

architectum

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- Energy efficiency and design

SPECIAL EDITION
BRICK AWARD 22

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BRICK AWARD WINNERS AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

In volatile times it is essential that we remain firmly focused on a sustainable future. Our Brick Award helps us do just that. With 789 entries from 53 countries, the tenth Brick Award once more impressively demonstrates its international relevance as an independent platform for innovative and contemporary brick architecture with a focus on resource-efficient and sustainable building.

In this latest special edition of *architectum*, we are proud to present the five winning projects and the overall winner of the competition. A high-caliber jury of international architects judged projects in the categories “Feeling at home”, “Living together”, “Working together”, “Sharing public spaces” and “Building outside the box”.

Besides the use of clay building materials, selection criteria included the degree of innovation, the sustainability of the construction process, architectural quality, fitness for purpose, energy efficiency, circularity and, last but not least, the feel-good factor.

Once again, the projects submitted this year are superb examples of remarkable, unique and innovative architecture. Thanks to the building material brick, they are also robust, energy-efficient, sustainable and resource-efficient. In a nutshell, they have all the characteristics that are so vital if we are to successfully deal with the impacts of climate change and ensure that future generations enjoy the same opportunities we have today.

We hope that as you leaf through this magazine, the winning projects of this year’s Brick Award will be a source of inspiration to you. We have always cared about providing a platform for outstanding design and architecture concepts and ensuring they receive the appreciation and recognition they so richly deserve, and never more so than in these challenging times.

Heimo Scheuch
CEO Wienerberger

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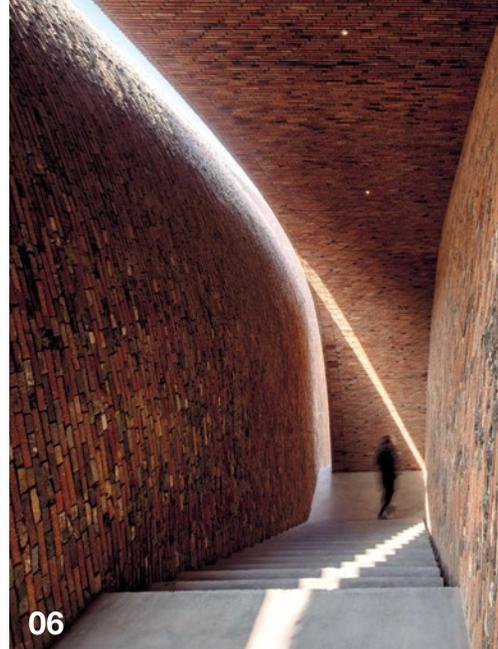
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WIENERBERGER AG WIENERBERGER BUILDING SOLUTIONS, A-1100 Vienna,

Wienerbergerplatz 1, T +43 (1) 601 92-0, marketing@wienerberger.com,

twitter.com/wienerberger, youtube.com/wienerbergerofficial

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THE BRICK AWARD

This award recognises and celebrates exceptional brick architecture from around the world. It creates a platform for architects and planners to present their innovative and creative projects and designs to an international audience.



Architecture can achieve great things and unite cultures and nature, as demonstrated by the outstanding buildings that won the international Brick Award 22. For the tenth time, Wienerberger shone a spotlight on exceptional brick building projects from all over the world. The aim of the Brick Award is to act as a torch bearer and source of inspiration for architecture, planning, urban development and culture. The 50 nominated projects also demonstrate the aesthetic and functional potential of ceramic building materials. The project selection process focuses on certain specific criteria and five specialist categories. The most important criteria is that a significant part of the project must consist of clay building materials, such as clay blocks, clay facing bricks, clay paving bricks, clay roof

tiles or clay façade panels. The building could be a new build, renovation or conversion project, and the bricks can be new or reused. In particular, the jury looks at how projects combine functionality, sustainability and energy efficiency. Although Wienerberger is the sponsor of the Brick Award, there is no requirement for participants to use Wienerberger products in the projects. The following pages present both the outstanding winners in each category and the eminent jury that chose them. You can view all the nominated projects and find further information at www.brickaward.com

THEY SELECTED THE CHAMPIONS

The Brick Award 22 jury is made up of highly qualified architects from five different countries. They share a passion for architecture and their different approaches and specialisms complement one another. Together, they chose the most outstanding buildings.



Jesper Gottlieb

Studied at the University of California, Berkeley and in the architecture master's programme at the Royal Danish Academy of Art. Before becoming a partner at Gottlieb Paludan Architects in 1993, he worked in the USA and Denmark and taught at architecture schools in California, New Mexico and Copenhagen. He has won numerous awards for his contribution to industrial and infrastructure architecture and most recently the Brick Award 20 in the category Working together for the Delft Municipal Archive.



Tina Gregorič

Born in Slovenia, she completed her postgraduate studies at the Architectural Association in London in 2002. She worked with Zaha Hadid Architects, taught at the Architectural Association and Graz University of Technology and founded Dekleva Gregorič Architects in Ljubljana with Aljoša Dekleva in 2003. The studio was nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Award, received the Wan House of the Year Award 2015 and an award at the International Architecture Awards 2012. Since 2014, she has been a professor and head of institute at Vienna University of Technology.



Ingrid van der Heijden

Discovered architecture after a career in marketing and carpentry. She is the co-founder of Civic, an internationally active architectural practice in Amsterdam that was established in 2015. Civic designs public institutions, public spaces and sculptures. The architect aspires to a sustainable architecture that will still be as interesting in 50 years as it is today, founded upon poetic pragmatism, timelessness and a forward-looking approach.



Wilfried Kuehn

A partner at the architecture firm Kuehn Malvezzi as well as a curator and author. He has been teaching at the Vienna University of Technology since 2018. The architecture firm, founded in 2001, became internationally known for redesigning numerous museum buildings. Kuehn Malvezzi's work has been presented in several international exhibitions, such as the 10th, 13th and 14th Architecture Biennales in Venice and the 1st and 2nd Architecture Biennales in Chicago.



Brigitte Shim

Born in Jamaica, she graduated from the University of Waterloo in Canada with a degree in architecture and environmental sciences. In 1994, Shim and her partner co-founded the Shim-Sutcliffe Architects studio in Toronto. Shim is a faculty member at the University of Toronto and has taught at Yale University, Harvard University, Cooper Union, Auckland University and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Shim-Sutcliffe have been awarded the Order of Canada.



ARCHITECTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Climate change, limited natural resources, growing demands and ever more stringent legal frameworks for an ecological building culture that includes energy efficiency, sustainability and preservation of historical monuments require new architectural approaches. Under these new conditions, how can architects make a difference with their designs and choices of certain building materials, such as bricks? The symposium Architecture: Connecting Nature and Culture, which took place on 10 June 2022 on the occasion of the Brick Award 22, dealt with this and other issues currently being faced by the architecture industry.

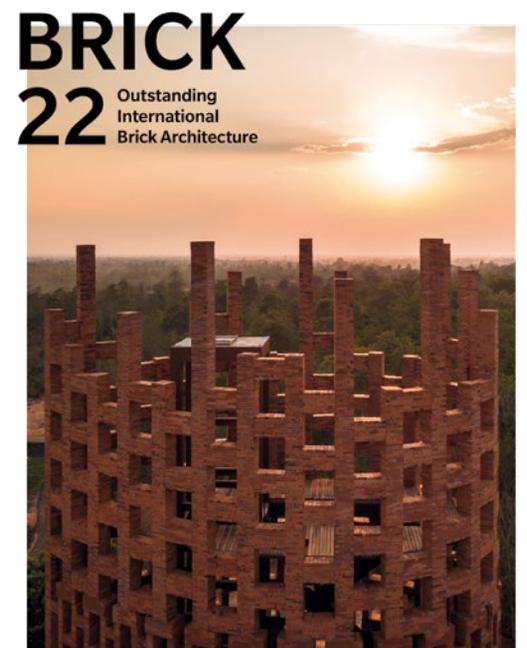
Promising developments include buildings constructed using local materials to reduce waste and energy consumption and building envelopes with green façades. Other methods include concepts in which existing buildings are not demolished but preserved through careful conversions and extensions. A more research-based focus is taken by architects developing innovative technologies, processes and prototypes, such as on-site robotics and digital fabrication in the construction industry.

All in all, these approaches combine nature and culture by designing architecture that promotes an environmentally sustainable future. The symposium's five eminent speakers, Kathrin Dörfler (AT/DE), Lina Ghotmeh (Lebanon/FR), Wilfried Kuehn (DE) as well as Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu (CN), shared insights from their respective fields and discussed how architects can make a significant contribution to the built environment. The symposium was moderated by Nicole Stoecklmayr (AT).

A HOMAGE TO ALL THE NOMINEES

For over two decades, the Brick Award has recognised innovative building solutions and exceptional creativity in the use of brick building materials. This year also sees the publication of the Brick Book, which presents all 50 nominated projects. The project descriptions are accompanied by spectacular photos and informative plans. Just like the award itself, the book is divided into the categories "Feeling at home", "Living together", "Working together", "Sharing public spaces" and "Building outside the box". At the start of the section about each category, you will find essays on current hot topics by renowned journalists and architects. The first volume in this series of books, which is produced in conjunction with Park Books, was published in 2004 and focuses entirely on brick – a timeless material for pioneering and innovative architecture.

The book BRICK'22 is available in English and German in bookstores.



The cover of BRICK'22 features the project The Elephant World by the architectural firm Bangkok Project Studio from Thailand.



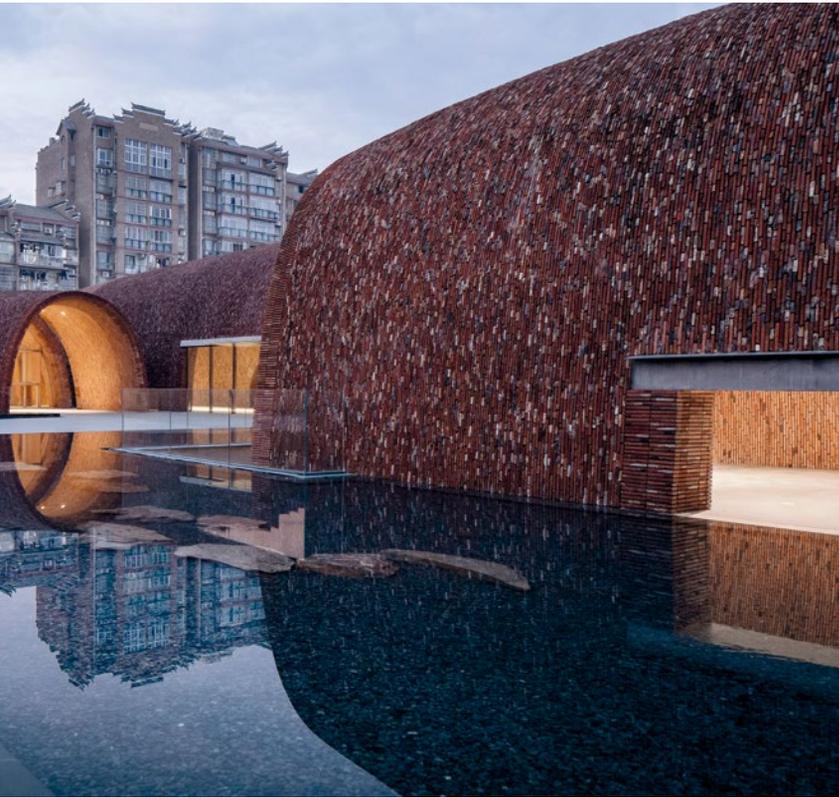
The vault is illuminated by slots on the sides and points of light on the ceiling, creating a unique atmosphere. By using reclaimed bricks, the architects pay tribute to the building material and its history.

BRICK
22 Grand Prize
Winner

SHARING PUBLIC SPACES

A TRIBUTE TO TRADITION

The city of Jingdezhen in China has a long history of porcelain production. The Imperial Kiln Museum focuses on the reinterpretation of traditional kilns, harking back to a local tradition and the history of China.



The entrance to the museum lies between two shallow pools of water. The buildings differ in size and scale. Some are open at the ends, others are closed.



The eight cigar-shaped vaults are reminiscent of the traditional shape of porcelain kilns and vary in height, length and curvature.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Museum,
Jingdezhen/Jiangxi, China

Architects

Studio Zhu Pei;
Architectural Design &
Research Institute
of Tsinghua University
Beijing/China

Client

Jingdezhen Municipal Bureau
of Culture, Radio, Television,
Press Publication and Tourism,
Jingdezhen Ceramic Culture
Tourism Group

Product used

Facing bricks

Year of completion

2020

Eight parabolic brick vaults form the Imperial Kiln Museum. It is dedicated to the porcelain history of the site and is located next to the ruins of the Ming Dynasty imperial kiln. Designed by Studio Zhu Pei, the cigar-shaped buildings vary in height, length and curvature, emulating the traditional shape of porcelain kilns.

OPEN YET CLOSED The barrel-shaped buildings are arranged side by side in a slightly higgledy-piggledy cluster with a north-south orientation. This ties them to the city's street layout while providing natural ventilation for the museum during the hot summer months. The building ensemble consists of two ground-level and five underground exhibition halls. Walking from Imperial Kiln Relic Park through the woods and over a bridge between two shallow pools of water, you reach the museum's foyer. Behind it are more exhibition halls and courtyards, each with a separate theme: gold, wood, water, fire and earth – all the materials needed for porcelain production. Other vaults contain the museum offices, an auditorium, a café and a tea room.

LIGHT-FLOODED VAULTS Daylight is directed through the courtyards into the basement levels. On the upper floors, light falls through the glazed or open ends of the buildings, through horizontal light slots above the floors and through skylights in the ceilings that resemble typical kiln smoke holes. When furnace ruins were discovered during construction, one of the vaults was cut open in the middle to integrate the historical sites. The masonry construction is also based on traditional kiln-building methods: as in ancient times, the vaults were constructed from double-shell brick walls without using scaffolding and then filled with concrete. A total of 2.8 million bricks were used – a mixture of new and reclaimed bricks that were left over from the demolition of old kilns. This is because porcelain kilns are demolished and rebuilt every two to three years to preserve their thermal properties. This system of reuse has a long tradition in Jingdezhen. Bricks from demolition sites are found in many buildings in the city and now also in the Imperial Kiln Museum. The recycling concept, careful handling of the site's heritage and the complex spatial design combine to make this project spectacular. It offers everything required of a public space and was not only awarded the prize in the Sharing public spaces category, but also the Grand Prize of the Brick Award 22. ■



The House that Inhabits merges neatly into its surroundings. The upper floor faces the street and has a narrow balcony across its entire width. The balcony is fully glazed and belongs to the apartment.

MATERIAL AS A STATEMENT

In Babahoyo, Ecuador, the architecture collective Natura Futura has used brick and wood to make a statement for urban living and against commercialisation.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

The House that Inhabits – Productive Urban Living, Babahoyo, Ecuador

Architects

Natura Futura

Products used

Clay blocks, facing bricks, paving bricks, roof tiles

Year of completion

2020

The architecture collective Natura Futura see their project – The House that Inhabits – as a statement: that not only opposes the commercialisation of the city, which marginalises many people, but also gives brick a symbolic function as a building material and puts it centre stage. The aim was to demonstrate the versatile qualities of a building material that otherwise tends to be associated with a poorer section of the population and is concealed rather than displayed.

DIVERSE USES The elongated house was built on a plot of 12 x 30 m. It references a traditional house type

found in Latin American cities and is designed for versatile multipurpose uses. There is commercial space on the ground floor and an apartment and five rooms housing an educational institution on the overhanging upper floor. Two sides of the building are obstructed by other buildings, so a narrow exterior corridor was created and a gap left between the walls and the ceiling. This brings daylight and natural ventilation into the interior. Strips of skylights provide additional light. The front of the building is taken up by the apartment's fully glazed balcony. The exposed roof structure is made of wood, another material that is associated with poverty and that has been skilfully highlighted in this project.



Daylight falls on the uneven structure, drawing attention to the brick walls. The bright interiors radiate peace and restraint.

BRICK
22 Category
Winner

FEELING AT HOME



The combination of the all-brick design, meticulous planning and clever use of daylight give the building a tranquil yet elegant ambience.

BRICKS WHEREVER YOU LOOK The project uses bricks in many different ways and formats: the partition walls are built using stretcher bond, the outer façades are finished with continuous joints and the balcony parapet uses a pattern of protruding bricks. When light falls on the walls, the rough, irregular structure of the individual bricks creates a dynamic surface. A brick pavement and bench draw the material out of the building into the outdoor environment and showcase brick as a

modern, high-quality building material that can also be used for these alternative purposes. The multipurpose nature of The House that Inhabits makes it a perfect example of a social meeting space for urban situations. It draws attention to small initiatives that make a positive contribution to the quality of urban life in the centre of the modern city. The combination of unorthodox spatial organisation and the chosen materials makes The House that Inhabits a true manifesto. ■

The three apartment buildings contain a total of 88 residential units and one commercial space with a total floor space of 6000 m².



THREE SISTERS ON THE BANKS OF A CANAL

In Pantin, France, Avenier Cornejo architectes have erected three buildings on the banks of the Canal de l'Ourcq. They contain a total of 88 apartments, are arranged in a semicircle and enclose a small courtyard that opens onto the canal.

The Canal de l'Ourcq flows through the Paris suburb of Pantin. Its banks bustle with joggers and cyclists while pedestrians linger in the cafés, bistros and museums. And it is right here, on rue Danton, that a residential project has been constructed. It is a complex of three buildings housing 88 residential units and a business premises. Together with two existing buildings, they form a semicircle that encloses a small square opening onto the canal.

THREE SISTERS WITH THREE IDENTITIES The three buildings could be siblings, as they are similar in propor-

tions and design, yet each has its own personality. The design of each is determined by the shape of the plot and its orientation towards the canal. A two-storey orthogonal block sits atop each of the three-storey or four-storey buildings, each of which is shaped to follow the irregular site boundary. Roof terraces are located on the resulting tiers. Apartments facing the street have loggias and those facing the garden have balconies. The most noticeable difference, however, lies in the materials used to create the three buildings. The free-standing structure is made of red brick, while the other two buildings are clad in more subdued anthracite and light grey brick.



LIVING TOGETHER

BRICK
 22 Category
 Winner

Each building has been assigned its own colour yet all share the distinctive use of brick with the qualities of texture skilfully brought into focus.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

88 housing units + 1 retail space,
Rue Danton, Pantin, France

Architects

Avenier Cornejo architectes

Client

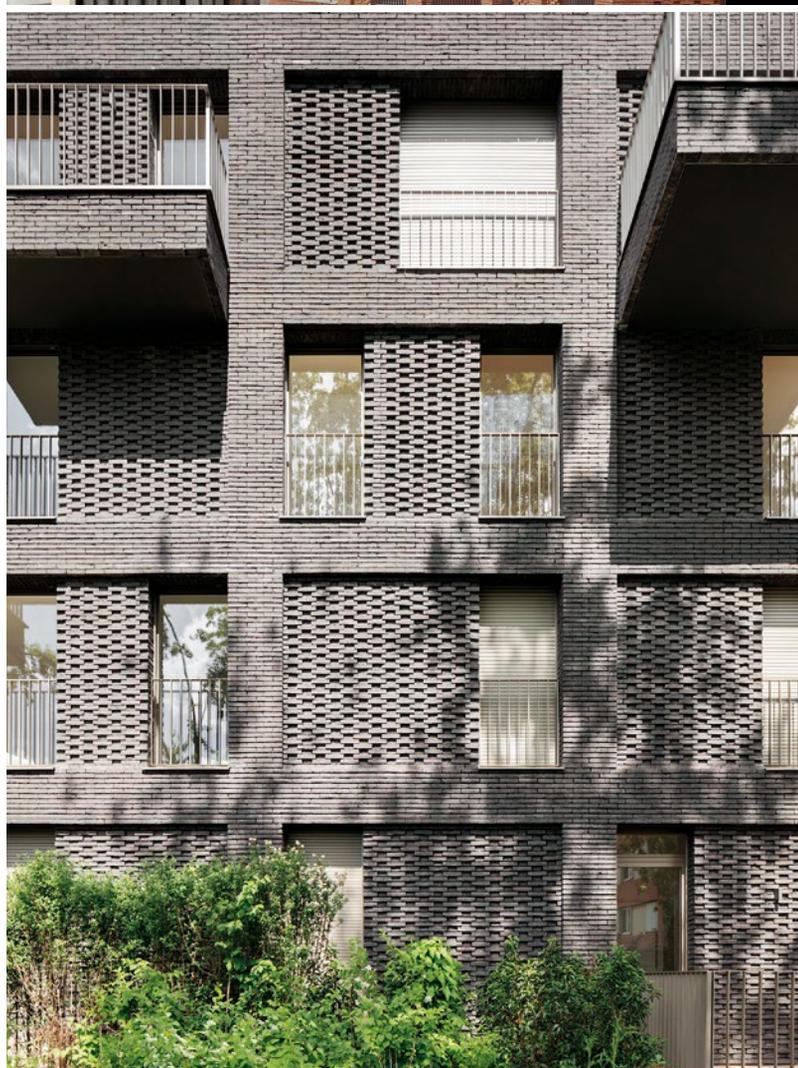
Emerige Résidentiel, SEMIP

Product used

Facing bricks, paving bricks

Year of completion

2019



Depending on the weather, the façade reflects and takes on the mood of its surroundings; this was one of the requirements for architect Christelle Avenier.

The hand-formed bricks used for this purpose are laid in stretcher bond with hollow joints. The window sections are set in contrasting Flemish bond with the header bricks somewhat recessed to create a relief effect. The same bricks were also used to pave the path that meanders through the old trees in the garden. These old trees were specially preserved to provide shade and offer a constant view of greenery. The garden also supports biodiversity as the rest of the plants are robust, local species that require little watering or care. The roofs were also planted and treated as a kind of fifth façade. This complex project managed to perfectly integrate no less than three buildings into an existing built environment. In this way, Avenier Cornejo architectes demonstrate how we can achieve modern community living. A clear victory in the Living together category. ■

UNITY IN DIVERSITY But even though the three blocks differ in colour, the frames and ornamentation of their façades speak a common language. The façades are designed as grids with slightly recessed, seemingly woven fields and horizontally off-set bricks around the window and loggia openings.

Solid walls, deep-set windows and light lime plaster are the distinguishing features of the building.

BRICK
22 Category
Winner

WORKING TOGETHER

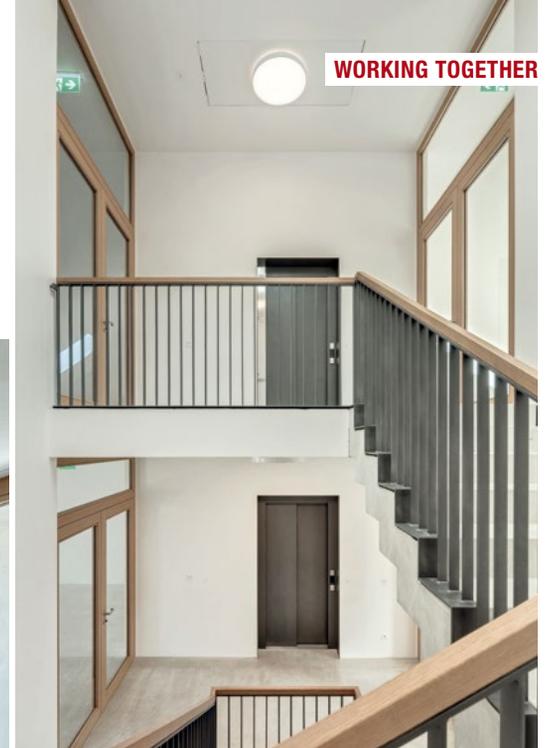
HOT TECHNOLOGY AND COOL WALLS

Baumschlager Eberle Architekten designed the 2226 Emmenweid project in a historical industrial quarter in Emmenbrücke, Switzerland. The name comes from the structural engineering concept that generates a stable indoor temperature between 22 and 26 degrees Celsius using building techniques alone.

A pleasant temperature of 22 to 26 degrees Celsius in the office all year round without incurring extortionate electricity bills? Baumschlager Eberle Architekten have solved this conundrum by using sophisticated brick technology. The new building has a 560m² footprint and pale lime plaster. Its generous windows are set deep in the walls and give the façade a regular structure. A hipped roof without flush edges completes the appearance and emphasises the bulk of the building. A recessed section in the façade creates a striking horizontal line that establishes a relationship with the neighbouring buildings and references the previous building.



The massive core section is surrounded by a wide, multipurpose area without supports or load-bearing partition walls.



Designed in close coordination with the heritage authorities, the new building echoes important characteristics of the previous building in its footprint, roof design and proportions.

THICK BRICKS, PERFECT TEMPERATURE The architectural concept of the four-storey building is simple and designed to allow a wide variety of uses. The inner core contains stairs, sanitary facilities and kitchenettes. This is surrounded by a broad multipurpose area with no load-bearing partition walls that can be flexibly configured as needed. The wall structure regulates the indoor temperature. The walls consist of two layers of bricks, each 36.5cm thick; one as a load-bearing and insulating wall, the other as insulation alone. Unfilled large brick blocks were used. These provide efficient vapour diffusion and have a high thermal mass that stabilises the indoor climate without any need for heating or cooling systems. The exposed concrete ceilings also serve as thermal mass. The fact that no additional technology is needed makes the construction particularly durable.

SIMPLE YET SUSTAINABLE The windows also contribute to the simple yet sustainable overall concept. Deep window reveals define the building's distinctive external appearance and shade the interior. The window sills are made of precast concrete elements and form 2-cm deep troughs. Rainwater can collect here and evaporate, which should prevent rainwater damage. The ventilation system regulates the indoor fresh air content and humidity and is the only sensor-controlled component in the building. In addition to its spatial and climatic qualities, 2226 Emmenweid demonstrates that innovative principles can be applied to commercial office construction, a philosophy that highlights the importance of constancy as we leave the era of mechanical building services behind us. The result is a building that will stand the test of time and provide a steady indoor climate around the clock and in all seasons. 

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
2226 Emmenweid, Emmenbrücke,
Switzerland

Architects
Baumschlager Eberle Architekten

Client
Brun Real Estate

Product used
Clay blocks

Year of completion
2018

OLD BRICKS WRITING NEW HISTORY

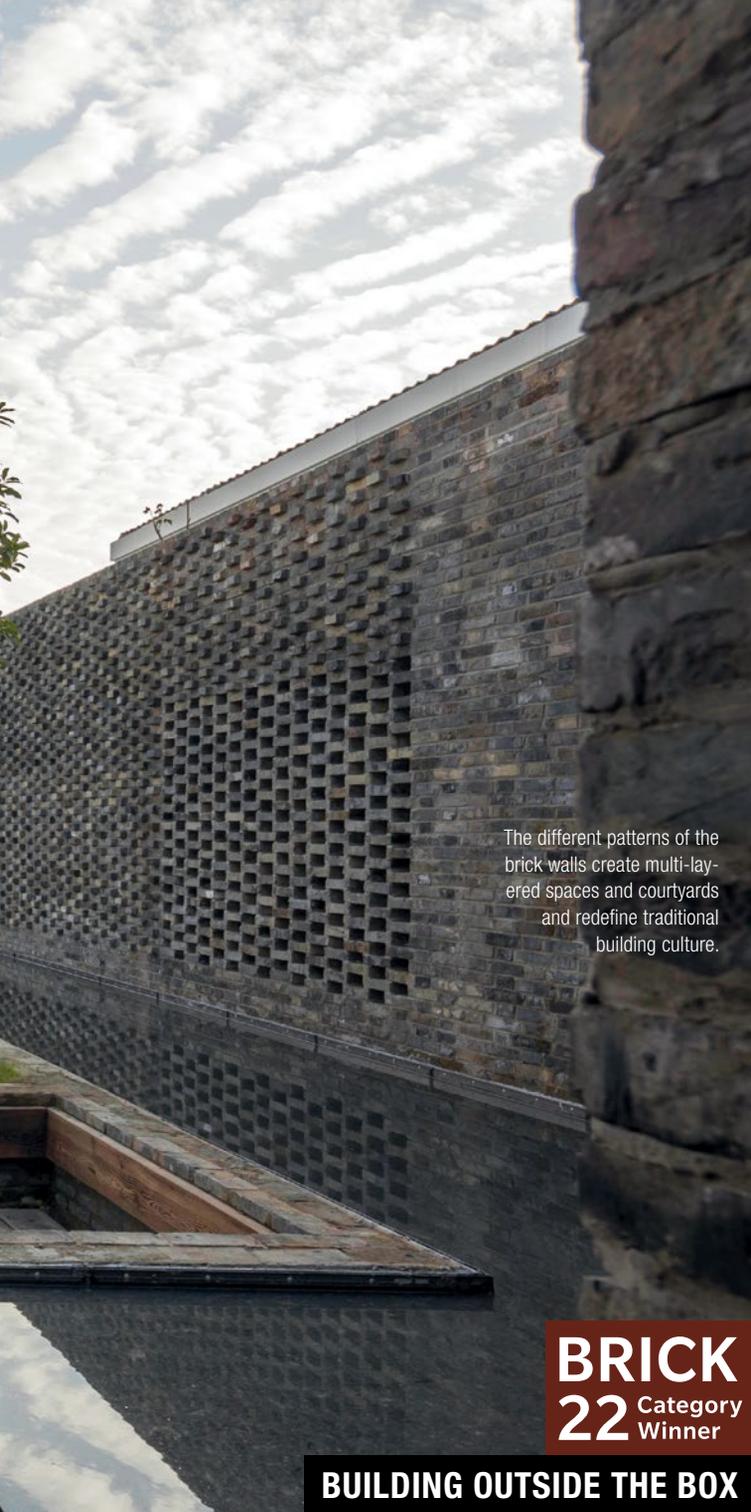


Silver Lake near the Chinese city of Yangzhou is a real tourist trap. This made it the perfect location to build a hotel. And what a hotel it is: the Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat boutique hotel boasts 20 rooms on a 32,000m² plot.

This site used to be home to fishermen and farmers. Before construction began, it was occupied by a warehouse and several small cottages. At the client's request, these were partially preserved to lend character to the project, the Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat. The design was devised by

the Neri&Hu Design and Research Office. It blends the luxury hotel with the old houses in the best Chinese building tradition.

CHINESE TRADITION The planning process began with a grid that was laid over the site and incorporated the existing buildings. The plan was to create traditional Chinese, single-storey courtyard houses with the exception of a two-storey courtyard house accommodating the library and guest rooms. Partly open and partly closed, greenish-grey and uneven brickwork encompasses all areas, including the four



The different patterns of the brick walls create multi-layered spaces and courtyards and redefine traditional building culture.

BRICK
22 Category
Winner

BUILDING OUTSIDE THE BOX



The clear grid shape is interrupted by openings in the brick walls, bringing interesting perspectives into play.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

The Brick Wall – Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat, Yangzhou, China

Architects

Neri&Hu Design and Research Office

Products used

Facing bricks, roof tiles, paving bricks

Year of completion

2018

gardens. The precise floor plan generates a network of brick walls and paths that delimit the series of striking inner courtyards. The architects deliberately played with perspectives, openings and vistas. Again and again, views into the individual patios of the reception, restaurant and guest rooms emerge through apertures in the brick walls. Long, geometric expanses of brick corridor inside the building contrast with the idyllic courtyards and blur the boundaries between inside and outside. Away from the enclosure, the site includes a further four-room pavilion on the lake shore and an old warehouse at

the northern end that houses a theatre, exhibition spaces and another restaurant.

MAKING NEW FROM OLD The clear focus of the project was reusing the existing buildings and 1.2 million recycled bricks. All the walls and floors are made of bricks taken from the area surrounding the complex, which gives the luxurious hotel a very unique sense of history. The bricks were laid in patterns that are as varied as they are unexpected and incorporated into the masonry. Depending on the incidence of light, this creates a choreography of multi-layered spaces that connect the sky with the Earth and pay tribute to the traditional architecture of the region. The Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat is the winning project in the Building outside the box category because it draws from Chinese building culture while managing to implement a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility through recycling. 



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