




**D**  **PPE**  
Brick







THE ARCHITECTURAL NEWSLETTERS  
2016 - 2024



## CELEBRATING BRICK ARCHITECTURE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL NEWSLETTERS

We are happy to present this lookbook as a summary of an eight-year journey and nineteen editions of architectural newsletters by Deppe Backstein Keramik. Within these pages, you will find the main projects showcased in our newsletters – beautiful architecture from Germany and Europe, created by top architects. The unifying element in these projects: brick.

Since our founding in 1888, Deppe Backstein Keramik has been dedicated to producing high-quality bricks for beautiful, and sustainable architecture. Bricks are our passion. They are the heart and soul of what we do, and we believe in their enduring value. As a natural product, brick offers unmatched versatility and durability, essential qualities for creating lasting buildings.

We are, as always, ready to embrace and support extravagant and innovative ideas and remain steadfast in our mission to collaborate with architects and builders who share our vision for creating timeless, sustainable, and beautiful architecture. We invite you to explore these pages and be inspired by the possibilities that brick can offer.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for your continued trust in our expertise.

With warm regards,



Dirk Deppe



Bernd Deppe

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“Deppe were able to perfectly reproduce the colour variation we wanted and they were up to the task of technical implementation of all the different special shapes. Their craftsmanship is impressive.”  
Marco Caviezel architect



#### Project information

**Completion**

July 2016

**Total construction cost**

€ 50.5 million

**Floor area**

Gross floor area 23,271 m<sup>2</sup>

**Client**

Bremer Landesbank

**Architecture**

Caruso St. John Architects, London

**Material**

Deppe BLB with 65 different special shapes

**Photographs**

Ulrich Hoppe





## NATURALLY NORTH GERMAN THE BREMER LANDESBANK BUILDING

Eschewing the gridded facades that dominate the modern urban environment, Bremen's historic city centre has recently been graced with a new, modern bank building for Bremer Landesbank. Its brick facade makes a powerful statement whilst forging a clear link to the Hanseatic architectural tradition. For the richly varied facade, which features a broad variety of curves, vertical and horizontal lines, columns and cornices, we developed and manufactured a custom brick including 65 different special shapes. Designing the individual brick shapes so that they came together to give a uniform wave shape required outstanding craftsmanship. Ensuring that the bricks precisely

met the exacting requirements placed on them meant actively engaging with the architectural idea and close collaboration with the architects, Caruso St. John. The hand-finished contours of the facade produce a depth and three-dimensionality which projects light, shadow and enormous vitality. "We were driven by the idea of producing exactly this result," explains Dirk Deppe. "The development and manufacturing process was an extraordinary experience, a challenge met with aplomb by all involved." The building has been awarded the Grand Prix at the 2017 Fritz-Höger Prize for Brick Architecture.



## BOCHUM SYMPHONY

With congregations dwindling, many of our venerable churches end up being deconsecrated and eventually torn down. One church which has been spared this fate is the former St Mary's Catholic church in Bochum. Architects Martin Bez and Thorsten Kock have succeeded in converting this 18th century house of worship into the central section of the new Bochum Musikforum. In the heart of the urban Bermuda3eck district, famed for its nightlife in Bochum and beyond, the Anneliese Brost Musikforum Ruhr features a large concert hall and a multifunction room.

It provides a permanent home to both the Bochum Symphony Orchestra and the local academy of music. The new additions to the structure flank the nave of the church, leaving just a narrow choir projecting from the ensemble. The tone of the exterior is set by a pale brick facade. The pale terracotta brick was exclusively developed and manufactured for the Musikforum. The facade consists of limewashed brickwork. The red waterstruck brick shines through, echoing the material of the historic St Mary's Church and reflecting the colour of its original, red bricks.





**Project information**

**Completion**

October 2016

**Total construction cost**

€ 38.9 million

**Floor area**

Gross floor area 7,250 m<sup>2</sup>

**Client**

Bochum City Council

**Architects**

Bez + Kock Architekten

**Material**

1693w, waterstruck, bronze,

white limewashed

**Photographs**

Matthias Jäger



“At first sight, the pale bricks appear to offer a colour contrast with the nave of the church. A closer look reveals, however, that the brick echoes the red brick used in constructing the church.”

Thorsten Kock architect





## THE ARCHITECTURE OF PARTING THE NEW ST. GALLEN CREMATORIUM BUILDING

Visitors to a crematorium are often in a highly emotional state. The architecture of these buildings has a difficult task to perform. It needs to convey a sense of security, and to help those left behind feel that they are in the best possible hands. In Switzerland, architect Andy Senn has built a new crematorium which meets these requirements perfectly. The crematorium offers a dignified setting for mourners to bid farewell to their loved ones. The building is completely enrobed in brown brick and is almost completely windowless, without giving an undue sense

of uniformity. The brickwork uses a characteristic Flemish bond. The mixed face configuration means that the reverse face of the bricks also makes an appearance. In the upper area of the facade, the Flemish bond is replaced by a decorative bond, designed to add additional structure. Areas of perforated brickwork soften the appearance of the facade and bring the necessary tranquility into some of the interior spaces. With its combination of perforation, ornament and texture, the brick surface as a whole creates a fascinating interplay of light and shadow.



"With its earthy colours and the continuity of its detailed jointing, brick is a material that has radiated warmth and intimacy throughout time and in every culture."

Andy Senn architect

#### Project information

##### Completion

October 2016

##### Total construction cost

10 million Swiss francs, incl. VAT

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 940 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

Stiftung Krematorium St. Gallen

##### Architecture

Andy Senn Architekt BS SIA

##### Material

3540 St. Gallen, waterstruck, chocolate

##### Photographs

Martin Duckek





## BILLOWING LIKE DRAPERY NEW TEXTILE INDUSTRY BUILDING

Bricks are rough, unyielding and definitely immobile. At least that's the received wisdom. In Münster, in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, however, the new Textile and Clothing Industry Association building reveals a very different, softer, even textile-like side to brick. Looking at the 70-metre wide brick facade, it seems almost as if the new office building has been wrapped in fabric. With the help of specially developed special shapes and computer-calculated brick placement, Münster-based architects behet bondzio lin have succeeded in creating a highly impressive

calling card for the textile industry association and its members. The idea of using the composition of the brickwork to project a fabric theme came from architect Roland Bondzio and his team. The brick facade was inspired by the alabaster drapery on Max Klinger's statue of Beethoven. Six different special shapes are used to produce the flowing textile-like surface. The differing elevations of the projections on the special shapes bring movement to the facade, and the differing depths scatter the sunlight, creating a vivid interplay of light and shadow.





"We were fascinated by the seemingly paradoxical possibility of using a hard, unyielding, common and simple building material to create a soft, flowing look."

Stefanie Gaasch architect

#### Project information

##### Completion

May 2017

##### Total construction cost

€ 8.2 million

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 2,620 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

Verband der Nordwestdeutschen  
Textil- und Bekleidungsindustrie e.V.

##### Architecture

behet bondzio lin architekten

##### Material

1682tvm, DF

##### Photographs

Andreas Secci

Stefan Brückner



#### Project information

##### Completion

November 2016

##### Total construction cost

€ 281,000

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 732 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

Reimar von Meding

##### Architecture

KAW | Reimar von Meding

##### Material

3504wek

##### Photographs

Ossip van Duivenbode

## NATURAL, SUSTAINABLE, DUTCH ACTIVE HOUSE IN SCHIEDAM

In their Active House in Schiedam, in the Netherlands, architect Reimar von Meding and his family enjoy a life with zero energy costs and no fossil fuel use. Built in 2016 on the site of a former hospital, with its pale brick facade the house adds a vibrant, stylish mix of Art Deco and brick architecture to the built environment here in Schiedam. The simple, stripped back architectural style is reinforced by the hard, clear brick, but at the same time given a lighter feel by the unusual way the brick is used. Visible production and processing marks add variety to the detail of the cream-coloured artisanal bricks and give rise to a variety of colour tones. The irregular bond in which the waterstruck bricks have been laid gives the facade a vibrant look and conveys a natural, almost clay-like materiality, reinforced by the decorative bond below the attic. In this part of the facade, the house's crowning glory, the bricks are arranged in a basketweave bond made up of groups of three vertical and three horizontal bricks, creating a three-dimensional, woven look.







"We wanted to design a technically flawless, modern, open building, which radiated craftsmanship and beautiful details"  
Reimar von Meding architect



“The use of brick is a direct reference to the rich tradition of building in this material in Delft’s historic city centre. The sculptural styling of the brickwork is a reference to the work of Delft artist Jan Schoonhoven.”

Jan-Peter Wingender architect



#### Project information

##### Completion

August 2017

##### Total construction cost

€2.7 million

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 2,160 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

Delft City Council

##### Architecture

Office Winhov / Gottlieb Paludan Architects

##### Material

9582ek

##### Photographs

Stefan Müller

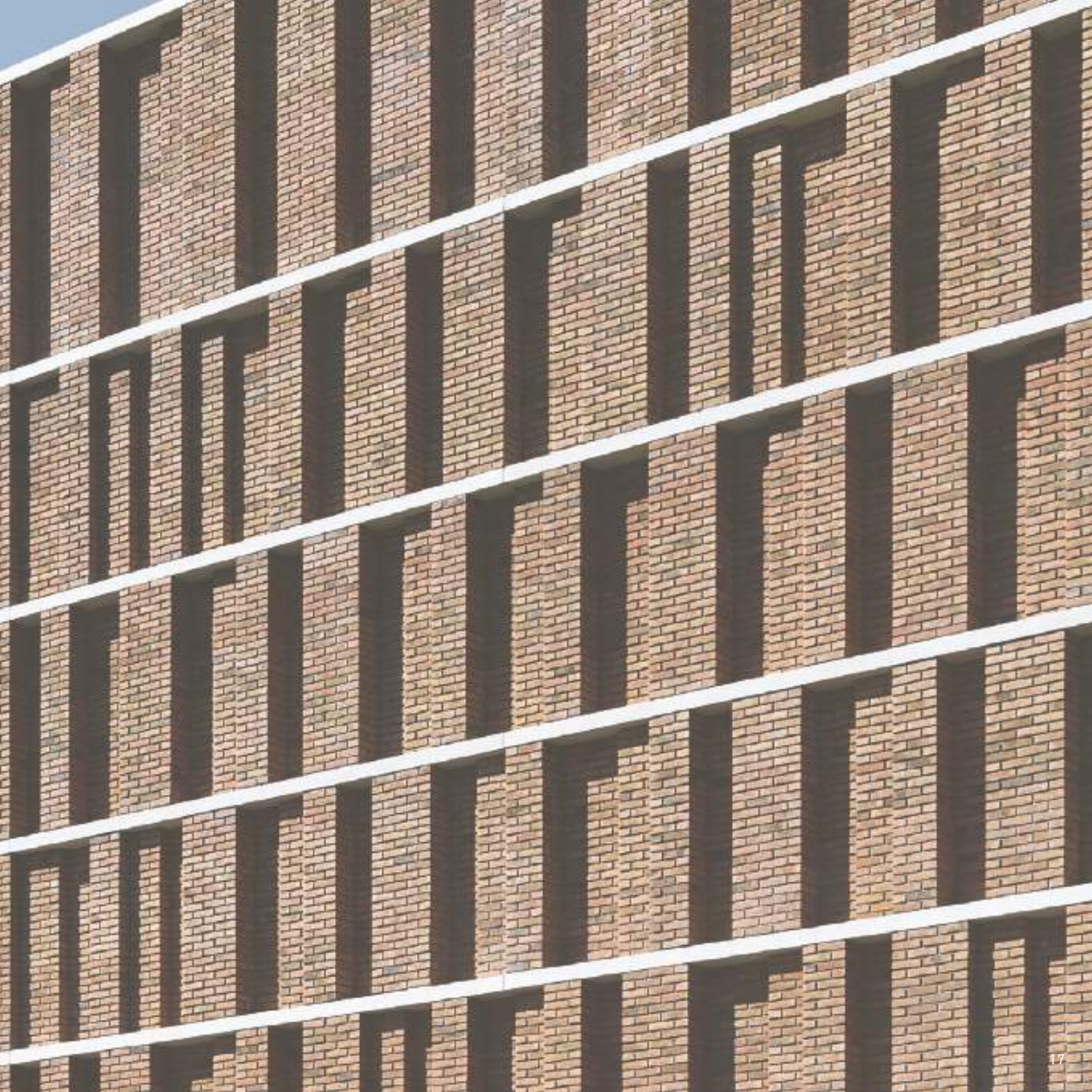


## A BRICKWORK BOOKSHELF THE NEW CITY ARCHIVE BUILDING IN DELFT

As institutions, archives represent the cultural and historic memory of a city and its inhabitants. By linking together indefinite storage and public use of archival materials, architecture plays an important role in this process. By designing a building which protects the archived materials whilst clearly communicating its purpose to the outside world through its highly distinctive appearance, architects Office Winhov, working with Gottlieb Paludan Architects, have created a building which succeeds admirably both functionally and aesthetically. The clarity of form and bold massing allow the five upper floors of the building to be completely windowless, thereby protecting valuable files

from daylight and the outside air. The thought of large windowless facades initially brings to mind only monotony and poverty of design. In Delft, however, the opposite is true – the facade, with its vertical projecting elements, gives the appearance of being nothing less than a continuation of the bookshelves inside. The waterstruck bricks vary in colour from orange to brown to bronze. The overall effect is of strict geometrical dividing lines, but at the same time a playfully relaxed aesthetic. The city archive in Delft was nominated for the 2017 Fritz Höger Award. In the Netherlands, it has also been nominated for the BNA Beste Gebouw Van Het Jaar Award.











#### Project information

##### Completion

April 2018

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 17,150 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

Justus Grosse

##### Architecture

Springer Architekten (design)

ArchitekturBüro kauert und könig

(execution planning)

##### Material

933kws

##### Photographs

Ulrich Hoppe



## MARITIME MEETS URBAN THE DEICHHÄUSER BUILDINGS IN ÜBERSEESTADT

Überseestadt in Bremen is one of the outstanding dock regeneration projects in Europe. Just two kilometres from the city centre and the cathedral, it has been transformed into a mixed-use commercial, dock, residential, leisure and culture district. One of the highlights architecturally is the Deichhäuser buildings, right by the dockside, which feature elegantly curved brown and blue brick facades, which combine maritime flair and urban sophistication. The Deichhäuser estate was designed by Berlin architects Springer, who took the characteristic architecture of the old Hanseatic city and added a twist of contemporary expressiveness. The exterior of the Deichhäuser buildings draws on both the old warehouses and dock buildings, and on Bremen's early modern brick architectural heritage. The gentle wave-like envelope is a reference to the River Weser, a view of which greets Deichhäuser residents. The dynamic, rhythmic surface of the facade combines expressiveness and restraint, and signposts the area as a vibrant cultural centre, whose maritime location, bars, restaurants, and waterside promenade offer a welcome respite from the stresses of day-to-day life. The coal-fired brick was specially developed and manufactured for the Deichhäuser facades.



"We wanted to use the facade to make the diversity of the district perceptible from outside. This meant developing and creating different colours and patterns."  
Jeroen Geurst architect



## UNIFORMITY IN DIVERSITY KOOIPLAAN DISTRICT, LEIDEN

'Kooi' is the Dutch word for cage. That's something that the Kooiplein district in the Dutch city of Leiden definitely isn't, however. On the contrary, Rotterdam-based KCAP, who were responsible for urban planning for the site, and Hague-based architects Geurst & Schulze have succeeded in creating a lively, communicating urban district that brings together residential, work and leisure uses. Six years of planning and construction have given rise to a wide range of accessible apartments, houses, commercial areas and a multi-storey car park. Since its completion, Kooiplein has become the heart of the Leiden-Nord district. A community centre built around a waterside square

and a park help to bind the district together, and serve as the main avenues of communication. From the streets Kooiplein has a uniform, yet varied look. The key to this look and the strong sense of cohesion it engenders is the facade material. The brick creates both uniformity and diversity. The facades of the numerous buildings come across as varied, yet coherent. Geurst & Schulze choose to use Waal format bricks in terracotta and picasso. While the base and windows are framed by terracotta WF 1582 bricks to create interesting highlights, most of the rest of the facade is constructed with WF 1583 picasso, in a slightly iridescent, yellowish cream colour.

**Project information**

**Completion**

December 2018

**Client**

Heijmans Vastgoed BV

**Architecture**

Geurst & Schulze architecten, The Hague

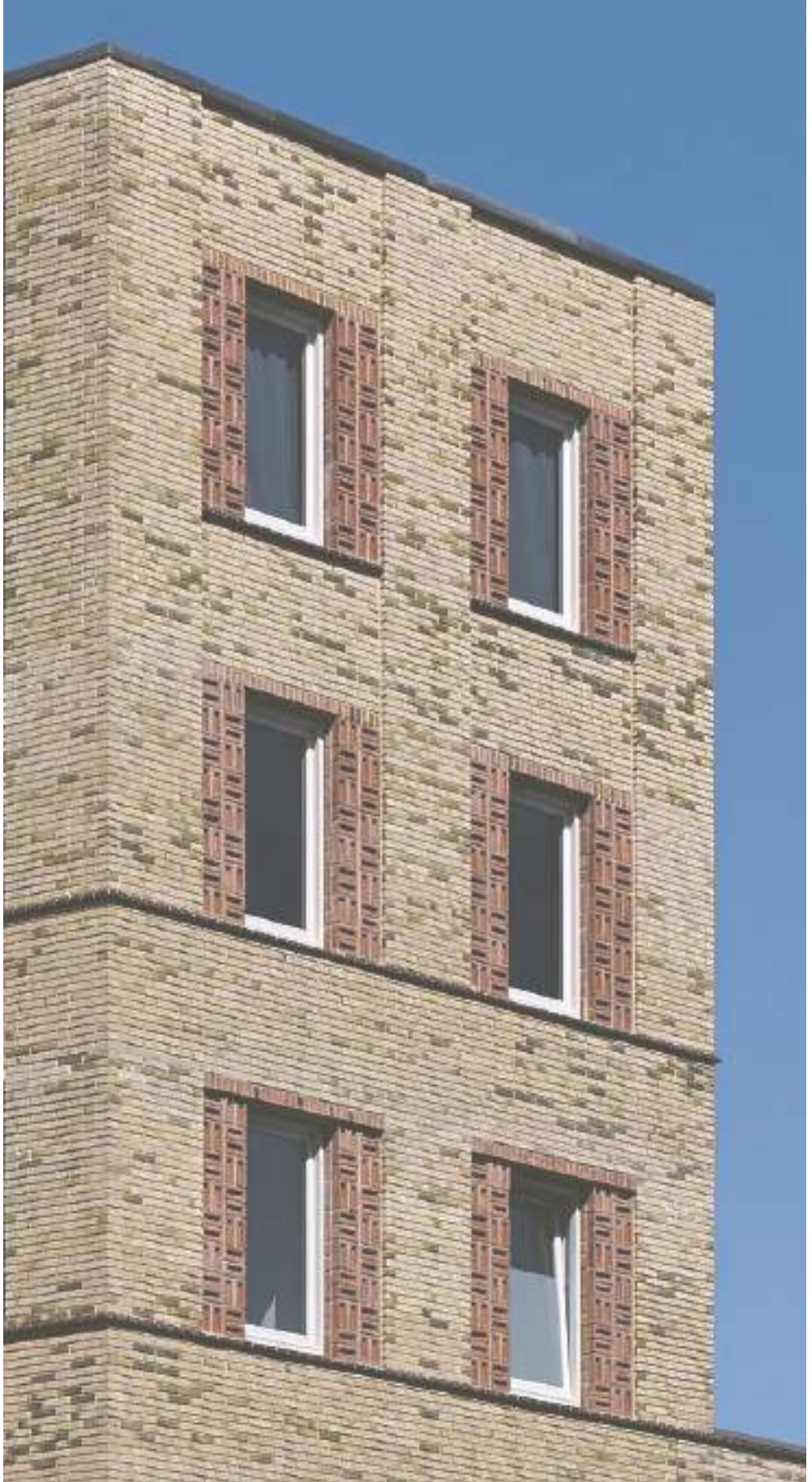
KCAP architecten, Rotterdam

**Material**

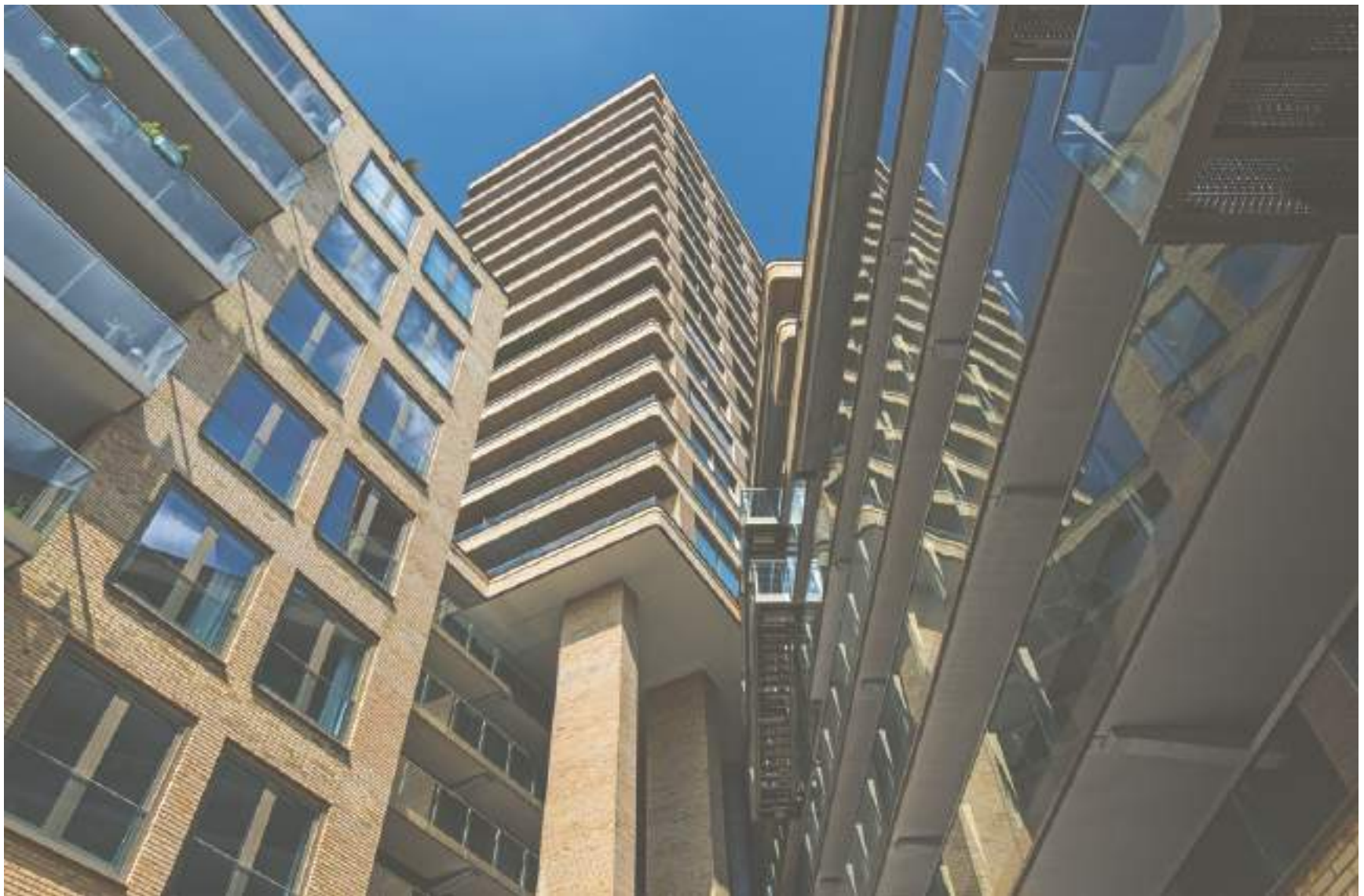
1582, 1583 WF

**Photographs**

Stefan Müller







## A NEW YORK KIND OF FEELING STATE AMSTERDAM

Currently being touted as the latest hotspot in Amsterdam – a city famous for its culture and seaport – Amstelkwartier is the location of new mixed residential and commercial building State. Right by the Amstel River, the new building is based on a design by local architects ZZDP. Both the triangular profile of the building and the ornamental facade – which employs characteristic elements of the Amsterdam School style – are a conscious reference to New York's Flatiron Building. The brickwork at

ground level, for example, is oriented vertically, while between the windows it features tiered horizontal stripes. Last but not least, the pale yellow 'spotted stone', which in places comes across as almost moss coloured, feels very much like a quote. A mix of 43 owner-occupied and 262 rented apartments, combining smaller, social, and loft-style 450 m<sup>2</sup> apartments, ensures that the new building has a good social mix and helps bring welcome vitality to the neighbourhood.



#### Project information

##### Completion

2018

##### Total construction cost

€48 million

##### Floor area

Gross floor area 36,000 m<sup>2</sup>

##### Client

VORM

##### Architecture

ZZDP Architecten, Amsterdam

##### Material


1583A WF, picasso

##### Photographs

Roos Aldershoff Photography

“State is the first building we have designed with a clinker facade. In order to be able to play with the façade at State, we wanted a rich texture and specific shades of colour. The brick gave us these freedoms.”  
Adam Smit architect





“Designing and building with bricks means creating something that is of value and that will last.”  
Daniel Gross architect

## BRICK POINTS THE WAY HOUSING COMPLEX IN HANOVER

The Südstadt district of Hanover has recently been graced with an ensemble of four point block-type buildings based on a design by SMAQ. The staggered, slightly rotated arrangement of the buildings creates a high quality urban and interior environment. The ensemble features succinct red brick facades, generating a uniform appearance that belies the heterogeneity of the people living within it. The facade, at first sight flat, proves on closer inspection to be structured into blocks featuring decorative ornamental brickwork with a regular

pattern of offset bricks. The different blocks create variety and generate a lighter feel. The bricks protruding from the masonry create a play of shadows that moves with the light. These areas of brickwork were realised using special shapes with false joints. Because the joint is built into the brick, there's no need to lay headers, and the decorative finish can be realised with a stretcher bond. The header bond appearance is just an illusion. Offsets were realised by using bricks with a depth of 90 mm.



**Project information**

**Completion**

2019

**Client**

Theo Gerlach Wohnungbau-  
Unternehmen GmbH & Ko. KG

**Architecture**

SMAQ

**Material**

1650ws, waterstruck, red

**Photographs**

Schnepp Renou





## A FACADE WITH RHYTHM NEW OFFICE BUILDING IN BREMEN

Emde & Partner has recently moved into a new office building designed by Westphal Architekten BDA from Bremen. According to architect and managing director Jost Westphal, the design arose from the inside out. The frame of the building forms a central core, which accommodates all of the structurally significant, technical and infrastructure functions, plus in particular soundproof niches and kitchen areas for breaks and meetings. This has enabled the creation of a flexible, open-plan office space. A relaxed centre-to-centre distance means

maximum freedom in terms of design and use. The facade features brickwork columns, designed as vertical stripes to imbue the facade with a powerful sense of rhythm. In combination with the rugged, very hand-crafted appearance of the bricks, this gives the building an initially very monolithic look, which from closer up resolves into highly delicate ornamentation. That's because the brickwork columns are not rectangular, but constructed using a range of special shapes, with different profiles on different stories.

“The visible traces of the manufacturing process, of shaping, handling and kiln firing, convey the craftsmanship and durability of the brick.”

Jost Westphal architect



#### Project information

**Completion**

2019

**Client**

Emde & Partner mbB

Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

**Architecture**

Westphal Architects BDA

**Material**

1682gedws, waterstruck, grey, reduction fired

**Photographs**

Ulrich Hoppe



## NEW PUBLIC CENTRE NEW THEATER ZUIDPLEIN BUILDING IN ROTTERDAM

The new Theater Zuidplein building, designed by Dutch architects De Zwarte Hond, was built as a replacement for the neighbouring existing building from 1952. As a public building offering a wide range of services in the centre of Hart van Zuid, it plays an important role in Rotterdam society. The external appearance is characterised by an interchange between solidity and semi-transparency, a mix of brick and aluminium. The waterstruck bricks are in fact red, but thanks to a white engobe the expanses of brick appear more pink than red – with the red of the body shining through more strongly in some bricks than in others – giving the facade a vivacious presence, especially in the more windowless areas. At the behest of the architects, we developed a thin format with a depth of 90 mm, a depth not usually seen in the German market. This made the best possible use of the available space. Another subtle feature is the special shapes, which enable the bricks to be laid in an irregular bond. The 'false joint' bricks have a built-in joint, enabling them to be easily broken on site to produce headers for laying.





**Project information**

**Completion**

2020

**Client**

Hart van Zuid (Ballast  
Nedam und Heijmans)

**Architecture**

De Zwarte Hond

**Material**

1682 wBo, waterstruck,  
terracotta whitewashed

**Photographs**

Scagliola Brakkee







### Project information

Completion

2020

Client

Municipality of Schönefeld

Architecture

kleyer.koblitz.letzel.freivogel

gesellschaft von architekten mbh

Material

1673ekws

Photographs

Christian Richters

## RED MONOLITH NEW DAY CARE CENTRE IN SCHÖNEFELD



The urban development sites around the new Rathaus in Schönefeld in Brandenburg have for many years been unloved and unlovely. Now, however, these sites are being reborn, as large numbers of new apartment complexes spring up from the earth. These developments have necessitated some changes to public infrastructure, with the existing Astrid Lindgren Primary School expanded and given a campus style layout. The new day-care centre building – able to accommodate around 100 under 3s and just over 430 preschoolers, and which also includes a canteen – represents a big upgrade to the school's contribution to the urban space. In keeping with the principle 'hard on the

outside, soft on the inside', the interior features extensive areas of wood which contrast with the appearance offered by the rugged, red brick facade. This gives the building an opulent, tactile quality.

The physicality and plasticity of the building is emphasised by unusually deep reveals. This, in conjunction with sculptural recesses on the ground floor, which reflect and project the hierarchy of the various entrances, enables the building to realise a relatively high degree of sculptural quality. Profiled relief brickwork on the base and on the upper-floor parapets adds some liveliness without diminishing the monolithic overall impression.





## TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION THE NEW SPAARNDAMMERHART BUILDING, AMSTERDAM

With its synthesis of a broad range of apparently contradictory qualities, Spaarndammerhart is a perfect fit for the liveable, loveable city of Amsterdam. Located in the Spaarndammerbuurt district and constructed in the middle of an existing residential block, the architecture and floor plan is designed to foster interaction, communication and togetherness within the neighbourhood. Designed to complete a circle of buildings, the building has been developed around a verdant central courtyard, with the majority of the 80 apartments, many of them intended for social housing, aligned in the direction of the courtyard. Social and communal spaces are designed to promote encounters between the inhabitants of the complex. Residents in the surrounding buildings were also involved in the planning process, with their

vote counting one third in awarding the project. The building is in line with the city's progressive 'Rainproof' policy, with green roofs collecting rainwater, less paving in the public spaces, the cooling greenery and rugged brick facade combating heat stress, and solar thermal collectors and heat pumps providing a sustainable energy supply. For the external appearance, the architects have selected a material that is as traditional as the interior space is innovative. The rich facade of subtly varied brick, playful shapes and rounded corners, and the way the design unites architecture and nature pay fitting homage to the Amsterdam School. Spaarndammerhart has been awarded prizes such as the Abe Bonnema Architecture Prize, the Arie Keppler Prize and the Zuiderkerke Prize.



"The depth of detail of the facade is enormous."

Korth Tielens architect

**Project information**

**Completion**

2020

**Client**

Heijmans Vastgoed Architectur

**Architecture**

Korth Tielens und Marcel Lok

**Material**

1693ekws, waterstruck,

sand, coal-fired

**Photographs**

Justus Feldhuis







## NEW BEAT IN THE 'HOOD NEW RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE BUILDING FROM STUDIO NINE DOTS

Westbeat is the name of this twelve-storey residential and commercial building, an allusion on the one hand to the building's location west of Amsterdam city centre, on the other to the young, creative people expected to move in and bring a 'new beat' to Nieuw-West. With a total floor area of around 24,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the building includes apartments with underground parking and communal gardens, plus spaces for public use. The different usages within are clearly delineated from without by the facade. While the upper part of the building is divided into a series of rectangular windows, designating the private apartments, large arched apertures with differing radii mark the public spaces at the base of the building. The primary facade material is brick. The facade is composed of 450,000 specially made Waal format bricks. Colour tones vary from ochre to very pale yellow with occasional greenish tones.





**Project information**

**Completion**

2020

**Client**

Lingotto Ontwikkeling BV,

Stichting Achmea Dutch

Residential Fund

**Architecture**

Studioninedots

**Material**

1583wWBL

**Photographs**

Frans Parthesius





#### Project information

##### Completion

2021

##### Client

Städtische Wohnungs-  
baugesellschaft  
ABG FRANKFURT HOLDING

##### Architecture

MÄCKLERARCHITEKTEN

##### Material

Customized

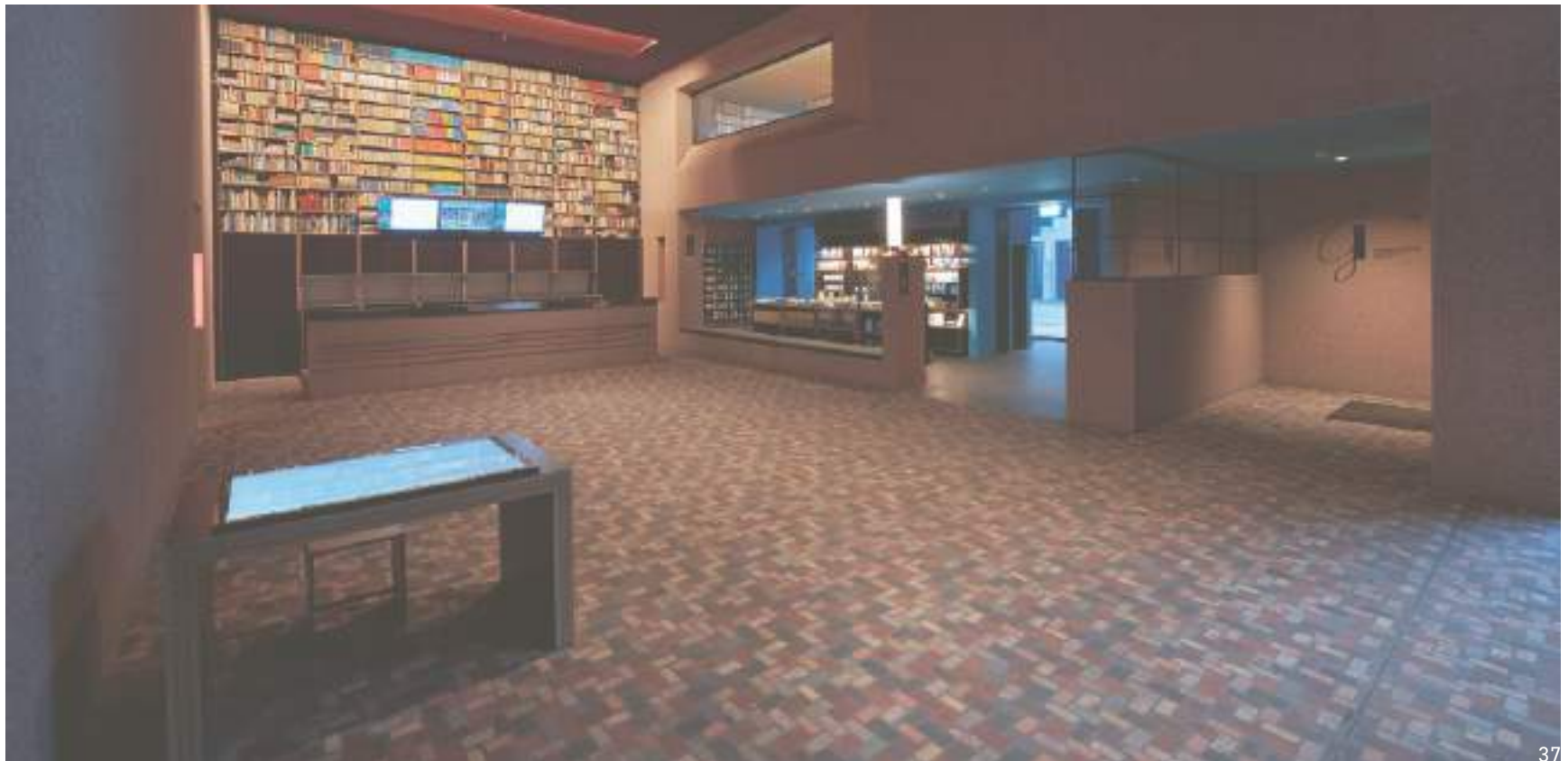
##### Photographs

Alexander Paul Englert

## A BRICK STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN DEUTSCHES ROMANTIK-MUSEUM, FRANKFURT

The staircase in the Deutsches Romantik-Museum in Frankfurt is far from mundane in lots of different ways. That's one of the reasons MÄCKLERARCHITEKTEN, who designed and planned the museum building, called it the Himmelstreppe (stairway to heaven). The museum's single straight main staircase provides access to the three levels housing the exhibits and lies behind the new museum building's street-side facade. A small batch of unusually compacted, blue and anthracite-coloured reduction-fired bricks was produced using a specially modified, customised production process. The whole bricks were then hand cut to create the tile formats needed for the project, before being laid in the museum. But it's not just the stairs that feature a very unusual material. The foyer floor too is based on a concept with strong overtones of romanticism. The brick pavement, in black, ochre and red tones, is made from small homogeneous brick tiles interspersed with brightly mottled tiles made using crushed Second World War rubble from both the building that previously stood on the site and a number of other historic Frankfurt buildings. The floor was created by manufacturing whole bricks in a variety of colours and formats and cutting them into slices. The slices were then laid as tiles and polished to create the finished pavement.









"Characterful and characterized by an aesthetic aging process, brick represents a sustainable facade material because it endures without becoming unsightly. And we all tend to keep what is beautiful."  
Jost Westphal architect





## SWINGING IN DEN SIEBEN STÜCKEN APARTMENT BUILDING BY WESTPHAL ARCHITEKTEN BDA

'In den sieben Stücken' is a construction site in Hanover being developed by hanova Wohnen GmbH. To realise their goal of creating high quality living spaces, the company ran architectural competitions for individual construction phases. One of these competitions was won by WESTPHAL ARCHITEKTEN BDA, based in Bremen, which planned three apartment buildings in Cluster B featuring 56 apartments and underground parking. The new apartment blocks move away from the grid-like facades that tend to dominate current development sites, and, despite the stringent volume specifications, feature a striking facade with an enormous level of detailing. Thanks to the mixed face configuration with the angle of the light, giving a sense of liveliness and vitality. Visible concrete strips at the height of the parapets of the projecting balconies, divide the facades horizontally and add accentuation. The prefabricated balcony elements curve slightly asymmetrically, with the direction of the curve alternating between floors so that the facade strips seem almost to swing like a pendulum. The sense of motion continues into the roof parapet, where it forms a decorative apex to the building.

### Project information

#### Completion

2023

#### Client

hanova WOHNEN GmbH

#### Architecture

WESTPHAL ARCHITEKTEN BDA Bremen

#### Material

933kws, extruded brick, brown-blue-mixed, salt- and coal-fired NF

#### Photographs

Olaf Mahlstedt





## MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO WORK DIGITAL HUB, BREMEN

The name says it all. The ‚Digital Hub‘ in Bremen – with an emphasis on ‚hub‘ – marks the transition from a traditional office to a world of encounters, where creative studios and communal spaces coexist with retreats and office workplaces for focused work. The new building was planned as a multi-tenant property, but it has become more than that: a place that interacts with people by offering a diverse range of amenities that cater to different user groups and support them in their work, but more importantly, in their being. The intelligent spatial layout allows the freedom to change the workplace or even adapt the entire work environment. GMD Architects developed the design based on a wallpaper roll, with which the current main tenant approached the architects. On this wallpaper, the future profile of his company was depicted. ‚Build me a house for this‘ was the request. ‚For this‘ – meaning a place that can do and offer many things: different employees in various workplace situations, loud, quiet, creative, inspiring, flexible, small and large at the same time.





**Project information**

**Completion**

2022

**Client**

Konrad-Zuse-Strasse GmbH & Co. KG  
(Powerhouse KG, FM)

**Architecture**

GMD Architekten GmbH, Bremen

**Material**

3552ekws

**Photographs**

Caspar Sessler







## SUSTAINABLE AND IDENTITY-DEFINING RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD IN HEEMSKERK

Designed as climate-friendly zero-energy houses, the clever arrangement of the buildings provides private retreats for its residents in a balanced relationship with public and communicative spaces. Three ensembles each consist of eight houses. The staggered arrangement creates a patio-like character, making the neighbourhood permeable and integrating it with the surrounding landscape. Marlies Rohmer chose ochre-colored bricks, partly because the colour is typical for the Netherlands and partly because the clay-like appearance fits well into the natural, park-like environment. As natural as the colour is, the

appearance is extravagant. The bricks, approximately 480,000 in total, were not laid in an irregular bond, stretcher bond, or cross bond: the special masonry technique of three stones horizontally and three stones vertically creates an ornamental appearance. In combination with green-painted square special bricks, deliberately placed in the facade, and the green parapet, a distinctive appearance is created. The interplay of form and colour in the facade corresponds with the landscape, once again ensuring that neighbourhood and nature form a connection.



“Bricks are simply extremely sustainable. They perfectly complement the sculptural concept of the neighborhood as an object in the middle of a beautiful green environment.”



**Project information**

**Completion**

2023

**Client**

Municipality of Heemskerk and construction company De Nijs

**Architecture**

Marlies Rohmer Architecture & Urbanism

**Material**

2593ekws, waterstruck DF

**Photographs**

Andreas Secci









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