



FOCUS17 ON ZINC



Editorial

We are currently experiencing an unprecedented worldwide situation that is causing upheaval in our daily lives. Architecture and the creativity of architects enable us to look towards the future.

At a time where the protective role a building plays for its occupants is increasingly important, this issue of the Focus on Zinc magazine yet again offers a wealth of projects. They clearly illustrate the use of zinc for all types of architecture: prestigious projects, projects that are more discreet but just as interesting, the combination of old and modern, innovative forms made possible thanks to the material's malleability, curves, simple volumes and classic architecture. We see zinc in urban settings, or blending into a bucolic environment, deployed in an array of colours that is unique in the zinc industry.

The magazine, which has become a benchmark after 24 years of existence, is consolidating its success with specifiers all over the world, with more than 25,000 copies distributed worldwide.

This issue is also available as a webzine. It will enable you to access even more comprehensive information on each project and its environment.

Enjoy reading and discovering the projects!
The editorial committee



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A DIALOGUE BETWEEN PERIODS AND MATERIALS

In a leafy street in the town of Laren, in the centre of the Netherlands, Amsterdam-based Maak studio designed an extension for this country house, typical of the local architecture of the 1930s.

To respond to the thatched roof and traditional brick facade, the project architect Rodger van Leeuwen opted for a contemporary building with simple forms: a straight facade and a sloped roof with sparsely detailed transitions.

A glass connection links this extension to the original house. To clad this additional structure, the architect chose materials

whose finish and colour blend with the rest of the building, while giving it a modern aesthetic. A dialogue between the materials echoes the confrontation of periods and styles.

The warm, natural aspect of the PIGMENTO® red zinc was chosen for the roofing and the largest part of the facade. The precision with which it was installed enabled particularly flawless flashings for the connection with the glazed section of the extension.

The architect also opted for greater thermal performance. VMZINC PLUS allows a non-vented warm roof to be designed

and built using a continuous vapour barrier with an equally continuous layer insulation above thus greatly reducing thermal bridges. A highly convincing argument for performance in this dialogue between periods and materials.

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

Laren - Netherlands
Private house Hoog Hoefloo

Architect: Studio Maak
Contractor: Siris BV te Hoorn
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: PIGMENTO® red PLUS
Surface: 280 m²



A HAVEN FACING THE SEA

A mineral standing seam zinc envelope covers the roof and side facades of this volume, whose fractured lines echo those of the coast. The building is a separate element in its own right, thereby blending more harmoniously into its rocky environment.

Such is the appearance of this discreet haven designed by Ángel Santorio, director of the Santorio Arquitectos firm (Vigo), in las Rías Bajas, on the north-west coast of Galicia.

The nobility of ANTHRA-ZINC® gives the facade a decidedly modern aspect, creating an elegant contrast with the timber.

Landscaped, architectural integration, high energy performance, choice of sustainable and recyclable materials: the client's expectations were fully met here.



INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

Vigo - Galicia - Spain
Private house las Rías Bajas, Galicia

Architect: Santorio Arquitectos
Ángel Santorio
Contractor: Rendal S.L.
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface: 300 m²

© Héctor Santos-Díez y Jordi Miralles

LINES AND CURVES

The new commercial building designed by architects Wannemacher + Möller GmbH follows the curve of the Große Straße, a city-centre pedestrian street in Osnabrück. The challenge for BÖSS Architects BDA, who supervised the installation of the facade, consisted of inserting the lines and angles of this 400 m² assemblage of AZENGAR® flat lock panels into the overall linearity of the building. Apart from its technical and aesthetic characteristics, the precision with which zinc can be installed is what led the architect to choose this material.

Due to its singular geometry, none of the facade's elements were identical in dimension. So, each panel had to be adjusted on-site before being installed on a metal sub-structure, also with varying dimensions. This meticulous work on the lines of the roof and the window edges produced a super result. A perfectly mastered technical feat, highlighting the connection between architectural expression and skilled craftsmanship.



© BÖSS-Architekten GmbH

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Osnabrück - Germany
Hilfiger / Woolworth Shopping centre

Architect: BÖSS-Architekten GmbH
Hartwig Böss
Contractor: Helmut Noß GmbH
Technique: VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspect: AZENGAR®
Surface: 400 m²



© TAMÁS BUINOVSKY PHOTOGRAPHY

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

Budapest - Hungary
Contemporary house

Architects: Halmos Sarolta, Szegedi Katalin
Contractor: Horex, Reznicek Zoltán
Techniques: VMZINC® Standing seam,
VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 727 m²



© Paul Kozłowski



INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

Amares - Portugal
Private house

Architect: Álvaro Silva - A3S Arquiteturas
Contractor: Funinorte
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspects: QUARTZ-ZINC®, ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface: 1,300 m²



The restored belfry protects this listed building, with customised scales and bulls-eye windows executed by the regional ornamental metal worker.



The irregular, tapered lines accentuate the vibrancy of the roof. ANTHRA-ZINC® was chosen to preserve the architectural expression of the parish hall.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Belfaux - Switzerland
St Étienne Church

Architect: Atelier d'architectes Vianin Antoine
Contractor: Olivier Brulhart SA
Techniques: VMZINC® Shingles
VMZINC® Bulls-eye windows
Aspect: Natural zinc
Surface: 140 m²



© Paul Kozłowski



© Paul Kozłowski



PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Heimberg - Switzerland
Kaliforni Parish church

Architect: HMS Architekten und Planer AG
Contractor: Bauimpuls AG
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: ANTHRA-ZINC® STRAT
Surface: 660 m²

THE ART OF STANDING OUT

In Erpent, along the Chaussée de Marche leading to Namur, in Belgium, stands the new facade of the Fermalux Door and Window manufacturer's offices and showroom. The renovation and extension of these premises were entrusted to the Erpent-based Architectural Management firm.

"This operation provided an opportunity for the client to stand out from the neighbouring businesses. The idea of covering the facade with a perforated metal skin was quickly established because it provided a real aesthetic plus", says Jean-François Jacinto, managing architect of Architectural Management. "We wanted to give the building momentum while using the perforations to create a subtle play of shadow and light, which is accentuated at night by rows of LEDS integrated into the structure. Zinc was a natural choice because it is easy to perforate without risk of

corrosion, more specifically QUARTZ-ZINC® with its unique preweathered aspect".

From the architectural concept to its completion within the budget agreed with the client, several stages were necessary to produce this 300 m² façade, which is unique in Belgium. Initially envisaged with a standard pattern enabling industrial production, the perforations made on trapezoidal flat sheets are actually all different in size, creating a beautiful overall effect. However, this required a change in approach leading to almost artisanal production.

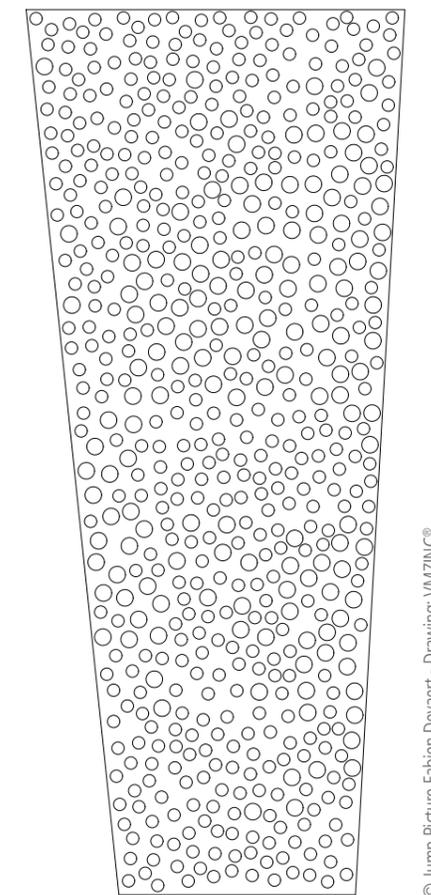
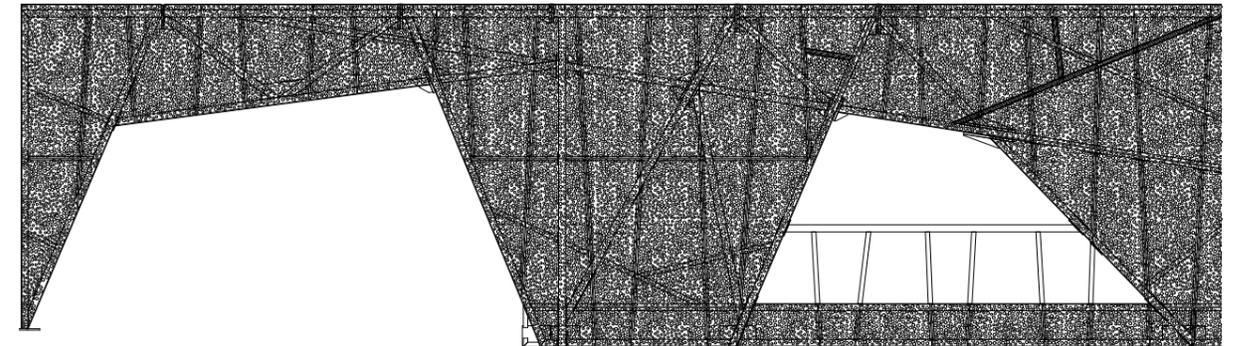
The flexibility of the industrial facilities in France and the interaction between the VM Building Solutions technical teams, the S.M.C.O. installation company (Nanine – Belgium) and the architect ultimately made it possible to custom-manufacture all the modules, which were subsequently

numbered before being assembled on site by screwing directly onto the metal substructure. This involved real teamwork with close collaboration at all times. The client, the installation company and the architect made optimum use here of innovative know-how and adaptability, making it possible to attract new clients and stand out from the competition.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Erpent - Belgium
Fermalux Showroom

Architect: Architectural Management
Jean-François Jacinto
Contractor: S.M.C.O. sprl
Technique: Perforation
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 300 m²



© Jump Picture Fabien Devaert - Drawing: VMZINC®

AT A CROSSROADS

As part of the "Lexicon" mixed-use urban renovation programme aiming to revitalise the town centre of Bracknell, in Berkshire, Piper Whitlock Architecture Ltd (Winchester) was entrusted with the renovation and extension of the Bull Pub.

This establishment, whose structural components date back to the 14th, 16th and 19th centuries, is one of Bracknell town centre's three listed buildings.

For its recent extension, the architects opted for contemporary building techniques and materials offering an aesthetic combination with the older parts of the building.

ANTHRA-ZINC® PLUS was installed using the standing seam technique on the roof, whose vibrant curve descends all the way to the ground. This roof repeats the line of the 14th century structure's vaulted beams, which is also echoed by the timber frame covering the zinc envelope.

The client wanted this pub, located on a strategic corner, to be one of the key elements of the Lexicon's new urban and commercial circuit. Mission accomplished, thanks to this bold extension that succeeds in linking the town's historic past and its current renewal in a single wave.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Bracknell, Berkshire - United Kingdom
The Bull Pub

Architect: Piper Whitlock Architecture Ltd
Contractor: Eco Roofing
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: ANTHRA-ZINC® PLUS
Surface: 800 m²



© Paul Kozłowski - Drawing: Piper Whitlock Architecture Ltd



SERENITY FOR CHILDREN

Nominated for the Equerre d'Argent Première Oeuvre architecture prize in 2018, the Perthes-en-Gâtinais nursery school, located in the Gâtinais Français Regional Nature Park, was designed by TRACKS architecture firm (Paris). On a wooded site at the heart of the historic village, the 815 m² building graphically reinterprets the typical profile of the local traditional habitat, which is dense and low-rise.

Designed based on the dry build technique and featuring a timber framework and cladding, the building is in line with the environmental ambitions of the village and the Regional Nature Park. Everything

was intended to be on a scale suited to small children, who benefit from distinct volumes with easily accessible areas, thanks to a single-storey linear layout.

The herringbone cladding covering all the facades blends with the 45° pitch of the roof, covered with QUARTZ-ZINC®, installed using the standing seam technique. The harmony between the preweathered aspect, whose colour is close to the natural patina of zinc, and the pre-tinted larch used on the facades, guided the architect's choice of material. A choice underlined by the installation of edge gutters between the different volumes.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Perthes-en-Gâtinais - France
"La Ruche" Kindergarten

Architect: TRACKS
Contractor: Ecobat 77
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 815 m²



What is a city's most beautiful avenue? In some cases, it is not a road. In Shanghai, it could be the Bund, a promenade several kilometres long on the banks of the Huangpu River. The quays have been used since the 10th century, under the Song dynasty. The "muddy banks" – the English translation of the Anglo-Malay word "bund" subsequently became the preferred location of Western concessions until 1946.

In the 2000s, the Waitan – the Chinese name for the Bund, meaning "outer beach" – was redeveloped taking its heritage and touristic value into account. Located in the bend of the river, the heart of the Bund enjoys an incomparable panoramic view of the Pudong District on the opposite bank, which, since the year 2000, has been dotted with dozens of skyscrapers housing the Shanghai World Financial Center, a sort of 21st century Manhattan. This industrial district became a ferry terminal in the 1980s, from which thousands

of Shanghai workers cross the river daily. Expo 2010 completed the transformation of the riverbanks into an urban leisure space. Tunnels replaced the ferries, which were converted into sightseeing boats.

The Pier 16 project is a key element of the revitalisation of this site, which ran out of steam after Expo 2010 ended. It features a boat terminal, a historical and interpretive centre, and shops. According to the ANS firm that designed the Project with A+Studio, this exceptional building called for iconic architecture.

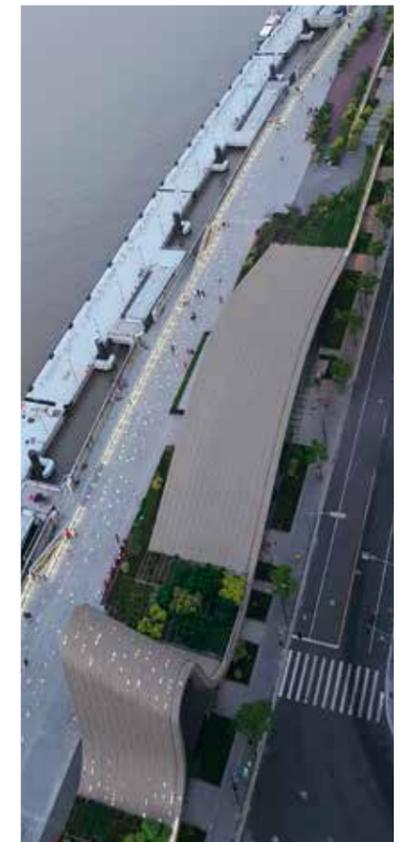
The development of the centre was underpinned by two roof waves that are clearly distinguishable from the surrounding residential architecture. To make this building unique, the architects chose QUARTZ-ZINC® cladding, which highlights and amplifies its shape. They chose a natural colour that blends harmoniously with the stone ground. The layout is based on standing seam zinc

strips installed over the entire length of the roof. Every third row has a thick joint accentuating this pattern, giving rhythm to the span of the roof with its depth. Nothing was left to chance, as demonstrated by the junction of the zinc strips, designing a series of stepped seams following the urban ripple of this new wave. At night, LEDs light up, illuminating the building like a lighthouse.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Shanghai - China
2nd phase of 16 Wharf

Architects: ANS International Design & Consulting Pty.Ltd
A+Studio
Contractor: Shanghai Qiangheng Co.Ltd
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 2,000 m²





HIGHLY URBAN SUBURBAN

Knowing how to turn constraints into opportunities is undoubtedly one of the most important qualities of an architect. In this case, it was necessary to organise the coexistence of two programmes organised around three entities on a small plot bordered by a major road, a railway and a walkway.

Let us add that the site was sloped, which can be as much an advantage as a drawback. The architects were asked to design a 118-unit student residence and two crèches, a facility requiring calmness and safety for the wellbeing of its young occupants.

The various functions were organised horizontally, within a large base pedestal anchored to the street, with the student residence rooms in five blocks of two or three levels. This enables the crèches to benefit from direct access to an outdoor space. The height difference separates and demarcates the access points in the upper part for the residence, and in the lower part for the crèches. The complex is laid out in a V along the main road, to create a barrier against noise pollution and maximise solar gain in the crèche playground. The project balances between the dense urban town and the individual housing

in the immediate neighbourhood. The view from the street offers a constructed front that structures the road.

From the walkway over the railway tracks, passers-by will discover five large pavilions blending into the local landscape. The twinned windows in the student residence rooms are staggered on each floor, erasing the repetitive aspect of the programme. Materiality played an important role in its design: the base seems to rest on a glazed facade punctuated by wooden spikes, deliberately opening onto the street.

The facades are clad in zinc, installed using the standing seam technique in an arbitrary pitch. The bright grey of the AZENGAR® enhances the rough-surfaced light bricks, which play with light according to the direction they face. A means for the architects to allow the sky to enter into the depth of the project through the gaps of this programme that echoes the neighbouring houses, bringing it right into the hanging gardens overlooking this up-and-coming town. In the centre of the courtyard, a low double-slope zinc roof is reminiscent of suburban workshops and sheds.



COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Sceaux - France

Student residence and two crèches

Architects: CoBe Architecture & Paysage (residence)
SPLAAR Sandra Planchet (crèches)

Contractors: Bouygues Habitat Social
MCE Mantes Couverture Étanchéité

Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam

Aspect: AZENGAR®

Surface: 2,390 m²





A BREATH OF ENCHANTMENT

In the western world, boldness has become a priority in the design of commercial zones struggling to attract customers who prefer to shop online.

In countries such as India, where shopping is usually spread among a network of small stores, the novelty of shopping malls is an experience in itself. Two different logics, one of which results in spectacular architecture, as is the case with Esplanade One, a large shopping centre constructed in Bhubaneswar. This is in fact a mixed-use programme combining offices, a shopping mall and a cinema in a complex with exceptional dimensions totalling 92,000 m² of floor space on a plot measuring just 30,000 m².

The imposing, cubic volume of the centre is reminiscent of the many Jain and Hindu temples built in the city from the 10th

century onwards. Although its design is underpinned by globalised commercial principles, the project uses local systems directly borrowed from Vastu shastra, the Hindu equivalent of Feng-shui. The ovoid central hall is a transcription of the central chamber traditionally positioned at the heart of Vastu shastra buildings.

From the outside, a horizontal fault line overlaps the block, tracing a clear border between work spaces and commercial leisure, the entrance to the centre is extraordinarily marked by an organic wave, more than 100 metres long and clad entirely with VMZINC® scales.

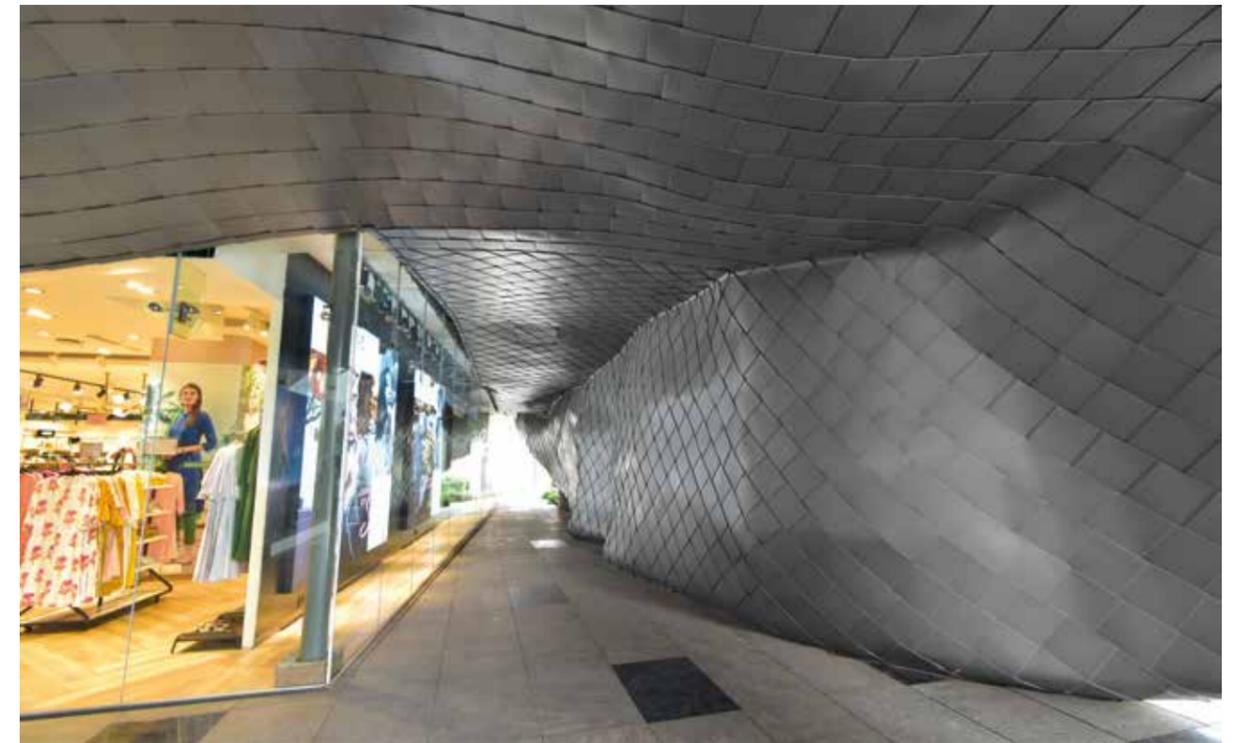
Supported by several posts, it demarcates the surrounding pedestrian areas and gently guides them towards the heart of the centre. The architectural concept is

strengthened by the malleability of zinc, which adjusts perfectly to the deliberate irregularity, enchanting visitors to the centre.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Bhubaneswar - India
Esplanade One Mall

Architect: Practice Design Pvt. Ltd
Contractor: Facaade
Technique: VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC® STRAT
Surface: 2,500 m²



© Vikash Choudhary

FACING THE SUN

One of the challenges posed by the renovation of Business College South in Mommark was to design a building that corresponded to the establishment's present-day image, while remaining coherent with the existing architecture.

This is why the timeless modernity of zinc and the bright AZENGAR® surface aspect appealed to Sonderborg-based architects Blaavand and Hansson, for whom the material provided the perfect means of integrating the building into the natural site.

They opted for the standing seam installation technique on the roof and upper window surrounds, and the cladding of the south gable, which houses two covered terraces. This harmonious programme provides a most attractive setting in which to study.



PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mommark - Denmark
Business College Syd Mommark

Architect: Arkitekterne Blaavand & Hansson A/S
Contractor: Søren Østergaard A/S
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: AZENGAR®
Surface: 2,000 m²

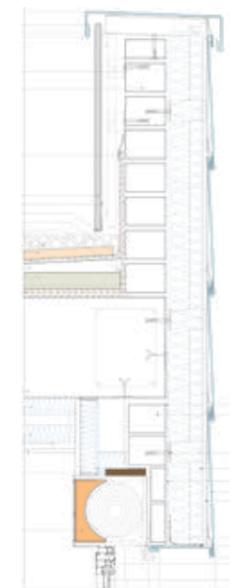


© Kristine Mengel Photographer

FACADES WITH A VIEW

Located in the Parquesol neighbourhood in Valladolid, the "Vista Magna" residential complex offers a unique panoramic view over the city centre and the Pisuerga River. Designed by the Jesus Marino Pascual y asociados firm (Logroño), these two tower blocks - 9 and 11 floors high respectively - are characterised by the formal composition of their facades. The design of these buildings was underpinned by the intention to equip every apartment with an outside space while preserving the panoramic views afforded by the plot.

4,000 m² of ventilated facades were clad with PIGMENTO® green flat lock panel on the highest block. Chosen by the architect for its noble expression, this surface aspect and the installation - profiled panels fixed onto a galvanised sheet steel substructure - are perfectly in line with the sustainable building approach taken by the architect and the client. The building meets the energy performance requirements of the Spanish HE standard, while giving pride of place to comfort and exterior design.



© Paul Kozłowski - Drawing: Jesús Marino Pascual y Asociados Arquitectura, S.L.P.



COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Valladolid - Spain
"Vista Magna" residential complex

Architect: Jesús Marino Pascual y Asociados Arquitectura, S.L.P.
Contractor: Amilcar Cubiertas y Pizarras, S.A
Technique: VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspect: PIGMENTO® green
Surface: 4,000 m²

WHEN MODERN SUBLIMATES CLASSICAL

Since 2019, the “Gusu Aristo Villa” collective housing complex has stood right next to the Canglang pavilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the heart of Suzhou’s traditional city centre, North of Shanghai.

Designed by the Shanghai-based DuShe Architectural Design firm, this 30,000 m² programme was intended more as a multifunctional neighbourhood with an artistic atmosphere than a simple modern housing complex.

Influenced by the classical atmosphere of the city’s old centre and opened to the west by a traditional garden providing a

poetic view of the buildings, the design of the “Gusu Aristo Villa” programme drew inspiration from tradition while using contemporary industrial technologies.

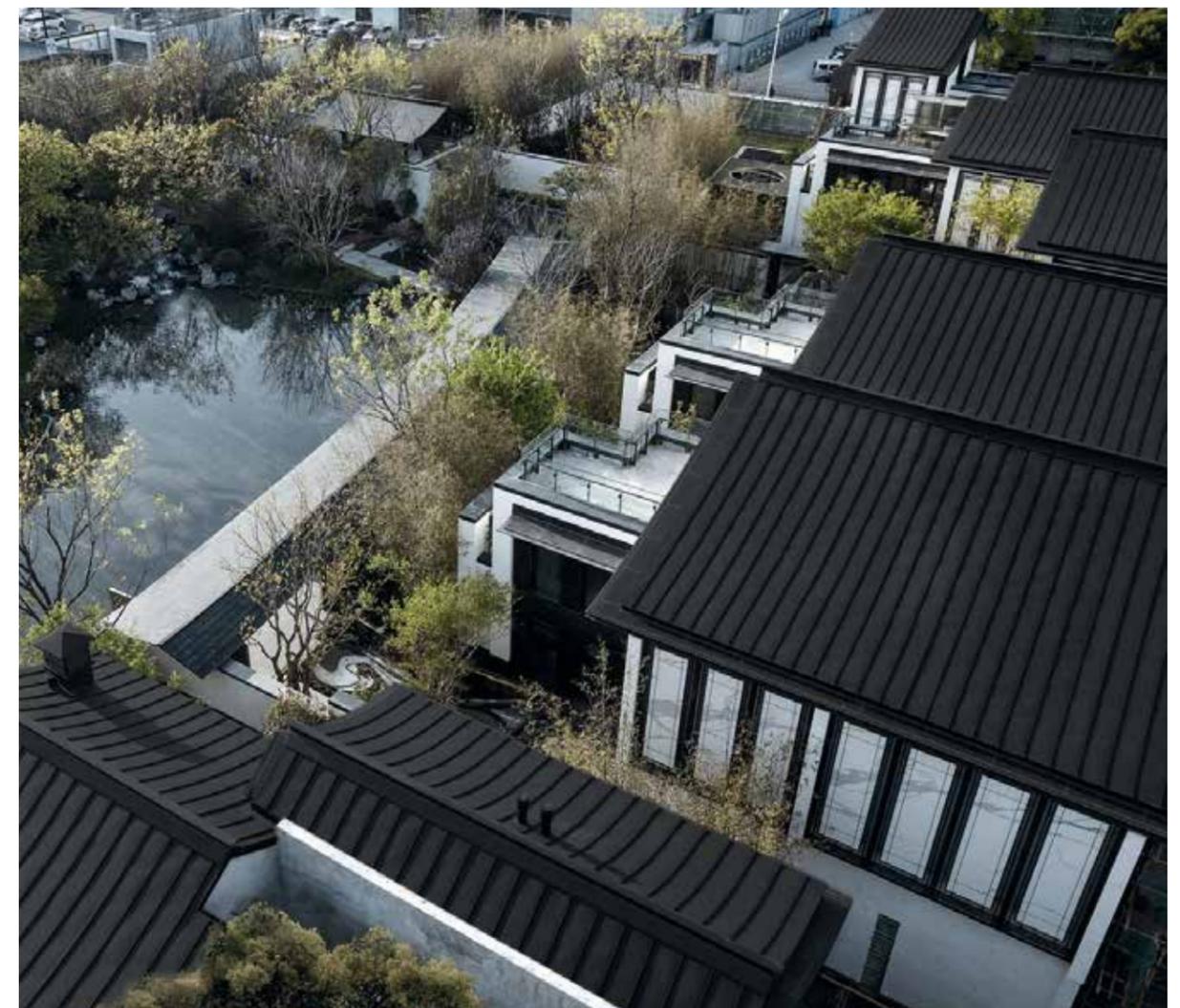
The traditional roof tiles, with their particular radii, were replaced by zinc panels installed using the standing seam technique.

Using this technique providing easy installation, better waterproofing and better thermal insulation for the first time, the architects also saw that using zinc made it possible to give a lightweight, modern aesthetic to a classical design. Mission accomplished.

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Suzhou - China
Gusu Aristo Villa

Architect: DuShe Architectural Design Co. Ltd
Contractor: Shanghai Jihan Construction Engineering Co., LTD
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface: 4,000 m²





THE CONTEMPORARY SOUL OF THE QUAYS

Designed by the SimpsonHaugh architecture firm (Manchester/London), the "Smokehouses" are the first phase of the redevelopment for the old Smith's Dock shipyard in the town of North Shields, in the north of England.

They consist of two 80-unit apartment buildings inspired by the area's industrial past.

Their design, featuring simple forms with sloped roofs and robust materials, creates a contemporary echo of buildings such as the smokehouses located on nearby Fish Quay and aim to enter the programme into the maritime history of the area.

Although the exterior materials used had to blend into this industrial expression, they also had to meet the requirements of a coastal environment. The architects chose PIGMENTO® red, installed using the standing seam technique to cover the walls and roofing, whose continuity and movement aim to highlight and accentuate the huge dimensions of the two buildings, whose gables are entirely glazed.

Apart from technical and aesthetic criteria, the architects also wanted to ensure a high-quality architectural and promotional programme, while taking the realities of the local real estate market into consideration.



COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Tyne and Wear - United Kingdom
Smiths Dock - Smokehouses

Architect: SimpsonHaugh and Partners
Contractor: Longworth Building Services Ltd
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspects: PIGMENTO® red PLUS
Surface: 4,550 m²



ENCOUNTERS IN A CLOUD

Down the years, the John Wardle Architects (JWA) firm developed a taste for designing university campuses. Five years ago, it completed the remarkable School of Design in Melbourne — a school of architecture. With the Monash University Learning and Teaching Building, it refined and amplified its vision of architecture for education and academia.

The building was constructed on the Clayton campus, on the outskirts of Melbourne. Although it was created for part of the student body, it is in fact addressed at all members of the university. As with the school of architecture, its ground floor has large openings onto the rest of the university and forms a public space covered by a large roof, perforated with a series of sheds. Evocative of the neighbouring houses, it provides shelter from the heat without blocking out light. This agora also

forms a hall leading to the multiple lecture halls and various floors of the centre. The stairs serve as benches in places, multiplying opportunities to meet, interact and enabling a variety of possible uses. The space facilitates communication between students, generating discussions that enable dissemination of knowledge - the university's *raison d'être*.

For the architects, only a deliberately low building, contrasting with the neighbouring tower blocks on the campus, could enable these exchanges. Underpinned by a logic focused on interaction and exchange, the architecture blurs the limits between the campus and the surrounding environment.

The perforated zinc screen replacing the facade wall serves as a shade installed on a metal structure. It gives the latter an undulating, evanescent, diaphanous form.

Behind this screen, deconstructed openings, clad with glass or zinc strips lead to the hall. For the architects, the perforated zinc screens recall the bark of the eucalyptus trees bordering the site. With this building, one can possibly imagine a huge cloud where people come together, as though it were a nod to the virtual clouds of the digital world.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Clayton - Australia
Monash University Learning and Teaching Building

Architect: John Wardle Architects
Contractor: Metalzone
Techniques: Perforation
VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 4,900 m²



© Peter Bennetts Photography - Drawing: John Wardle Architects

SILENCE AND COLOUR

The warehouses of the Paris general stores were erected in the north of Paris in 1854, benefitting from the opening of a canal connecting major industrial clusters in the capital. Several rail tracks were gradually built around the site, which continued to be used for storage up to the 1960s. In the 2000s, these 100,000 m² of warehouses were converted into a huge shopping district, a forerunner to the recovery of a neglected area of the city.

The old buildings were redeveloped, new office buildings designed by the Chaix and Morel architecture firm were constructed. They borrow from the volumes of the first four warehouses designed by engineer Émile Vuignier in 19th century.

The building designed by Anne Carcelen is the 13th and last that was built on this 10-ha site. The architect took account of the evolution of the venue and the changes made to the neighbourhood. On the other side of the railway tracks, the redevelopment of the old Macdonald

warehouses, placed the extremity of the plot in a central urban position along a strategic pedestrian pathway. This meant that the project had to serve as a signal, which seemed unlikely given its peripheral position within this tertiary zone. From the street, it looks like an imposing, majestic vessel navigating through the flow of rail and waterway infrastructures.

Several conceptual innovations underly this dynamic form, designed entirely using BIM and supported by a mixed timber and concrete structure. Renewal of the facade principals defined by Chaix and Morel in 2000 also resulted in a mixed envelope, made up of two glazed gables revealing the timber structure, and two main facades in PIGMENTO® red.

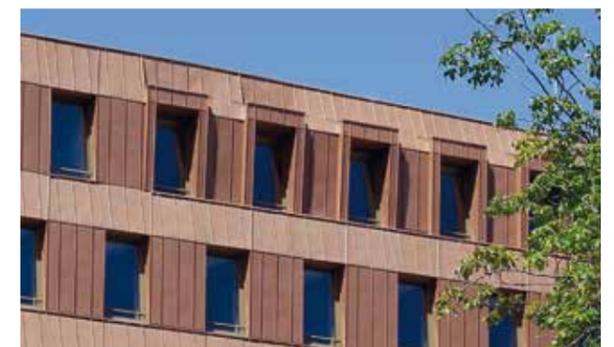
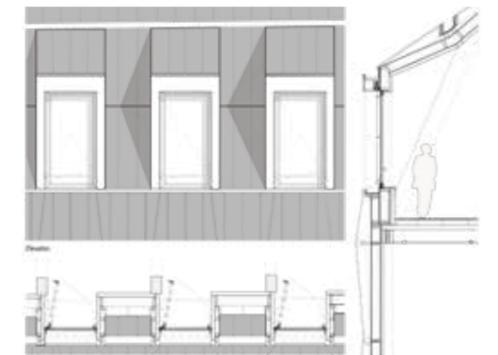
The malleability of the material is fully exploited. Installed from the apex of the roofing to the foot of the facade, the sides of the building are fully clad in zinc. The latter absorbs the varying sizes of the dormer windows on the last floor. The BIM

model made it possible to precisely lay out each window module. The facade itself is made up of a succession of horizontal facets with two different angles per floor. The zinc sheets were installed on timber bases that create relief on the facade. This system is not formalistic, but it reduces noise pollution from trains by reflecting the noise back towards the railway tracks or the sky, rather than the facades of the neighbouring apartment buildings. A wall of seamed metal, much more attractive than a sound abatement wall and just as effective.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Paris - France
Offices Pont de Flandres - Rosa Parks

Architect: Anne Carcelen
Contractor: BALAS
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: PIGMENTO® red
Surface: 5,000 m²





THE SPIRIT OF SOHO

50 kilometres west of New York, Morristown is one of a number of towns that have been boosted by the increase in property prices in the Big Apple. Manhattan is less than an hour's drive away and there are 75-minute train links to Pennsylvania Station. Morristown does not just offer affordable rents.

Refusing to become a commuter town for one of the largest cities in the world, locally elected representatives decided to turn their town into an attractive, lively location, significantly opting to develop the town centre for pedestrians rather than for cars – a rare occurrence in the United States. Shops and bars make the heart of Morristown a vibrant place connected to its train station.

Without saying so, Morristown is returning to the urban fabric of American towns before the car. So, it is not surprising that the municipal services are favouring the development of architecture openly referring to American heritage from 1820 to 1910.

For the construction of The Metropolitan Lofts, a complex of 59 apartments designed by MHS architects, the town wanted a building combining brick walls and large

windows. The architects proposed an alternative compatible with the town's historicist requirements, designing a project reminiscent of the Cast Iron Building, industrial buildings constructed from the 1830s in the New York district of Soho and converted into atypical apartments from the 1960s – the famous lofts occupied by artists.

These highly rational, cost-effective buildings are recognisable by their ornate cast iron facades, supplied via catalogue by specialised manufacturers.

The ductility of zinc made it possible to create a similar architectural expression. The facade design proposed by the architects gives depth to the facade, introduces sophisticated contemporary mouldings that some may qualify as brutal, while at the same time revisiting classic decorative elements, such as corbels evoking the mutules of Greek temples.

This zinc wall recreates a thickness in front of the brick facades of the building, which is equipped with a roof terrace, a gym and other facilities open to all residents.

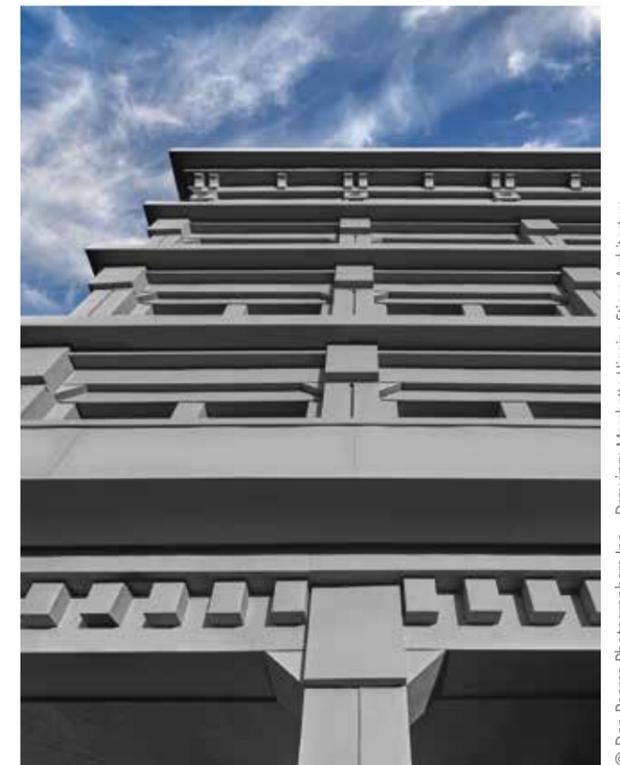
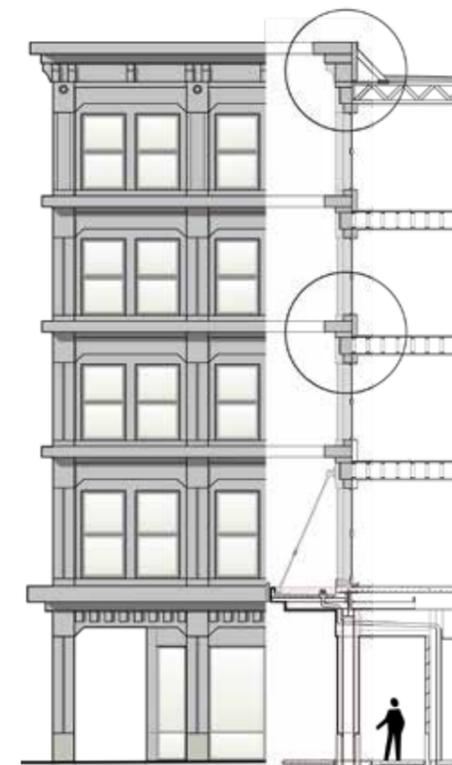
Honestly, why bother with Manhattan?



COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Morristown - United States
The Metropolitan Lofts

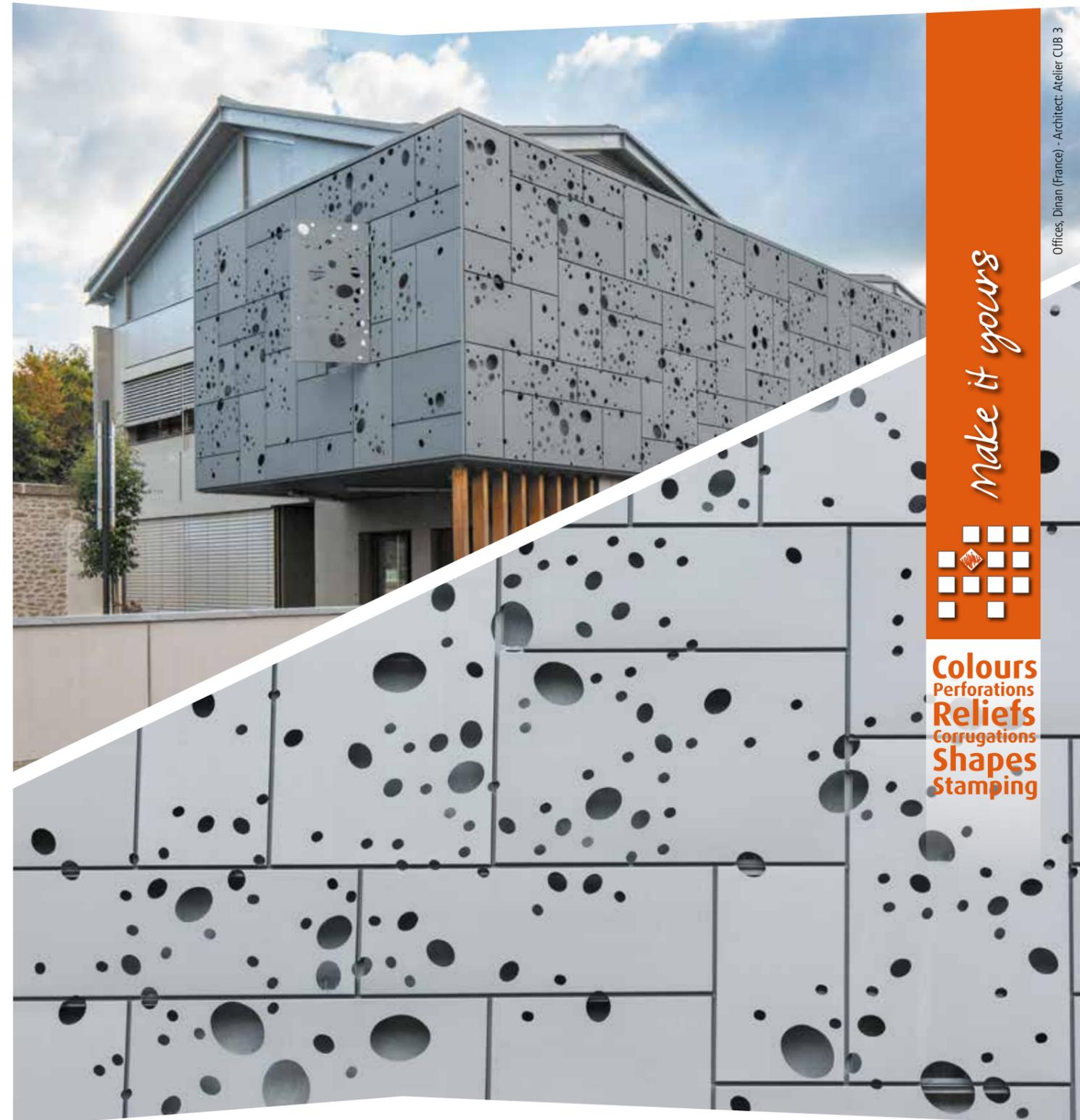
Architect: Marchetto Higgins Stieve Architecture
Manufacturer: B&B Sheet Metal
Contractor: Telentos Group Inc.
Technique: Cassettes
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface: 7,650 m²



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If you want to explore in more detail the projects presented in this issue, to get to know the architects and their philosophy, or to discover the sites and the buildings, an interactive webzine version is available at:

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