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Traditional charm

Contemporary concepts

Futuristic modernity

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Wienerberger



FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND ECOLOGICAL FUTURE FOR CONSTRUCTION

Megatrends like climate change, population growth and urbanization demand new solutions and innovations for the future of construction so that subsequent generations can enjoy the same opportunities we have today and perhaps even better ones.

In both the public and private sector, architects are seeking to combine innovative design with aesthetically appealing solutions tailored to the individual requirements of ambitious building owners and developers. At the same time, they aspire to improve people's quality of life with first-class, sustainable building material and infrastructure solutions in line with the principles of circularity.

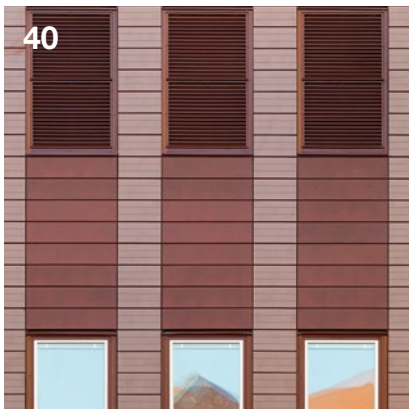
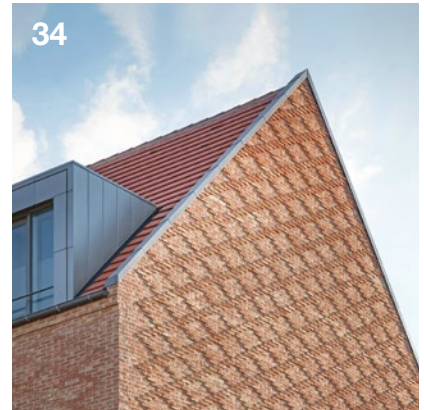
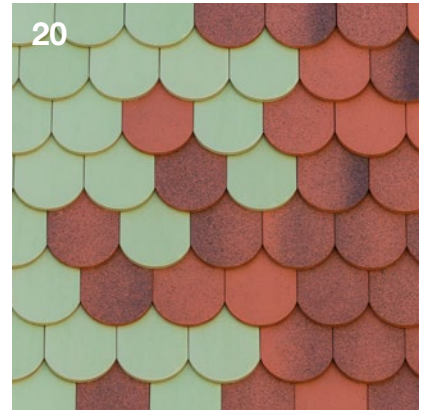
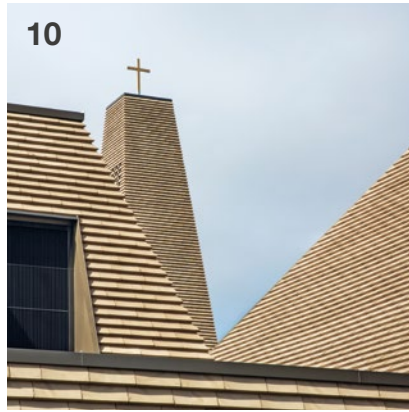
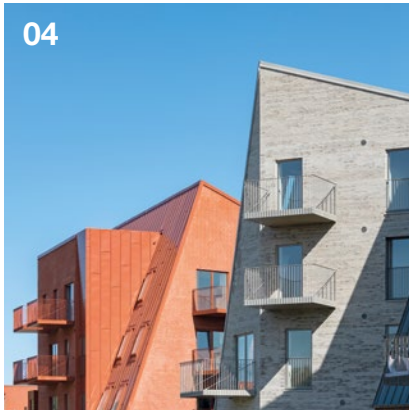
In this edition of *architectum* we are putting the spotlight on private-sector and municipal projects that combine the ecological benefits of clay building materials with a focus on social considerations. It goes without saying that these examples of sustainable

architecture for shared use have all been executed to an exemplary standard. Thanks to the incredible versatility of natural clay building materials, these structures are all unusual, innovative and unique examples of forward-looking construction projects.

As you browse through the pages of this magazine, you will discover how the consistent use of authentic and natural materials enabled the creation of public buildings and residential projects that combine a healthy atmosphere and striking design with the advantages of innovative and sustainable building materials. Energy-efficient, sound-insulating, pleasantly cool in summer, and warm and cozy in winter, the selected projects show how the look and feel of high-quality brick construction go hand in hand and can delight both those who view a building and its users.

I hope you enjoy reading about them in this edition!

Heimo Scheuch
CEO Wienerberger AG



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LEARNING FROM HISTORY

The architectural studio CEBRA planned a modern housing estate in a historic neighbourhood in Aarhus, Denmark. Red, grey and brown brick gives the façades of the new residential buildings a sense of the past. A conversation with architect Mikkel Frost about architectural contexts and how to deal with what has grown.



The new buildings were constructed in red, brown and grey to match the historical context of the colours of the neighbourhood.



→ For a long time, they searched for roof and façade tiles that ideally complemented each other in terms of colour. Due to the limited financial resources, they had to work mainly with standard tiles; custom-made tiles would have exceeded the budget.

↳ Right next to the botanical gardens of the city of Aarhus is the "Island Street district". Brick residential buildings characterise the historic district, which has grown over the last hundred years.

Ten townhouses with 136 flats on a total of 11,800 square metres in the heart of Aarhus, Denmark: How did you approach a project of this scale?

Mikkel Frost: The site is very close to our office and my home so we got to know it very, very well over the years. The fact that I have known the area my entire life was a big advantage. In addition, I used the project for my students in Münster to come up with proposals on their own. We analysed the site profoundly and got a deep understanding of it.

What do you emphasize when planning residential areas?

As architects, we work with contexts from the climate to the culture to the surroundings. For this project, we sampled all architectural elements of the area we could. We studied window details, materials and elements like staircases and then tried to transfer all our findings in our design so it fits right into the neighbourhood. The result is an echo of its surroundings even though you can definitely tell that it's a modern building. This is what people like about it.

What would you say was the inspiration? What was the inspiration for the design?

Part of the brief was to introduce a number of houses, so we designed our project around a street. The neighbourhood is called "Island Street Quarter" and every street is named after a different Danish island. This was the inspiration. We called the street Æbeløgade, "Apple Island Street", after Æbelø, "Apple Island".

Were there any special challenges and if so, how were they overcome?

Yes, there were quite some obstacles and challenges. Planning in a historic area needed a lot of preparation. Due to the limited space on the site we had to place some of the materials in the neighbouring botanical

garden. Further, we had to plan a super narrow street corresponding to the other historical streets in this neighbourhood. A hundred years ago when the area was created, the infrastructure was different. Planning a narrow street for modern needs was a challenge. Another one was integrating the parking facilities underground. We wanted to preserve the big trees during the construction work, which is not so common in Denmark. Most of the workers don't know how to take care of existing trees. It was quite a challenge to make them aware of the need to preserve the trees.

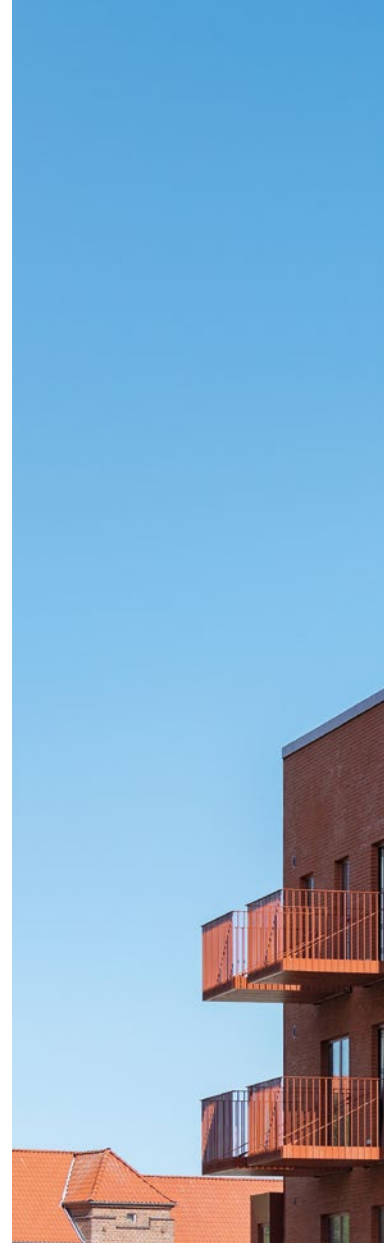
Why did you choose to use brick? What are the advantages of this material?

The decision came once more with the context. The new houses needed to fit right into the neighbourhood, which is historically all brick. In Denmark almost everything is built from brick. Apart from that it's of course a very durable material with a very nice patina. Clay bricks look better and better as they get older. In terms of the handling and weathering there is one huge advantage of bricks: It is red all the way through, so you don't see if something breaks off.

What is the story behind the colour concept?

95% of the historic houses in the neighbourhood were originally made of red brick. Since they were built a hundred years ago, they have been sold many times and every new owner could have changed the house's appearance. Maybe they wanted to paint it blue or black. The traditional method would be to build entirely red houses and just wait for people to paint it themselves. But we wanted to fit into the history by creating houses in different colours.

A challenging task in this context was to find matching colours for the brick and >



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Æbeløen, Aarhus, Denmark

Architecture
CEBRA

Client
Private group of investors

Products used
EW2207 Rød Mørk,
EW2412 Strato,
EW2166 Sisteron

Year of completion
2020



© Photos: Mikkel Frost, Kasper Hornbæk



The colours of the bricks were carefully chosen to match the other elements of the façade, including joints, window frames, roofs and balconies. Fortunately, we have a wide range of colours, especially when it comes to the classic reds and browns.

Søren Henriksen, Architect and Building Consultant,
Egernsund Wienerberger



The red brick is the closest to the historic building style: the buildings acquired a beautiful patina over time or were individually painted over by the homeowners, but the bold original colour can also be seen.

> the roofs. We wanted a uniform look, but we could not make everything bespoke and special, as there was not enough money. In the end we chose Egernsund Wienerberger bricks in the colours red, brown and grey on the façade, combined with the roofs in the same three colours. For some further detail on the façade, we used the same colours for the plaster areas between the bricks and above the ground. That makes it kind of special.

How do you make new buildings fit into historic quarters and not compete with them visually?

That is a matter of balance and of taking care. Of course, you don't want the project to become anonymous, but on the other hand you don't want it to become too loud and dominate the neighbourhood. It's very much like salting your food: You have to find the right balance. There's no recipe for it, it's a matter of the right feeling for it.

The project was awarded a prize by the municipality of Aarhus ...

Yes, in 2021 it won the local architectural award "Stadsarkitekternes Særpris" – the "Urban Architects' Special Prize". The project was also awarded the MIPIM award. That's why we are showing a lot of people around these days.

What is your personal highlight of the project?

My favourite view is to look at it from across the botanical garden. That's the only way to see the full façade from a distance. We knew from the beginning that this was the most important angle and I think we really succeeded in composing that beautifully. For me personally, one of the learnings from this project was that you can make something

that is very special from very, very little. With small changes you can make something spectacular and respectful at the same time. Scandinavian architecture has been through a period of very loud and iconic buildings and I think that is changing now. It's very interesting to see that you can create an iconic building that still fits seamlessly into the surrounding. ◀



Scandinavian architecture has been through a period of very loud and iconic buildings and I think that is changing now.

Mikkel Frost, Architect

The façade and roofs of the building were covered with a specially developed tile whose unusual profile creates changing moods in different lights.



HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Is it possible to turn a church into a place of community
not exclusively reserved for sacred contemplation?
The new church in Vennesla wanted to try.





Multifunctional church: This place of worship offers a variety of spaces for residents of the municipality of Vennesla in southern Norway.

The new church in Vennesla, southern Norway, aims to be a house of people: it is not only the main venue for church events in the region, it is also used culturally by the nearby school and for club events in Vennesla. The open floor plan of the 1530-m² church building is adapted to suit its multifunctional use. “It was exciting to design a church that would meet both the ecclesiastical and daily needs of the community. The church will cater to a congregation of all ages and be a key building for the local community”, explains Tone Osen, architect at LINK arkitektur. The building has a welcoming feel and is designed to be easily usable by the congregation and staff even during church services. >

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

The new Vennesla church,
Vennesla, Norway

Architecture

LINK arkitektur

Client

Vennesla kirkelige fellesråd

Product used

URBAN Frederiksberg LINK

Year of completion

2022

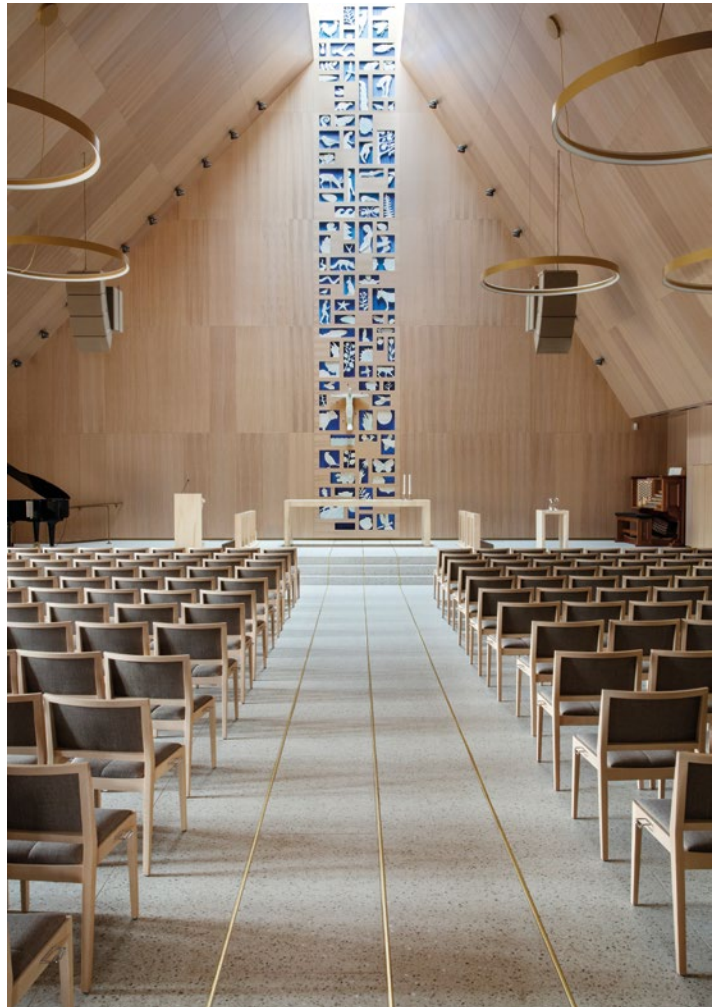
© Photo: Wienerberger AS

> **SPECIALLY DEVELOPED FAÇADE TILE** The façade of the church had to express the dignified character of the building yet at the same time be durable and easy to maintain. LINK arkitektur spent a great deal of time looking for the right façade tile to fulfil this demand and had numerous samples sent to them. “We wanted the church to be a single, unified form and so chose a light cladding tile for both the roof and the walls”, says Tone Osen about the choice of a tile façade. The unbroken outline of the church required all external corners, edges and transitions between the roof and walls to be seamless and sharply angled. This extraordinary architecture required tiles with unusual profiles to be installed with meticulous precision. Among

the many samples, the URBAN tile was chosen. However, even this had to be adapted to the architects’ special requirements during the production process. The stringent requirements were taken into account and implemented by Wienerberger. The result was a specially developed façade tile with a relief that transforms the façades of the church throughout the seasons and in different light conditions. The special substructure makes it easy to replace individual tiles. This guarantees the greatest sustainability with regard to easy maintenance and ensures long-term recyclability and reusability of the tiles. “The focus was on creating a building that is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable”, say the architects. ❏

❏ The pale tile can be easily replaced. The key criteria for choosing the tile were durability and ease of maintenance.

↓ In the church’s design, a balance was struck between religious expression and sculptural aesthetics.





The religious architecture takes on a human aspect: In the interior there is sufficient space for different ecclesiastical and regular uses.

BUILDING ENVELOPE FOR MEMORABILITY

The most modern building in Xertigny, a small town in eastern France, is a nursing home. The residents' needs are reflected in the architecture, choice of material and layout of the pathways.

The sleepy town of Xertigny lies about two hours by car from Strasbourg. Here, the "Saint-André" modern care and retirement home recently opened its doors. It is specially designed for patients with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The main requirements for the new care home were ease of navigability and accessibility for persons with reduced mobility. The building is laid out around a central "village square," aimed to facilitate orientation, and the garden is accessible to people with restricted mobility from each storey of the building, even though this required levelling height differences of up to 15 m on the building site. To achieve this, natural stone bridges were built at some places.

INTUITIVE ORIENTATION The design of the home jogs the residents' memories. There are no dead ends, and every hallway in the building is lit by natural light. The Ehpad Xertigny management created a vegetable garden and a therapeutic farmyard which provides the residents with meaningful daily occupation, while the plant life helps them recognise the seasons of the year. >

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
L'Ehpad "Saint-André",
Xertigny, France

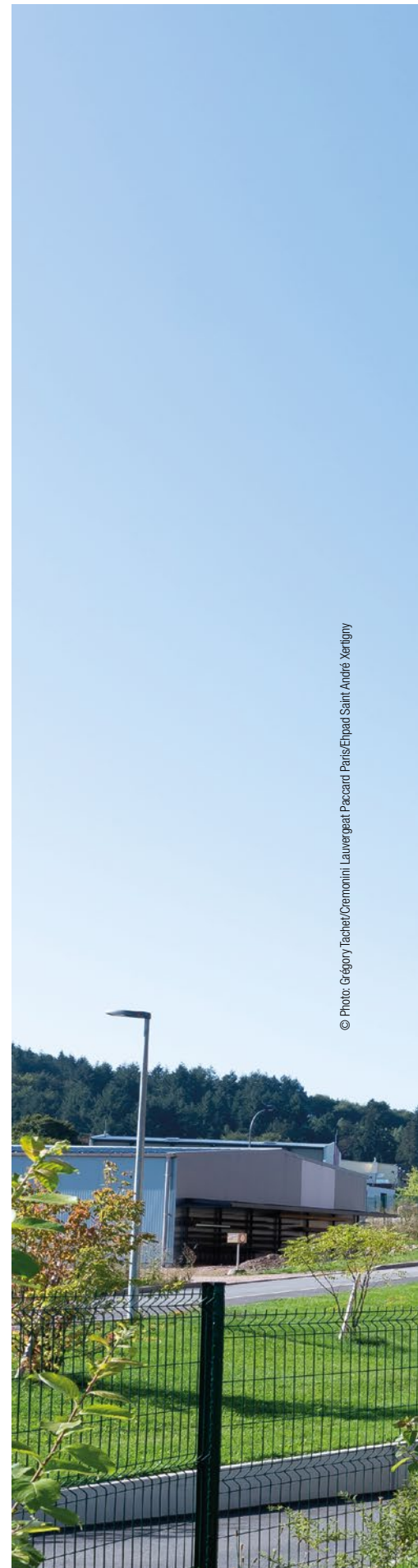
Architecture
CLP Architecture

Client
Ehpad "Saint-André"

Product used
Koramic Plate 301 Toscane

Year of completion
2021

A total of 15 m in height difference on the lot has been bridged successfully: A building base of natural stone connects each story with the garden without architectural barriers.







↑ The “Saint-André” retirement and care home takes inspiration in its surroundings for its choice of materials. All rooms feature a view of the idyllic rural landscape of the region.

→ The wings of the y-shaped care home meet at the middle in a cafeteria, which serves as “village square” and provides orientation. There are no dead ends: All paths lead to the centre of the building.





> “The trees planted around the cafeteria change colour over the course of the year, which alerts residents to the season”, explain the architects from CLP Architecture. The different wings can be identified from outside as both wooden and brick façades are used: The residents’ quarters are behind clay brick façades and the common areas and offices are behind wooden panelling. “The residents, especially the ones with cognitive problems, are able to get their bearings between the different areas more easily,” explain the architects.

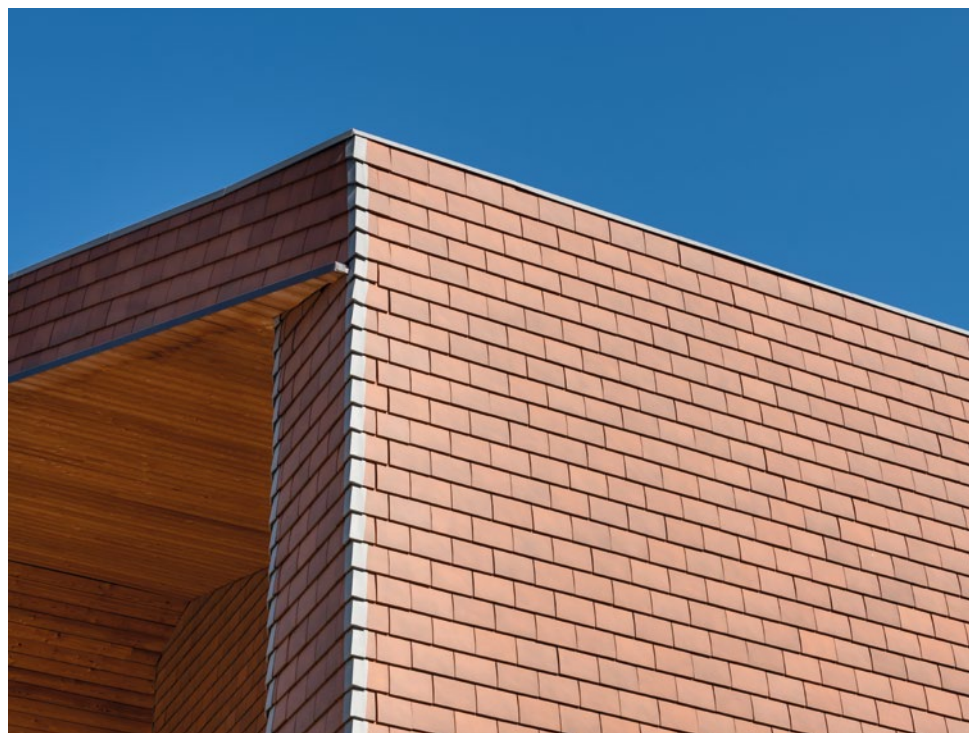
FAÇADE WITH WARMTH For the brick façade, the Koramic Plate 301 roofing tiles in the colour “Tuscany” were chosen. “Together with

the management of the retirement home, we looked for a sustainable, natural material with low maintenance,” comment the architects from CLP. The bricks were laid with special zinc joints that combine to form a rhythmic structure on the façades, although this meant that the assembly process was challenging. Prototypes were developed in advance so that workers could practice and perfect their techniques for laying the bricks at the edges of the roof and the corners. This also ensures easy maintenance over the long term. The Client, together with the architects, created a place that takes advantage of the rural surroundings and allows nature to bring about its healing effect, even on the façades. ■

“Tuscany”-coloured Koramic Plate 301 creates a cosy mood on the building, and the bricks have been laid with special zinc joints to create a rhythmic structure.



© Photos: Grégory Tachet/Cremonini, Lauvergeat Paillard Paris/Ehpaud Saint André Xerigny



BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

The roof of this town hall symbolises the transition from traditional to modern. The red to green colour gradient represents the rejuvenation of the building with a new extension.

The Alsatian commune of Bernwiller in France near the German border has just over 1000 inhabitants. The town hall in the Ammertzwiler district was to be renovated and extended with a new building right next to the local church. The administrative building of the small region has many functions: most importantly, it needed larger administrative facilities, and it also serves as a registry office, meeting room and reception hall for various events. An architectural competition was held to find a design that would carefully renovate the historic building while at the same time link it to a modern new building providing enough space for all these different requirements.

COMBINING THE OLD WITH THE NEW The historic part of the building dates back to 1880 and is typical of buildings in the region. The outside of the extension has an impressively exciting roof shape. Inside, the space was arranged around a large staircase that leads from the reception area right up to the attic.

Architect Thomas Weulersse wanted to give the impression of a “cathedral with a visible attic”. He wanted the transition between the roof of the building and extension to be clearly noticeable and generate a better connection between the town hall and the public: a nuanced red on the renovated older building stands for continuity and reflects the traditional roofs of the village. A plainer, uniform green on the extension speaks to courage and modernity.

CHOICE OF COLOURS An exact prototype of the roof was submitted to the council for approval and the specially developed green glaze was also agreed. Architect Thomas Weulersse explains: “The seemingly random transition from red to green resembles crocodile skin and was precisely planned in advance”. The flat Koramic roof tile allows for a classic beaver tail double-lap pattern, which the architect found most suitable for both the renovated main building and the extension. However, certain challenges related

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Extension of the town hall,
Bernwiller, France

Architecture
Atelier d-Form


Client
Mairie de Bernwiller

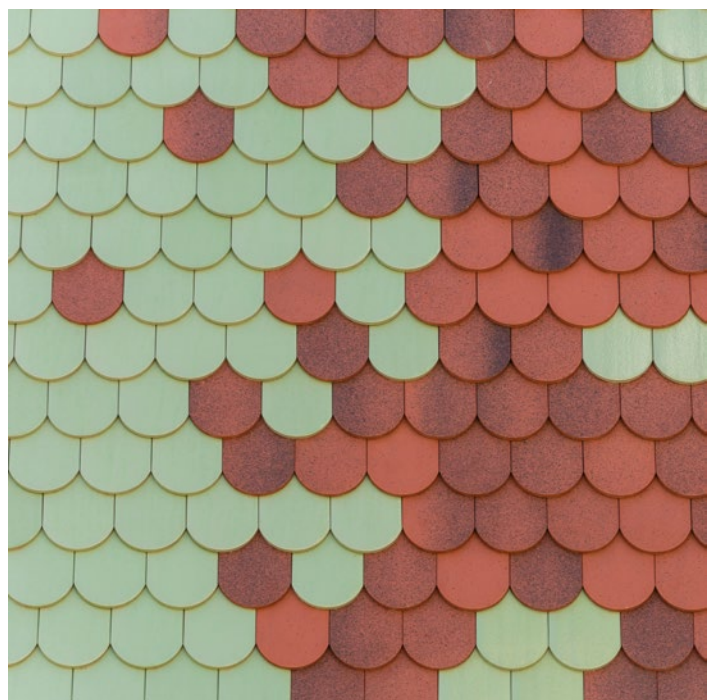
Product used
Koramic Plate 18 x 38
Ecaille Nuancé and Green

Year of completion
2021



The old and new buildings have been visually differentiated using a colour transition.

to the ever-increasing slope of the roof had to be overcome: “The trickiest aspect of the job was achieving the draped effect and overcoming the steeper gradients”, says the architect. The roof tile was custom-made for this purpose. Clay roof tiles are often used in Alsace: “Clay stores heat and at the same time keeps the interior cool”, says the architect. This low-maintenance tile ages naturally and will blend harmoniously into the townscape – it has proved to be the ideal sustainable solution for the new town hall. 



ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

This aim of this new community centre was to give a boost to the town centre and act as a central point of contact for residents by providing a variety of activities.

Including a clubhouse, medical centre, municipal administration and freely usable space for residents: the new community centre combines the residents needs with the administration of the market town of Grossweikersdorf in the western Weinviertel region of Austria. The purpose of the building is to augment the town centre by counteracting the “donut effect” that is causing the historic centres of many Austrian towns and cities to die out and be replaced as social meeting places by shopping centres on the outskirts. “We wanted to develop spaces that were flexible, multi-use and open-plan,” explains Christian Kircher, the executive architect from smartvoll Architekten. The town’s call for tender asked for a building that fulfilled their exacting demands for a multi-purpose centre.

A FUNCTIONAL TRINITY The new town hall is divided into three structural parts with different functions: the town hall is oriented towards the main square, the second part of the building is home to a clubhouse that provides space for various traditions and activities and the eastern part of the building houses the medical centre. The building has doorways on all side streets, not only on >

The new building aims to combat the “donut effect” by offering a multi-functional, modern and central meeting point in the heart of the town that is inviting to residents.





© Photo: Romana Funkkranz

We have been working with Wienerberger for over 30 years and now in the third generation.

Stefan Seyfried, Master roofer

→ A specially roughened tile called Altstadtasche ("historic town tile"), produced by Wienerberger, gives the building a rustic yet modern appearance.

↓ Clay and wood – natural materials were stipulated in the planning process.





Open design: Numerous windows, pleasant surfaces and generous dimensions make the building an inviting place both inside and outside.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Community Centre,
Grossweikersdorf, Austria

Architecture

smartvoll Architekten

Client

Seyfried Jecho KG

Product used

Tondach Altstadtasche
Engobe Grey, Figaro Deluxe
Engobe Basalt

Year of completion

2021

> the main square. This gives it an inviting air from all sides. Outdoor areas and open zones are intended to make it usable and accessible for members of the public.

A NATURAL COVERING The clay roof tile Figaro Deluxe Engobe Basalt was chosen as the cladding material for both the roof and the façade. This product performs not only a visual but also, and above all, a vital practical task: brick façades are much more durable and easier to repair than conventional thermal insulation composite systems. Individual bricks can be replaced at any time. The aim

was to use authentic and natural materials throughout the building. This means that full thermal insulation made of petroleum-based materials was out of the question. Choosing natural materials was also intended to amplify the inviting atmosphere of the building. Around 800 m² of the building was covered with a specially roughened tile called Altstadtasche (historic town tile) made by Wienerberger, which gives the building a rustic yet modern appearance. The tile is an Austrian variant of the non-interlocking extruded roof tile with a straight edge. It gives the surface an emphatically geometric appearance while visually elongating the roof. It also lends a certain tactile quality to the roof. A further 600 m² at the rear part of the building was clad in the straight-lined clay roof tile Figaro Deluxe Engobe Basalt. The light grey of the Altstadtasche creates an exciting vintage effect, while this dark clay roof tile brings an elegant serenity to the façade. ◀

Ground floor plan,
1:500

- Town Hall
- Clubhouse
- Medical practice



IDENTITY AND HISTORY

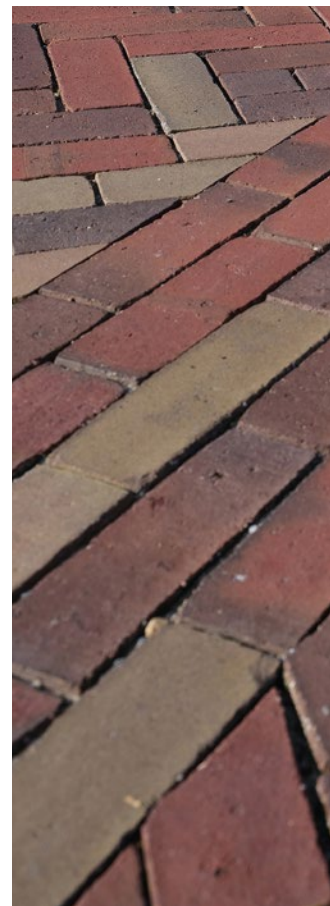
The residents chose the road surface themselves, and they left the mark of their identity on the road. The mixture of clay pavers on the main square in Volendam reflects the culture of the town.

The fisherman's village of Volendam, with 22,000 inhabitants in the vicinity of Amsterdam, attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year. Its central market square and main square, Europaplein, was to be refurbished and repaved. The residents were consulted when searching for a paving mixture. Four sample segments were laid on a trial basis, and then a vote was held. The residents and the town decided on what would later be called the Volendam mixture, consisting mainly of red clay pavers interspersed with a few yellow and anthracite-coloured pavers to create a pattern that is also found on the traditional skirts worn by the women of Volendam. In combination with the adjacent buildings in Europaplein, the overall image is convincing. The paving mix was well received, and shortly thereafter it was laid in two more streets.

CALLING CARD IN THE PAVING Public spaces are regarded as the calling card of a local community: "Apart from the appearance of the buildings, an appealing, well-kept environment for residents and visitors is important," says Jan Erik de Haan, Project Leader for Civil Engineering in the Edam-Volendam Municipality. "That is why, since 2013 we have been consciously working to improve the quality of public spaces in Edam and

Volendam. Of course, pavements are an important part of this." In the adjacent town of Edam, also part of the Municipality of Volendam, streets were paved with the same mix of bricks in a somewhat modified form. The personality and quality of these small towns were carefully considered when searching for the proper combination of bricks. The aim was to incorporate the strong identity and rich history into the appearance of the public space, and this was successfully achieved: The newly paved streets in Edam-Volendam blend in seamlessly with the atmosphere and identity of the historical streets. ■

The Volendam paving mix from Wienerberger creates a uniform overall impression when viewed together with the adjacent buildings.



© Photos: Wienerberger B.V.



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Refurbishment of the centre,
Volendam, The Netherlands

Client
Municipality of Volendam

Product used
Volendam Mix

Year of completion
2021



The pattern on the road paving reproduces the traditional folk costumes of the residents of Volendam.

The mixture of clay pavers for the town of Volendam is intended to reflect the personality and special characteristics of the town.



© Photo: Wienerberger B.V.



FAÇADES FOR MULTIPLE LIVES

Five different colours for five homes designed with sustainability in mind. The new building project Ekowood Houses successfully blends individualism with preservation of local architectural heritage.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Ekowood houses, Leeuwarden,
The Netherlands

Architecture
Delano van den Ende

Client
Ekowood Houses

Products used
Blauwrood genuanceerd
HV ClickBrick, Zwart HV
ClickBrick, Andalucia HV
ClickBrick

Year of completion
2022

In harmony with the local architectural style: The colour and materials of the new residential buildings blend into the neighbourhood as it has evolved.

The houses are energy-efficient, sound-proof and cool in the summer yet warm in the winter. The five Ekowood Houses are located in Leeuwarden in the Friesland region of The Netherlands. They are modern terraced houses that combine all aspects of sustainability: recyclable and renewable materials, photovoltaic panels on the roofs and insulation made of wood. "It is a special project, since it is the first time that we made everything hinge on recyclable, bio-based construction," explains Martijn van Toor, Managing Director of Ekowood Houses. The energy-efficient houses feature roughly 160 m² of floor space, distributed over three levels, and their exterior blends into the local architectural style of the existing residential area.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EXTERIOR AND THE INTERIORS The neighbourhood is made up of single-family homes and terraced houses with similar heights and gabled roofs, with details and colour schemes that reflect the individual requests of their occupants. The >

Building with ClickBrick is the most circular-economical way to design a brick façade. And the result is impressive! Both we and the homeowners are very satisfied with the result. By involving Wienerberger in the planning phase at an early stage, we were able to plan and build even more efficiently.

Martijn van Toor, CEO of Ekowood Houses

> new building project also had to harmonise with this style, and hence the five adjacent houses are scarcely different in design, size and structure, although each is of a different colour. Two houses feature wooden façades, while the other three have brick façades. “The houses are mostly made of wood, and the insulation is also made of wood. This wood is produced sustainably – even the processing of the wood into a building material is relatively energy-efficient,” says van Toor explaining the project’s sustainability efforts, which have also found expression in the façades.

IMPROVING THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE To achieve the brickwork look, we searched for a material that is easy to install, easy to replace when damaged and also recyclable. “The individual bricks can be reused at the end of the useful life of the buildings,” explains Martijn van Toor. “This has a positive impact on the ecological balance.” The ClickBrick Pure dry stacking system makes the construction sustainable and recycling-oriented, while also creating the appearance of a tradition-

al clinker brick façade. The hand-moulded bricks are based on the historical Waal format for clinker bricks, 210 x 62.5 mm, while dummy joints create the appearance of traditional brickwork even though no mortar is used. The facing bricks made of Dutch river clay are delivered with the necessary stainless steel wall anchors and clips for assembly. This means that the bricks can be laid without special expertise in brickwork or adhesive bonding, and in all sorts of weather. ◀

- 1 The red and orange tones of the hand-moulded facing brick “Andalusia” create robust, mellow façades.
- 2 The blue-red nuances of the hand-moulded ClickBrick tiles with shades from blue and red to violet produce a characteristic appearance.
- 3 The black ClickBrick with its light blue shimmer provides a neutral foundation for combination with other colours from the ClickBrick line.

© Photos: Wienerberger B.V.





The dummy joints in the facing bricks create a traditional brickwork look, but the brick is laid without using any mortar.



TOWARDS THE SUN

To optimise the energy footprint and architecture of The Connection, the building was simply reversed. The back became the front and the roof became a solar power plant.





The Wevolt X-Roof energy roof is a sustainable and efficient solution with a uniform appearance. The architects' basic idea was that the energy transition should also be possible without visually altering the cityscape.

A former telecommunications building on Binnenrotte Square in the centre of Rotterdam in The Netherlands was to be turned into a showcase project for sustainability and architecture. The client's vision included photovoltaic systems and energy-efficient installations without gas connections. The name of the renovated building – The Connection – references its previous history. It used to serve as the telecommunications building of the PTT, the state postal and telegraph office of The Netherlands. The back of the building faced Binnenrotte Square: "On this side, the building was full of telephone switchboards", explains architect Jeroen Schipper. "Now it's an open façade with deep niches, French balconies and a power station on the roof."

AESTHETIC POWER PLANT ON THE ROOF

"The challenge was to turn the back into an attractive front", says Schipper. A further objective was to optimise the building in terms of energy consumption, and not by using visible devices, but rather as unobtrusively as possible. The Wevolt X-Roof complete

solution was chosen for the purpose. This is a waterproof, fire-resistant and wind-resistant energy roof from Wienerberger. The entire roof became a single surface with a strikingly clear and modern look. "It combines maximum efficiency with an exclusive aesthetic", says the architect.

IN KEEPING WITH THE CITYSCAPE Looking from Binnenrotte Square to the south of the building, the façade and roof appear to be colour-coordinated. The black of the balcony parapets and window frames blends in with the warm red of the brick façade and is echoed by the roof. "We opted for the black Wevolt X-Roof energy roof. This colour harmonises well with the classic anthracite tiles on the other roof surfaces", explains Schipper. Only particularly attentive observers will recognise the power plant on the roof. With this project, the planners want to show that the energy revolution can be part of existing architecture without altering the cityscape. The façade renovation earned the building and the planners a nomination for the Brick Award 2022. 🏠

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
The Connection, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Architecture
Orange Architekten

Product used
Wevolt X-Roof

Year of completion
2019

STRIKING ROOF PROFILE

Just a few years ago this prize-winning, leafy green square was still a four-lane street. The new Oluf Baggers Plads represents a bridge between the city's past and its future.

In this square, the firm Praxis Arkitekter designed two new townhouses that will catch the eye of passers-by with the subtle structure of their façades and their distinctive sloping roofs. The townhouses are not conspicuous and only draw your attention on the second glance – since their steep slopes and lack of symmetry fit smoothly into the townscape. For the two new townhouses, the architects chose roof and cladding tiles that enhance this desired effect. The Datura roof tile in natural red also gives the roof crisp horizontal lines, while the thin profile allows the brickwork to conform to the unusual angle of the buildings. “It lends a classic building an elegant, modern touch,” in the opinion of the architects. The modernity of the shapes is counterbalanced by the choice of colour scheme, since the red tone selected for the roof is quite classic. This makes the roofs fit in discreetly next to those of the existing adjacent buildings. >

New and old are intertwined here in the architecture and the choice of materials: The new Oluf Baggers Square blends into the historical neighbourhood.





© Photo: Egernsund Wieneberger/WS





> **DRAMATIC FAÇADE** Yellowish-red brick EW3370 was used for the façade. The hand-moulded bricks, with their interplay of subtle gold and pink tones, give the façade a peaceful feeling. Nevertheless, the façade features detailed patterns that enliven the brickwork of the buildings by adding a third dimension. The hand- and sand-moulded bricks give the buildings a vibrant look, which is enhanced by the addition of trees and plants in the city square. The contracting authority Realdania and the architects from Praksis Arkitekter won the Odin Prize, awarded by the Odense City Association, for the refurbishment of this square, which was formerly a through street. This city-planning project illustrates how we must imagine the cities of the future in keeping with the principles of urban sustainability and quality of life. ◀



↑ Diagonal lines and a consciously asymmetrical impression lend the buildings a modern touch, while the choice of low-key colour scheme is in keeping with the style of the surrounding buildings.

← Skilful laying of yellowish-red, hand-moulded bricks EW3370 creates interesting details in the brickwork.

The square was awarded the Odin Prize by the Odense City Association due to its conscious experimentation with construction techniques and materials.



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Oluf Baggers Plads,
Odense, Denmark

Architecture
Praksis Arkitekter

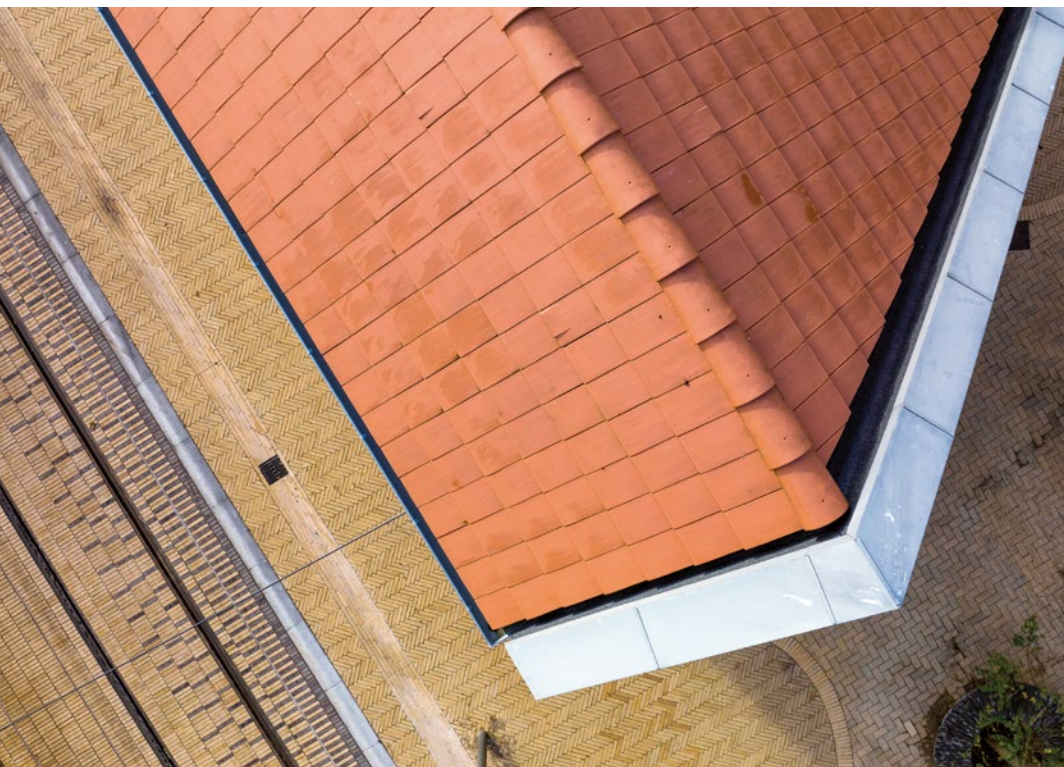
Client
Realdania City & Byg

Products used
Datura natural red +,
EW3370 yellow red

Year of completion
2019



© Photos: Egensund Wienerberger AS



↑ What was once a four-lane road has been transformed into a square. Oluf Baggers Plads in Odense was planted with new trees, and two modern townhouses were constructed.

← Diagonal lines and a consciously asymmetrical impression lend the buildings a modern touch, while the choice of low-key colour scheme is in keeping with the style of the surrounding buildings.

A CHARMING GIANT

The largest building on Värnhemstorget gets a new façade. It visually upgrades the entire square.



↳ The building stands out from the neighbouring houses simply because of its huge size. The new façade was intended to blend into the cityscape as pleasantly as possible

→ Tampa and Tampa Lineo in salmon and pastel red were chosen for the façade tiles. The aim was to reflect the historic façade and modernise the building at the same time.



It is a remarkable transformation of a huge and formerly austere building. At 12 storeys high, it towers above all the other buildings on Värnhemstorget and acts as a point of reference. Yet, the building still blends into the urban bustle of Malmö's most important transport hub. The aim was to give the giant a friendlier outward appearance to counter-balance its immense size. Before renovation, the building was still somewhat reminiscent of former Eastern prefab building architecture: concrete surfaces and bricks created a red and grey pattern; on the first floor, floor-to-ceiling windows reflected the surroundings while above them almost square window openings were lined up in a repetitive sequence. The renovation of the façade relaxed the overall aesthetic and relieved the monotony of the windows.

COLOUR-COORDINATION "We renovated with care and preserved the architectural qualities of the original building. Therefore, we opted for colours and textures that reflect its former look yet fit into the surrounding environment", says Frej Josefsson, CEO of Morneon Fasad AB. Before making a final selection, the architects created several test walls in different tile combinations. They finally chose

a combination of two Argeton façade tiles in salmon and pastel red. "Argeton is an exciting façade material with many possibilities thanks to project-specific special glazes", says Josefsson. The selected ceramic tiles – Tampa and Lineo – were designed and produced with a precision in the range of a tenth of a millimetre using special moulds. They were combined to lend structure to the façade. Horizontal lines indicate the storey levels and vertical lines extend over the entire height of the building. This pattern recalls the design of the façade before renovation.

A NEW FAÇADE The entire building was renovated within 18 months: the roof was refurbished, the existing façade was demolished down to the frame and additional insulation was installed. New, larger windows were installed in the façade and clad with the glazed Argeton façade tiles. Since its renovation, passers-by have begun to praise the look of the spartan residential building. "It's nice to get positive feedback. Especially for a building like this, which is almost absurdly large compared to its surroundings", says Frej Josefsson. The Favör building – popularly named after the Scandinavian retail chain "Favör" – has become a charming sentinel watching over the square. ■

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Värnhemstorget,
Malmö, Sweden

Client
Morneon Fasad AB

Products used
Argeton Tampa, Argeton
Lineo – colour salmon/
pastel red

Year of completion
2022

The choice of dark clay roof tiles gives the roof and façade a coherent character.



THE ACCORDION HOUSE


An idyllic location and orientation give the house its spectacular form: the result is an elegant black accordion.

Above the Krka Valley in Slovenia towers an elegant detached family house that is anything but ordinary. The interrupted ridge axis gives the most spectacular view down into the valley and efficiently brings daylight flooding into the glass central section. The resulting house stretches out like an accordion.

GLASS WEDGE After their children had moved out, the couple did not want to stay in the city flat any longer and looked for a place in the country. They found the perfect spot a little above the village of Kostanjevica na Krki, a tiny place in the picturesque Krka Valley of southeastern Slovenia. With the help of architect Mika Cimolini, they built a private family home that became a star of local media due to its extraordinary shape: the “Accordion House” received highest praise on TV and in print. The design is based on two symmetrical, but differently oriented house sections connected by an intermediate glass component. It connects the wings of the house together like the bellows of an accordion connects the two ends of the instrument. The central room was designed as a focal point for socialising. It contains the kitchen, dining room and living room, while the bedrooms and bathrooms are located in the wings. >

© Photo: Miran Kambič

> **ELEGANT SHADES OF BLACK** “We started the project by generating a volume study and a three-dimensional terrain model”, explains Mika Cimolini. The wooden supporting structure was then built according to this model, insulated with rock wool and secondary layers of wood fibre, and sealed with a membrane and a vapour-permeable sealant. Finally, the house was covered with a ventilated façade of matte black roof tiles. “The challenge was

to create a uniform envelope for the house to give both the roof and the exterior wall an identical layered structure”, says the architect. Tondach Plan 30 was chosen for the purpose. This is a modern straight-lined roof tile with a simple and subtle effect. It lends the house an elegant and coherent character that blends harmoniously into the landscape despite, or perhaps even because of, its unorthodox shape. 

More than just a house – Hiša Harmonika is a profound reflection on modern and technologically precise living amidst the richness of unspoiled nature.

Alja Košir, Architect, Interior designer and critic

© Photos: Miran Kambič

FACTS & FIGURES

Project name

Hiša Harmonika, Kostanjevica na Krki, Slovenia

Architecture

Mika Cimolini, Hikikomori d.o.o.

Client

Private

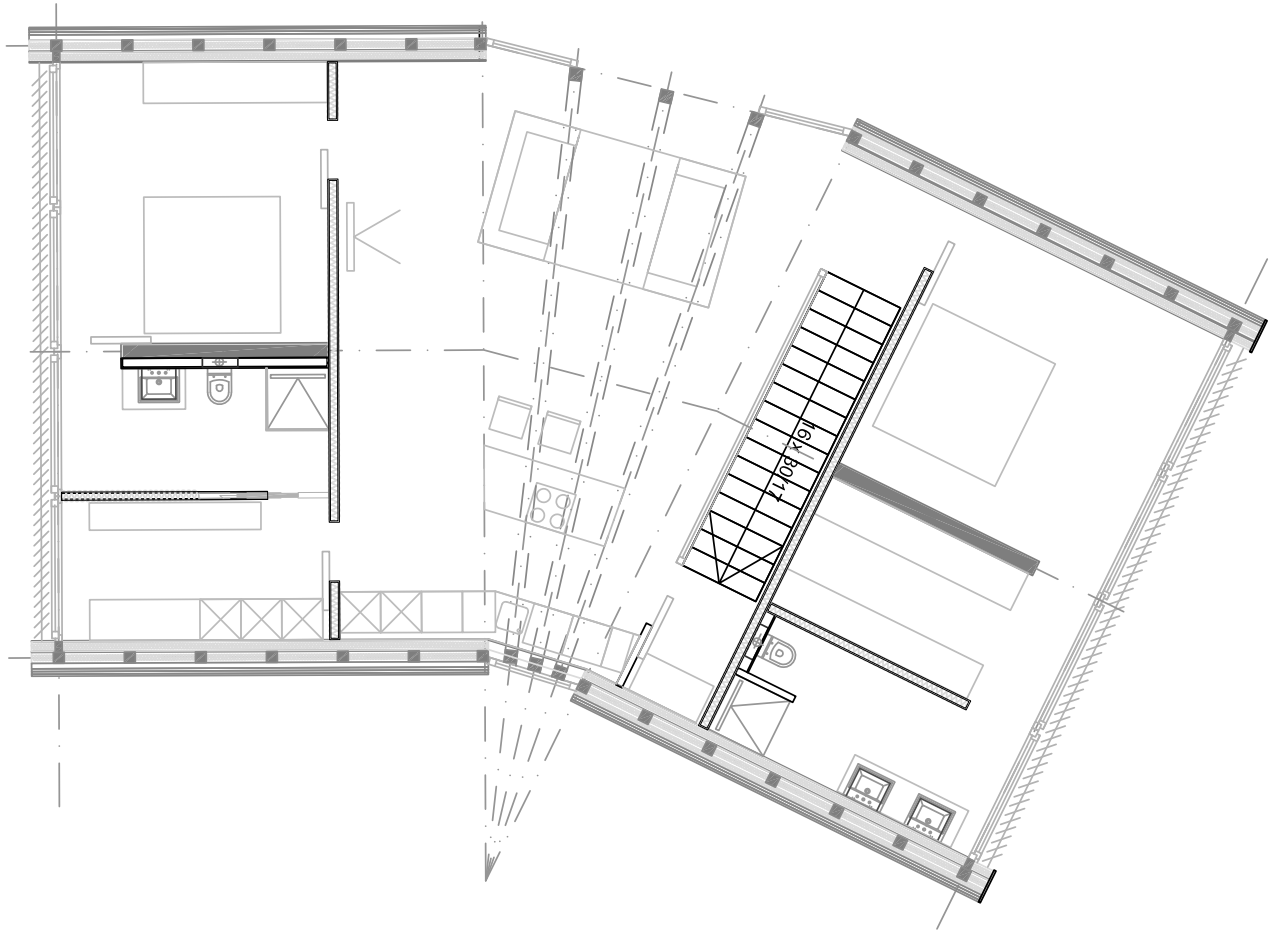
Product used

Tondach Plan 30 (black matte engobe)

Year of completion

2018





The sides open up into the landscape. The central glass section allows as much daylight as possible to flood in. The house opens onto the private garden along the interrupted ridge axis.



A HOME WITH CHARISMA



Avant-garde, unconventional: A steel downpipe juts out on both sides of the house, intended to recall the wings of a seagull.

This home strikes a balance between an almost futuristic modern style and traditional appeal: The bricks used in the façade play a significant part in achieving this effect.



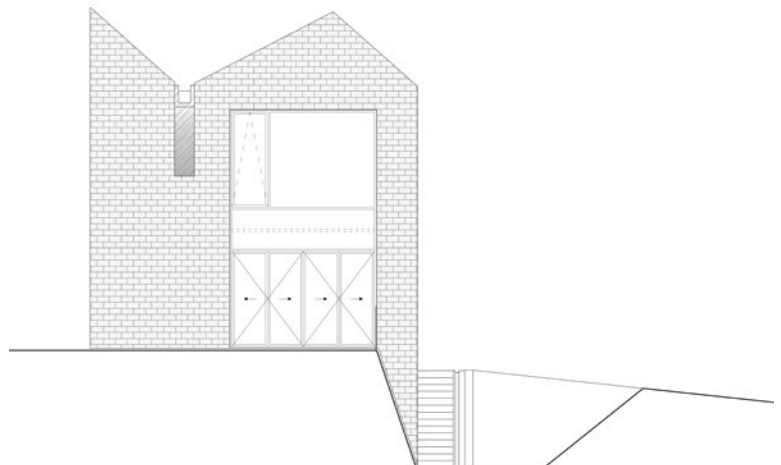
The house is nestled within a sparsely planted pine grove situated on an old sand dune on the Baltic coast near Klaipėda, Lithuania.

Anyone who wants to relax on the long sandy beaches of the Lithuanian Baltic will fail to visit Giruliai. The northern district of the port city of Klaipėda attracts visitors with its soothing natural landscape and good infrastructure. Giruliai is surrounded by forest and popular with the residents of the small town as a summer resort. Here the architects Narauskas, Rimšelis and Natkevičius built a modern home that blends in with the natural landscape and the culture of the region.

HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS The shape of the house is vaguely of the fishermen's houses of the region, and the house itself was clad in brickwork that fits in with the natural surroundings. The house is situated on an old sand dune, now sparsely planted with pine trees. The walls and roof were designed to look like the scales of pine bark, and the bricks were selected accordingly. The dark red, roofing tile "Saint Vincent" was selected by the architects: In this line of tiles, no two tiles are alike, since each tile features a slightly different shading. This irregularity lends a touch of historical charm and authenticity to the property, endowing it with its own personality.

MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN LITHUANIA Gintautas Natkevičius is one of the most famous architects in Lithuania, and his firm Natkevičius & Partners is known throughout the country

for avant-garde architecture and unconventional solutions. The projects that this firm has carried out range from exclusive homes to hotels to airport terminals or crematoriums. Each of these buildings catches the eye of passers-by with its high architectural standards. This also applies to the most recent private home designed by the Lithuanian architects: An enormous, steel downpipe in the façade serves in part as a rain gutter, but also functions as a modern, oversized detail. It is meant to represent a seagull's wings and accentuate the link between the house and the sea. The exhibition of Lithuanian architecture "Kaunas 2022" honoured the home as "Best Residential Building".



FACTS & FIGURES

Project name
Modern home in Klaipėda, Giruliai, Lithuania

Architecture
P. Narauskas, A. Rimšelis, G. Natkevičius

Client
Private

Product used
Aleonard Saint-Vincent, Dark Red (927)

Year of completion
2021

