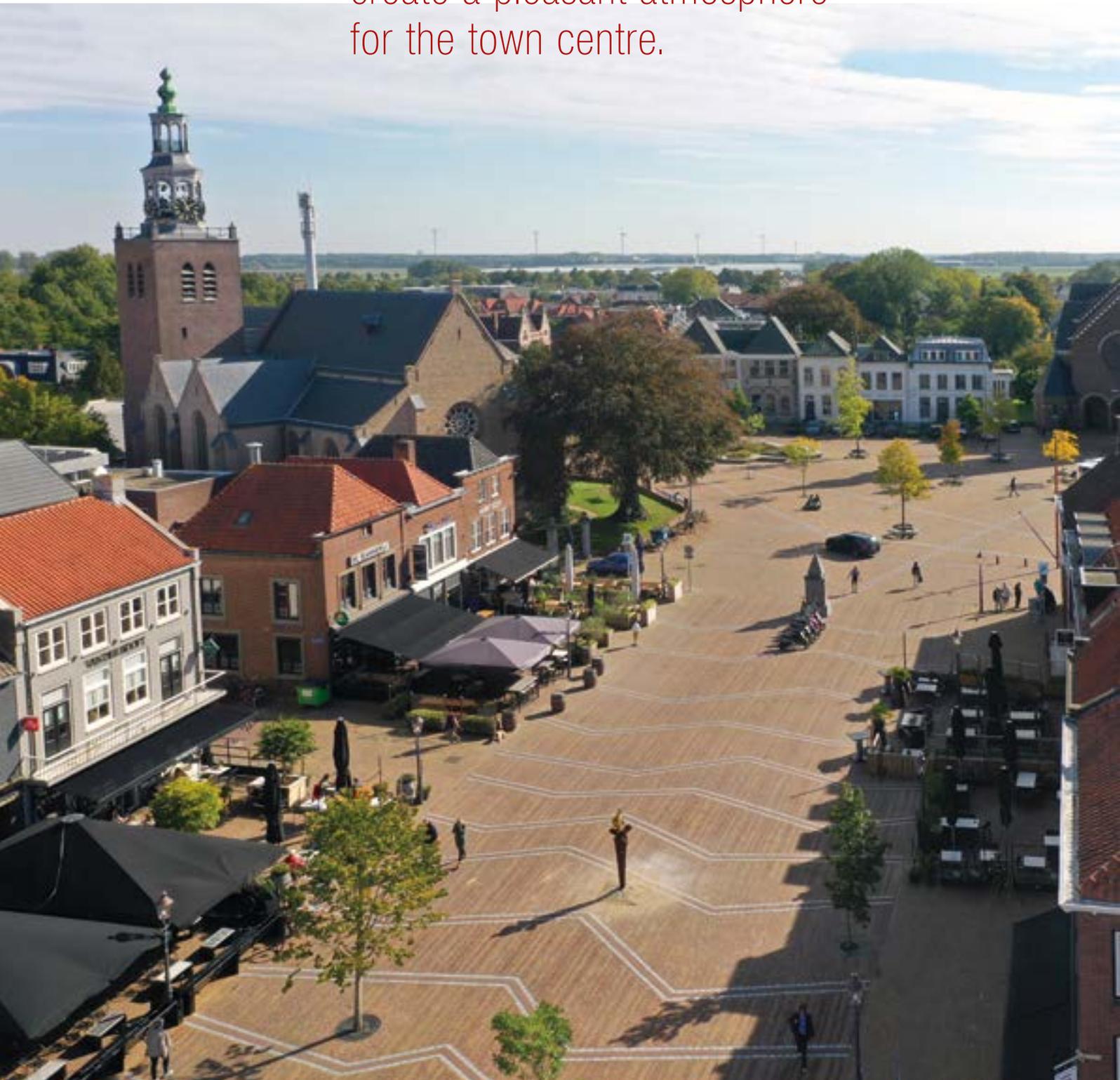
PATTERNS TO PROVIDE BEARINGS

Two different paving stones in several shapes and different patterns were used. The market square was paved in a herringbone pattern using multicolour Terca Auraton paving bricks, which reveal their uniformity when used in bulk. Wide, red-white strips made of single-colour Bruno paving stones run through the square and along the lateral edges and cross diagonally through the market square. They lead to a smaller square near the water, where alternating rows of bricks, some narrower and some wider, have been laid to form a straight running bond. Here too, white-red strips of paving cross through the pattern and lead visitors toward the port, where wide natural stone stairways with paved landings guide them further to the >





Different patterns and shapes break out from traditional buildings. Overall, the bricks create a pleasant atmosphere for the town centre.



→ Orientation and structure: The paving bricks were laid in different patterns. The Auraton, with its different colours in bulk, serves to create an overall rustic look; the Bruno is a paving brick with uniform colouring and was used for clearly recognisable functional areas.



↑ The market square extends to the former port, which came to life once again in the course of the redesign. For decades the canal and port disappeared below ground, but they could now be revitalized for water supply and this valuable place for spending time.

> marina. On the other side of the canal, along the promenade, single-colour paving areas indicate the car park and differentiate between pedestrian and vehicle lanes using different colours. More than 1.5 million paving bricks were laid in the redesign of the harbour quay and market in Zevenbergen. Today the squares and promenade around the old port provide an exquisite place for residents and visitors to spend their time, while also bringing the town's history of back into the centre of life in the town. 📍

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Market and Port in Zevenbergen, The Netherlands

Realisation
Strukton Civiel Zuid

Client
Strukton Civiel Zuid

Products used
Terca Auraton WF and DF
Terca Bruno WF and DF

Year of completion
2021

A PLACE TO STAY

Ageing with dignity and a lovely view? This retirement home takes the wishes of an ageing society seriously and proves that a care facility is not a hospital.



The buildings of this retirement home close to Oporto are staggered and arranged facing each other – which allows for fantastic views.





← In spite of their size, the buildings do not look heavy or severe. This is due to the brick-work look of the irregular, bright red bricks.

Vila Nova de Gaia is a small city on the Atlantic, in north of Portugal. It is south of the city of Oporto, from which it is separated only by the Douro River. Last year a home for seniors was built in this city that aims to offer its residents the most comfortable stay possible. With 120 rooms and many recreational spaces and common areas, the modern residential complex admits both completely self-sufficient residents and bed-ridden residents.

A SLOPE WITH MANY ADVANTAGES

The building site – surrounded by single-family homes to the east and a generous green area





↑ The brickwork look lends the care facility an air of high-end living and modest luxury.

← A complete success: The round openings in the ground floor ensure pleasant luminosity and a positive mood.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Retirement home, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Architecture

Arquitetura e Reabilitação

Client

Ferreira Build Power

Product used

Terca Amberley Red Multi

Year of completion

2022

around the manor house Palaceto de S. Paio to the south – slopes downward sharply. This was a major challenge during planning, explains the architect Nuno Valentim: “Due to the terrain, we had to divide the volume into two sections with a square base.” The building sections are slightly staggered and twisted towards each other, which gives the project a major added value: “This way all rooms had their own unique view.” View and natural light that enters played a central role in planning on each floor. The ground floor, a semi-basement, receives natural light through the interior courtyards and also through eye-catching, round skylights; the rooms in the upper floors are luminous, with views of the nearby park or the Douro River, which flows into the Atlantic here.

PLAIN OR COLOURFUL

The entire building project, both the outside walls and the inside walls, is kept in natural-coloured brickwork. This allows the buildings to blend in harmoniously with their surroundings without making a strong impression. In the interior, all walls are kept in warm shades of red, which makes the retirement home liveable and even cosy. The brick Terca Amberley Red Multi was selected for the façade: “A solid brick of very irregular, bright red colour was used,” explains the planner. The joint on the front of the bricks is also essential to the way the building is perceived. When viewed from afar, the buildings are unobtrusive in spite of their considerable size. No hint of hospitals and old-age homes: This retirement home guides your gaze to the beautiful surroundings. ◀

CREATING SPACE SUSTAINABLY

Nestled among dense urban development and surrounded by historical buildings, the most recent new development project in Amsterdam is currently being built in Oostenburg.



Amsterdam, with more than 4,000 residents per square kilometre, is among the most densely populated cities in the world. Oostenburg is a popular residential area in the centre of Amsterdam, and one of the last districts of the city where new buildings can

still be constructed. Next to the VOC quayside, 70 buildings with a total of 1,800 rental and owner-occupied flats were built. One of these is De Keizer, a seven-story residential complex, whose appearance is defined first and foremost by the black EcoBrick facing bricks. >





> STRICT REQUIREMENTS

Due to the lack of space, a material was sought that would enable the thinnest possible façade: “This is how we decided on the EcoBrick facing bricks from Wienerberger with a thickness of only 65mm, which enabled us to build 1% more living space. We decided on the black HV EcoBrick Agora for aesthetic reasons”, explained the architect Ivar van der Zwan. Floor-to-ceiling windows and two balcony façades allow for maximum light and a private exterior space in each flat. The building is adjacent to a popular promenade, and this is why Brazilian brickwork was chosen in the ground floor area. Van der Zwan: “This means the doors can be left completely open on hot days with no danger of a break-in.” The new building project, adjacent to historical brick buildings, blends in seamlessly with its surroundings thanks to its dark brick façade. “We used this product for the first time in this project, and we were very pleased with it”, sums up Van der Zwan.

SUSTAINABILITY EVEN ON THE ROOF

Where space is tight and appearance plays an important role, building requires a careful

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Appartements at VOC Kade,
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Architecture

Workshop Architecten

Client

Hillen & Roosen

Product used

Terca Agora Zwart HV
EcoBrick in black

Year of completion

2023

© Photos: Maitte Samuels



choice of materials. With 35% less volume, the EcoBrick takes a step in the direction of sustainability: A smaller format means less raw materials and less energy used in production and transport, and hence it is the right choice when the most important factor is a small ecological footprint. “Sustainability in the broadest sense of the word is an absolute prerequisite for a high-end living environment”, in the opinion of Van der

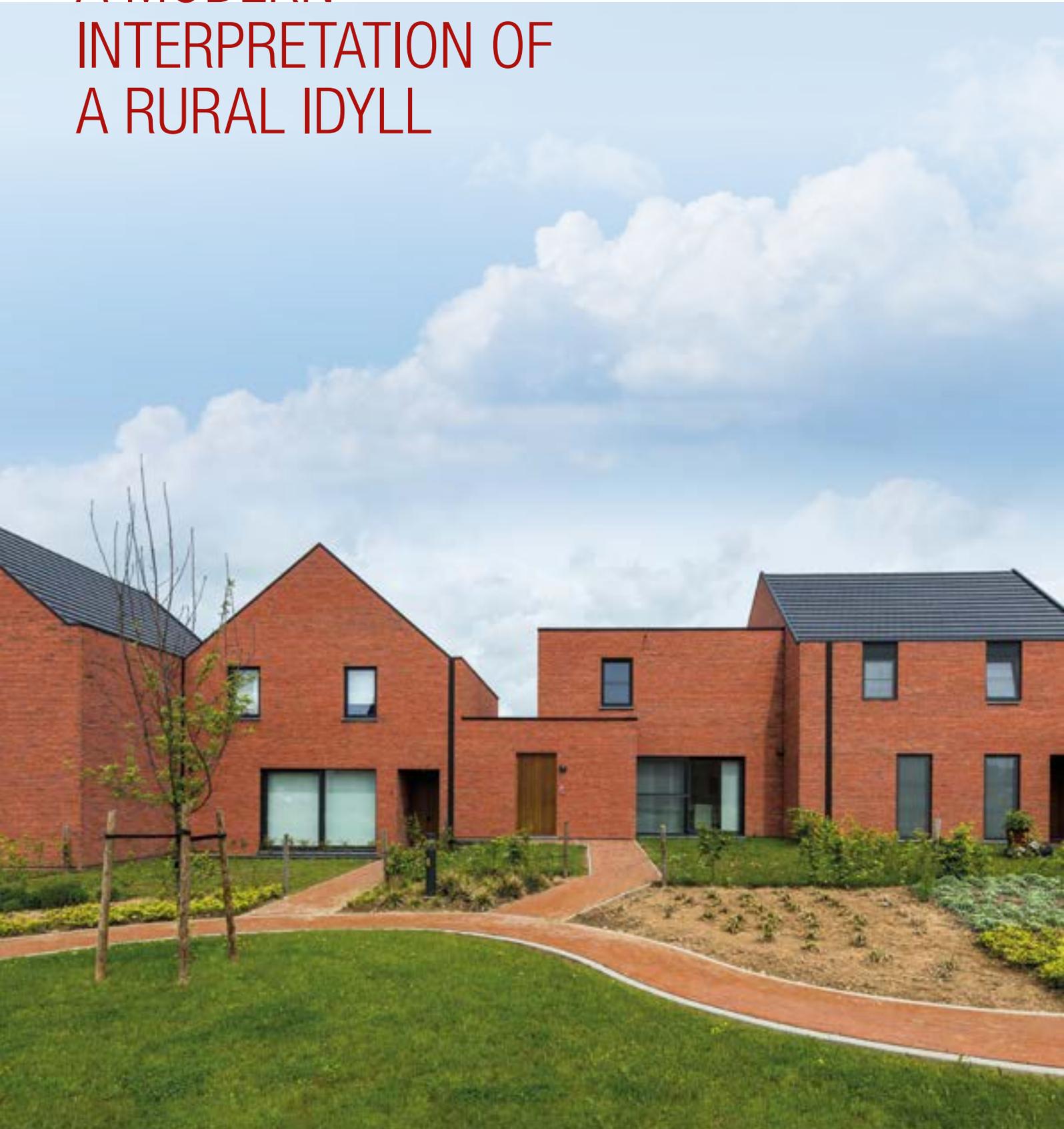
Zwan. This refers not only to the building methods, but also to be community areas: The rooftop garden is planted with perennials and trees and equipped with seating and playground equipment. It also serves as a rainwater collection facility. “A high value was placed on quality of life with lots of space for contact with the neighbours both in the building and also in the central courtyard”, says Van der Zwan. ■

← High standards for ecological sustainability also determined the choice of the building materials. A lower volume of the brick reduces emissions in production and transport.

↓ High-end, urban and post-industrial – the new residential and office district in Amsterdam’s Oostenburg neighbourhood.



A MODERN INTERPRETATION OF A RURAL IDYLL



A restored farmhouse and gatehouse with a new look:
A new building project with a community garden and historical flair was constructed in Belgium using a former farm with a listed historical brick house.

It was a typical farmhouse of which there are many in the Belgian region of Hespen-gau: In the town centre of the small town of Sint-Truiden, there was a brick house with a striking gatehouse listed as a historical monument. This construction was to be reused in a residential housing project, combining modern living standards with references to history. The architect Sophie Helaers was in charge of planning: "In collaboration with the town of Sint-Truiden, we came up with the idea to use the layout of the former farmhouse as the basis for the building project." At the site of the former farm, 18 residential buildings were constructed, arranged in a square around the central, semi-private open area. The gatehouse near the road was renovated in accordance with its protected status and divided into two housing units.

RICH CONTRASTS IN SHAPE AND COLOUR

The residential buildings have no frills and follow a strictly geometrical line around the central garden. The main entrances of the building open on the courtyard, creating a sense of community in the park and garden areas. For the façades, the architects chose Terca Metropolis Aula Red Eco-brick, which reflects the traditional architectural style. In the designs, the bricks were laid matte, in smooth or rough planes, which gives the façade a variegated, natural look. Eco-bricks are 5 cm narrower, which means they are more climate-friendly and the customer also gains more living space.

For the roofs, the architects wanted a darker contrast: The matte clay roofing tile Koramic Datura in anthracite reflects almost no >

↓ The bricks for the façades and roof tiles were chosen so that the new buildings and refurbished gatehouse would match the region's traditional architectural style.



A new building project with community garden and historical flair has been developed from a former farm with a listed historical brick house.

> light, thus allowing the roof to fade elegantly into the background. The combination of the roofing tile and façade bricks give the complex a modern appearance, while still reflecting the style of the regional traditional farmyards with their brick look. The garden with its winding paths and curving shapes contrasts with the rigid arrangement of the buildings. Large trees create shade and give the open space the feel of a park. Here the architects used the paving brick Authentica Rood, a low-maintenance and durable paving brick in slightly varying reddish-brown tones. This revisits the slightly matte and nuanced image of the façade.

URBAN LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

After their inauguration, the compact residential buildings attracted mainly young families and older people. A modern rent-to-buy arrangement enables the residents to first rent the residential units and then after various years to acquire them for the remaining amount. With this method, the former farmhouse was able to embody the most modern living standards without losing its historical reference point. ◀

© Photo: Wienerberger





The building sections are arranged around a community courtyard – inspired by a classic square farmstead.





FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Ruytershoeve, Sint-Truiden,
Belgium

Architecture

Heia! Architecten (Sophie
Helaers, Zoutleeuw)

Client

Gilen Woonprojecten

Products used

Paving bricks: Wienerberger
Authentica Red,
Façade: Terca Metropolis
Aula Red Eco-brick,
Roof: Koramic Datura
Anthracite matt

Year of completion

2021

↑ A winding path through the interior courtyard to the residential buildings, each with its own garden in front.

← The looping paths do more than just perfect the overall look; they also lead barrier-free into the home of young families and older people.

PLAY OF LIGHT IN DEPTH

Listed building and a historical cultural landscape: The Norwegian residential building project Veritas Have was a challenge, and today it is classic example of high-end, urban living in amidst greenery.





About half of the population in Norway live in the most densely populated region of this Scandinavian country, the Oslo Fjord around the country's capital city. The population is increasing, and additional living space will continue to be needed. In Veritaspark, a short way outside the city of Oslo, in the Høvikodden District, a residential building project consisting of four new buildings and a total of 48 flats was recently created. Since it is situated next to historical red brick buildings and surrounded by lush green areas, sensitive planning was required. The wooded area includes several buildings worth preserving, which had formerly been put to industrial use. "There is seldom the opportunity to plan on this type of lot," as Hans Bernhard Biserød, Project Manager at Make Arkitekter AS, enthusiastically affirms. "We have taken a great deal of care with the cultural landscape, the site and the buildings worthy of preservation. We intended for the new buildings to be varied and to fit in with their surroundings."

HOMOGENEOUS BRICK FAÇADE

For this new building, the architects chose the dark façade brick Linnaeus graphite

black. The lightly embossed surface of the brick gives rise to a multi-faceted play of colours in different shades of grey and black, which is elegant and rugged at the same time. Biserød is evidently fascinated by the properties of the surface: "The brick, with its fine texture and surface, is extremely beautiful. The brick façades make an impression that differs over the course of the day when light from different directions strikes them. The façade facing south is perceived differently than the one facing north." The graphite-black colour theme is intended to give the façade depth. Moreover, the slender format of the brick emphasizes the intense, horizontal effect of the façade, which is divided by ledges and balconies. In addition, the brick has a low weight due to a perforation in its core. "That was important in order to achieve the load-bearing solutions that we wanted," says Biserød. The main factors in the choice of the brick were its long life and aesthetic qualities, as well as its load-bearing capacity and its natural raw materials. "The special thing about clay bricks is that they age in a very pleasant way: In contrast to many other materials, their aesthetic qualities increase over time." ◀

↑ The slender clay brick enhances the horizontal effect on the façade, which provides the building with a consistent design element.

← The residential building project Veritas Have was built a short way outside of Oslo in Veritaspark, an extensive green area with listed historical buildings. Sensitive planning and building was required here.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Veritas Have, Asker, Norway

Architecture
Make Arkitekter AS

Client
Profier

Product used
Linnaeus Graphite Black

Year of completion
2021

EVERY LAST JOINT IS SUSTAINABLE

A completely sustainable neighbourhood is being built in Copenhagen, Denmark. The bricks used in the façades also had to meet this requirement.



← Sustainability in every aspect: In keeping with the overall sustainability-oriented approach to the urban development area, all materials used meet the highest environmental standards.



← A light beige and the darker shade “iron” lend structure to the façade of Strunges Hus.

↘ The choice of jointing mortar lends structure to the façade of Bella 3N: The jointing mortar in lighter and darker shades between the LESS bricks in “coal” creates visual variety.



The “Bellakvarter” in Copenhagen is built in full awareness of the growth of the world population and the continuous flow of population into cities. The new urban development zone aims to become a flagship project for sustainability, and it was granted DGNB Gold Standard environmental certification in advance of its construction. Accordingly, all buildings and the materials used in them must meet the highest environmental requirements. At the same time, the residential buildings of the new neighbourhood must conform to Nordic building methods and aesthetics: The development plan stipulates a brick building in earth tones.

beige, is used for the flat surfaces, while the darker shade “iron” is laid around the window openings. Lighter-coloured mortar connects the two shades so that the façade has a single consistent look. Bella 3N, in contrast, features intense black brickwork: The LESS brick in the colour “coal” creates an impressive, extended plinth area around the building. Two different colours of mortar provide structure to the façade by hinting at the borders between different floors and separating the ground floor area with shops from the upper floors with offices and flats.

SUSTAINABLE CONCEPT

LESS brick belongs to a line of eco-friendly bricks that were fired with biogas, and requires 10% less raw material. This made it possible to reduce CO₂ emissions in production by up to 80%. “The bricks play an important part in the design of the façades of the buildings, where we have worked with classic brickwork details and different colours of mortar,” explain the architects. The bricks met the architects’ aesthetic criteria, as well as their sustainability requirements, without going over budget. Thomas Walcher explains: “We selected sustainable bricks that are also a high-quality product that matches our budget.” ■

MODERN FAÇADE

The Danish architectural firm “Urban Agency” took full advantage of this colour palette in two of its projects in “Bellakvarter”, choosing bricks in shades of grey and black for Strunges Hus and Bella 3N: “Each of the buildings stands out as unique with its own individual design, which makes it easier to get one’s bearings in the city,” says the architect Thomas Walcher, explaining the colour scheme. The façade of Strunges Hus is light beige and an intense medium grey. Here they used the sustainable LESS brick in two different shades. LESS brick in “flint”, a light

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Bella 3N / Strunges Hus,
Copenhagen, Denmark

Architecture
Urban Agency

Client
V8 Construction

Products used
LESS façade bricks
EW0450 Jern,
EW0449 Kul,
EW0447 Flint

Year of completion
2022

QUALITY THAT YOU CAN AFFORD

The students in the university city of Bielefeld need high-quality, affordable living space. This residence hall packed maximum living space onto a small lot, while remaining casual and airy thanks to the design of the façade.

Students are not a very financially strong target group. And so providing affordable accommodations is more of a social endeavour than a profitable business move. Bielefeld is a university city in north-western Germany where about 23,000 students live every year. Temporary residents need affordable, furnished living space that also makes possible a high quality of life. This type of living space has now been built in the north of the city, about 10 minutes by bicycle from the University of Bielefeld, in a quiet residential area. The available construction site is situated in an area of single-family homes and flat blocks, bringing with it strict urban development requirements for the architects. The facility was to be built on a limited lot of 7,000 m². And so a very compact structure was created, consisting of five different buildings with 163 barrier-free residential units for 235 students. To keep the structures from becoming too weighty, the architects developed a special design concept for façades and open space: Intervening spaces between the individual buildings and details on the façade lighten up the overall appearance.

INTERPLAY OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS

The design is based on a bright reddish brickwork with a hand-made look. In the opinion of the architect Boris Biskamp, find-

ing the correct construction material for project like this was the essential task: "We must imagine which material would ultimately do the job and how its surface and colour would evolve against the backdrop of light, joints and processing." Together with the builder, they decided on the Terca water-struck brick Moran from Wienerberger. Red-orange pastel shades with white slurry were chosen for the rough, rustic-looking brick, which in combination with brightened and darkened joint areas makes the façade look lightweight and effortless. The interplay on the façade of open, closed and ornamented surfaces varies its appearance and softens the blocky volumes of the buildings, which became necessary due to the compact layout. The details and texturing on the façade create atmosphere and help integrate the buildings into their surroundings. ◀

→ The transparent structural concept and the waterstruck bricks utilised create a spacious appearance and a bright, welcoming atmosphere.



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Student residence hall, Bielefeld, Germany

Architecture

Rübsamen Partner Architekten BDA

Client

Studierendenwerk Bielefeld AöR

Products used

Terca Moran waterstruck in pastel red-orange with white slurry

Year of completion

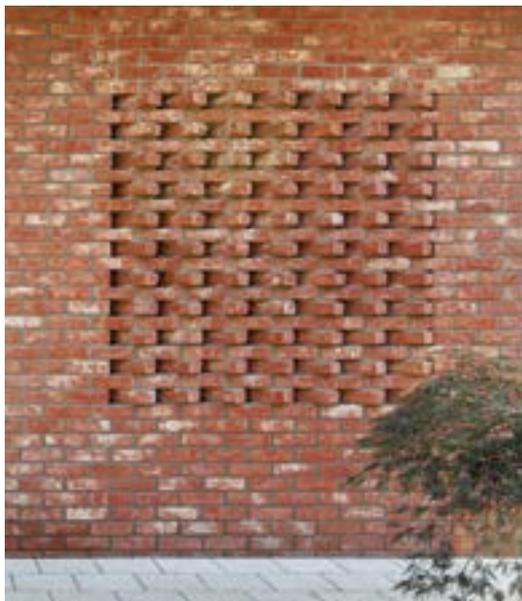
2019



↳ Thinking around the corner: With fine accents such as the windows on both sides, the overall look gets an elegant touch.

↓ The brick chosen with white slurry in combination with different jointing mortars provides the façade lightness and effortlessness.





- ↑ Captivating details on the southern façade:
The window behind is pleasantly shaded
by the perforated brickwork.
- Metal, glass and brick reflect a slightly
industrial aesthetic and do not draw
attention to themselves.

← The two structural sections of the 215 m² single-family home are set apart visually using two different textures.



SUBTLE ELEGANCE

Flowing spaces, seamless transitions, free configuration – this is what sets apart this private home in the small town of Otopeni, Romania, which appears from the outside to be half brick and half simple white.

The building envelope is supposed to be unassuming at the aesthetic level – the uninterrupted flow between interior space and garden was paramount for the builder. The combination of three materials, brick, glass and metal, creates an unmistakable language of colours and shapes, which also strikes a definitive contrast between the rustic sand-blown brickwork in Terca Patrimonia Opus of the façade and the white upper storey. “Our top priority was the visual communication between the interior spaces and the garden area through the large window panes separating the living area and the terrace. At the aesthetic level, we decided on a clear and unmistakable architectural language with simple volumes and a limited number of textures,” explain the architects. The choice of materials is in keeping with a slightly industrial look: Metal pergolas and anthracite-grey woodwork, large window panes and roughened brickwork with yellowish-white inlays that take on a uniform appearance only when taken all together. The yellowish-brown ribbed brickwork on the façade also lends the building an elegant vintage flair. The upper storey is kept simple and modern and is indicated on the main façade with only a single window. It is perched like a truss on the lower storey and projects slightly forward.

WITHOUT ANY FUSS

The main façade faces southward towards the road. On this side, there is only one window in the upper floor, for two reasons: Privacy and protection against the summer heat. For the same reasons, the window in the lower floor was bricked in with clinker bricks in a perforated pattern, which meets the functional requirements while also serving as an eye-catching variation in the brickwork and giving rise to changing lighting effects in the interior. Two different product solutions were utilised on the exterior, which served to set more representative areas of the garden apart from paths for private use. AirPave Monaro porcelain slabs were used on the path to the front door of the house and on the terrace, and thanks to their large format they give an impression of openness and create a pleasantly cool feeling when walking outside in the hot Romanian summer. Small-format La Linia concrete pavers in light grey were laid around the house, giving the footpaths a classic look. The garden forms a barrier against the street and the neighbouring properties since the design consciously avoids creating any discontinuity. The architects and builders did not wish to create a shift in paradigms but rather to integrate the home aesthetically into a simple residential area. ■

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Cube House, Otopeni, Romania

Architecture

Razvan Barsan+Partners and Hertz Studio

Client

Private

Products used

Terca Patrimonia Opus, Semmelrock La Linia combi pavers in light grey AirPave Monaro porcelain slabs in grey

Year of completion

2021



KNITTED AND BURST OPEN



Living where others go to get away from it all: This home in Vilnius with a grey clinker brick façade that blends into the natural surroundings is situated in a local recreation area.



↑ Purely natural: The warmth and comfort of the green surroundings and the natural materials make themselves felt in the whole house – the essence of a home, as the architect says.

The district of Verkiiai is not far from city centre Vilnius. This mystic place, popular among the city dwellers of Vilnius for short or longer excursions, is the subject of many legends and tales. Here there are numerous natural recreational spaces, bordering on the capital city of Lithuania: The regional park of Verkiiai attracts visitors to its forest spa and green lake in the northwest and entices bathers. Strolling along splendid banks of Neris River is a common pastime. The family living on “Fairies Road” (Laumių str.), with the help of the architectural studio A01, had a simple but modern house built, which appears all of a piece due to the consistent design of the façade. In spite of the recesses, protrusions and tiers in its cube shape, the house has a coherent appearance. The discontinuities in this consistency give rise to a spatial dynamic on the >



↑ Lighting design, metal details and floor-to-ceiling windows in combination with the grey façade brickwork give the architecture its powerful personality.

→ The modern home with numerous recesses and protrusions seems to be made from a single mould.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Private house in Vilnius,
Lithuania

Architecture

UAB „A01“ architects: Živilė
Putrimaitė, Greta-Anelė
Labanauskaitė, Darius
Romanovskij

Client

UAB Vilkedra

Product used

Terca Pagus Grijs Zwart

Year of completion

2022





A place of tranquility and yet always in motion – the knitting pattern of the facade ensures that the sight of the building is never boring and there is always something new to discover.



> façades, making interpretation easier: The foyer, the living and dining areas, as well as the private bedrooms can all be understood from outside, and provide reassuring guidance inside. Large windows and a well thought-out lighting design help the rather somberly designed house make a friendly overall impression.

LIVING IN A RECREATIONAL AREA

The natural grey brick Terca Pagus Grijs Zwart was chosen for the façade. The knitted look, enhanced by the disparate arrangement of the brickwork, is visually striking and varied and symbolises warmth and cosiness – in the words of the architect, Žilvě Purimaitė: “the pure essence of a home”. A special vertical pattern was chosen for the

main entrance: two units of bricks laid with the longer side toward the wall and perpendicular to each other. Laying the bricks in this manner meant that a thicker foundation had to be built. As a final touch, subtle lighting was added to give a third dimension to the ensemble.

The terrain of the property slopes slightly downward – the architects decided not only to conserve these uneven surfaces but even to express them visually in the house. The upper storey is divided into two areas with different heights that mirror the terrain in the garden. And so, for those living in the interior, the different levels create a vibrant feeling. Tall windows and the dark brickwork, as well as the metal details on the façade make a powerful architectural statement. ◀

