



SWISSPEARL ARCHITECTURE 4

International Edition – High Profile Buildings

SWISSPEARL®

SWISSPEARL ARCHITECTURE 4

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LOGISTICS – CONCERTOS FOR VARIOUS MUSIC TEAMS



A building project resembles an extremely elaborate musical masterpiece in several movements. Together with various orchestras – sometimes unseen by the audience – a series of soloists following each other play with different instruments the masterly construction of the concertante interplay, leading to the finale. This takes place with a

large range of aspects of instrument technique and, sometimes, surprising effects of a collective harmonic delight.

Of course, the architect writes the melodic invention. However, many hands are needed so that the sequences progressing by gradual steps contribute with their complex chords and superb arpeggio motifs to the final applause of the building owner and the general public.

In today's world, architecture visibly uses in its creative development an abundance of bright new ideas and colours; even bold combinations of colours. In order to keep step with this trend and to contribute – without false note – to the smooth and timely construction work, the performers have to adapt their repertoire. The variety in products, colours and details requires a demanding expertise in logistics. Not only on the job site, but also at the factories.

For a long time it was sufficient to provide a construction materials wholesaler with façade boards in set dimensions in a few common colours. But today, high quality façade panels available in a wide colour range are expected to come “just in time”, directly to the construction site. Panels that are ready to be installed in project-specific dimensions, and often in custom shades. This dictates that the manufacturer understand and master all details of the challenging logistic processes required, from the architect all the way to the façade erector. Such logistic virtuosity is nothing but the result of a high customer orientation and a long experience in this field, with an optimised interplay between the company's skilled teams and the external players. They all work together to meet the many and varied operational challenges of each project whilst following strict protocol and patterns of movement. The modern interpretation of a classical masterpiece for top rate service with a unique combination of noble chords and vibrant rhythms in perfect, though often hectic harmony.

Discover on the next four pages how Swisspearl – together with its international distribution network – masters with allegro con brio the theme and variations of exacting logistic tasks. And listen to the music with variation in architectural language in the following project reports – a series that international designers have composed relying on Swisspearl's expressive effect and logistic competence.

Enjoy the “music”!

Anders Holte, CEO Eternit (Schweiz) AG

LOGISTICS COMPETENCE





Lasse Jacobsen, the responsible for Swisspearl distribution in Denmark and Greenland:

“The architects contact me personally when the building project or procedure demands special complex features. I always endeavour to ensure that the development of the project runs smoothly in dialogue with the planner.”

Architects who use Swisspearl panels for their design consult the authorised distributors accountable for the specific country or region. Eternit (Switzerland) AG maintains an international network of trained distributors who are responsible for the various tasks from the enquiry to the installation. These committed partners inform, advise and make suggestions; they organise the transport and ensure the smooth running of the projects on the spot.

Karl Hugentobler, technical export advisor:

“We do our best to implement technical challenges in production. We aim to deliver our products in the desired colours, formats and special treatments such as cutting to size and perforation.”

For detailed solutions and special wishes, the services of technical advisors are called upon. These experts look for ways of implementing an idea both in terms of production and during actual construction. The sooner all the requirements and wishes for the specific building are known the better. The implementation of the architect’s special wishes is clarified in advance by discussing the manufacturer’s feasibility internally. In addition, there are always various factors to be taken into account in connection with how the products can be used in each case. Also, colour combinations, perforations or cutting to size as well as optimal palletising of the panels for installation require quite different procedures in the logistics chain.



Bruno Hediger, head of order processing:

“We bring the architect’s or planner’s wishes in line with their production-technical implementation. We consider every order as a new task to be solved.”

Before realisation, the authorised distributor and the installer determine the amount of material needed for the project. The necessary panel dimensions are fed into an optimisation programme that determines the best possible exploitation of the basic panels from the production, thereby ensuring optimal economical and ecological conditions. At the same time, the cost of cutting to size and drilling the attachment holes is determined. This is the basis for the firm offer for the subsequent order.

The manufacturer in Switzerland is informed about each future project in advance, so that the various production steps from the standard production-size panels to the customising can be planned effectively. This facilitates a reliable, comparatively quick delivery on a high-quality level despite customer-specific production in week-long production processes.

Once the definitive cut-out and drilling lists are complete, the distributor passes on the order to Switzerland. Then the different steps of finishing and polishing are recorded according to the order and co-ordinated optimally with the ultimate aim of ensuring the shortest possible delivery date.



Alfred Landolt, operating manager for upgrading panels: “We work rationally and efficiently.

The factory operates in three shifts, round the clock. We recently installed a new cutting machine to accelerate this step of production.

The deep-dying installation has to be cleaned thoroughly after each change of colour.

And we know that our customers appreciate our services.”

Swisspearl cement composite panels are manufactured from high-quality raw materials such as Portland cement, reinforcement fibres, colour pigments and water on so-called panel machines. The basic materials are produced in various deep-dyed colours and subsequently undergo surface treatments to develop further shades and different optical aspects. This takes place under strict consideration of the highest environmental demands and production hygiene for a wide assortment. Then come the cutting to size, drilling and milling processes according to the customer’s wishes. The Swiss traditional enterprise has long experience of project-specific customising of the cement composite panels.



Urs Hanger, packaging specialist: “Each pallet is put together individually. My motto for packaging is: Use as much as is needed, but never too little. Damage to the freight during transport hardly ever occurs, but if something does happen, we learn from our mistakes and perfect our methods.”

The panels are stacked on special robust pallets, up to two tons per pallet. If desired, each panel of a delivery is packed in the order needed for assembly. The panels have to be protected specially for international transport. Based on our experience with heavy goods vehicles, sea and air transport, the packaging has been improved constantly. Special safety measures are taken against various dangers. Swisspearl panels are tied to the pallets with plastic transport belts, and U-shaped wooden structures fit over the stack of panels and protect it against direct contact on the top and sides. Thus the ready-for-assembly panels arrive at the building site just as they left the factory.

Marlies Gebbs, shipping clerk: “You often need a good bit of patience for all the phone calls and e-mails. But good teamwork with the distributors is important; after all, we are something like a big Swisspearl family.”

When the lorries roll into the warehouse, it is not only the ordered goods that have to be ready. The delivery note and all necessary export and customs documents must be on tap. All movements are co-ordinated in the dispatch department. The distributors’ orders are examined, co-ordinated with the carrier’s consignments, and all relevant internal operations terminated. The majority of the panels are exported by lorry, or overseas by ship in containers, in close collaboration with a worldwide leading haulage firm.

Interviews and editing: Michael Hanak

Gary Comer Youth Center, Chicago, USA

COLOURFUL FUTURE

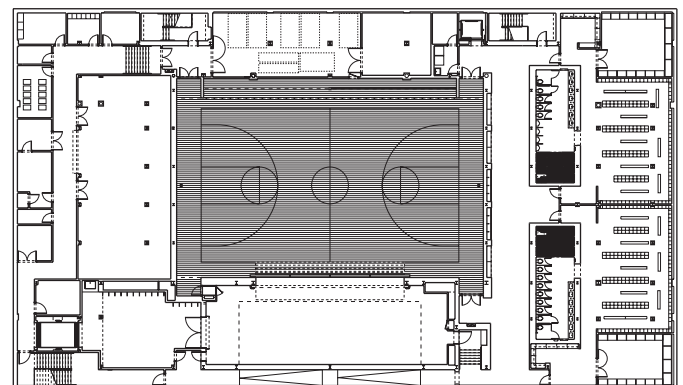


This colourful new building was completed recently in South Chicago. Located in the middle of a poor neighbourhood, it serves as a venue for a youth organisation while doubling as a community center. The multi-coloured façade panels reflect the convivial activities taking place inside the building and, figuratively speaking, the affirmative perspectives that the charitable organisation wishes to impart to the young people.



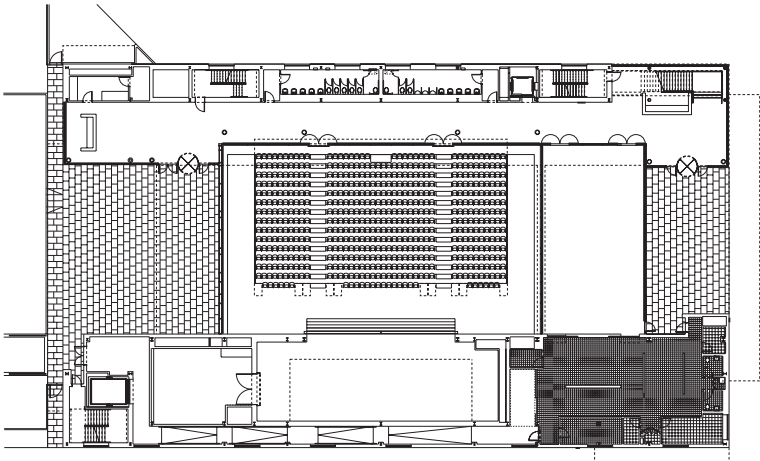
The architect John Ronan describes his project as follows: “This youth center, located on Chicago’s South Side, provides a constructive environment for youths of this area to spend their after-school hours. The center provides support for the programmes of the South Shore Drill Team and Performing Arts Ensemble, a 300-member dance performance group for children aged 8 to 18. The building’s main space, a convertable gymnasium that serves as a daily practice space for the drill team, converts to a 600-seat performance venue via a deployable theatre seating system, movable curtains and stage doors that reveal an 80 by 30 foot performance stage. A cafeteria overlooks the gymnasium. Both the gymnasium and the cafeteria are surrounded by a three-level programmatically flexible space that is intended to be adaptable to the changing needs of the center and its community over time. Included in this wrapping zone are educational and recreational youth programmes, including arts and crafts rooms, computer labs, dance rooms, a recording studio, a costume design shop, tutoring and study spaces, classrooms, office and exhibition spaces. The rooftop over the gymnasium and cafeteria hosts an educational roof garden supporting agricultural and horticultural programmes where urban youths can grow flowers and vegetables. Large expanses of glass and strategically placed fenestration allow for visual connectivity to foster a sense of community between the children and adults participating in the various programmes. On the exterior, a cladding system of brightly coloured cement composite panels stand for the center’s youthful orientation, and an 80-foot tall mesh tower surmounted by an LED sign announces programmes and events, serving as a visual marker for the community.”

This is a project of considerable consequence in terms of urban planning. A response to its immediate surroundings, the building evolved out of its context and was shaped by the conditions of its neighbourhood. The neighbourhood around Grand Crossing on the south side of Chicago is characterised by poverty, homelessness, violence and crime. This is where Gary Comer grew up, founded the Land’s End clothing-catalogue company and became one of Chicago’s wealthiest and most successful businessmen. More than 25 years ago, Gary Comer decided to create a venue for young people in his former neighbourhood. The South Shore Drill Team is a social programme preventing the formation of criminal gangs, drug addiction and teenage pregnancy. Among other things, the young people are taught dancing and precision drill techniques for parades and thus offered an organised

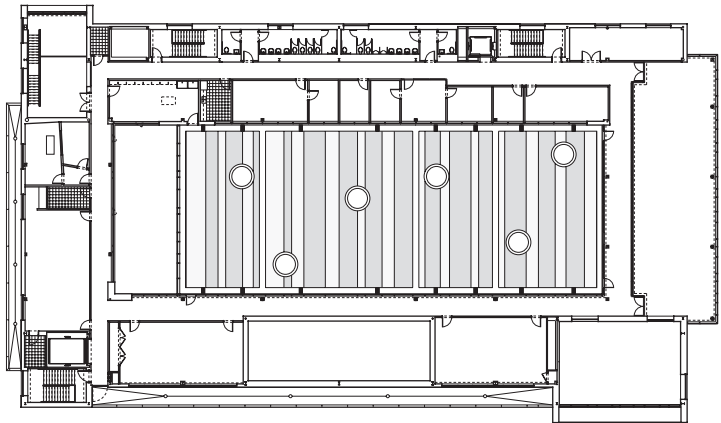


Base floor 1:750

**“THIS YOUTH CENTER PROVIDES A CONSTRUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT
FOR YOUTHS OF THE AREA.” JOHN RONAN**



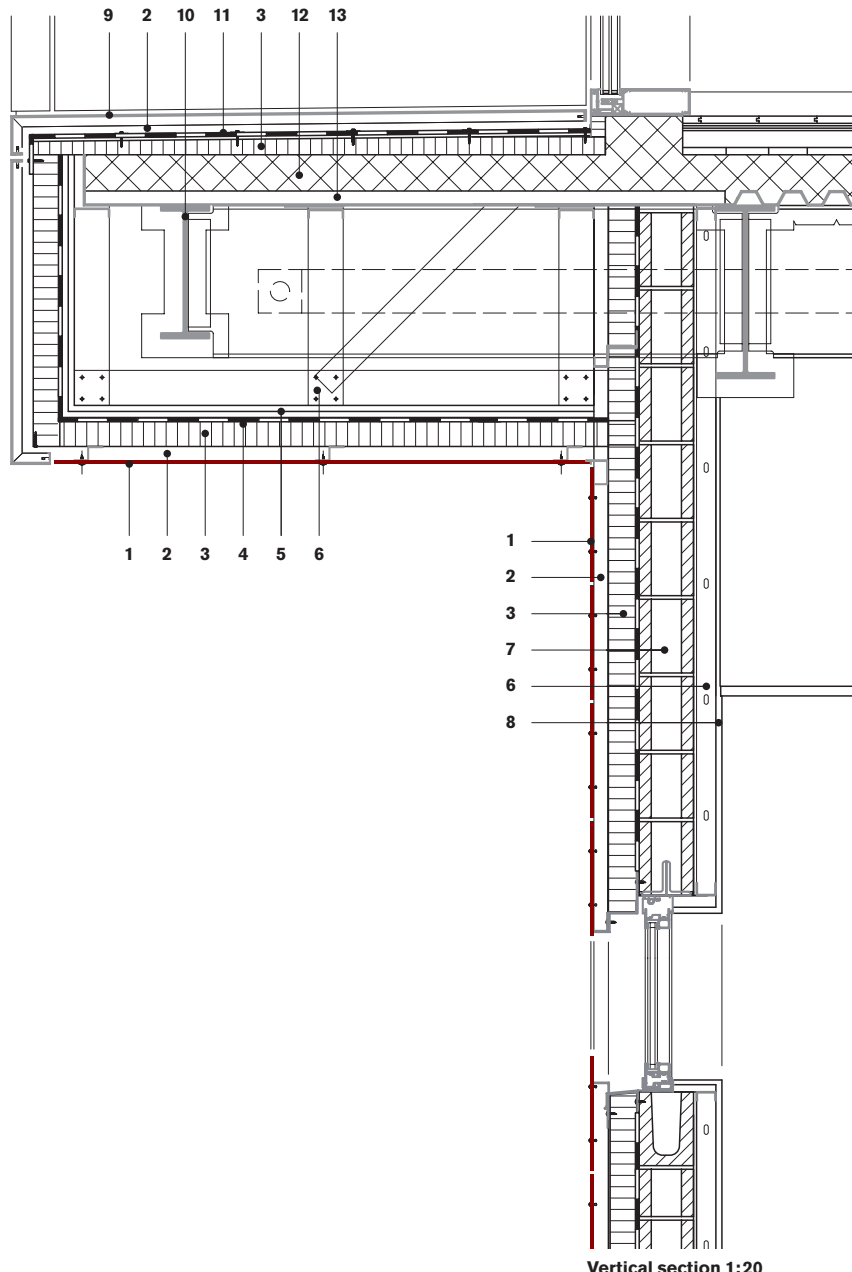
Ground floor 1:750



Third floor 1:750

“ON THE EXTERIOR, A CLADDING SYSTEM OF BRIGHTLY COLOURED CEMENT COMPOSITE PANELS STAND FOR THE CENTER’S YOUTHFUL ORIENTATION.” JOHN RONAN

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Air space with furring channels
- 3 Rigid insulation
- 4 Waterproofing membrane
- 5 Exterior gypsum sheathing
- 6 Metal stud framing
- 7 Concrete masonry unit
- 8 Gypsum wall board
- 9 Aluminum composite panel
- 10 Structural steel
- 11 Waterproofing membrane
- 12 Concrete slab
- 13 Metal deck



Vertical section 1:20

and disciplined alternative to their everyday lives. Comer died recently, after the opening of the Youth Center.

The forms and colours of the new building radiate optimism and cheerfulness. Large, glazed, selectively placed sections allow the users to communicate with the urban space. The building is placed close to the street and does not shrink back from the sidewalk for fear of graffiti and vandalism as is so often the case in American cities. The four sections form a square, whereas the volumes are placed on and in each other in such a way that they overlap. Thus, some sections of the outer skin project out over the actual ground area, their glazed areas reaching out for contact with the city like antennae.

The façades are colourfully and conspicuously designed. The architect chose nine different colours for the panels of the exterior cladding, with red shades on two sides and blue on the other two. The colours of the spatial projections are carried through consistently into the other colour areas. The individual panels vary from light to dark. They are not arranged in any regular colour order, but freely mixed and distributed over the façades. Communication, overlapping, differences, intermixing – these are all themes not only of considerable importance in urban planning, but also of sociopolitical significance.

Michael Hanak

Location 7208 South Ingleside Avenue, Chicago, USA

Client Gary Comer Science and Education Foundation, Chicago

Architects John Ronan Architects, Chicago; John Ronan, Evan Menks

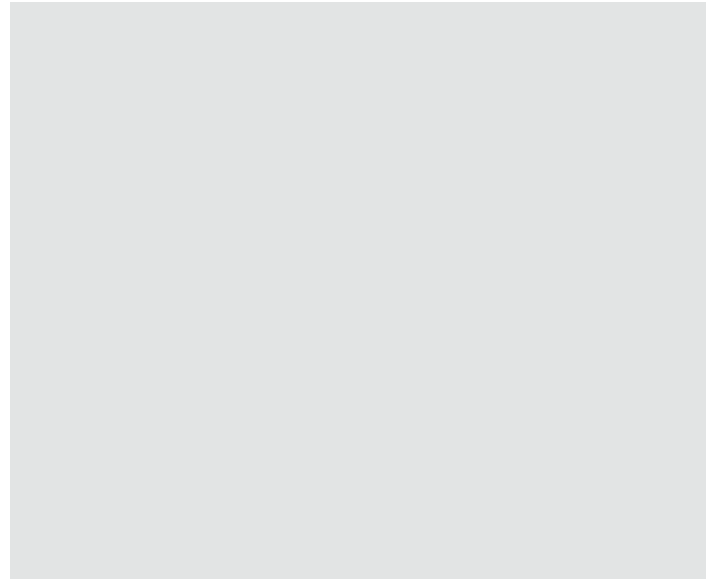
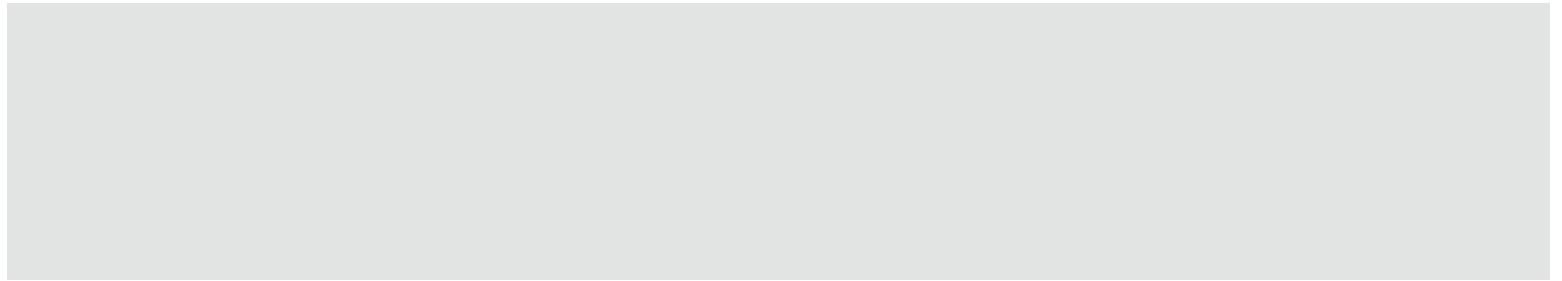
Building period 2005–2007

General contractor W. E. O’Neil, Chicago

Façade construction RG Construction, Elmhurst (Illinois)

Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx (Ivory) 7090 and four custom colours; N 202 and four custom colours





Housing L, Sežana, Slovenia

BUILDING ON

Recent years have seen numerous far-reaching changes in Slovenia. Today, the independent EU state is in a constant state of transformation, and so is its contemporary architecture. A young generation of architects is acquiring large-scale building projects through competitions and investors. Housing L is a commercial project, realised on a low budget, which is nevertheless full of positive qualities.

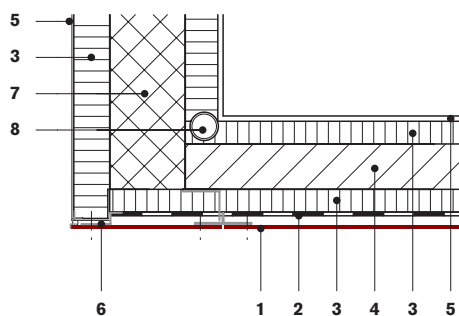




In Slovenia, a young generation of architects is attracting a good deal of attention. The message of the internationally circulating exhibition “Sixpack” was explicit: “We want to be a part of it.” Among the six participating architects were Aljoša Dekleva and Tina Gregorič, who founded a joint office after completing their studies in London in 2003.

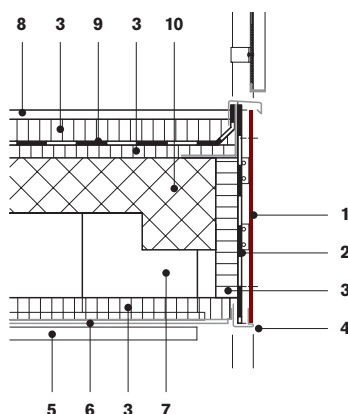
Their new housing project in Sežana resumes an existing development while at the same time enhancing its status. Instead of adding another block of flats, Dekleva and Gregorič Arhitekti strung together a row of three slimmer volumes with a pronouncedly vertical orientation that creates a striking spatial structure. The new building comprises six main storeys and is thus somewhat higher than the two adjacent older buildings. Instead of a gable roof, the three roof volumes are slanted in opposite directions, thereby accentuating the three parts of the building. Perhaps for the same reason, the exterior walls on the street side of the building curve inwards towards the ground on the lowest floor, thus clearly articulating the entrance situation.

The chosen material for the façades corresponds with the construction material: the load bearing concrete side walls are plastered on the outside, and the brick walls at the front and back are clad with cement composite panels. The different colours of the two different surfaces provide both a contrast and a bond: the warm orange plaster and the bright reddish-orange of the cement composite panels form unified volumes out of which the windows and loggias are accurately incised. The façade is characterised by the different broad vertical Swisspearl panels and the alternating organisation of the wall openings that provide the apartments with a choice of either one single entrance to the loggia from the living room or, alternately, of a second access from the bedroom. *Michael Hanak*



Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Wind stop foil
- 3 Thermal isolation
- 4 Brick wall 120 mm
- 5 Contact façade granulation 1 mm
- 6 Aluminium vertical profile, subconstruction of façade
- 7 Supporting reinforced concrete construction 200 mm
- 8 Drain tube PVC, lodge outlet



Vertical section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Wind stop foil
- 3 Thermal isolation
- 4 Aluminium coloured profile 2 mm
- 5 Linear illuminant
- 6 Aluminium substructure for suspended ceiling
- 7 Galvanized steel substructure for possible brisoleille
- 8 Terrazzo flooring 20 mm
- 9 Hydro-isolation
- 10 Concrete

Location Cesta na Lenivec 6, Sežana, Slovenia

Client and general contractor Kraski zidar d.d., Sežana

Architects Dekleva Gregorič Arhitekti, Ljubljana; Aljoša Dekleva, Tina Gregorič, Tina Rugelj, Flavio Coddou, Lea Kovič

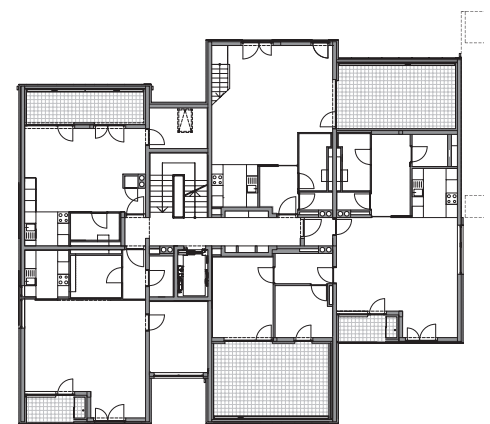
Construction period 2004–2005

Façade construction Alu Komen Montal d.d., Komen/Termika d.o.o., Ljubljana

Façade material SWISSPEARL®, special colour Coralit 161 1338



**“ONCE AGAIN, IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO ASPECTS SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILS,
THE SPECIFIC USE OF MATERIALS, THE TREATMENT OF THE CONTEXT AND ISSUES OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.”
ALJOŠA DEKLEVA AND TINA GREGORIČ**



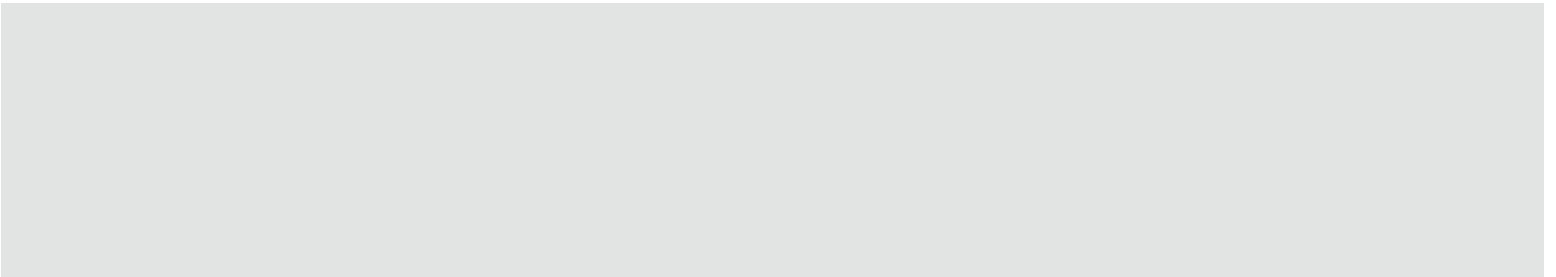
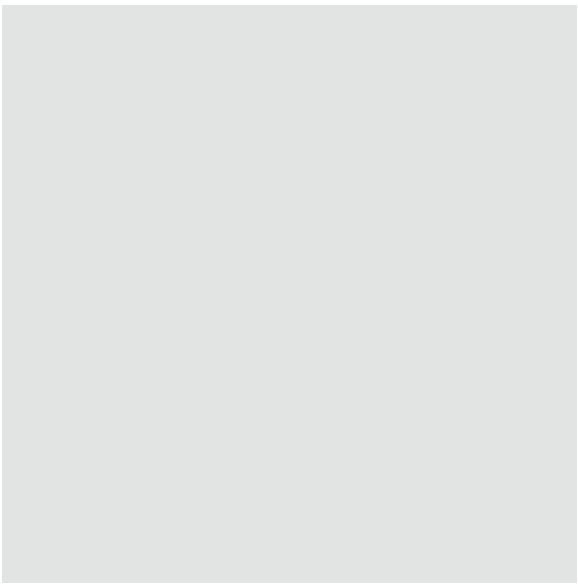
Upper floor 1:400

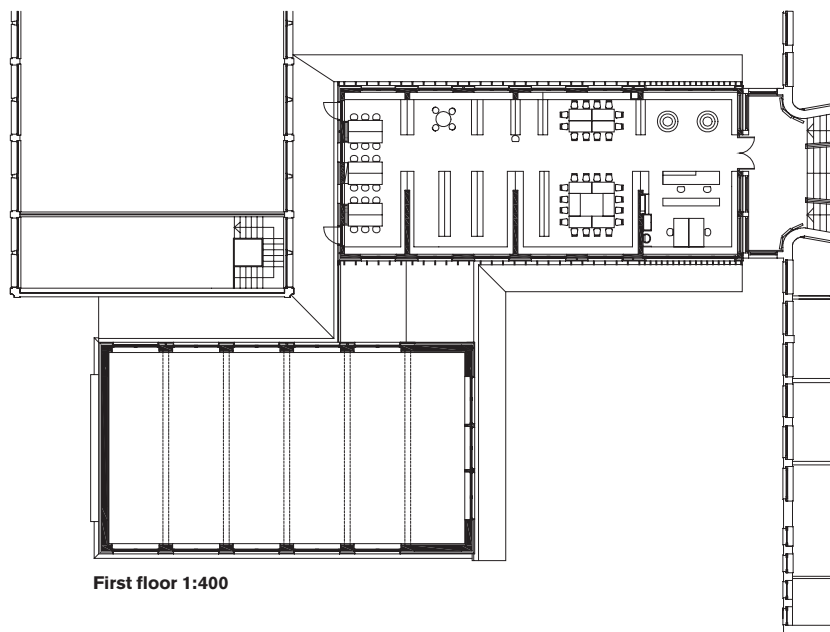


Boris Briški designed a connecting building for a school edifice. Its façade seems to fold itself up to make the extension fit between the two older buildings.

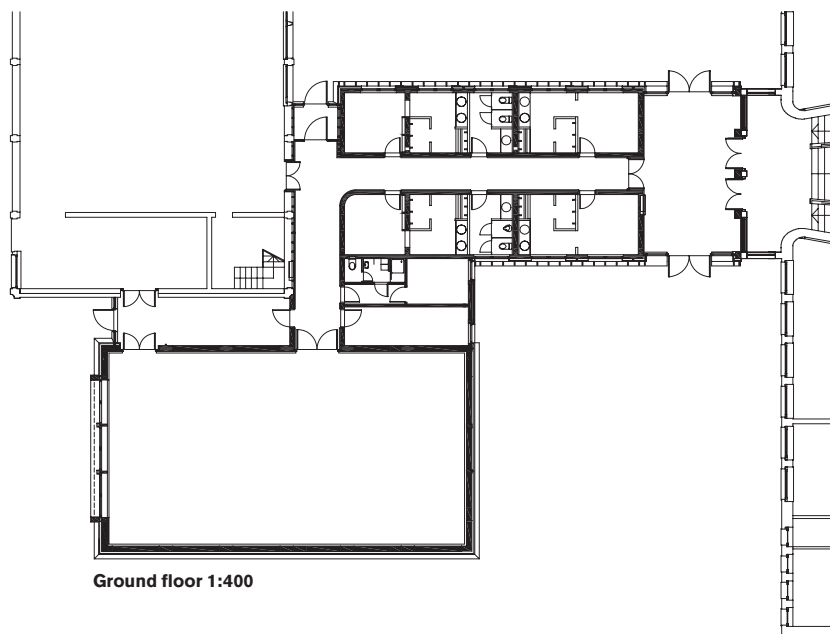
Primary school Polje, Ljubljana, Slovenia

THE ACCORDION WALL





First floor 1:400



Ground floor 1:400

The requirements for school buildings have changed a lot. More room is needed for the growing number of pupils, such as larger spaces for sports facilities or libraries. That is why extensions and storeys have sometimes to be added to existing buildings. The primary school in Ljubljana, Slovenia, is no exception. The two old parts of the building, one of which houses the gym, used to be connected by a one-storey building that provided space for cloak-rooms and offices. The old connecting building has been replaced by a new one designed by the architect Boris Briški. The structure is the size of the old building, but as it is two storeys high it offers much more usable space.

The 1012 square metres of the façade are covered with onyx coloured cement composite panels which allow air to circulate behind them. Boris Briški: "The exterior aims to preserve the integrity and dominant position of the main school building, while at the same time showing a façade which successfully unites the two diverse architectural types of the school and the old gymnasium, applying a durable, environment-friendly material to the outer layer of the building." Though the extension accentuates the horizontal line, the structure of the façade emphasizes the vertical line by the rhythmic use of lamellas. These lamellas, which also decorate the windows, are of the same colour and material as the façade and protrude from the wall 20 centimetres. They highlight the mediatory position between the two buildings. The gaps between them get narrower the nearer they come to the main school building.

Briški compares the façade of the new building with the folds of an accordion, a very appropriate comparison. The old and the new parts of the building supplement and stimulate each other. Though the extension is subordinate to the main building, it retains its own character.

Britta Limper

Location Polje 358, Ljubljana Polje, Slovenia

Client Community Ljubljana (Mestna občina Ljubljana)

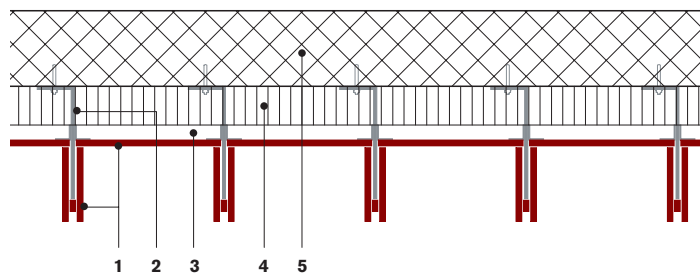
Architects Boris Briški, u.d.i.a. (Arhé), Ljubljana

Building period 2005–2006

General contractor SGP Tehnik d.d, Škofja Loka

Façade construction Termika d.o.o., Ljubljana

Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7090



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Angle steel 8 mm
- 3 Air gap
- 4 Insulation 100 mm
- 5 Concrete 200 mm

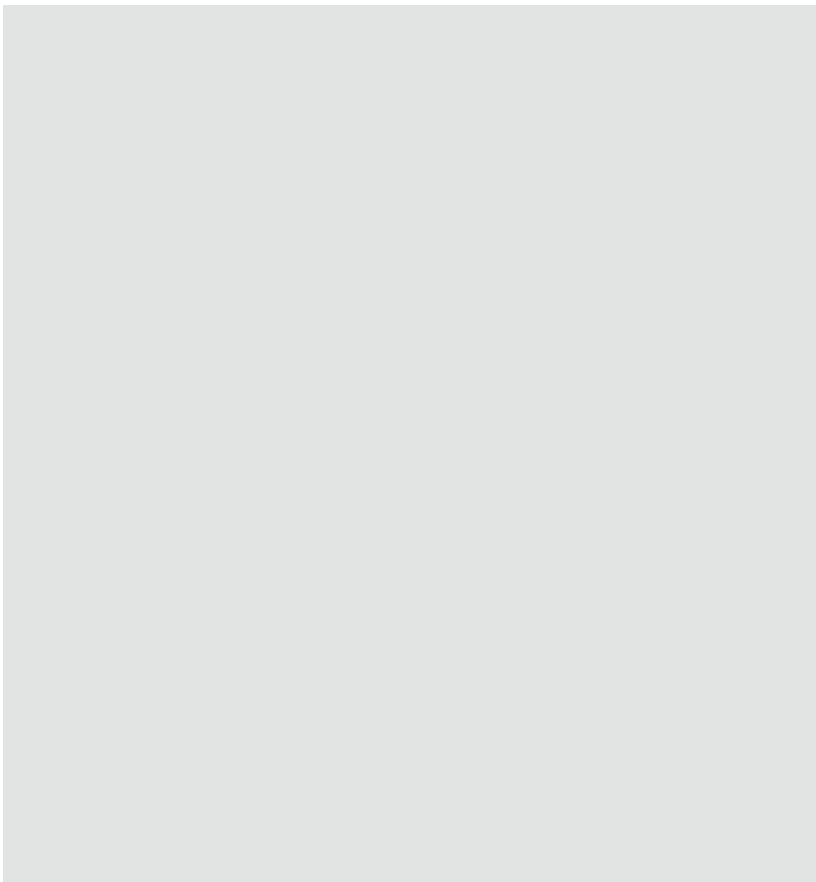
Horizontal section 1:20

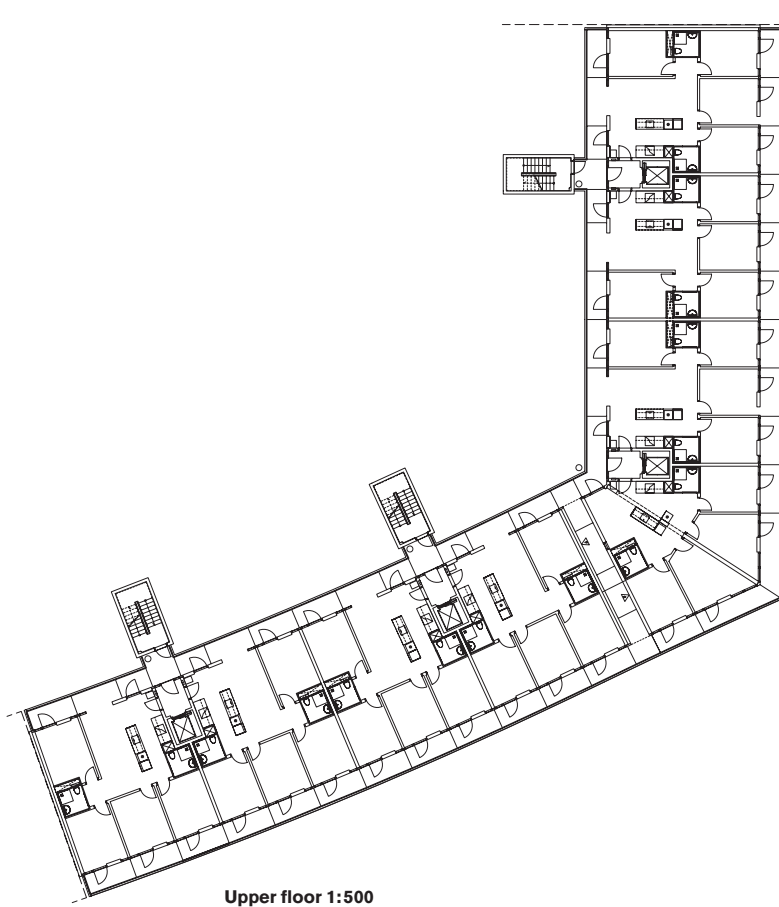


The capital of Denmark, Scandinavia's largest city, is in a process of re-orientation. Ever since the construction of the bridge connecting Denmark and Sweden, the region with a population of 2.8 million inhabitants has been in the throes of an ambitious development. The urban planning and architecture exhibition "Copenhagen X" running for several years, is accompanying these flourishing building activities and splendid urban developments.

Signalhuset, Youth accommodation, Copenhagen, Denmark

A PLAYFUL STRUCTURE





Upper floor 1:500

THE SINGLE ROOMS ARE ORGANISED IN GROUPS OF FOUR AND CAN BE CONVERTED INTO A CONVENTIONAL APARTMENT IF REQUIRED.

1992 was the beginning of the development of a completely new urban district in the south of Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. The planning area, which was formerly used by the army and until recently barely built up, is known as Ørestad and extends in a north-south direction over around 5 kilometres length and 600 metres width. A state-run association (Ørestadsselskab) was founded for the urban extension, whose main task was the development of the infrastructure. It sold building ground to investors in order to finance the development and the traffic network. Roads and a metro line were added in recent years, and the new urban district is currently assuming a formal character of its own. 56 percent of the city's building activities are concentrated in this area.

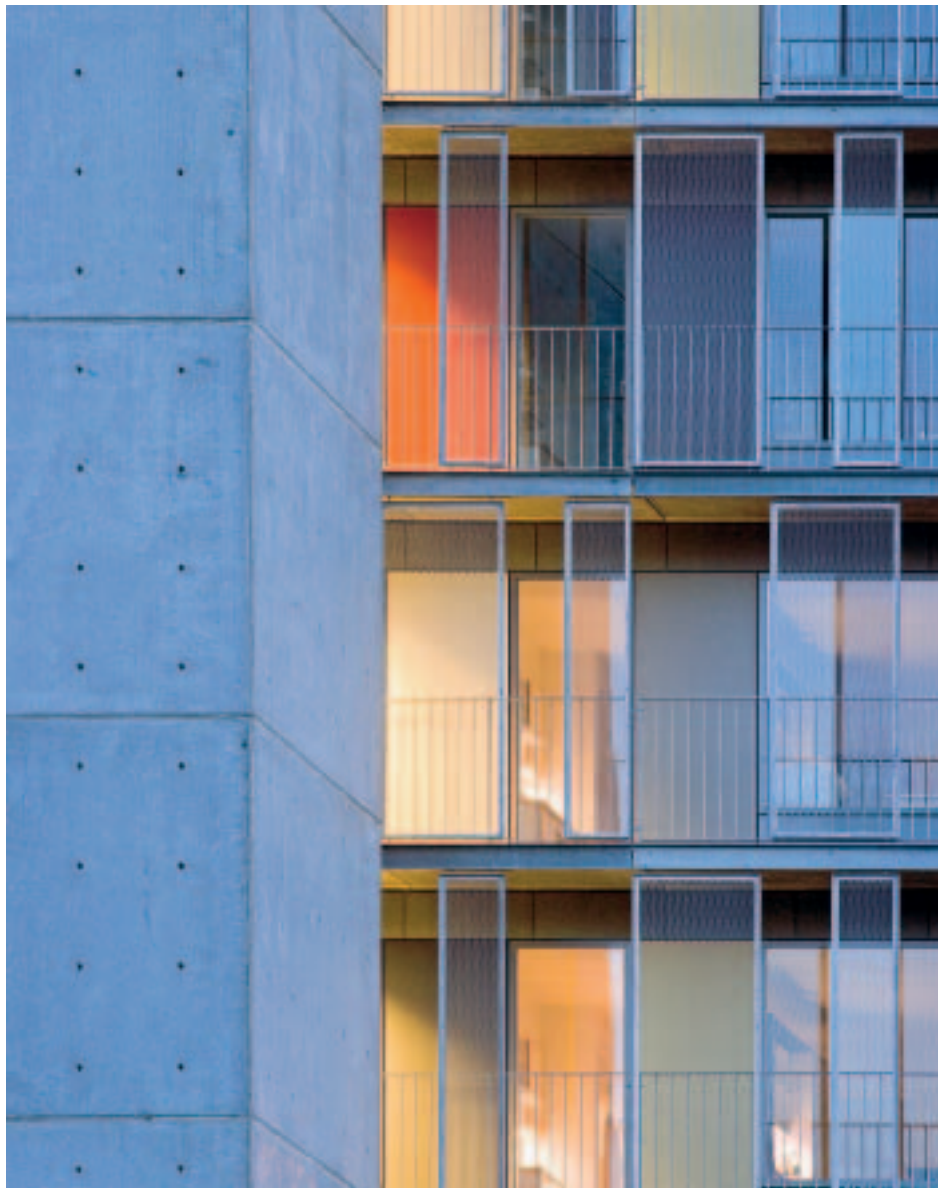
Signalhuset is one of the residential buildings for young people in Ørestad with special regard to the numerous educational institutions. It was completed this year in the centre of the new urban district and is part of a development with an office building and, later, a multi-storey car park. The double apartment block comprises nine residential floors resting on thick concrete pillars. The ground floor contains common rooms and the laundry and is openly designed so that the courtyard area is given a semi-public quality. The shape of the building follows the road, the Arne Jacobsens Allée – named after the world-famous Danish architect – and the accompanying canal with the same slight curve.

Signalhuset provides a new living form for young people. The 288 living units are organised in groups of four. One single room measures approximately 12 square metres. Four inhabitants share a kitchen and two bathrooms with toilet. A unit of this kind measures 110 square metres. This form of communal living combines the social qualities of a students' home with the freedom of an individual apartment. Furthermore, the design of the building structure allows the unproblematic conversion into family apartments if required at a later date.

It is not only the urban district and the living concept that are new, but also the façade concept. All the rooms are generously glazed to give them a light and friendly

Location Arne Jacobsens Allé 11, Copenhagen, Denmark
Client KPC-BYG A/S & Lejerbo, Copenhagen
Architects Nobel arkitekter a/s, Copenhagen; Erik Nobel
Construction period 2005–2006 (competition 2003)
General contractor Hoffmann A/S, Glostrup
Façade construction Grønbech Construction A/S, Copenhagen; Henrik Hansen
Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Black Opal 7020, Coral 7030, Amber 7081 and 7082; SWISSPEARL®, Grey N 201; SWISSPEARL® XPRESSIV

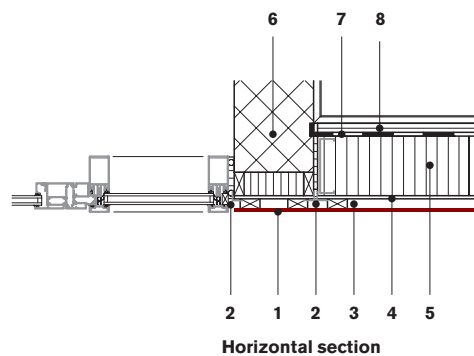




atmosphere. Each room has an exit onto one of the balconies that run all around the façade. The exterior walls are clad with different-coloured large-format cement composite panels. In some places, expanded galvanised metal panels are placed in front of the balconies as a protection against the sun. These cover approximately 50 percent of the façade and form a transparent exterior screen against the surroundings. In the words of architect Erik Nobel: “The multi-coloured façade was primarily developed in order to provide a varied and youthful contrast to the two adjacent blocks linked to the Signalhuset.” The layer principle with expanded metal areas and cement composite panels gives the façade a spatial quality and a playful, superior structure. Thus the face of the building changes according to the visual angle, for example when walking along the canal.

Incidentally, the name of the residential building derives from the former signal box that once stood on the site when the land was used for military shooting practice. And indeed, the name is most appropriate to the lively, colourful façade. *Michael Hanak*

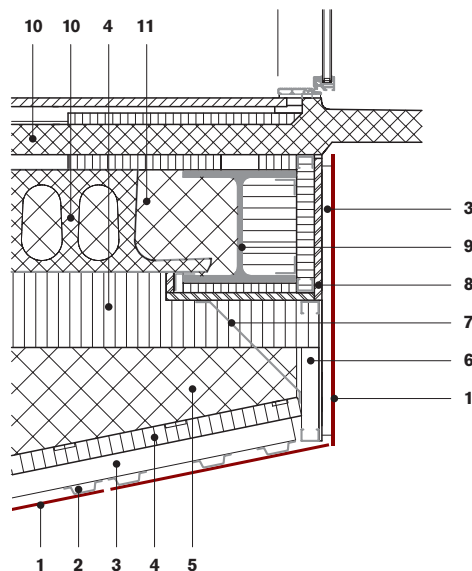
- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Transition joint, façade section
- 3 Rear ventilation space/pressure-treated wood lathing, 25 mm
- 4 Wood fibre and cement board
- 5 Steel skeleton construction with 150 mm mineral wool insulation
- 6 Concrete
- 7 Vapour barrier
- 8 Two layers of gypsum plaster panels, 2 ≤ 13 mm





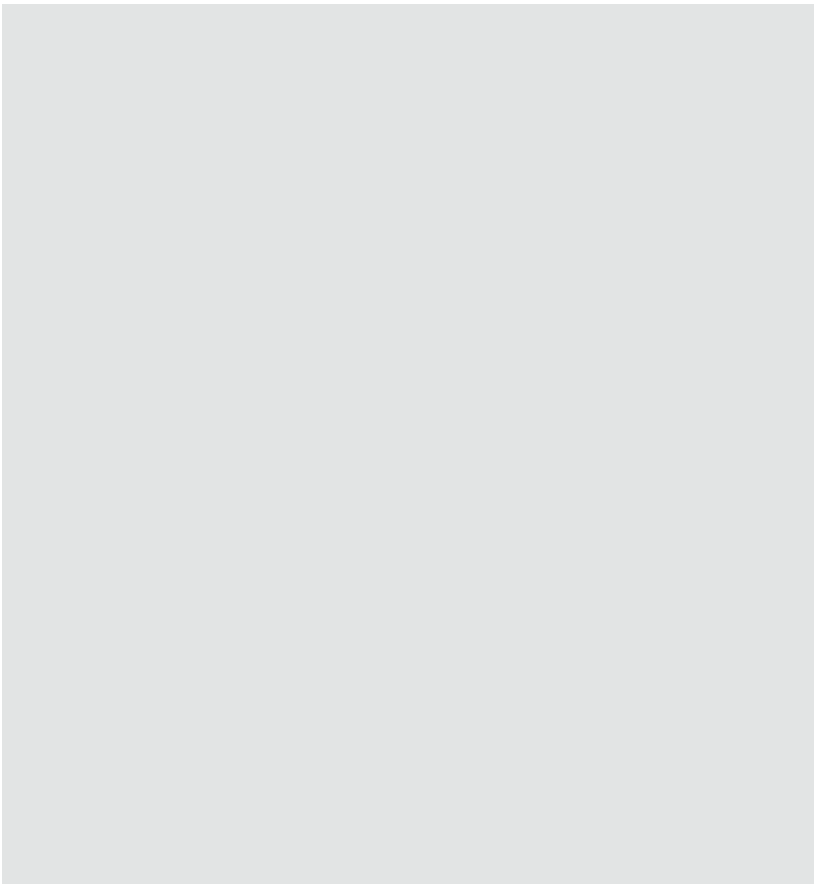
**A VARIOUSLY DESIGNED FAÇADE WITH BALCONIES,
METAL SCREENS AND CEMENT COMPOSITE PANELS.**

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Supporting beam, galvanised steel
- 3 Rear ventilation space
- 4 Heat insulation
- 5 Concrete beam with 100 mm insulation fixed mechanically
- 6 Batten with wind paper
- 7 Diagonal stabilisation element
- 8 Fire prevention panel 20 mm
- 9 Steel girder
- 10 Concrete element
- 11 In situ concrete



Vertical section 1:20





Søndersøparken, Viborg, Denmark

IN QUEST OF PLASTICITY

Housed in two connected towers, Søndersøparken provides patient rooms and non-profit dwellings. The project is characterized by its desire for plasticity to which functional and economical considerations must adhere.

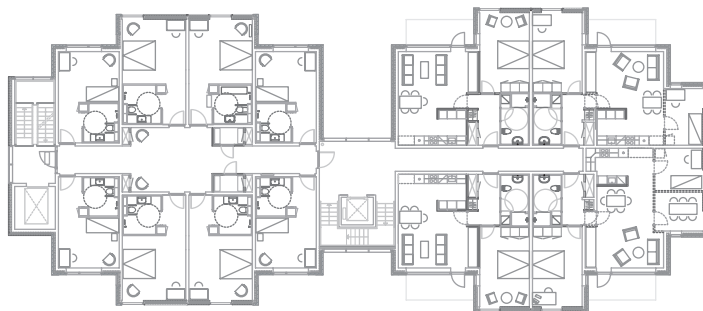


GREY FAÇADE PANELS COVER THE ATTIC FLOOR AND THE ACCESS LAYER, EXPOSED BRICK MASONRY DOMINATES THE REMAINDER OF THE BUILDING. THE FAÇADE PANELS BETWEEN THE WINDOWS ARE STRUCTURED BY WOODEN BARS.

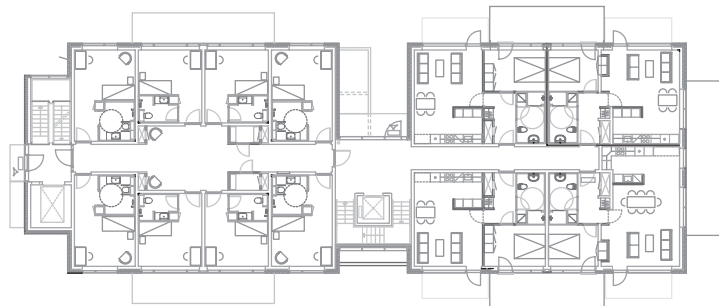
Founded in 1970, Arkitema has established itself as one of Denmark's leading architectural firms. Commissioned by Viborg Hospital and Viborg housing society, in 2005 Arkitema began construction of an eight-storey patient hotel and residence complex in Sønderøsparken. Completed in 2006, this project comprises 56 patient quarters completely housed in one symmetrical tower, while a second nearly identical tower contains 30 non-profit residence quarters. A common access area as well as an underground car park connect both towers.

Beginning on the second floor, up to and including the seventh floor, increased living space is evident in both patient and residence quarters. This additional space is housed in five bay-like volumes that give plasticity to the building as a whole. The top floor of the patient tract includes a restaurant, cafe and conference room, all grouped around a central kitchen unit. Located within the residence tract are two penthouse apartments, with large-scaled terraces.

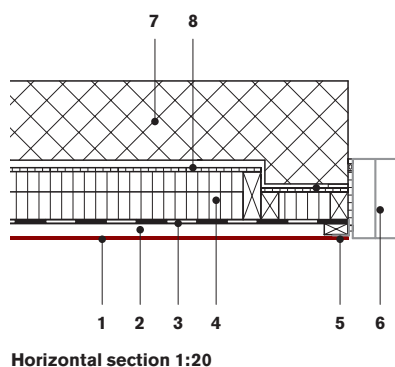
Both the attic floor and the access layer are covered by horizontally structured grey façade panels, while in contrast, exposed brick masonry dominates the remainder of the building. The central elements of the façade design are the window fields, which are framed by brick masonry



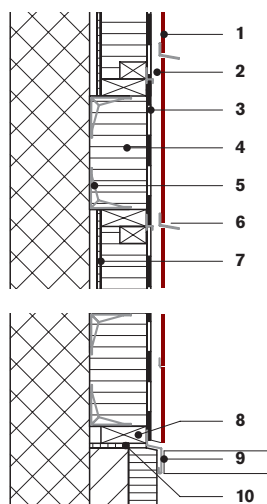
Fourth floor 1:500



Third floor 1:500



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Battens 28 mm
- 3 Wind shield
- 4 Mineral wool 125 mm
- 5 Visible part of batten to be covered with 40 x 40 mm aluminum angle
- 6 Aluminum framed glass element
- 7 Concrete wall
- 8 Water proof plywood 10 mm



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Battens 28 mm
- 3 Wind shield
- 4 Mineral wool 150 mm
- 5 Fixing angles
- 6 Corrugated iron
- 7 Water proof plywood 10 mm
- 8 Impregnated batten, 45 x 120 mm, built-in on site
- 9 Aluminum angle
- 10 Exterior joint strip

and extend throughout all six storeys of the bays. The free combination of windows, infills and façade panels imposes a counterpart to the rigid symmetry of the building tracts themselves.

The contrasting different materials of the façade layers and the design of the bays with its negation of the storey heights as well as its emphasis on the volumes itself are essential parts of the architectural concept. Functional and economical considerations must adhere to the desire for the highest possible plastic effect. As a result of this “sculptural” design concept, the architects contend with a relatively complex building structure as well as inflexible, encapsulated ground plans. *Patrick Zamarian*

Location Sønderøparken, Viborg, Denmark
Client Viborg hospital and Viborg housing society
Architects Arkitema, Århus; Steen Rask
Engineer Carl Bro, Viborg
Building period 2005–2006
General contractor and façade construction NCC, Århus;
 Per Vestergaard
Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7090,
 SWISSPEARL® REFLEX, Platinum 9020



Within a difficult architectural surrounding Vandkunsten realised a complex of row-houses grouped around a semi-private inner yard. The project shows sophisticated treatment of volumes and high precision in detailing.

Ramlösagården, Helsingborg, Sweden

URBAN UNIT WITHIN ARCHITECTURAL NO MAN'S LAND



Location Magnoliavägen, Ramlösa, Helsingborg, Sweden

Client HSB, Helsingborg

Architects Vandkunsten, Copenhagen

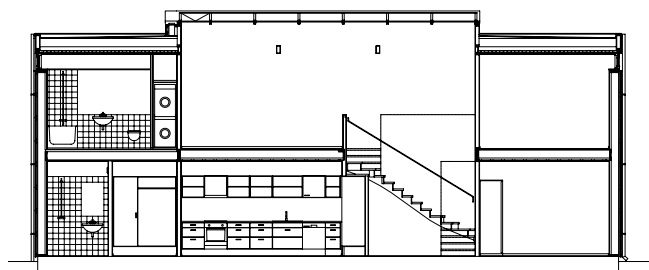
Building period 2004–2005

General contractor and façade construction Peab construction, Förslöv

Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Black Opal 7020

Ramlösagården is a housing project situated in a residential area on the outskirts of Helsingborg. The surroundings of this project, defined by owner-occupied homes with no architectural coherence, proved to be a real challenge to the planners, the Danish architectural firm Vandkunsten. Founded in 1970 and extensively experienced in the field of housing projects, Vandkunsten confronted this desolate environment with a self-referential urban unit of highly formal conciseness.

The project consists of 27 row-house type dwellings, contained within four rows of various lengths, which are grouped around a carefully designed inner square yard with a pond and parking spaces. The houses themselves possess elaborate volumetry and geometric clarity in the building aspects as well as in the exterior design. All homes are covered by anthracite façade panels, contrasted



Section 1:200

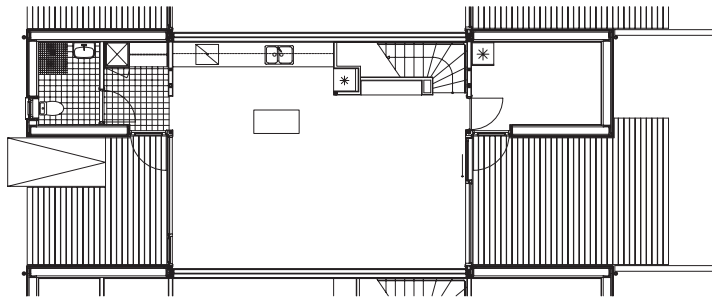


by design elements such as windows, low fences and pergolas that intensify horizontality and give a dynamic look to the project as a whole.

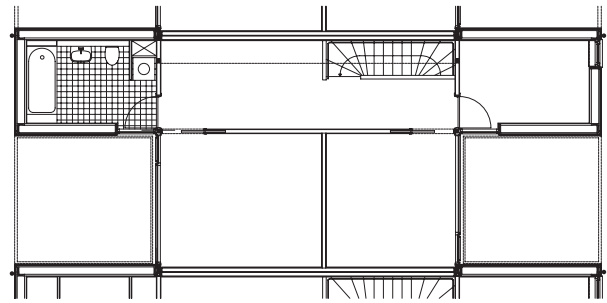
The formal reduction and the limitation to a black-and-white colour scheme, is indicative of the great precision in detail given to the exterior as well as the interior, thus the design is as elegant as it is unpretentious. The layering of the row-houses has its equivalent in the sequel of service rooms and main rooms.

The core of the architectural concept is a continuous transition from public to private. Four roadways lead from the public street to the courtyard, a semi-private zone exclusively for the residents' use. Each house is accessed from a small private yard, the entrance leading to an open kitchen naturally lit through the overhead skylight. The living room is separated from the kitchen area

by a detached kitchen worktable, and the layer of service rooms is completed by a toilet, a store-room and the staircase. All remaining private rooms, the three bedrooms and the main bathroom, are located on the upper floor. To complete the design, each row-house also disposes of a private garden located to the rear providing an interval to the surrounding buildings. *Patrick Zamariàn*



Ground floor 1:200



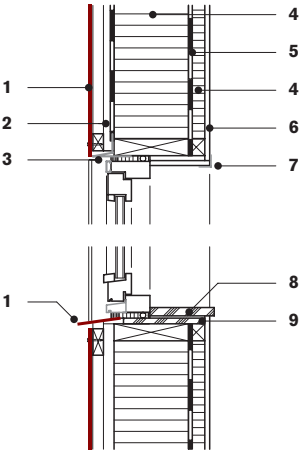
First floor 1:200



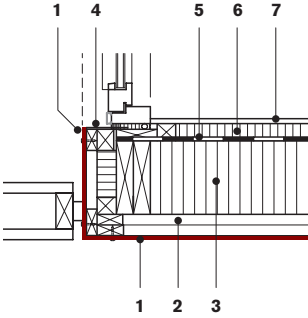


“OUR WELL-KNOWN ALMOST STANDARDISED BLACK COLOUR SCHEME CREATES AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION OF ENTITY.” VANDKUNSTEN

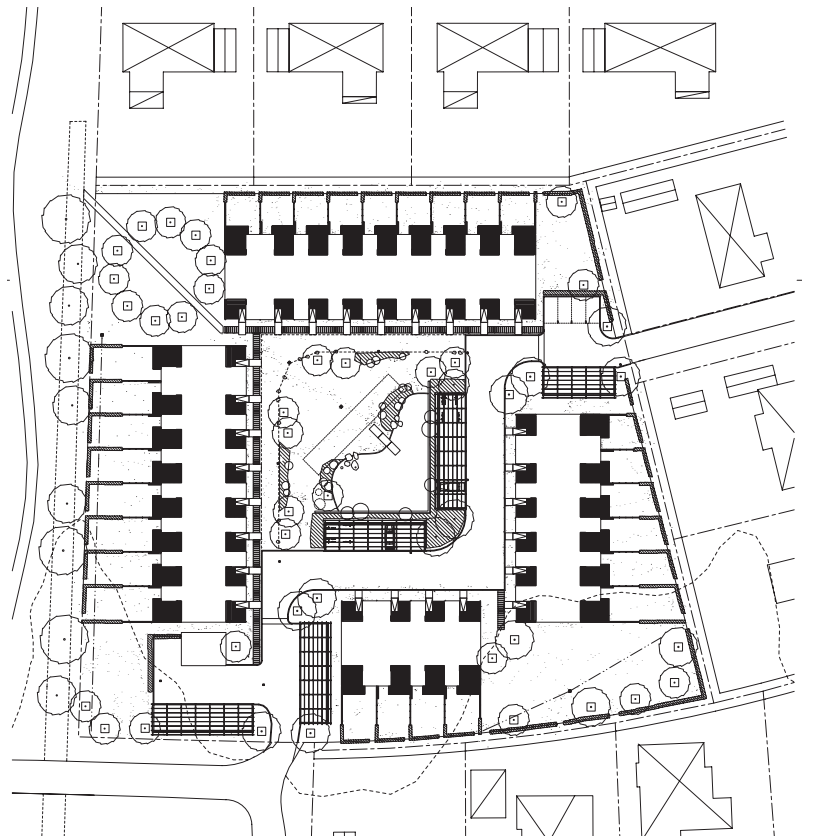
- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Ventilation
- 3 Steel sheeting
- 4 Insulation
- 5 Vapour barrier
- 6 Gypsum board
- 7 Corner protection
- 8 MDF board
- 9 Plywood



Vertical section 1:20



Horizontal section 1:20



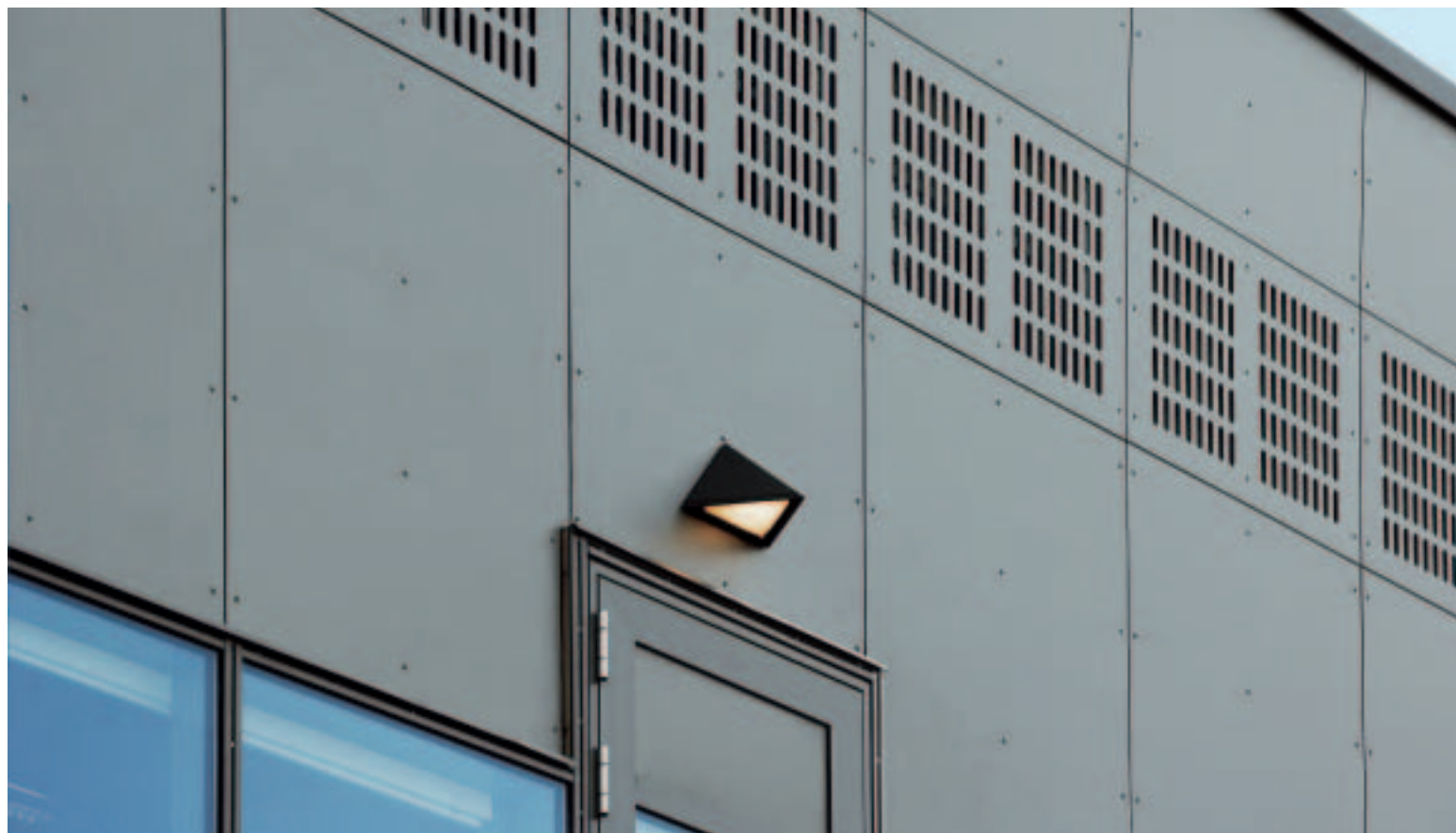


“Forum Hjärup” is a secondary school and cultural centre in a small community south of Lund. The architect’s intention was to create a building that combines a public meeting place with an educational centre. Three firm edifices carry an upper floor shaped as a plain coherent box made of glass and metal grey cement composite panels. The underside of the elevated part is also clad in cement composite panels. In combination with the strict outer façades, it gives an impression of a monolith.

School house, Hjärup, Sweden

STRIP FAÇADE ENCIRCLING A COMMUNAL COURTYARD





BY VIRTUE OF THE EXTENT OF THE FENESTRATION, THE BUILDING IS WELL LIT USING NATURAL LIGHT. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE FAR NORTHERN LATITUDE OF THE SITE, ARTIFICIAL LIGHT IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

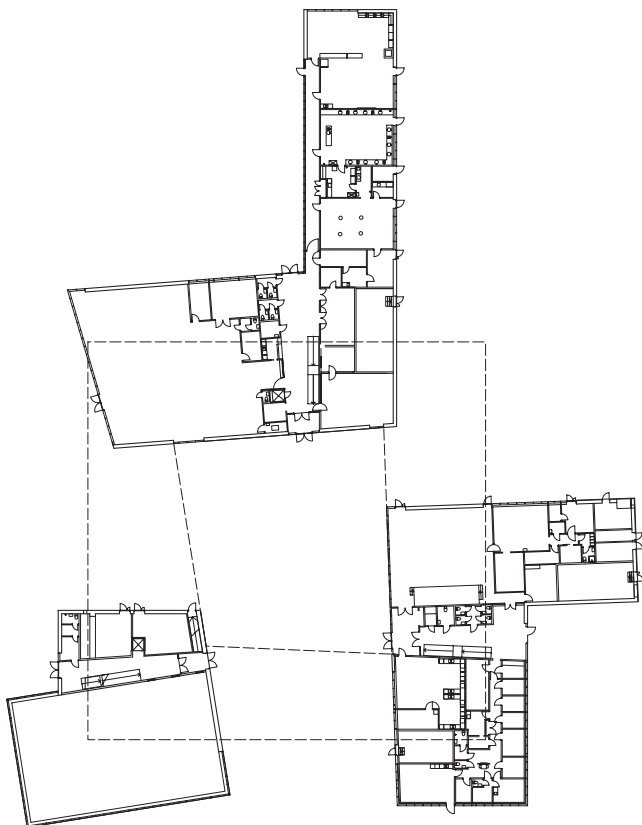
The new school in Hjärup consists of a perforated single storey building suspended above three L-shaped subsidiary buildings on the ground level. The school is low rise and echoes the horizon in the distance and surrounding flat semi-urban landscape. The linearity of the architecture is emphasised by the treatment of the façades, which are divided into horizontal bands of panelling.

The three L-shaped buildings accommodate different functions: the largest houses the library, the music and art facilities; the second largest houses the assembly hall and domestic science room; the third houses the sports hall, changing rooms and toilets. The design of the three wings creates a clear architectural division of the different functions of the school, thereby creating clarity for the user.

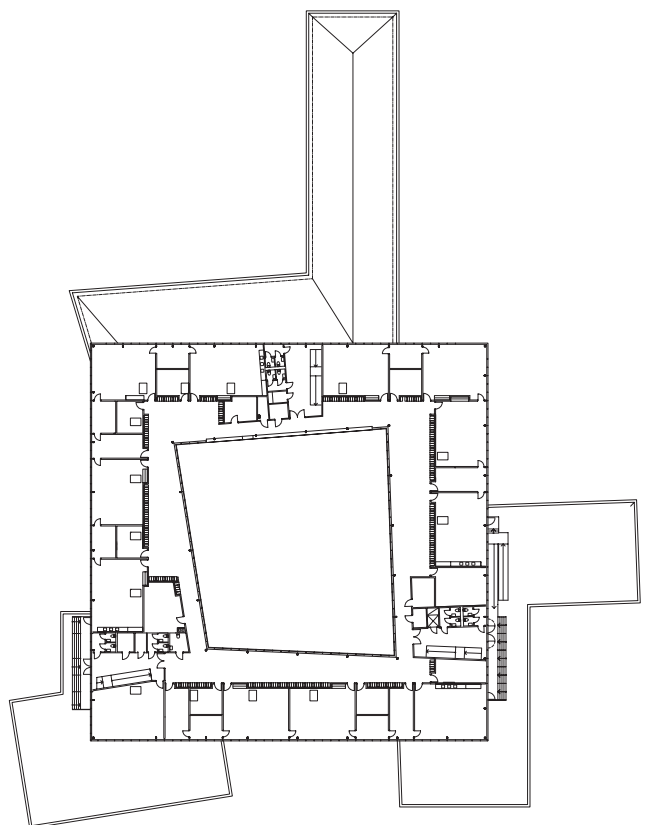
The slightly skewed opening in the heart of the scheme is an internal courtyard, presumably intended as a com-

munal outdoor space for the students during the warmer months of the year. It is accentuated by a splash of colour created by a bed of vibrant blooms, also visible from the interior of the building. The classrooms are accessed on a passage that encircles the courtyard on the upper level. The passage's glazing brings in natural light and allows for visual links across the courtyard as people circulate through the building.

In order to access the main building from below, the architects have designed three vertical connections at the intersections of the three L-shaped buildings with the main building; each with a stairway and adjoining lift, the latter serving as access to the upper level for wheelchairs. The roof façade of the assembly hall building and the sports hall are cleverly used as outdoor terraces with vistas into the surrounding environment. These terraces, accessed by



Ground floor 1:500



Upper floor 1:500



**THE HORIZONTALITY OF THE EXTERIOR IS ECHOED IN THE LAYOUT OF THE INTERIOR
LIGHTING: SUSPENDED FLUORESCENT TUBES WITH MOUNTED FINS TO PREVENT
GLARE ARE HUNG IN STRIPS ACROSS THE CEILING.**

Location Hjärup, Sweden

Client Staffanstorps Kommun

Architects KHR Architects AS, Virum (Denmark),
Mikkel Beedholm; BM Architects AB, Malmö (Sweden)

Building period 2006

Façade construction Byggmästaren i Skåne AB, Helsing-
borg

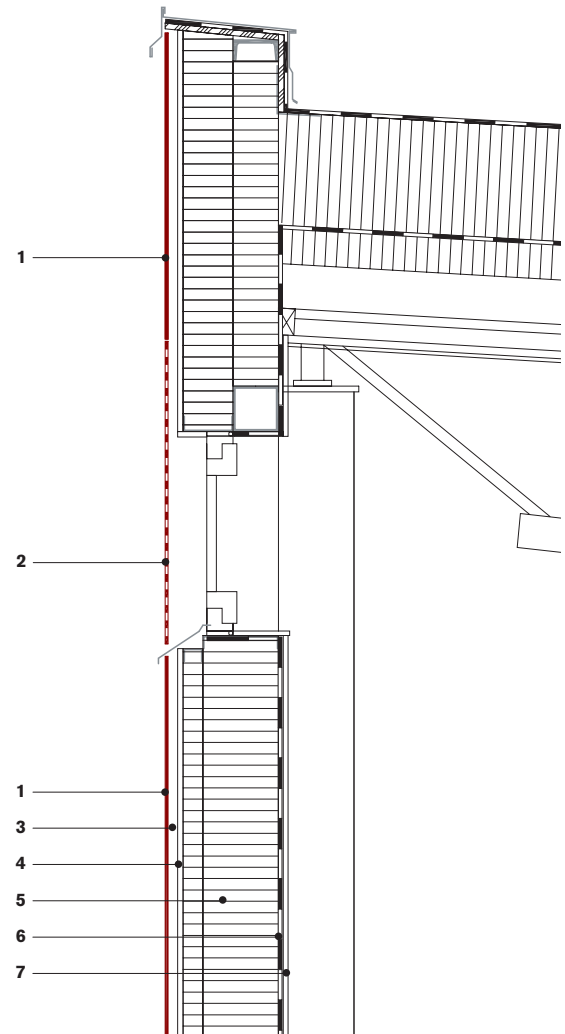
Façade material SWISSPEARL® REFLEX, Silver 9000
and Platinum 9020

wide stairs, provide a place to defocus and clear the mind between classes and seek a contrast to the inwardly focused courtyard.

The flat terrain on which the building is sited, is reflected in the horizontality of the façade of the main structure. The façade is divided into bands of glass, platinum grey Swisspearl cement composite panels as well as perforated panels for the upper band, which give the façade a detailed texture and a lattice-like view from the inside. The narrow band of the steel profile on the cornice of the building is the final horizontal edge and defines the profile of the building against the sky. The strip of opaque cladding and the ribbon of transparent fenestration encircling the building divides the façades into bands. The choice of the cladding is integral to the expression of the concept of the design.



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Perforated Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 3 Ventilation 25 mm
- 4 Exterior board 15 mm
- 5 Insulation 250 mm
- 6 Damp course
- 7 Gypsum board 2 x 13 mm



Vertical section 1:20

The choice of materials for the façades, Swisspearl cement composite panels, unplastered concrete blockwork and masonry, are all cost-effective. The roof structure is held by lattice-like steel girders with composite wood panelling for the ceiling – an economic construction method.

The architects of the scheme have managed to design a cost-effective project by virtue of the materials and construction method chosen, fulfilling the complex requirements of a modern school institution. *Anna Roos*

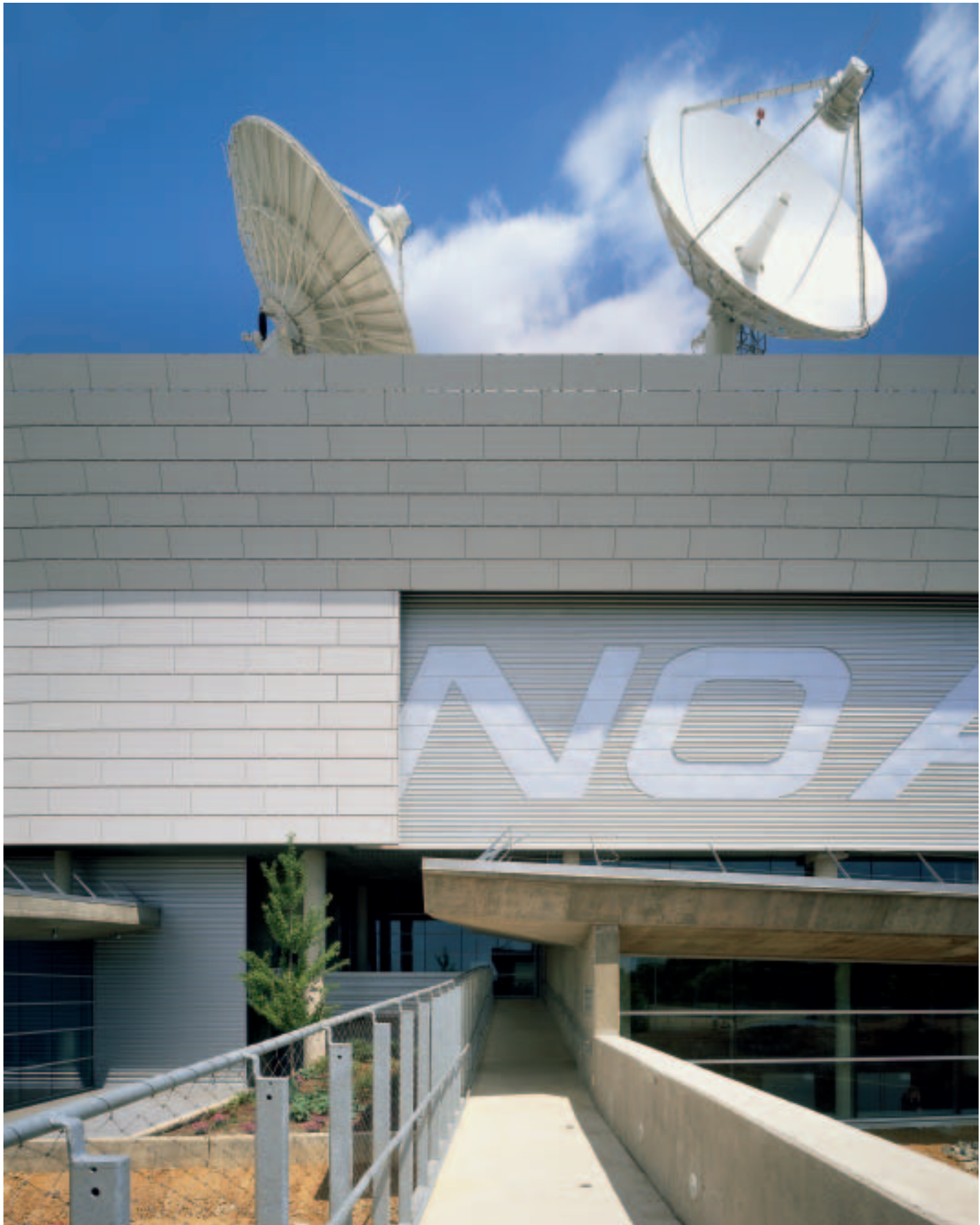
The new building complex of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Suitland can easily be recognised as a technical building. Its function of receiving data from satellites and providing information primarily about the weather and climate is clearly visible from the outside of the abstract building, resting on stilts with the support programme embedded in the submerged zone. Thus, the primary theme is integration into the landscape, which contrasts with the abstract figure that seems so far removed from the earth. In this way, the architects reduced the built area by two thirds and prioritised the landscape over the building.

Satellite Operations Facility for NOAA, Suitland, Maryland, USA

FIGURE IN THE LANDSCAPE







**“THOSE WHO DWELL, AS SCIENTISTS OR LAYMEN, AMONG THE BEAUTIES
AND MYSTERIES OF THE EARTH ARE NEVER ALONE OR WEARY OF LIFE.”
RACHEL CARSON, THE SENSE OF WONDER (1956)**



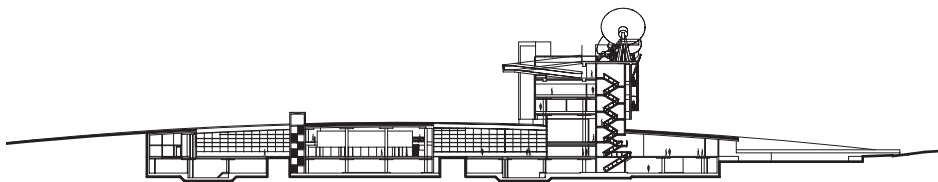
The mission of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service is to provide and ensure timely access to global environmental data from satellites and other sources. Windstorms, extreme weather systems, solar storms and the depth of ice caps fall within the facility's purview. The satellites are also used to pick up distress signals and assist search and rescue missions. NOAA's mission, while dedicated to the understanding and preservation of the environment, is highly technical in nature and requires a facility and infrastructure corresponding to the task. The Satellite Operations Facility operates day and night and promotes both the technical performance and the image of environmental care.

The iconography of the project – a slender block crowned with sixteen antennae – emphasises the function of stewardship as NOAA's principle concerns. The re-

mainder of the available land is ceded to nature: wooded and grassy terrain replaces built mass.

Thom Mayne, head of Morphosis – awarded with the distinguished Pritzker prize in 2005 – means: “In the light of NOAA's mission to monitor and safeguard the earth, we re-examined the traditional relationship between building and landscape – figure and ground. A reflection of the Satellite Operations Facility's environmental mandate, the design scheme prioritises open space, reduces the presence of built form and creates a merger between architecture and landscape.

A field of antennae – the ‘eyes and ears’ of the operation – crowns the three-story bar building, pitching and sweeping to receive information (visible data, radiance, sea surface, snow and ice cover, and moisture content of the atmosphere) from the sixteen satellites it monitors.



Section 1:2000

The iconic antennae comprise the dominant visual register of the project. The departments that operate as the ‘brain’ of the operation, mission control, launch control and computer processing are housed in the long slender bar.

Beneath the bar lies the ‘body’, a disc-shaped building that slips into the thickened landscape of lifted ground. This partially submerged, double-high space accommodates offices and support services. Long swaths of interior walls are wrapped in imagery of the earth taken by NOAA’s satellites, while the convex ceiling plane simulates the planet’s curvature as seen from space. Slots in the traversable, undulating green roofscape admit natural light and create niches for large courtyards. A glass lobby, with a security control point, mediates between the two main architectural components of body and brain.”

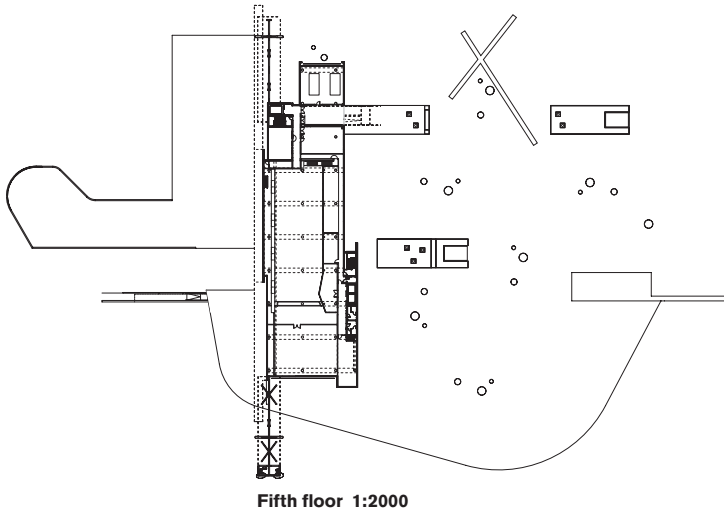


“WE DIVIDED THE PROGRAMME INTO TWO GROUPS: FUNCTIONS THAT WERE KEY TO THE OPERATION OF THE SATELLITES AND AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS.” THOM MAYNE

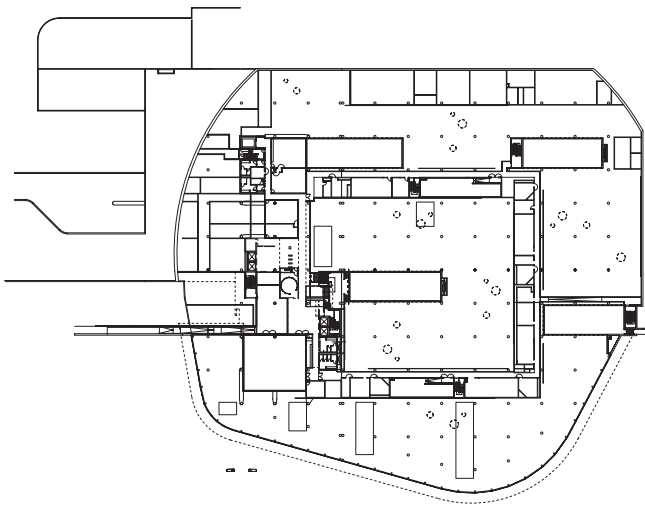
And David Rindlaub, the project architect at Morphosis, points out: “Morphosis architects have used Swisspearl panels in the past on many projects. The main reason we prefer the material is that it has a very sharp, crisp finished appearance. It is installed quickly using standard tools and a standard installer skill level and retains its appearance over time. The open joints allow corners and intersecting angles to be resolved easily. We also like the dynamic reading it can have, appearing as very heavy and solid or thin and light depending on the viewpoint, light and location. The Swisspearl panels can easily extend onto frames that are not part of the building’s exterior walls, allowing it to be independent of the main body of the building.

On the NOAA building, for example, the Swisspearl panels separate at an angle from the exterior building wall

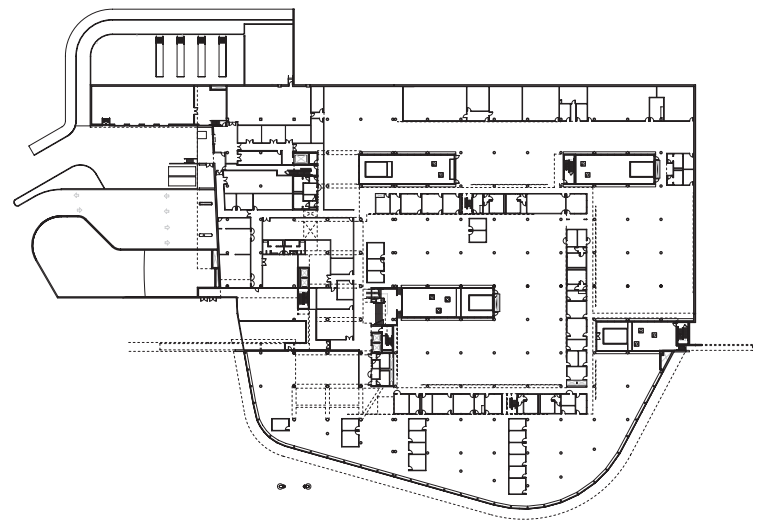
and extend vertically forming a parapet on the roof and horizontally along the framework of the antenna trusses forming a layered façade. NOAA was the first building for which we used a panel colour other than grey. The white of the panels blends in with the sky in overcast weather and with the site after snowfall.” *David Rindlaub, project architect mb*



Fifth floor 1:2000

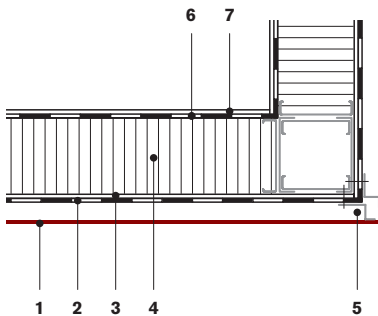


Second floor 1:2000



First floor 1:2000

“WE DIVIDED THE PROJECT INTO TWO ZONES: A SLENDER MASS AND A DOUBLE HEIGHT ZONE PARTIALLY SUBMERGED IN THE LANDSCAPE. BY RELEGATING THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO THE SUBMERGED ZONE WE REDUCED THE BUILT AREA BY TWO THIRDS AND PRIORITISED THE LANDSCAPE OVER THE BUILDING.” THOM MAYNE



Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Vapor and air barrier
- 3 Exterior grade sheathing
- 4 Metal framing
- 5 Aluminium “Z” clip
- 6 Vapor retarder
- 7 Gypsum wall board



Location Suitland, Maryland, USA

Client General Services Administration, Washington

Architects Morphosis, Thom Mayne, Santa Monica/
Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, Washington (joint venture)

Building period 2001–2006

General contractor P.J. Dick, Pittsburgh

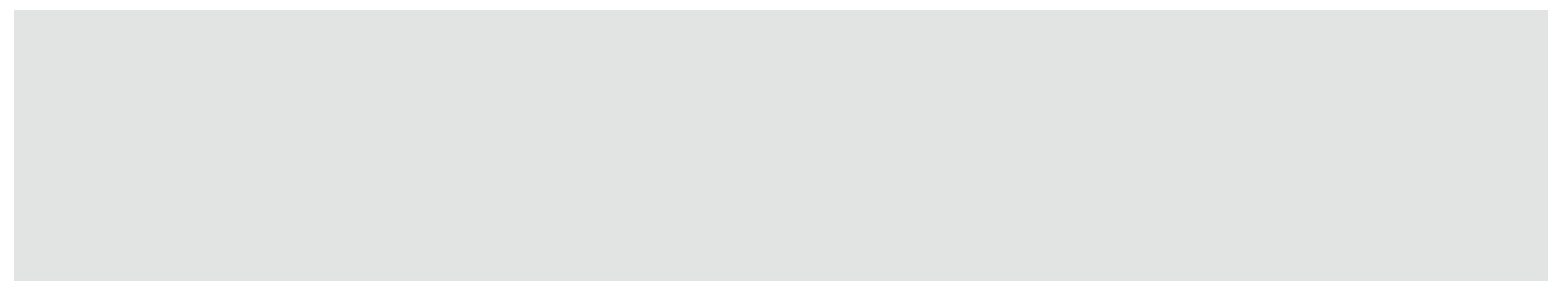
Façade erector CM / GC, Cincinnati

Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx (Ivory)
7090

The architect's initial concept to design a building in the "Minimalist Style" was compromised to accommodate the needs of the client. The low rise, single-storey building stretches across the site and reflects the abundance of space and land in the United States.

Medical offices, Bolingbrook, Illinois, USA

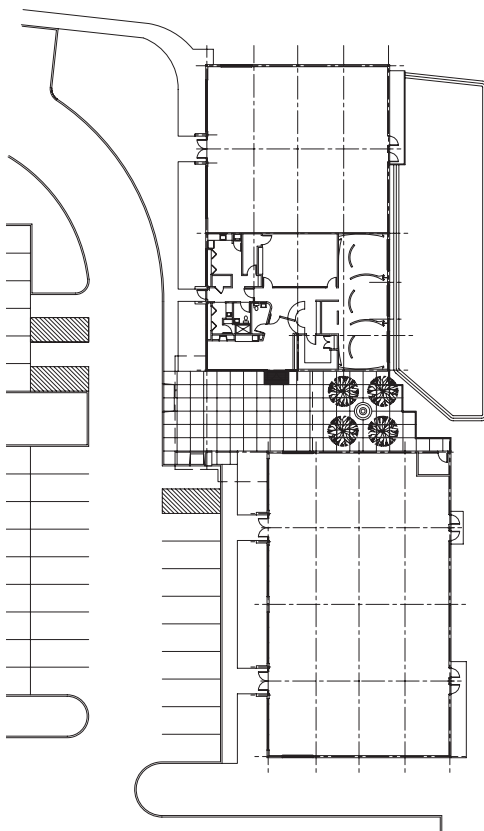
DECORATIVE SHEDS



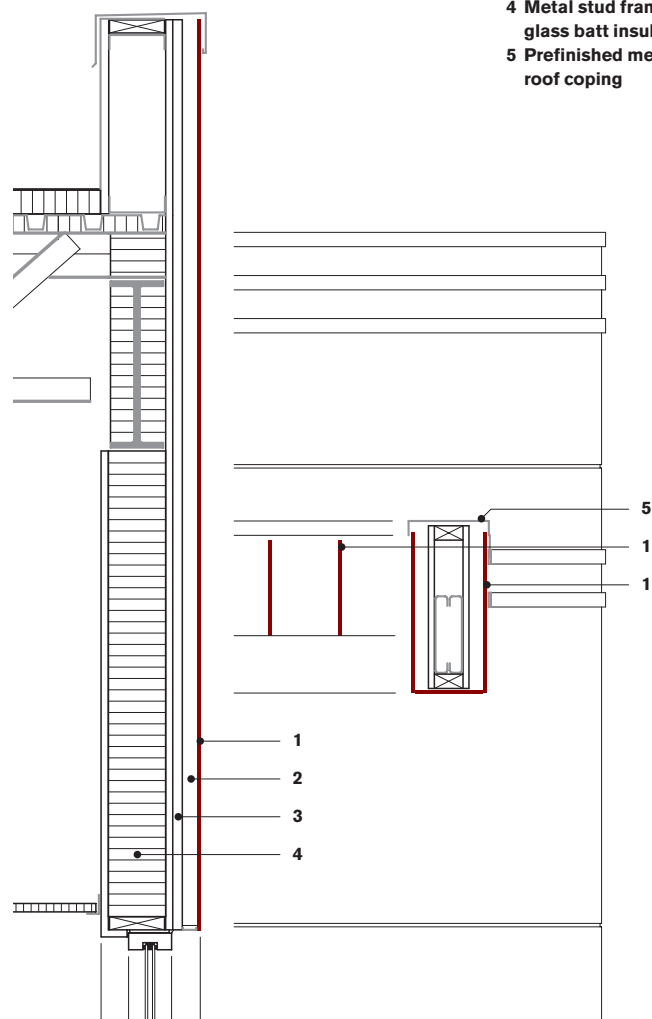




- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Ventilation
- 3 Infiltration barrier fireguard glass mat gypsum sheathing
- 4 Metal stud framing with fiber-glass batt insulation
- 5 Prefinished metal cap to match roof coping



Ground floor 1:750



Vertical section 1:20



“THE SELECTION OF SWISSPEARL PANELS ALLOWED US THE VERSATILITY TO USE THE SAME MATERIAL FOR BOTH THE OVERALL BUILDING SKIN AS WELL AS THE SHADING FINNS LOCATED ABOVE THE SOUTH-FACING WINDOWS AND DOORS.” PAT MAGNER & REY MANALANG

The architecture is of an ubiquitous typology seen across the new world; the commercial building as backdrop for the abstract asphalt landscape of the parking lot. The architects have designed a “Decorative Shed” as theorised in the 1970’s by Robert Venturi and Denise Scott-Brown, *Learning from Las Vegas*, (Cambridge 1972). It is the commercial strip alongside the busy arterial road: two sheds of identical dimension are shifted by one bay in the x and y planes to create an entry and a single-point perspective through the two buildings of the forest to the rear of the site. The building shields the forest from the traffic. One can imagine the users of the building enjoying the views onto nature. The entry is indicated by a cantilevered roof element that projects out toward the parking/arrival.

The façades of the two sheds are ornamented by projecting horizontal fins and vertical piers reminiscent of totem poles, which create thresholds to the four doorways on the southern façade. The horizontality of the project is emphasised by the fenestration, the Swisspearl panels and the projecting shading fins above the south-facing openings. The fins are constructed with the same panels, giving the façade of the building a unity and creating the visual effect of a cornice. This is an example of the versatility of the composite panelling. The architect’s

intention was to use the panels to create an interesting play of light and shadow on the façade. Technically, the panels limit the infiltration of ultraviolet light into the building. The extreme speed of construction, with a building period of mere three months, is noteworthy and is due to the choice of construction and simplicity of structure. *Anna Roos*

Location Bolingbrook, Illinois, USA

Client SNAP Resources LLC, Bolingbrook, Illinois

Architects Magner & Manalang, Oak Park, Illinois

Building period December 2005 – February 2006

Façade construction Hargrave Builders, South Elgin, Illinois

Façade material SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Sapphire 7061, face fastened

Looking at the building situated on a slope above Lake Como one is reminded of a multi-lensed camera, trying to capture as much of the picturesque environment as possible. And of course this was one of the architects' prerequisites when being commissioned with the task to build a nursing home on this sensitive spot.

Residenza Le Camelie, Como, Italy

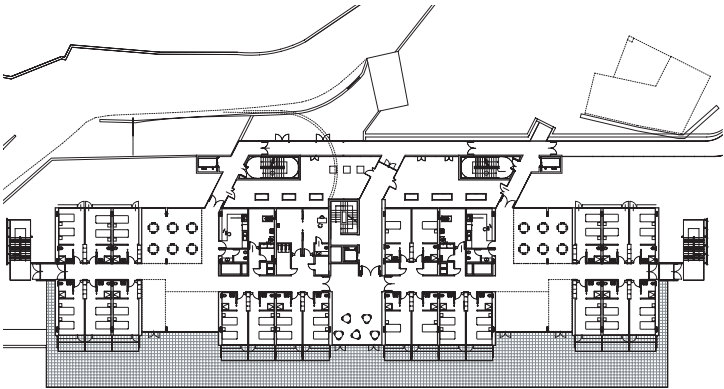
A NURSING HOME WITH A BREATHTAKING VIEW



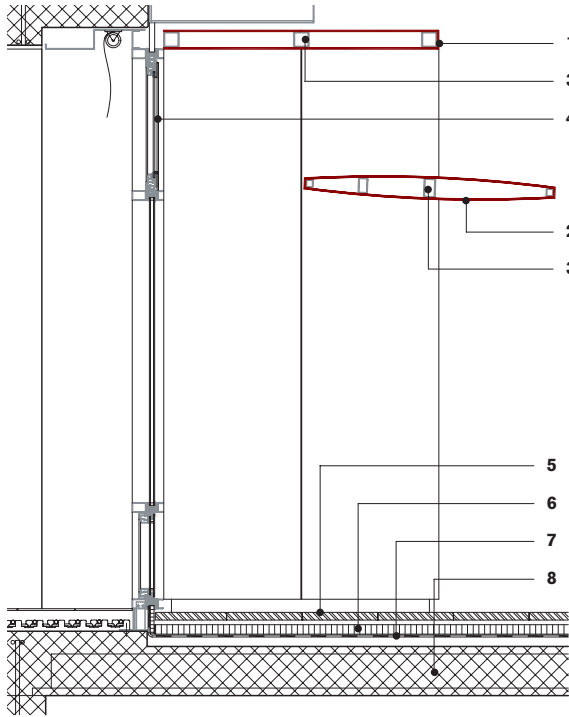




THE FAÇADE WAS DESIGNED OPTIMALLY TO USE THE WIND AND CONTROL THE SUN, WITH ADDITIONAL LOUVERS ON THE ROOF ALSO CLAD IN SWISSPEARL.



Ground floor 1:1000



Vertical section 1:40



“SWISSPEARL IS THE IDEAL MATERIAL, AS IT IS EASY TO APPLY AND REQUIRES LOW MAINTENANCE.” CECILIA KRAMER

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Curved Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 3 Steel profile
- 4 Metal window
- 5 Paving terrazzo in concrete slabs
- 6 Insulation expanded
- 7 Damp course
- 8 Concrete

The main assignment of the national competition, launched in 1997, was to develop a home for 120 elderly handicapped persons. The winning entry by Venelli Kramer Architeti was realised during the last two years and completed in June 2006.

“The main challenge in this project”, architect Cecilia Kramer explains, “was to find a proper balance between architectural shape and function.” The 4600 square metres building was supposed to house six wards for 20 residents each, two of which were reserved for Alzheimer patients, several treatment facilities, staff rooms, a chapel room and a morgue. The architects arranged everything on three levels, distributing “private” and “public” areas and taking maximum advantage of the views. An additional subterranean level holds parking facilities and additional staff rooms. “We wanted to radically turn away from old concepts of similar institutions”, Ruggero Venelli says. Open passages and wide terraces encourage the inhabitants to move around, communicate and thus feel to be part of an active community.

The big modern building also has its impact on the rather traditional and natural environment. “We tried to ‘break’ the volume into different pieces”, Cecilia Kramer says, “to reduce this impact to a minimum.” The façade

consists of solid parts with Swisspearl panels alternating with open or glazed surfaces, lending the whole building a kind of weightlessness. The façade was designed optimally to use the wind and control the sun, with additional louvers on the roof also clad in Swisspearl. “The ideal material as it is easy to apply and requires low maintenance.”

Mirko Beetschen

Location Via Bignanico, Como, Lake Como, Italy

Client Ca’ D’Industria, Como

Architects Venelli Kramer Architeti, Como; Ruggero Venelli, Cecilia Kramer

General contractor and façade construction Impreuro S.p.A. – F.lli Panzeri S.p.A., Giornico (Como)

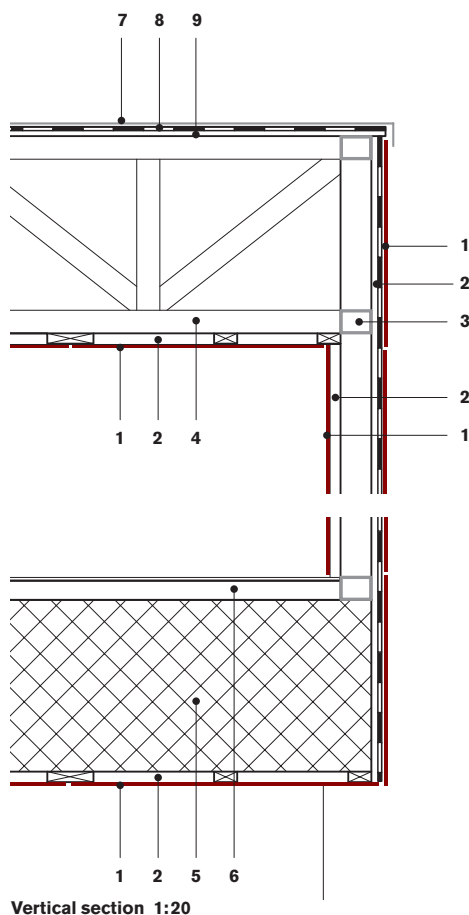
Building period 2004–2006 (competition 1997)

Façade & louver material SWISSPEARL®, special colour Brown Broncit N 161 1833 (with double protection for louvers on the roof), Grey N 201

Apartment-office building, Belgrade, Serbia



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Wooden substructure
- 3 Steel structure
- 4 Steel construction truss
- 5 Concrete structure
- 6 Cement plaster
- 7 Welt-metal sheet
- 8 Hydro insulation
- 9 Wooden substructure for welt



Fighting for the complete realisation of the initial idea and solutions as conceived by the project in the domain of capital construction in Belgrade depends not only on its beauty and the authority of the architect, but rather on the economic will of the investors in conditions that are currently reigning in Serbia. As cladding represents one of the final stages of building, we are facing the eternal dilemma: how to finalise the building within the realms of possibility, i.e. how to effect a compromise between the original idea and the remaining budget. In the majority of cases we resign from the application of certain types of façades or we reduce its application by somewhat altering the original plan. In the final result, either the initial idea is unrecognisable or an acceptable compromise was made.

On the first project cladded with Swisspearl façade modules situated on the corner of Sarajevska and Durmitorska Streets, we collided with the cruel reality at full speed. Nevertheless, the undeniable quality of Swisspearl panels and the architect's firm determination to materialise Swisspearl façade resulted in the realisation of a project that significantly deviates from the designed model in respect of colour solution, but still reflects the architect's firm and clear attitude to apply modern types of ventilated façades.

Unfortunately, the choice of the façade itself does not end this story as the building site conditions dictate the dynamics of construction. Delays are always possible, but a good organisation either eliminates or brings them down to a reasonable extent. In this case, delays are of such a kind that it is impossible to present a realised project yet. All types of the different originally conceived claddings were replaced with Swisspearl panels in a grey colour finishing. *Goran Vojvodić*

Location 69–73 Sarajevska Street, Belgrade, Serbia

Client and general contractor Dexon Stan, Belgrade

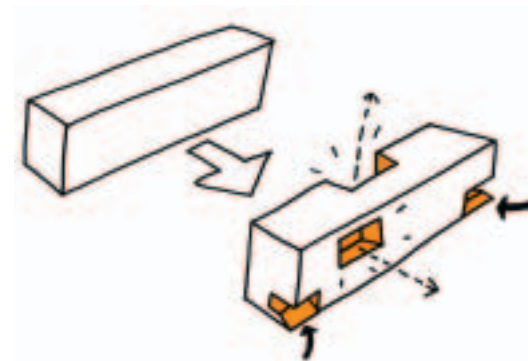
Architects Goran Vojvodić, Belgrade

Building period 2006–2007

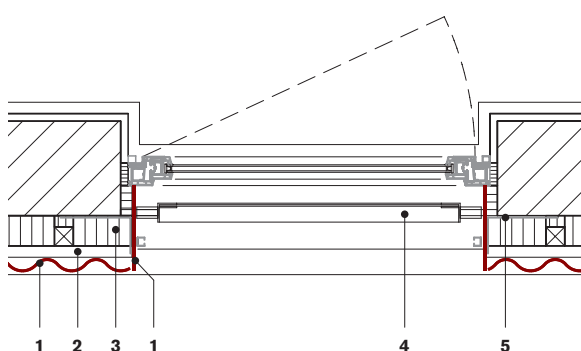
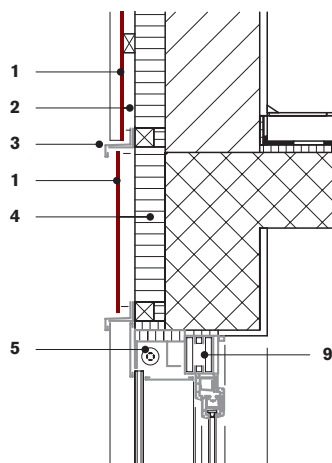
Façade construction NBN, Belgrade

Façade material SWISSPEARL®, N 204

Subsidized housing Poljane, Maribor, Slovenia

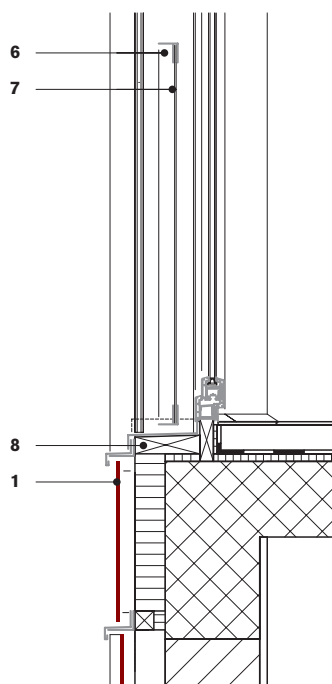


- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel
- 2 Battens
- 3 Window sill, anodized aluminium 2 mm
- 4 Insulation
- 5 Textile screen mechanism
- 6 Parapet, zinc-coated, painted
- 7 Infill, expanded metal mesh, zinc-coated
- 8 Wood substructure 120 x 45 mm
- 9 Ventilation modul



Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panels and corrugated sheets
- 2 Battens
- 3 Insulation
- 4 Parapet, zinc-coated, painted
- 5 Substructure, zinc-coated L-profile 100 x 190 x 5 mm



Vertical section 1:20

The residential area with four blocks of 130 social apartments is located in the nearby vicinity of the high traffic area in Poljane, Maribor. Architects who were dealing with the existing and outdated urban scheme have substituted the lack of public exterior space with collective areas between the blocks. Volumes cut into ashlar blocks form extensive empty spaces designed for public programmes. These spaces are closed, formed as closed playgrounds, or open as roof gardens, oriented towards the sun. Apartments arranged around the central communication core are standard, arranged as floors, whereas their individuality within the whole is expressed by balconies which change position. Balconies as accents on the façade form a rich character of the block. The façade also shows block sections. Fields of structured façade panels characterise the apartments, whereas unstructured horizontal belts define concrete plates of the floors. The choice of façade materials also expresses the industrial character of the surroundings. *Matija Bevk, Vasa Perović*

Location Poljane, Maribor, Slovenia

Client Housing Fund Maribor and Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

Architects Bevk Perović architects, Ljubljana; Matija Bevk, Vasa Perović, Jernej Bevk, Špela Jerin, Andrej Mercina, Sanja Škrinjar, Mitja Zorc

Building period 2005–2007 (project 2002–2005)

General contractor Konstruktor VGR d.o.o., Maribor

Façade construction Srečko Knuplež s.p., Zgornja Velka

Façade material SWISSPEARL® Tectura, special colour VN 431 6625 R; Corrugated sheets Natura F, VN 6625

Centre Esplai, El Prat de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain



A new area is being developed near Barcelona and its airport, very close to the delta of Llobregat River, in collaboration with the town hall and the government. The new equipment for infancy and youth shows three different areas: a youth hostel and nature school with 240 seats, including catering and kitchen services; a centre for activities, education, seminars, meetings etc.; offices and administrative services for more than 180 persons. The whole area will be inaugurated in May 2007.

“The Centre Esplai project seeks a balance between the pure and functional building, which resolves a set of needs, and the symbolic and emblematic character of the building, which is typical for an institution.

Given the heterogeneity of uses, the project attempts to define a single mantle that pulls together the different parts of this complex program while presenting a unitary, volumetric image on the outside; thus, it is converted into a landmark, an urban and civic reference point due to its position in the neighbourhood and the way it generates an urban frontage and public space.

One of the main themes is light, the aim being to create a pleasant ambience in the spaces for working and relaxing, with the building displaying its generosity in the linking areas. On the north and west facings the skylights function as outlets. The uniqueness of the centre resides in the sloping of a number of huge planes, the play of light and shade.” *Carlos Ferrater*

Location Riu Anoia/Riu Cardener, El Prat de Llobregat, Spain

Client Fundació Catalana de L'Esplai, El Prat de Llobregat

Architects Carlos Ferrater in collaboration with Nuria Ayala, Barcelona

Technical architect Alexandre Pararols, Barcelona

Building period 2005–2007 (competition 2004)

Façade construction Installed by owner

Façade material SWISSPEARL® REFLEX Platinum 9020, TECTURA 3 special colours (red, blue, yellow) used for interior design

Publisher

*Eternit (Schweiz) AG, CH-8867 Niederurnen, Switzerland
phone +41 (0)55 617 13 07, fax +41 (0)55 617 12 71
liliane.blin@eternit.ch, www.swisspearl-architecture.com*

Editor *Michael Hanak, Zurich, Switzerland*

Advisory board *Stefan Cadosch, Zurich*

Detail plans *Deck4, Sandra Eichmann, Zurich, and Matthias Böschenstein, Lucerne, Switzerland*

Translations *Maureen Oberli-Turner, Vitznau, Switzerland*

Design *Bernet & Schönenberger, Zurich*

Proofreading *Barbara Raschig, Zurich, and Marion Elmer, Zurich*

Printed by *Südosostschweiz Print AG, Chur, Switzerland*

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Print run 10,000

The magazine Swisspearl Architecture is distributed exclusively by authorized distributors in 40 countries on 5 continents.

ISSN 1661-3260

For the contents of this magazine the authors concerned assume responsibility. Drawings kindly transmitted by the architects correspond to the design phase; detail plans were only reworked for greater legibility. Neither the editor nor Eternit (Schweiz) AG checked the constructive accuracy of the drawings.

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Due to the new global naming concept for the extended Swisspearl range, four colours were renamed. The previous names are mentioned in brackets.



Denmark Signalhuset, Youth accommodation, Copenhagen
Søndersøparken, Viborg

Italy Residenza Le Camelie, Como

Serbia Apartment-office building, Belgrade

Slovenia Housing L, Sežana
Primary school Polje, Ljubljana
Subsidized housing Poljane, Maribor

Spain Centre Esplai, El Prat de Llobregat, Barcelona

Sweden Ramlösagården, Helsingborg
School house, Hjärup

USA Gary Comer Youth Center, Chicago
Medical offices, Bolingbrook, Illinois
Satellite Operations Facility for NOAA, Suitland, Maryland

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