



# SWISSPEARL ARCHITECTURE 16

International Edition – High Profile Buildings

# SWISSPEARL ARCHITECTURE 16

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# MUSIC FOR THE EYE...



Every morning it's the same... the information media dump their series of mostly bad news: economic crisis, natural disasters, conflicts or wars, etc. A look out the window: yes, it is winter with grey as the dominant tone in many countries in the northern hemisphere. A mostly dull, greyish built environment will increase this feeling of sadness, like an orchestra constantly repeating an A minor chord.

Fortunately, various inspired architects write melodies on the façades and/or for the volumes that contribute to everybody's visual wellbeing, throughout the year. For example, the Finnish school that combines the virtuosity of the four seasons' colours and the movements of the surrounding landscape. Or, the American hospital where the variations in warm façade tones were composed as a counterpoint to the cool high-tech ambience prevailing inside. There are many other examples of how a harmonious arrangement of colours or tonal contrast brings a note of gaiety into our living and working spaces. And, as the cherry on the cake, these buildings are also green thanks to energy-saving technologies and sustainable materials that respect the architect's composition and the melody the building owner wanted.

In the following pages, discover various international designers' specific interpretation of their architectural themes to achieve a collective harmonic delight and wellness with different instruments built on Swisspearl's expressive capacity and reliable, long-term technologies.

Enjoy the music!

Urs Lehner, CEO Eternit (Schweiz) AG

**PS:** By the way, several projects presented in this Magazine won recently an architecture prize or award.



Barcelona 2011

# WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL



Barcelona, the magic word for all people interested in architecture, is once again in the centre of current architectural events. For the fourth time, the World Architecture Festival took place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the halls of the CCIB in Barcelona. According to their announcement, it is the largest architectural event worldwide for the evaluation of contemporary buildings and projects, it has the most participants from the most countries and the highest number of project submissions. The goal and purpose of this major event is to nominate and award the best architectural example of the year.

This year's event resulted in a new record for submissions: in total, over 700 projects were submitted from over 66 countries. Remarkably, there were also some gaps as well as an under-average number of submissions in specific world regions. In particular, the central European space stood out with a nearly complete absence, although the architecture from this region enjoys a high regard. However, not one Austrian office was represented, Germany submitted just one project while Holland and Switzerland had, respectively, two and three projects in the final selection. In contrast, the English-speaking countries were strongly represented, as were the up-and-coming countries of the Far East. Great Britain sent in a proud

44 projects, Australia sent 20 projects and the US sent twelve. The city-state of Singapore submitted a total of ten projects. Whether this suggests that trail-blazing architecture of this period will come mainly from these latitudes cannot be conclusively explained.

Swisspearl was present on-site as a sponsor of the event for the fourth time. With an attractive and informative stand, planned and built by the architect offices of Cadosch & Zimmermann of Zurich, it managed to answer all the diverse questions of the visitors about the unusual façade applications in words and pictures. The sponsors' area was an attractive info-platform in the centre of the exhibit.

## First Festival Day, 2 November 2011

On the first day, the Best Building of the Year was juried for each of twelve categories and announced in the evening. The architects presented their projects to the jury in some excellently structured short presentations and answered a variety of questions. Surprisingly, the very big names were not among the prizewinners, although there were some who presented some outstanding projects at



the beginning. Still, for once, neither Zaha Hadid nor Norman Foster, for example, managed to convince the jury members about their projects. Among the prizewinners of the first day were three buildings from Spain, two from Australia and a further six from six different countries. The global character of the competition was also reflected very well in the category winners.

### Second Festival Day, 3 November 2011

On the second day, an additional four categories were juried and the corresponding prizes announced. In addition, ten “future project” categories also had their best project chosen. Thus, by the end of the evening, a total of 24 category winners had been drawn. Again, the prizewinners gave the field a good cross-section view of architectural developments worldwide.



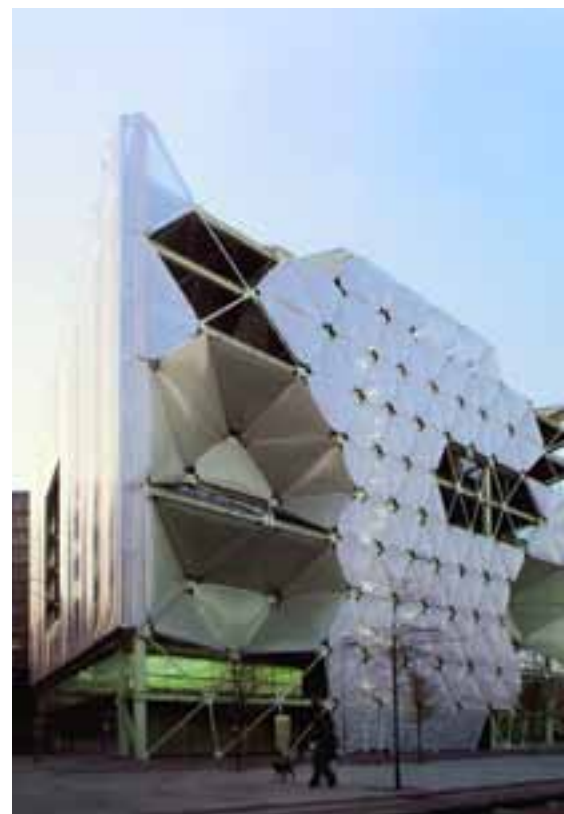
In addition to the project presentations that took place over the course of all three days, there were some very valuable discussion panels and forums on current architecture themes. Among the speakers were such prominent representatives of the architecture scene as Christoph Ingenhoven, Yvonne Farrell and Ken Tadashi Oshima. The visitors could freely circulate in individual “par courses” between the project presentations, the gallery of exhibits, the information stands of the festival partners and the discussion forums in the auditorium. It showed that a programme of this kind could be organised to offer an individual choice of activities.

### Third Festival Day, 4 November 2011

On the third day, the so-called “Super Jury” finally met with the goal of choosing the overall best project of the year from the 24 category prizewinners. The Super Jury comprised four renowned architects, namely, Michael Sorkin from New York, Jo Noero from Cape Town, Olie Decq from the offices of ODBD in Paris and Professor Kongjian Yu, partner in the offices of Turenscape in Peking. Turenscape won prizes in two categories in an earlier WAF event. The jury didn’t make it any easier on the contestants and had all the category prizewinners pass

through another review. In the end, the jury came to the conclusion that the Media-ICT building in Barcelona by Cloud 9 Architects should be named as the “World Building of the Year”. That the city of Barcelona also thought its youngest architectural monument should win, showed in the fact that the city had already invited all participants to an opening reception in the ICT building on the first evening of the festival. This allowed visitors to view this outstanding building in an unhurried fashion even before it was chosen as the winning project.

Next to the “World Building of the Year”, there was a special prize for outstanding accessibility that went to the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City, designed by Ardit + RDT Architects. In addition, any interested



**... and the winner is:  
the Media-ICT building  
in Barcelona by Cloud 9  
Architects.**

**The winners of the  
individual categories as  
well as the accom-  
panying jury text can  
be found under:  
[www.worldbuildings-  
directory.com](http://www.worldbuildings-<br/>directory.com).**

member of the public could vote for their favourite in a special online process. The public’s choice was the Memorial House Todor Proeski in Krusevo, Macedonia, which was planned by Studio Syndicate. It is a clearly structured cube, dedicated to a famous singer who died in a car accident four years ago.

The festival ended on a convivial note with the reception for the prizewinners and the WAF Partners in the world-renowned Mies van der Rohe Pavilion near the Plaça d’Espanya. An excellent dinner was served that is sure to remain among the participants’ best memories of this event. It brought three intense, very educational as well as celebratory days to a genial close – with the promise that the search for the World Building of the Year will take place again in 2012. Here’s to an exciting reunion in Barcelona! *Stefan Cadosch, dipl. Architect ETH/SIA*





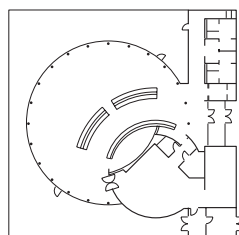
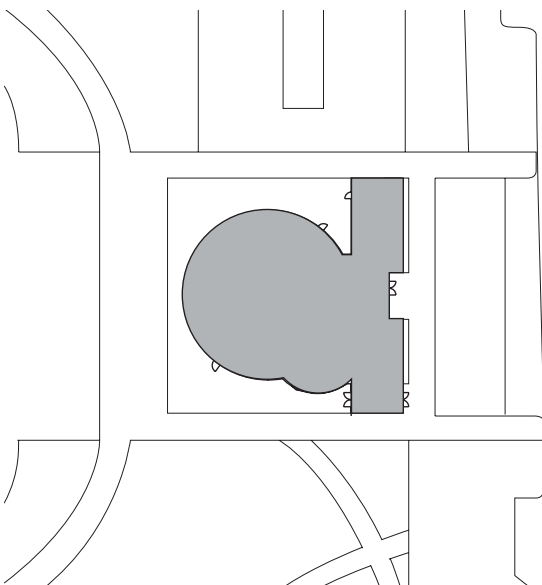
The comprehensive makeover of Oklahoma City's Myriad Gardens entailed the addition of several new structures, along with the renovation of the existing ones. The architectural firm of Gensler employed a uniform cladding system that combined crisp white Swisspearl panels and extensive glazing to give a coherent overall appearance to the buildings. The formal language, with its emphasis on circular elements and a subdued colour scheme, derives from the Crystal Bridge, which has served as the park's visual centrepiece since its inauguration in 1988.

Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City, USA

## DOWNTOWN OASIS







Ground floor 1:1000

Myriad Botanical Gardens, a core element of Oklahoma City's mid-1960s downtown regeneration plan, was originally designed by New York architects Conklin & Rossant in the early 1970s and finally opened to the public in 1988. Two years ago, the City decided upon a 36-million-dollar makeover engaging the offices of James Burnett to plan a redesign and an extension of the park, while Gensler, the world's largest architectural firm, were entrusted with amending and complementing the existing buildings.

The task involved the renovation of structures, such as the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory and the McGee Center, as well as the construction of several new pavilions and ancillary buildings. Key new architectural elements include the Grand Event Lawn Pavilion and the Band Shell, which together form a new outdoor event



**“SWISSPEARL PROVIDES A HIGH-PERFORMANCE CLADDING SYSTEM THAT IS AESTHETICALLY PLEASING AND FURTHER ENHANCES THE BUILDINGS’ ENVIRONMENTAL STANCE.” GENSLER**

space, and, most notably, a new restaurant seating up to 150 guests. Set along the eastern perimeter, the restaurant provides a bar and both indoor and outdoor dining spaces sheltered beneath two large canopies. Commanding imposing views of the park and its sunken lake, the main dining room is designed as a circular glass room intersected with a solid circular drum that houses the bar and service functions and pierces the roof to create a tall parapet that conceals the mechanical equipment.

The formal language of these additions, marked by the juxtaposition of rectangular and circular elements, is clearly inspired by the architectural vocabulary of the existing buildings, particularly the Crystal Bridge, which serves as the park’s centrepiece and a landmark for the city as a whole. The architects sought to create simple, yet elegant and finely crafted structures to complement the

verdant setting. Giving a unified appearance to the various structures, Gensler opted for a combination of water-clear glass and opaque white Swisspearl panels throughout. The latter form the visible layer of a ventilated façade system, which, along with various shading measures and a geothermal heat pump, increases energy efficiency while minimising the facility’s carbon footprint. *Patrick Zamariàn*





**Location** 301 W. Reno St., Oklahoma City (OK), USA

**Client** City of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma City Economic Development Trust

**Design architects** Gensler, Washington (DC), USA (David Epstein, Principal in Charge; Mark Bassett, Senior Designer; Sumita Arora, Project Architect)

**Architects of record** Frankfurt Short Bruza, Oklahoma City (Allen Brown, Principal in Charge; Byron Morris, Project Manager; Peter Breninger, Kyle Brown, James Luckowski & Lowe Runkle, Project Architects)

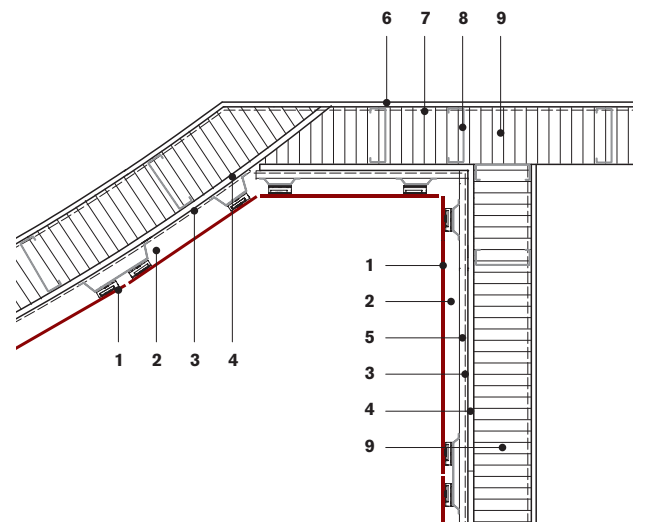
**Building period** January – July 2011

**General contractor** Lippert Bros., Inc., Oklahoma City

**Façade construction** R. M. Rodgers, Inc./Underwood Sheetmetal, Inc., Houston (TX), USA

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7090, 7099

**Award** Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma: “Build Oklahoma Award”



1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm

2 Ventilation cavity

3 Moisture barrier

4 Exterior grade board

5 Vertical support for cleats

6 Gypsum board

7 Vapour barrier

8 Steel stud

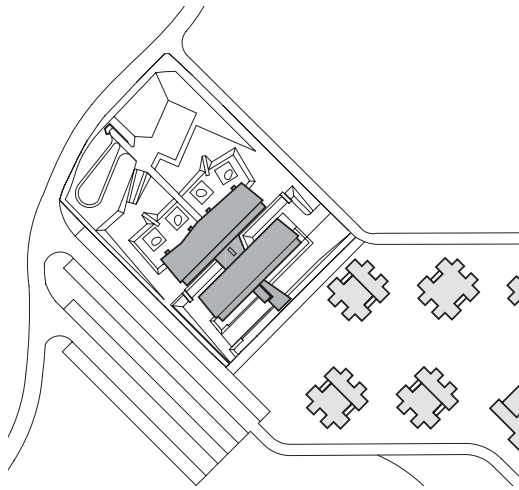
9 Thermal insulation

Horizontal section 1:20



**“THE SWISSPEARL FAÇADE IS DESIGNED AS A TRUE OPEN JOINT RAIN SCREEN. THE VENTILATION SPACE ALLOWS WIND-DRIVEN MOISTURE TO MOVE BETWEEN THE JOINTS AND ESCAPE. THIS SYSTEM INCREASES ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HELPS ELIMINATE MOISTURE PROBLEMS.” GENSLER**







This award-winning kindergarten in Belgrade has been articulated with accents in primary colours that contrast with the grey, Swisspearl-clad façades. The expressive forms and overall scale of the two buildings are appropriate to their function and create an environment conducive to learning and play for preschool children.

Kindergarten Blue Bird, Belgrade, Serbia

## BLUE BIRD, YELLOW BEAK



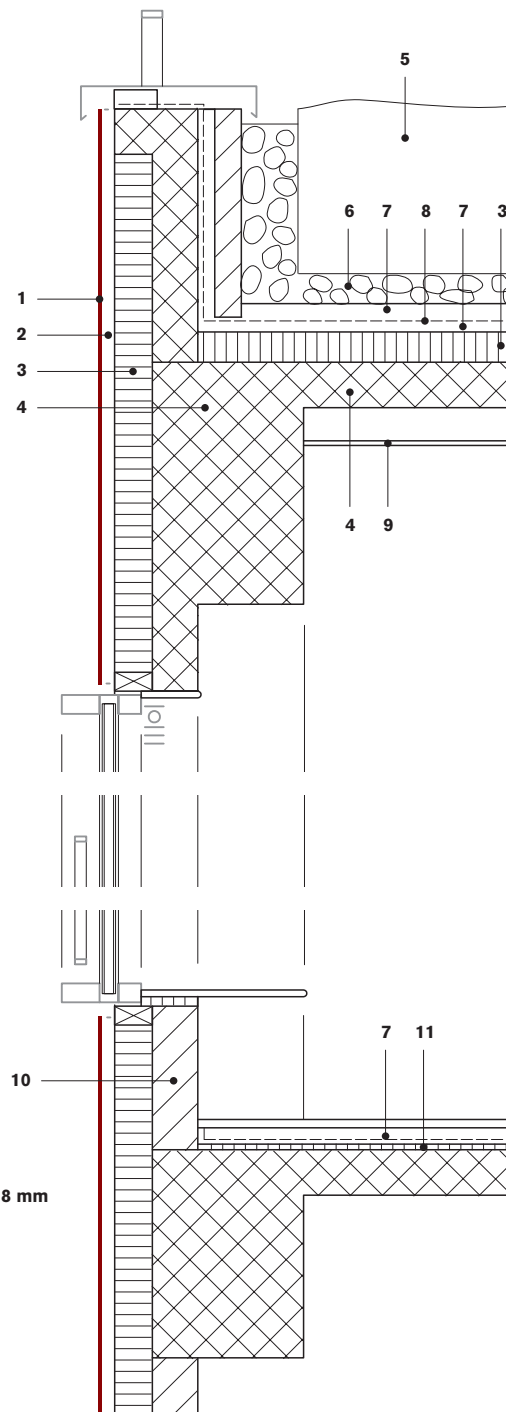


**Location** Vinogradski venac 42, Belgrade, Serbia  
**Client** Belgrade Municipality, Investment Agency, City of Belgrade  
**Architects** Milenija Marušić and Darko Marušić, Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spacial Planning of Serbia, Belgrade  
**Building period** 2010–2011  
**General contractor** Inter-kop, Sabac, Serbia  
**Façade construction** Vodotermika Inženjering, Smederevska Palanka, Serbia  
**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® PLANE A P613; NOBILIS N212 and N215  
**Award** Annual price of Serbian Architects Association: best project 2011



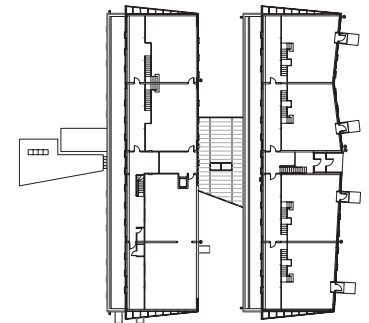
Two low-slung, parallel buildings are set on an open slope surrounded by housing in the southwest of Belgrade. Kindergarten Blue Bird accommodates as many as two hundred preschool children including infants and toddlers. The two distinct volumes are tied together by a circulation spine that runs through the two tracts and contain the stairways that link the various levels. The double-storey height of the entry block has been cleverly reduced by creating a set-back bed of greenery at the exterior of the clerestory windows. In each block, the planes accommodating the mono-pitch roof have been clad in canary-yellow Swisspearl panels that are projected at an obtuse angle, beak-like, to the orthogonal grey-clad primary volume. This somewhat precocious articulation of interlocking forms is appropriate for a kindergarten, giving the architecture humour and dynamism.

The apertures have been defined by projecting accents of bright, basic colours: green, red, blue and yellow. There are also slot openings that have been randomly placed at angles, further enhancing the playful nature of the design. The doorways leading from the four lower playrooms that open onto the playground have been articulated with a bright projecting frame box slotted into the matrix of light-grey Swisspearl panels. The architects have managed to create an environment for little children that is bright and cheery. *Anna Roos*

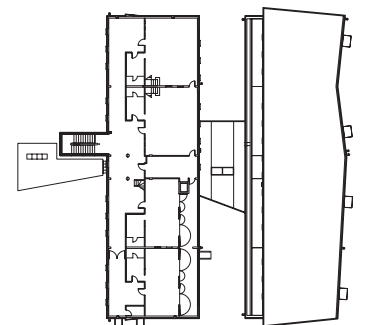


- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Thermal insulation
- 4 Concrete
- 5 Vegetation
- 6 Gravel drainage
- 7 Cement screed
- 8 Waterproofing
- 9 Gypsum ceiling
- 10 Masonry
- 11 Sound insulation

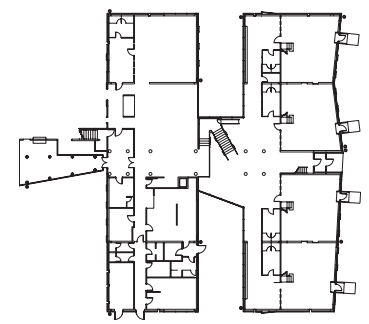
Vertical section 1:20



First floor 1:1000



Gallery floor



Ground floor





Eco-friendly, unobtrusive and elegant – a small office building in Slovenia’s Nova Gorica makes use of Swisspearl’s natural look. Real Engineering architects from Ljubljana have long work experience with Swisspearl. Their choice for an uncomplicated and resistant office façade material that would make for a visually attractive combination with wooden slats was therefore quickly made.



Business Building, Nova Gorica, Slovenia

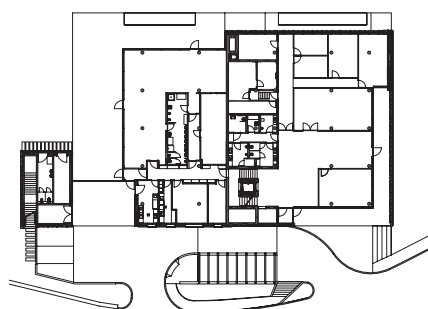
**GOING GREEN, LOOKING GOOD**







**“WE TRIED TO SUMMARISE THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CLIENT  
IN A MODERN, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ARCHITECTURE.”  
ALJAŽ LAVRIČ**



Ground floor 1:1000

**Location** Ulica Vinka Vodopivca 45, Kromberk, Nova Gorica, Slovenia

**Client** Istrabenz Gorenje d. o. o., Nova Gorica

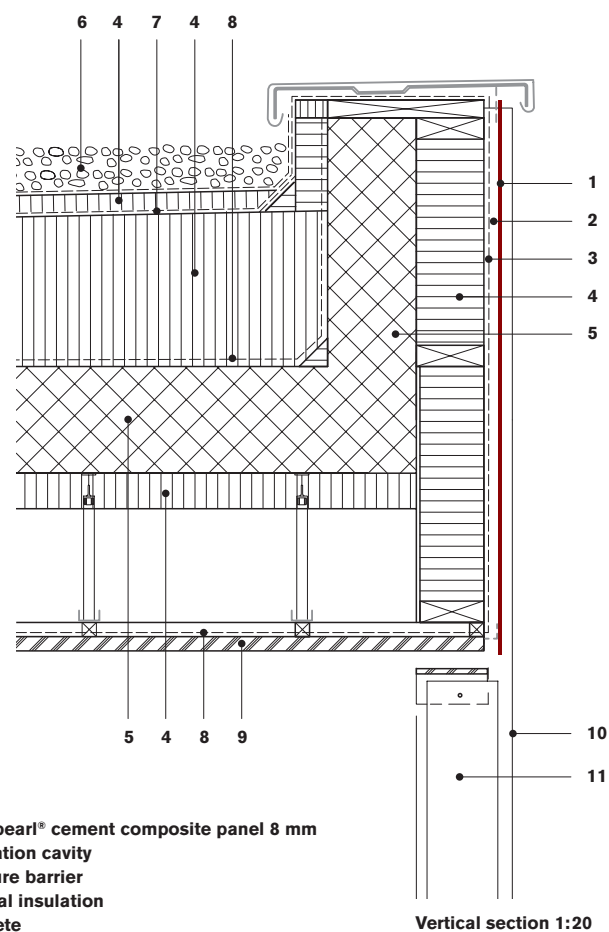
**Architects** Real Engineering d. o. o., Ljubljana, Slovenia (Rok Klanjšček, Aljaž Lavrič, Grega Tramte, Nina Polajnar)

**Building period** 2010–2011

**General contractor** VG5 d. o. o., Ljubljana

**Façade construction** Duja d. o. o., Ljubljana

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® TECTURA, T205



- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Moisture barrier
- 4 Thermal insulation
- 5 Concrete
- 6 Gravel
- 7 Waterproofing
- 8 Vapour barrier
- 9 Suspended ceiling
- 10 Wooden batten
- 11 Wooden sunscreen

Vertical section 1:20











The building is a plain two-storey box with long ribbon windows and terraces. To balance the horizontality, the architects mounted all the façade elements vertically.

**“SWISSPEARL PANELS WERE OUR FIRST CHOICE, SINCE THE MATERIAL IS SO RESISTANT AND COMBINES WELL WITH WOOD.” ALJAŽ LAVRIČ**

The commission was straightforward: to design and construct a new commercial building on the outskirts of Nova Gorica, a Slovenian city founded in 1948 near the “original” town of Gorica and close to the Italian border. The Slovenian investment group Istrabenz Gorenje, who among other things invests in new energies, wanted an environmentally friendly building that would also provide space for a kindergarten.

The Ljubljana-based architecture company Real Engineering came up with a plain box thrust into the slightly sloping ground. Instead of creating a partly subterranean storey on the building’s hillside, however, the architects raised the interior floors there by 1.5 metres, keeping the roof level. Thus, they not only created a snug space for the kindergarten, but also marked the different function of this part of the structure from the outside.

On all sides, the two-storey building opens to its surroundings through long ribbons of windows and terraces, the latter providing relaxing space for the workers as well as protection from the heat for the office rooms inside. The strong horizontality of the structure is balanced by a strict vertical installation of all the façade elements such as the window glazing, the pine wood slats on the ground floor and the grey Swisspearl panels on the upper floor.

To enhance this effect, the architects mounted slim wooden blinds in irregular intervals in front of all the openings, more where additional sun protection is needed, less where the light should enter unhindered. In addition, wooden joints between the cement composite panelling highlight the façade.

Real Engineering, which was founded in 1994, has worked previously with Swisspearl materials, using them mainly for single-family houses. “For this project, we needed an easy to use and elegant material for the curtain walls that would go well with the wood,” explains the responsible architect, Aljaž Lavrič, “and our choice quickly fell on Swisspearl.” *Mirko Beetschen*



The new medical centre in Issaquah, situated in the picturesque foothills outside Seattle, was built to accommodate the needs of the growing community. By tracking the “journey” of the patients, the architects were able to formulate their design decisions.

Swedish Medical Center, Issaquah, USA

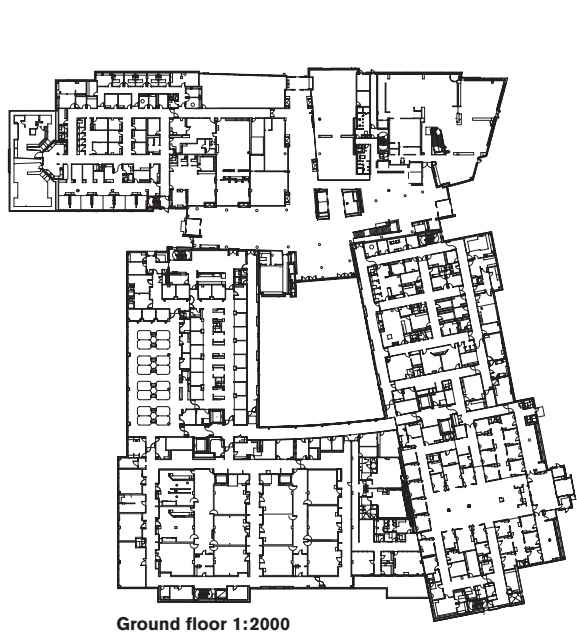
## A COMPLEX COLLAGE



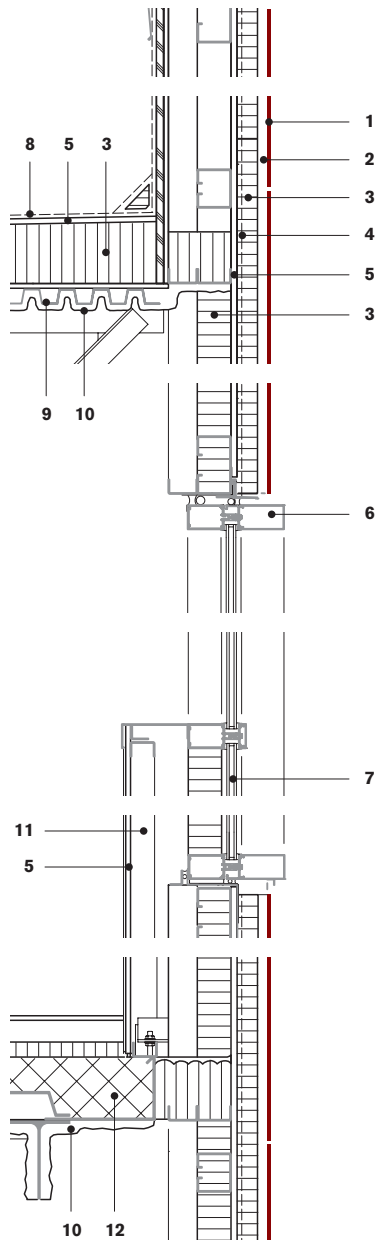
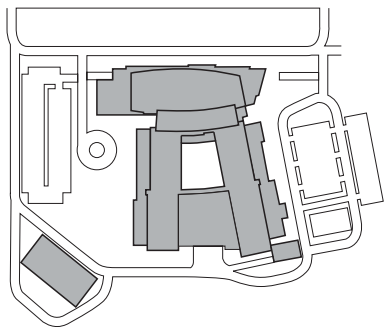




“THE INTERCONNECTED THEMES OF ‘NATURE’, ‘NURTURE’, AND ‘COMMUNITY’ WERE INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN WITH CRISP AESTHETICS AND MATERIAL INTEGRITY TO EVOKE A SENSE OF WARMTH AND FAMILIARITY.”  
COLLINS WOERMAN



Ground floor 1:2000



Vertical section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Thermal insulation
- 4 Moisture barrier
- 5 Gypsum board
- 6 Mullion cap
- 7 Spandrel glass
- 8 Waterproofing
- 9 Structural metal deck
- 10 Spray applied fireproofing
- 11 Metal stud furring
- 12 Concrete

**Location** 2005 NW Sammamish Road, Issaquah (WA), USA  
**Client** Swedish Health Care, Issaquah  
**Architect** Collins Woerman, Seattle  
**Building period** 2010–2012  
**General contractor** Sellen Construction, Seattle  
**Façade construction** Pacific Construction Systems, Bellevue (WA), USA  
**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Topaz 7072, 7073 and REFLEX, Autumn Leaves 9270, Blue Ice 9240







**“THE SWISSPEARL EXTERIOR CLADDING SYSTEM IS A UNIQUE FEATURE. THE UNITIZED SYSTEM COMBINES A QUICK CONNECT STEEL SUPPORT PLATFORM, WATER AIR BARRIER, PATENT PENDING INTERLOCKING JOINT SYSTEM, RIGID INSULATION, ANODIZED SUBGIRTS AND 8 MM SWISSPEARL CLADDING.” PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS**

The entrance of the complex is clearly demarcated by a five-storey curtain wall.

This five-storey complex consists of an intensive care unit, in-patient care facilities and a medical office building. The architects' objective was to create a community-based medical centre aligned with the needs of the patients that was also in keeping with the corporate identity of the client. Between the medical office building and the east and west wings is a central communal area that focuses the cohesion of the structures. The attenuated volume was designed as an interface between the two zones: the atrium ascends five storeys and incorporates the reception, retail and restaurant areas, while the vertical volume is accentuated by a curved, crescent-shaped roof that projects, like a giant smile, above the flat roofs of the neighbouring structures. The complex, collage-like arrangement of forms, colours and textures reduces the scale of the large complex. A myriad of materials, including face-brick, cement composite Swisspearl panels, glass and timber,

articulate the façades. The latter are enlivened by slender russet vertical elements that randomly float across the elevations and act as an accent to the horizontal bands of off-white Swisspearl panels.

One vital aspect of the design is its energy performance. The hospital was planned to achieve an *Energy Star* rating of 75, indicating optimal performance: the hospital requires 43 percent less energy than a typical hospital of its scale (energy usage for the entire facility is measuring on average 104 BTU/sf/year for the first six months of operation). The plan footprint was kept as compact as possible, while the Swisspearl exterior cladding system was especially developed for the project and ultimately reduced the schedule by as much as six weeks. Furthermore, environmentally friendly, sustainable materials were used throughout the project. *Anna Roos*





Shifting volumes and planes are clad in various textures and shades of muted colours that reduce the bulk of the building and create a collage effect. The play of balcony depths in the residential part of the project gives depth to the elevations. The elongated L-shape is high-lighted by white Swisspearl panels that stand proud of the light grey cladding onto which it is superimposed.



Residential and Office Building Maistrov Dvor, Maribor, Slovenia

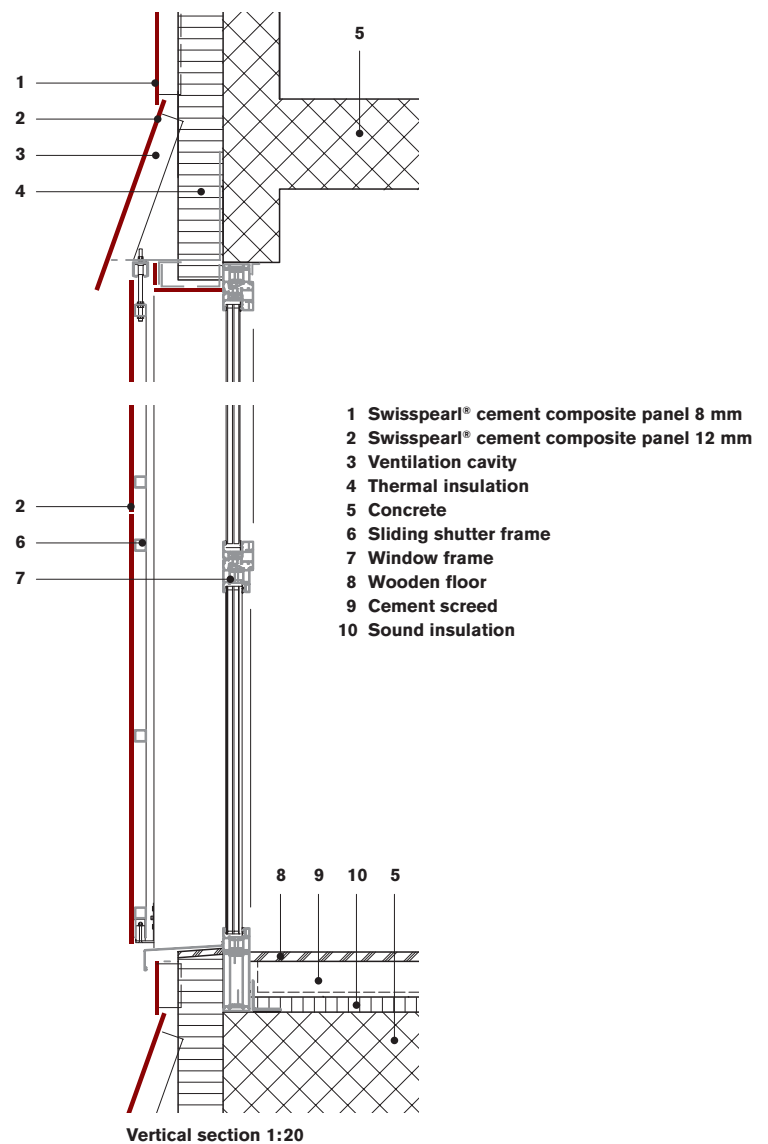
## **EXPRESSIVE COMPOSITION OF VOLUMES AND PLANES**

This large, mixed-use building, known locally as Maistrov Dvor, is situated in the centre of Slovenia's second largest city, Maribor – a charming red-roofed city on the River Drava. The six-storey, 6500-square-metre building replaces an abandoned wine bottling plant on a site between two parking lots. To optimise the site, the architects, Zadavec Arhitekti, split the building into two distinct, parallel wings accommodating a combination of open plan offices and residential units. An internal circulation spine, where the lift-cores and internal stairwells are situated, separates the two parallel sections. By dividing the volume into two long elements, a monolithic structure was avoided. The ground floor zone to the west is raised on slender pilotis to create a covered entry to the business zone at street level.

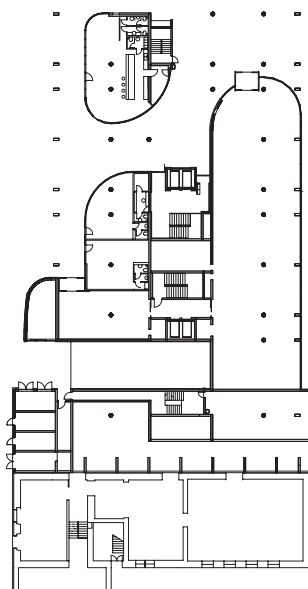
In keeping with the plan, the elevations are also subdivided into distinct planes. The strict rectilinearity of the composition is broken by the addition of a long triple-storey glazed façade that slowly curves down into the primary volume, demarcating the office zone and clearly separating it from the residential area.

The Swisspearl panels further emphasise the split in the façade with a skin of white horizontal panels superimposed onto the front of a field of vertically positioned, muted grey Swisspearl panels. Disjointed from the longitudinal grey elevation plane, the white façade cladding is pulled away from the main volume of the building plane in plan as well as in section, creating a sense of shifting planes and emphasising the façade plane as an independent element.

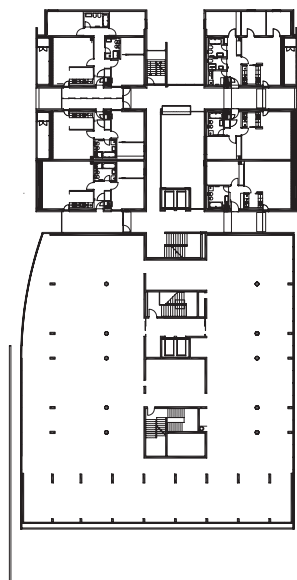
The apartment units have been arranged in conjunction with the open galleries and walkways to create separate entities, each with their own entry off the main circulation spine. The positioning of the entries into the units affords the user a greater degree of privacy and a kind of threshold into the apartments, which range in size from two- to four-room apartments of between 90 and 200 square metres. *Anna Roos*



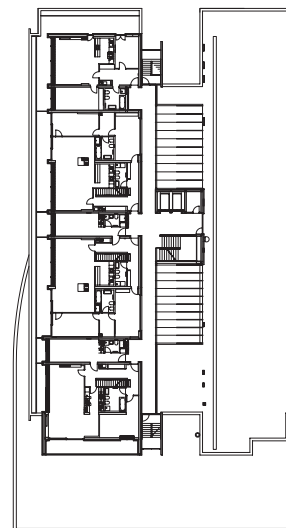
**“THE PARTLY TRANSPARENT GROUND FLOOR CONTINUES UPWARDS, WHERE INTERNAL HALLS BETWEEN FLATS ARE REPLACED BY OPEN GALLERIES AND PASSAGES.” ZADAVEC ARHITEKTI**



Ground floor 1:1000



Third floor



Sixth floor





**Location** Razlagova ulica 2–4, Maribor, Slovenia

**Client** KBM Invest d.o.o., Maribor

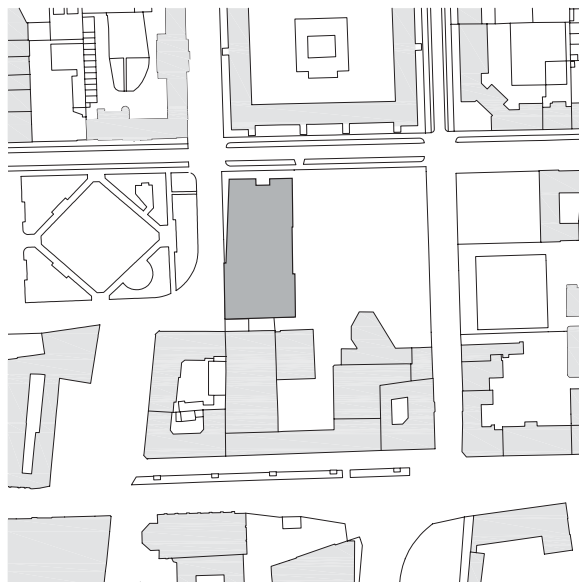
**Architects** Zadavec Arhitekti d.o.o., Maribor

**Building period** 2009–2010

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

**Façade construction** Zlahtič d.o.o., Ptuj, Slovenia

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® NOBILIS, Grey 212;  
PLANEA, Orange 712



A deeply set, glazed communal area projects the two wings forward as independent volumes, each crowned with a raised cornice that hovers above the roof plane.



## Nursing Home, Middle Pustertal, Olang, South Tyrol, Italy

### Exhilarating Variation

The alpine landscape of the Pustertal is not only an invitation to go hiking, skiing or sledding, it has also left its mark on the traditional architecture. Even today, natural wood and white walls still characterise most of the buildings. With the nursing home recently built in the south Tyrolean community of Olang, Aichner Seidl Architekten fit a new type of building into the sensitive context of village and landscape using contemporary solutions, materials and colours. The colour concept was developed with the artist Albert Mellauner.

The three-storey building stands on the edge of the town next to the public library and the conference centre. The view to the south opens over the natural landscape of the broad valley. The first and second floors each house a nursing care group of 20 residents. The ground floor houses various functions. The café there is intended as a

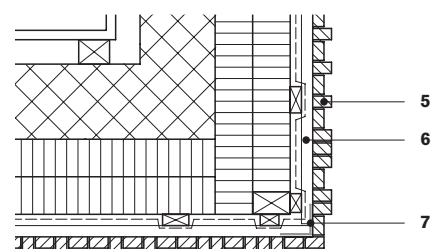
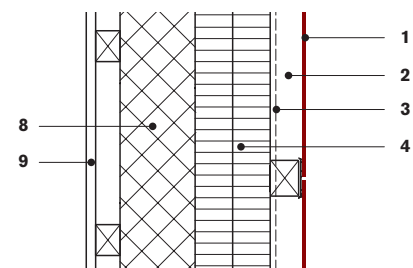
meeting place for the residents and non-residents, the chapel offers a chance to retreat. The different materials used for these and other functions accentuate their treatment as individual structures, which, according to the architects, should work like a group of houses around a village common. The communal seating area on the flat roof has the character of an observation deck. The meandering corridors of the floor plans of the nursing care groups correspond to the sometimes enormous need to move of demented persons and offers a variable path, with various looks into the landscape.

A variety of materials determine the outer aspects. The set-back ground floor is for the most part plasterwork. Above them, vertical wood panels lend the closed façade areas a tactile structure. The area around the high windows are clad with cement composite panels in a horizon-



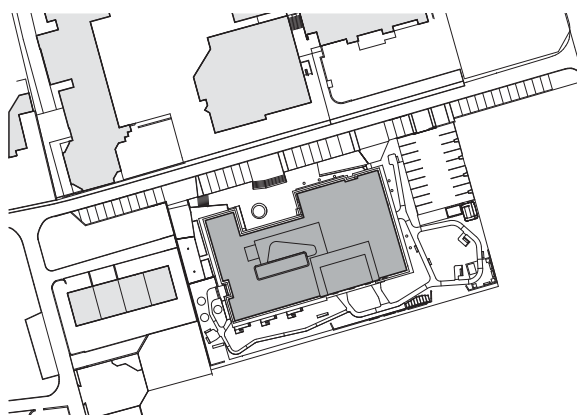


While the vertical wood panels provide a lively relief structure, the horizontal cement composite panels lend the façade a smooth feeling.



Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Moisture barrier
- 4 Thermal insulation
- 5 Formwork larch
- 6 Horizontal batten
- 7 Galvanised steel angle
- 8 Concrete
- 9 Gypsum board



**Location** Kanonikus Gamper Weg 14, Olang (BZ), Italy

**Client** Residential and Nursing Home in Mittleres Pustertal a Community of Olang

**Architects** Aichner Seidl Architekten, Bruneck, Italy

**Building period** 2008–2010

**General contractor** ZH General Construction Company AG, Sand in Taufers, Italy

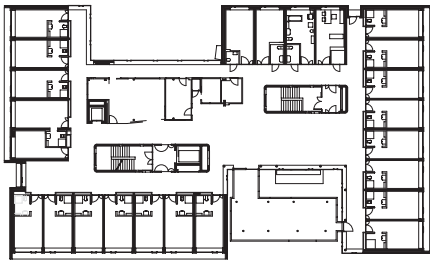
**Façade construction** Zimmerei Andreas Brunner, Rasen-Antholz, für Wolf Artec GmbH, Natz-Schabs, Italy

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7099, Coral 7031 and Black Opal 7024

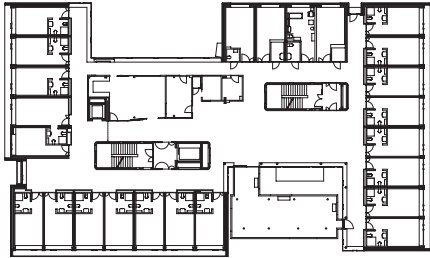


tal format. Recesses in the rectangular building are dressed with red cement composite panels. On the street side, a forecourt is left open that – in combination with benches around the linden tree – defines the arrival area. The south side garden has broad covered terraces inserted in the upper floors. Further recesses show where the corridors reach the façades. All these colourful accentuated recesses break the big volume into smaller parts and generate well proportioned homely and “gemütliche” areas in and outside the building. In this way, the sculptural form finds its place in the surrounding small sections of the village.

*Michael Hanak*

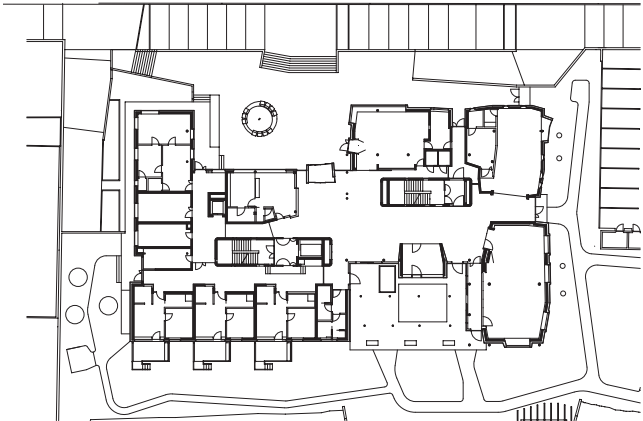


Second floor 1:1000



First floor

**“HEAVY VALUE WAS PLACED IN THE STRUCTURING OF THE VOLUME AND ON THE TACTILE AND OPTICAL QUALITIES OF THE MATERIALS TO PLACE THIS HUGE VOLUME IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LITTLE VILLAGE.”**  
**AICHNER SEIDL ARCHITEKTEN**



Ground floor







## Head Office Honda Nordic, Malmö, Sweden

### Two Parts as One



**Location** Svågertorp, Malmö, Sweden

**Client** Wihlborgs Fastigheter, Malmö

**Architects** Sydmark Konstruera AB, Malmö

**Building period** 2009–2010

**Construction manager and façade construction** MVB AB, Malmö

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7090 and REFLEX, Silver 9000

The brief for the new building was to accommodate the Head Office for Nordic and Baltic Operations for the car manufacturer, Honda. The building also has a centre for internal training and seminars. The site, a business park on the periphery of Malmö, was carefully chosen so that it could easily be accessed from the city centre, the airport and Copenhagen.

The building is divided into two distinct parts: a single-storey structure containing the training premises, workshops and showroom and a four-storey block that holds the seminar and conference rooms. The uppermost level of the block is set back, thus reducing the scale of the building. The northwest corner has been cut out and filled with a huge window, while the smaller bands of fenestration are defined by projecting sunscreens that shade the spaces.

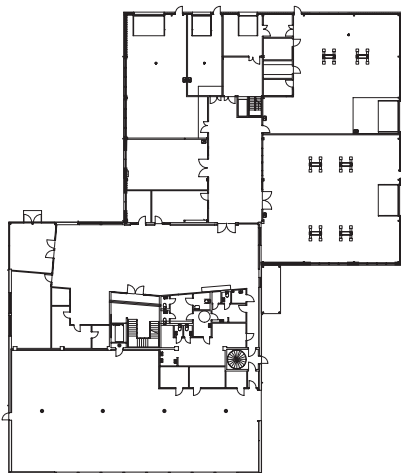
The light Swisspearl cladding was chosen as a contrast to the adjacent dark buildings in order to offset the building and give it a distinct character. *Anna Roos*



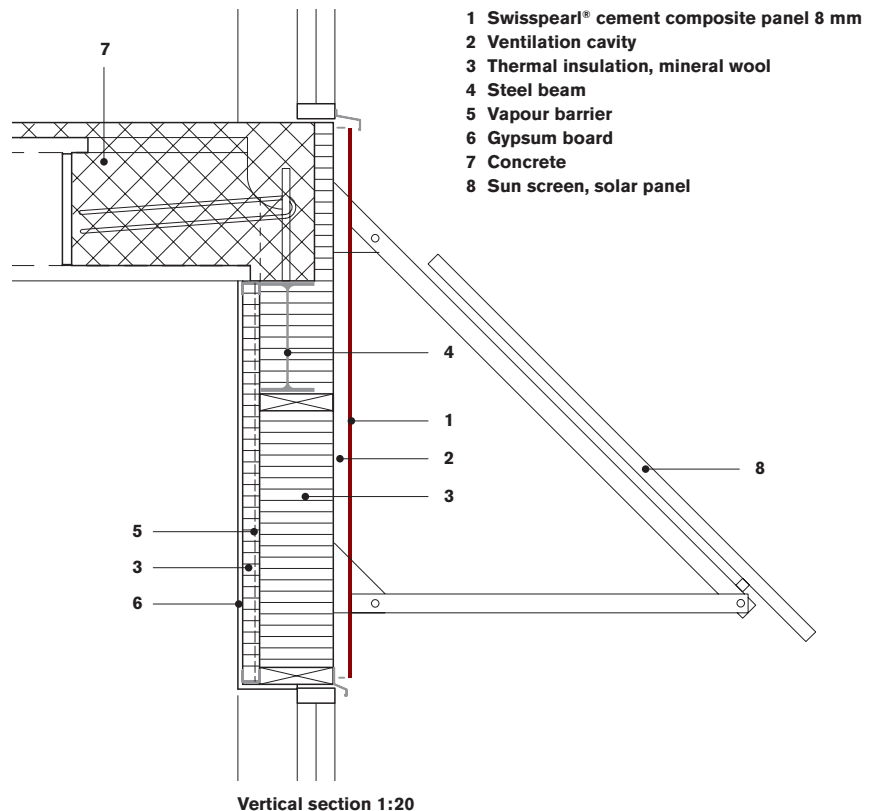
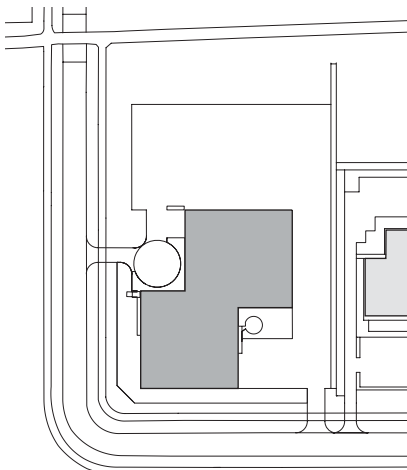
Horizontal windows  
echo the horizontal  
proportions of the white  
abstract block.



**“THE CHOICE OF LIGHT COLOURS AND QUALITY MATERIALS BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CREATING A MODERN OFFICE AND TRAINING CENTRE.” SYDARK KONSTRUERA AB**



Ground floor 1:1000



# Administration Building, Thermal Power Plant, Soštanj, Slovenia

## A Collage of Colour and Form



The cladding thrusts outwards at an angle to create a dynamic impression.





The trio of colours ties in with the corporate identity of the company.

The new administrative building for this coal power plant in northern Slovenia in the Saleška Valley is the sixth unit of the plant. In order to extend the building, the pre-existing administration building had to be replaced. The project was subdivided into two sections, with the smaller section containing the telecommunications equipment and the larger structure accommodating the administration building.

The architects used various devices to reduce the massive bulk of the building: the volume is fragmented and a wide palette of colours, surfaces and textures was used. The choice of Swisspearl cement composite panels in vibrant yellow, blue and white, articulates the various volumes and is a good medium for expressing the contrasts sought by the client. The colour combination reflects the corporate image of the client. From certain perspectives, the building seems like an abstract three-dimensional collage, the blue vertical volume counterbalancing the long

horizontality of the surrounding glazed volumes facing the road. The horizontal slit windows juxtaposed with the punctured openings further emphasise the contrasts that reinforce the design concept. The play of volumes and colour also give the ensemble a distinct character. A pleasant feature of the design is the landscape design, which, along with the covered walkways at ground level, creates a human scale for the industrial, potentially anonymous, project. *Anna Roos*

**Location** Cesta Lole Ribarja 18, Soštanj, Slovenia

**Client** Termoelektrarna, Soštanj

**Architects** P & A Projektivni Atelje d. o. o., Velenje, Slovenia

**Building period** 2009–2010

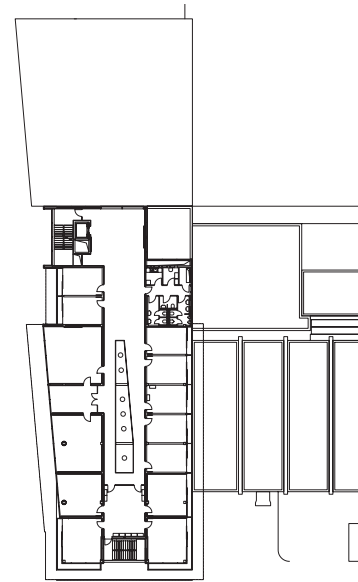
**Construction manager** Cigrad, Soštanj

**Façade construction** Vegrad d. d., Soštanj

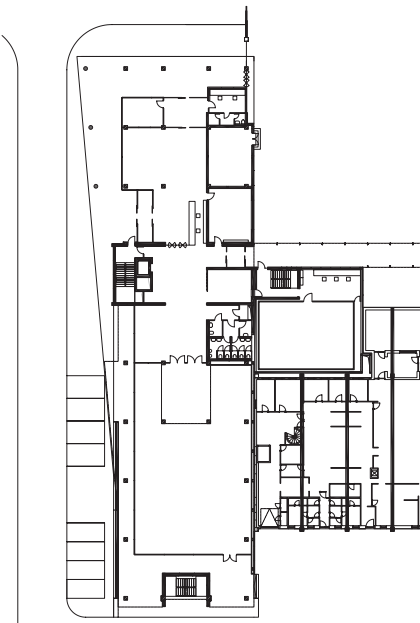
**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® PLANEA, Blue 413, Grey 216, Yellow 614



The blue-clad vertical structure forms the focal point of the façade.

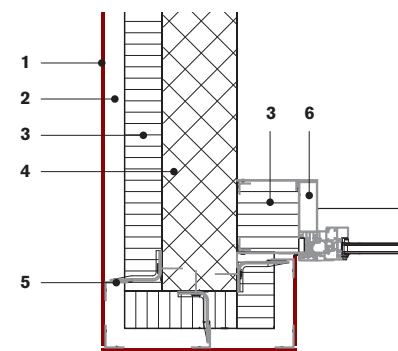
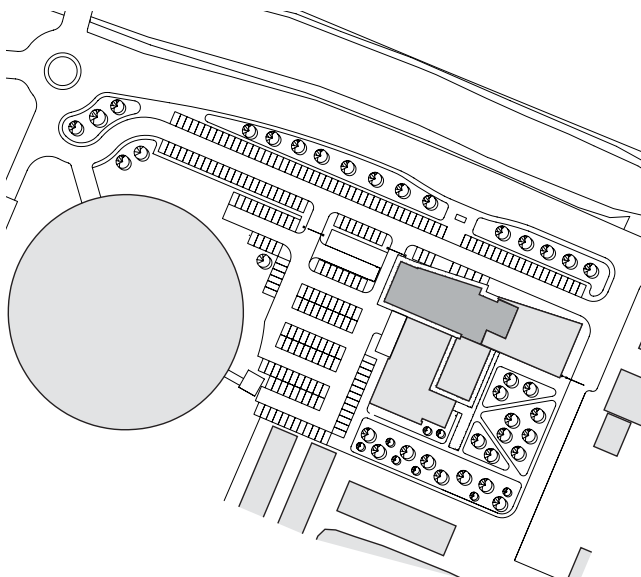


Third floor 1:1000



Ground floor

**“OUR MAIN GUIDELINES WERE: TO ENSURE THE RATIONAL USE OF MATERIALS, TO PROVIDE THE FACILITY WITH MAXIMUM HEAT PROTECTION AND TO REDUCE THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE BUILDING DURING ITS CREATION PHASE AS WELL AS DURING ITS USE.” ANDREJ SIFER, ARCHITECT**



Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity 60 mm
- 3 Thermal insulation 100 mm
- 4 Concrete 200 mm
- 5 Angle
- 6 Window frame

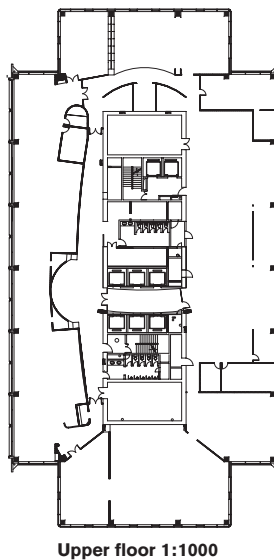




## Office Reception Area, Beijing, China

### East Meets West

J.A.O. Design International Architects and Planners Limited was established in New York in 1984. More than a decade later the office relocated to Hong Kong, then to Beijing in 2001. J.A.O. is one of the largest WOFE (Wholly Owned Foreign Enterprise) in design business in China. It offers a full range of services related to architecture, design and engineering. Its China headquarters is located on the entire floor of about 2,800 square metres in the heart of Beijing's Central Business District (CBD), in a new office building that was awarded the LEED Gold Award Certification. The lobby and reception areas of the offices were given special attention as representative spaces. Horizontal Swisspearl panels were used in the interior design to clad the walls in planes of varying shades. A vivid combination of colours was chosen: ochre, russet, sienna, green and eggshell, a warm off-white. The wall running along the arrival passage has been fitted with a cabinet that proudly displays the offices' myriad of certificates and awards. The layout is organised according to Feng Shui principles, the Asian geomantic practice of configuring spaces to create harmony. *Anna Roos*



**Location** 5 Guanghua Road, Beijing, China

**Client** Long On Group, Beijing Prosper Property Co. Ltd.

**Architects and general contractor** J. A. O. Design International Architects and Planners Limited, Beijing

**Building period** 2011

**Façade construction** Baroque Design Center, Qingdao, China

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Black Opal 7020; REFLEX, Sunset 9230, Gold 9272, Green Lagoon 9250, Champagne 9290



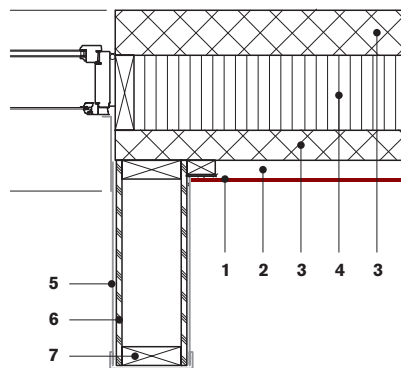


Designed by Linja Architects, this new building in the municipality of Vantaa provides school and community facilities to the residents of a new urbanised area halfway between Helsinki and its international airport. Marked by the contrast of its exuberant façade design and the calm interior, completed with Alvar Aalto furniture, Kannisto School is a paragon of “embedding design in life” to quote the slogan of Helsinki’s winning bid as a contender for World Design Capital 2012.

Kannisto School, Vantaa, Finland

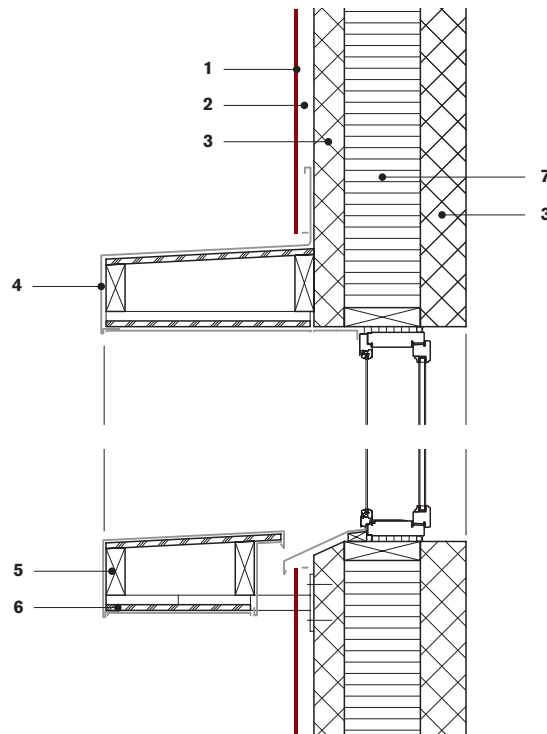
## THE “WE” SPIRIT





Horizontal section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Concrete
- 4 Thermal insulation
- 5 Aluminium sheet
- 6 Plywood
- 7 Wood frame



Vertical section 1:20

- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Concrete
- 4 Aluminium sheet
- 5 Wood frame
- 6 Plywood
- 7 Thermal insulation



**“THROUGH THE WAVE-SHAPED ROOF AND COLOURFUL FAÇADES, WE INTRODUCED A PLAYFULNESS AND APPEAL THAT IS SUITABLE FOR AN EDUCATIONAL BUILDING.” TIMO KOLJONEN, LINJA ARCHITECTS**

The Finnish city of Vantaa is part of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and a household name to international travellers as the site of the country’s main airport. Set along the Ring Rail Line that connects the airport with the capital, Marja-Vantaa is the most significant new urban residential and business area to emerge within the Helsinki Region and shall, in the words of Mayor Juhani Paajanen, set an “excellent example of integrating contemporary planning principles with ecological building practices.” On completion, the area will provide new homes for roughly 30,000 residents and add 25,000 workplaces to the local economy.

Kannisto School is one of the key projects of this expansive urbanisation scheme. Designed by Linja Architects and catering to the needs of future residents, Kannisto School is situated in a large park between a cluster

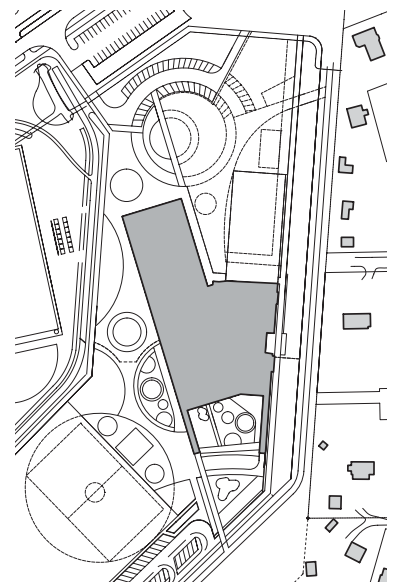
of single-family homes and a commercial centre. Encompassing a total floor area of 13,000 square metres, the building currently accommodates a primary school for 500 pupils, a day care centre and a variety of additional services for the local community. A second construction phase will double the number of students and is due for completion in 2019.

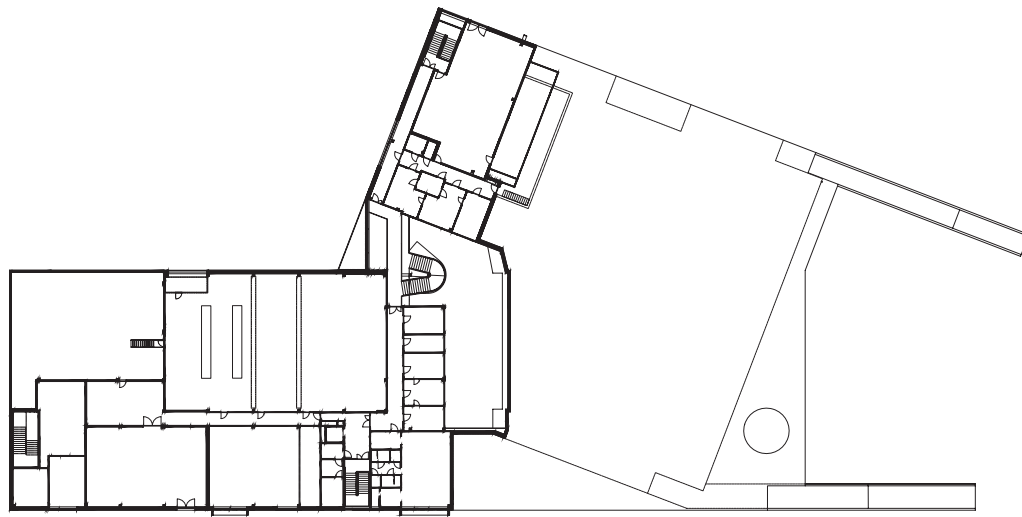
The integration of school and community facilities is a key aspiration of modern-day school planning. At Kannisto School, the functions are distributed into two separate brick blocks of various heights that are wedged between two conspicuous extended sidewalls with Swisspearl cladding and connected by a three-storey atrium. Accessible from both the north and, more prominently, the west, the atrium serves as a mutual entrance lobby as well as a dining hall for the school children. A winding





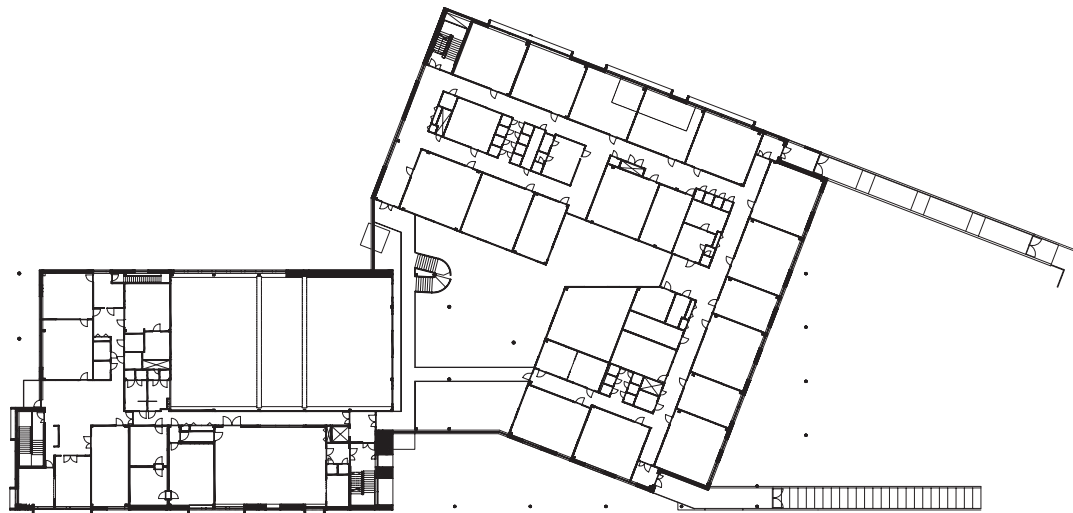
**“BY USING THE SAME MATERIALS AND COLOUR SCHEME, WE WANTED TO EMPHASISE THAT THE BUILDING IS A COMMON HOUSE FOR ALL ITS USERS. I FEEL THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO INCREASE THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY – THE ‘WE’ SPIRIT.”**  
**TIMO KOLJONEN, LINJA ARCHITECTS**



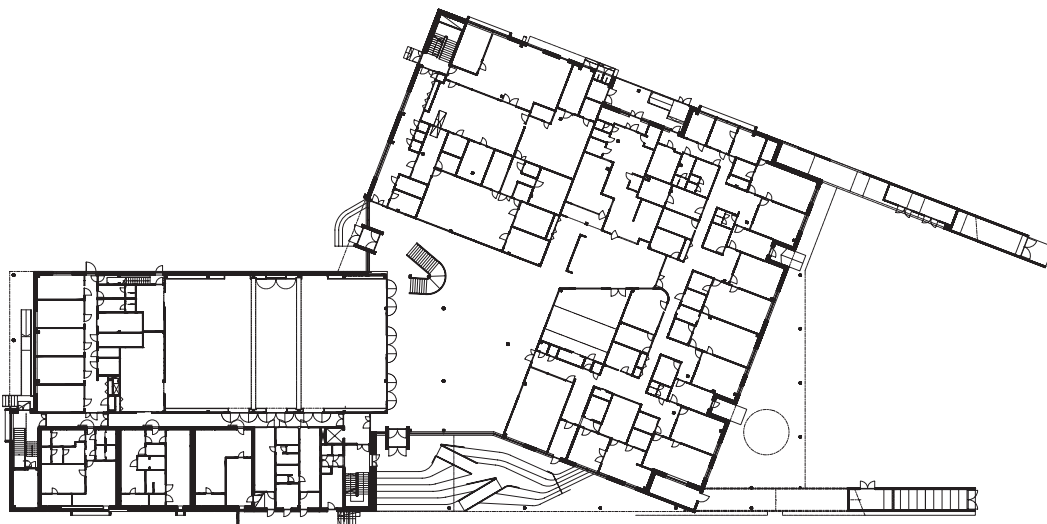


Second floor 1:1000

**“I BELIEVE THAT ALL HUMAN BEHAVIOUR REFLECTS THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.”**  
**TIMO KOLJONEN, LINJA ARCHITECTS**



First floor



Ground floor







**Location** Kenraalintie 6, Vantaa, Finland

**Client** City of Vantaa

**Architects** Linja Architects, Oulu and Helsinki, Finland (Timo Koljonen, head designer; Niko Ollila, project architect)

**Building period** 2010–2011

**General constructor and façade construction** YIT Rakennus Oy, Helsinki

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® ONYX 7093 and 7091, plus two custom colours

**Award** Nominated for City of Vantaa Quality Construction Award “Kehäkukka”

staircase leads to the upper level skywalks whose tempered glass balustrades add to the open and airy feel of the light-flooded central space.

The taller of the two blocks houses a large community hall and a dentist’s surgery on the ground floor with administrative offices and other community facilities on the two upper floors. The lower of the two blocks is slightly larger in plan and set at an angle to fit within the perimeter boundaries. The school administration and the day care centre are located on the ground floor with the latter having direct access to a sheltered and partially canopied playground area. The classrooms are located on the upper floor and linked to break areas overlooking the lobby.

The interiors are marked by the juxtaposition of the dark brickwork of the blocks and the subdued colour palette of the remaining elements. Suspended ceilings, walls and skywalks have a predominantly white finish, while the building features dark green linoleum flooring throughout. The central hall gains its drama from the vaulted ceilings and the rounded staircase, which has an almost sculptural quality. Colourful accents are largely absent; the spaces are animated by the verdant surroundings visible through the atrium’s glass walls, and not least, the school children themselves. Unsurprisingly then, the





**“THE BUILDING IS NOT ONLY A LEARNING FACILITY, IT ALSO SERVES AS A MEETING PLACE FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.”**  
**TIMO KOLJONEN, LINJA ARCHITECTS**

brightly coloured classroom furniture was chosen by the school board rather than the architects themselves (see interview on page 46/47).

In contrast to the building’s calm, almost clinical interior, the envelope is striking in both colour and form. Two show-stopping Swisspearl façades partially veil the brick structure and conceal the bipartite nature of the building. A sloping, undulating roof evens out the height difference between the two blocks, and the façade extensions to the south enclose the school playground and contain gangways that allow direct access to the classroom level.

Kannisto School is the latest in a series of educational facilities in which architects have used the versatility of Swisspearl panels to create exuberant, brightly coloured façades to advertise the building’s public function and reflect its youthful orientation. Linja Architects devised a patchwork arrangement of Swisspearl panels interspersed with projecting aluminium-encased windows. The colour scheme combines white and green with two different beige colours, inspired by the school’s picture-book setting. *Patrick Zamariàn*



## Talking with Timo Koljonen, Linja Architects, Oulu and Helsinki, Finland



**Timo Koljonen was born in 1973 in Pori, Finland. He graduated from the Oulu University Department of Architecture in 2000. Koljonen is the chairman of Linja Architects and was the head designer of Kannisto School.**

**Nordic countries are at the forefront of progressive school planning. The most interesting schools of the past few years seem to have been built in Scandinavia. Do you share this impression?**

Yes, in Scandinavia, the know-how in planning learning environments is very advanced. I think this is due to our whole society's values. For example, here in Finland we greatly value our free basic education because we understand its true meaning for us all. That is the reason why government and municipalities invest in progressive learning environments.

**Your office has designed a number of educational facilities, from individual schools and day care centres to entire campuses. In general, how important is the quality of school buildings for the delivery of education?**

The correlation as such certainly exists. I believe that all human behaviour reflects the built environment. We can easily underestimate children's ability to value their environment. The quality of the learning environment has a guaranteed impact on children's moods and comfort levels and thus the learning outcome.

**You recently completed a primary school at Vantaa. What can you tell us about the history of this project?**

Kannisto School is the outcome of a normal Finnish public procurement process. The City of Vantaa selected 15 bidders from the architectural offices that had submitted an application to participate. Our proposal was chosen through a quality and cost evaluation. In this first phase, we created spaces for a primary school. Our office has also designed preliminary sketches for the second construction phase, which will include spaces for a secondary school and should be finished in 2019.

**The school is part of a substantial urbanisation scheme and envisaged as a "neighbourhood school" combining school and community functions. How does that work?**

The new building is situated in the Marja-Vantaa area, which is the most significant new urban residential and business area to emerge within the Helsinki region. The building is not only a learning facility but serves as a meeting place for the entire community. This presented certain challenges to the design. Kannisto School incorporates the actual primary school along with a day care centre, a local community centre and a dental clinic; everyday operation therefore demands a great deal of flexibility. The different user organisations were closely involved in the designing process, and reconciling the wishes of those user groups required close cooperation among everybody involved and a willingness to accept compromises.



**The plan shows two separate blocks wedged into each other and connected by a mutual entrance lobby. Can you explain the concept?**

The volumes and coordinates respond to the narrow site. The wedge shape enables the creation of playground spaces on the west side of the building while the east front follows the border of the site. In the interior design, one of our key objectives was easy accessibility and orientation, as well as a good placement of the different space and user groups in relation to each other. Through the placement and physical capping of spaces and the implementation of access control arrangements, we were able to provide each group with their own quiet home space. The central lobby, which is located in the meeting point of the two coordinates and doubles as a restaurant, is easily accessible to different users and serves as a unifying space, creating a sense of community.

**Although the building incorporates a variety of functions, there seems to have been no attempt to distinguish them through their design. Is this impression correct?**

Yes, the interior design is treated in a similar manner throughout. We wanted to keep the colouring calm and clear, since the people themselves will generate a lot of colour and variety. By using the same materials and colour scheme, we wanted to emphasise that the building is a common house for all its users. I feel that this is likely to increase the sense of community – the “we” spirit.

**The brightly coloured classroom furniture seems somewhat at odds with this approach.**

Yes, that is correct. The furnishing of both the school and the day care centre was not one of our responsibilities. We made an offer on furniture design as well, but the personnel of the local education agency chose the furniture in the end. This is quite common in Finnish school projects.

**The striking exterior of the building, and particularly its two panelled façades, set a stark contrast to the calm interiors.**

**What was the idea behind it?**

We always choose safe and durable materials for our learning environments. This is essential in the Finnish climate. The main materials used for the façades are Swisspearl panels and handmade dark brickwork with black pointing, which we also used inside. The building is partly two storeys and partly three storeys high. The wave-shaped roof follows this height difference and its curvy eaves correspond to the underside of the west entrance and the suspended ceilings inside. Through the wave-shaped roof and the colourful façades, we introduced a playfulness and appeal that is suitable for an educational



building. At Kannisto School, the main source of ideas was the site itself and its surrounding nature, hence the colours selected for the panelling.

**What made you choose Swisspearl panels?**

Swisspearl panels have a number of advantages. From an aesthetic point of view, there is a wide range of standard colours, custom colours are available, and also the nice fixing details. From a technical point of view, the panels provide resistance to vandalism as well as tensile strength and density. Finland's climate is very challenging and it requires good thermal insulation, sealing and weather resistance. The building frame is made of reinforced concrete. Behind the Swisspearl panels, there is a ventilation gap and an external sandwich element. This structure was chosen to ensure good thermal insulation and moisture management.

**Did you consider other façade materials?**

Yes, we considered many different cement composite panels with our client, and the main contractor presented a couple of other products to replace the Swisspearl panels. However, none of these options could match the technical characteristics of Swisspearl, which have been quality tested in a number of impartial testing facilities. Also, in this case, the essential criterion for our client was durability, that is tensile strength and density, as well as low maintenance. The City's cost accounting determined that Swisspearl would be the best solution for taxpayers.

**Are you happy with the outcome?**

Yes we are, and as far as we know, our client is clearly satisfied with the result as well – the City of Vantaa chose Kannisto School to be a candidate for its official project for the World Design Capital 2012.

*Interview by Patrick Zamarian*

Balsai School, Vilnius, Lithuania

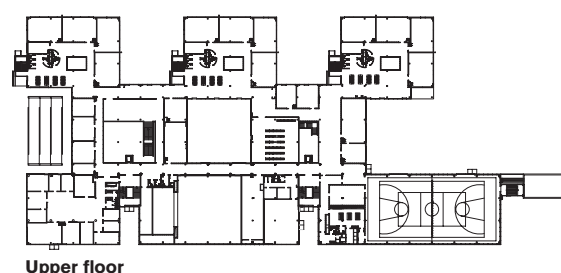
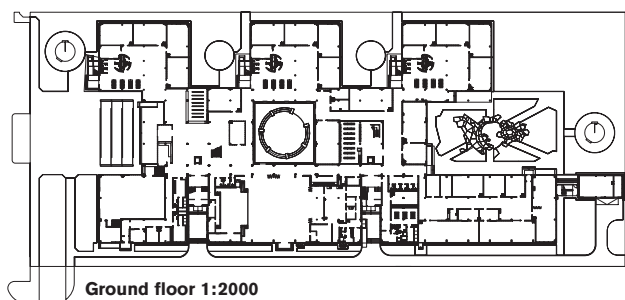
## PLAY OF VOLUMES, PLAY OF COLOUR



The new school in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, accommodates 600 children. As the surrounding urban fabric has no cohesive urban concept, the new school was intended to give the area an unequivocal focal point. It is also intended to serve a broader function for the wider community after school hours and over weekends.







The choice of Swisspearl cement composite panels for the façade cladding enabled the architects to realise their concept of alternating solids and spaces, thus also reducing the scale and tying the complex into the extensive site. Each volume has a different articulation of coloured panels – blue-grey, yellow-grey, red-grey – that echoes the “positive versus negative” concept and simultaneously gives each structure its own identity. The light-hearted play of colour brightens the elevations and prevents what might otherwise have been a rather sombre project.

Circular concrete columns, set back from the façades, support the weight of the floor slabs and free the elevations from their load-bearing function. The crisp, clipped edges and the positioning of the glazing flush with the façade abstracts the orthogonal volumes. In contrast to the chequered colour combination of the three volumes to

the east, the west-facing buildings adjacent to the sports fields have been articulated in a single shade of monochrome, gunmetal grey that offset the use of primary colours elsewhere. Overall, the clear, concise volumes create a modern, sleek architectural vocabulary.

The generous stairways that link the levels in each of the volumes form the circulatory hub of the school. The off-shutter interior walls have been enlivened by Swisspearl panels in shades of blue, red and yellow, thereby linking the interior with the exterior and illustrating the versatility of the cement composite material.

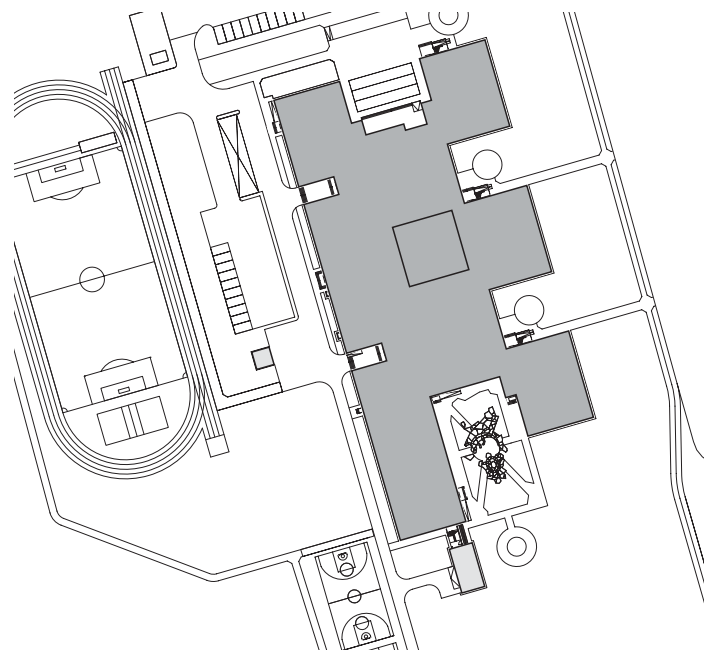
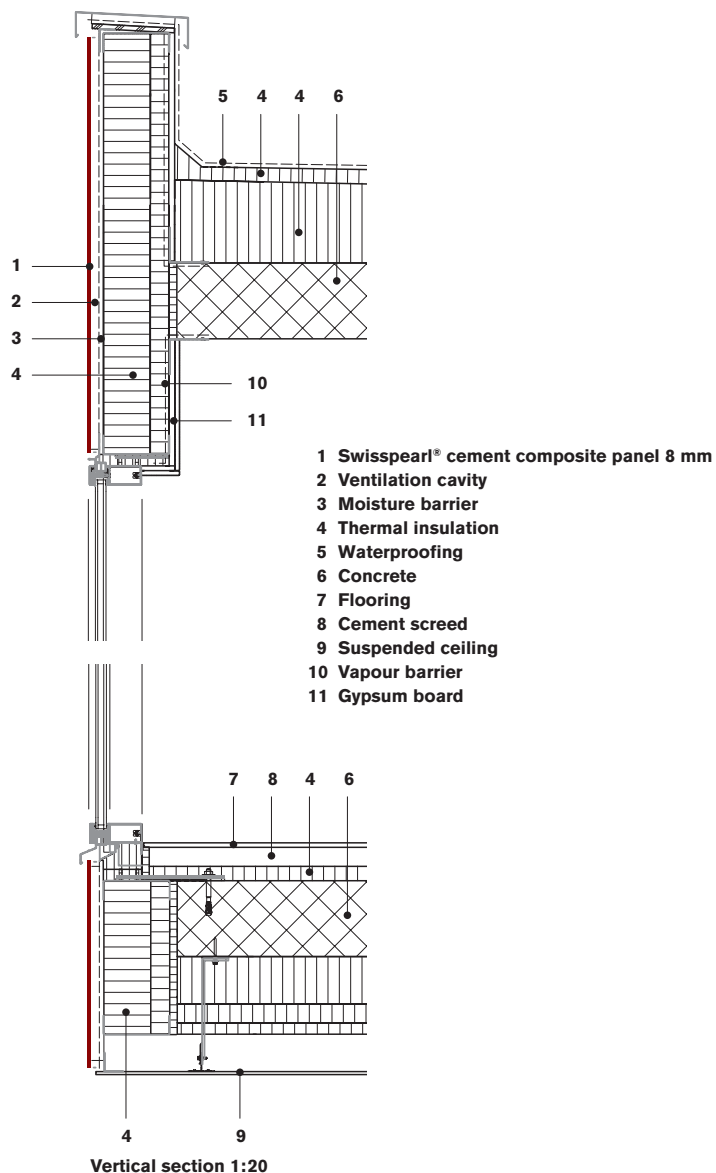
The success of the design has been officially acknowledged in Lithuania: the school was awarded a Gold Medal “Project of the Year 2011”. *Anna Roos*







The stairwells are flooded with natural light and enlivened with splashes of strong colour.



**Location** Bubilo g. 8, Vilnius, Lithuania

**Client** Vilnius Municipality

**Architects** Sigita Kuncevičius, Loreta Kuncevičienė, Martynas Dagys, Zygimantas Gudelis, Aistė Kuncevičiūtė, Vilnius

**Building period** 2010–2011

**General contractor** UAB Merko Statyba, Vilnius

**Façade construction** UAB KG Constructions, Vilnius

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Black Opal 7020, Coral 7031, Azurite 7040, Amber 7083

**Award** Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists: Gold Medal, Project of the Year 2011





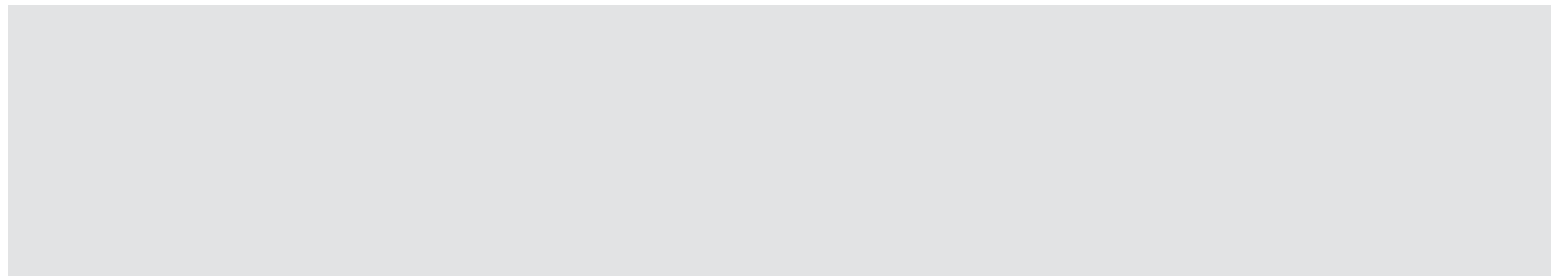
**“THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING WAS DESIGNED NOT ONLY AS A MODERN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, BUT ALSO AS AN ATTRACTIVE AREA THAT CAN STIMULATE COMMUNICATION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.” SIGITAS KUNCEVIČIUS**



In a new middle school building in Southern California Gkkworks architects aim to achieve harmony between students and their surroundings and optimise learning and teaching conditions for the users. Their solution is an equal treatment of inside and outside spaces.

Blair IB Magnet School, Pasadena, USA

## HEART OF LIGHTNESS









**Location** 1201 S Marengo Ave, Pasadena (CA), USA

**Client** Pasadena Unified School District

**Architects** Gkkworks, Pasadena

**Building period** 2010–2011

**General contractor** C. W. Driver, Pasadena

**Façade construction** The Raymond Group, Orange (CA), USA

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Jade 7052

**Award** The American Institute of Architects (AIA): San Fernando Valley Citation Award 2011;  
California Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.): Award of Merit 2010;  
U.S. Green Building Council: LEED Silver

**“FOR SCHOOL CLIENTS, THIS PRODUCT IS AN EXCELLENT  
LOW-MAINTENANCE MATERIAL CHOICE. YEARS AFTER THE PRODUCT  
IS INSTALLED, IT MAINTAINS A LIKE-NEW APPEARANCE.”  
DEVAN MITCHELL, SENIOR PROJECT DESIGNER**

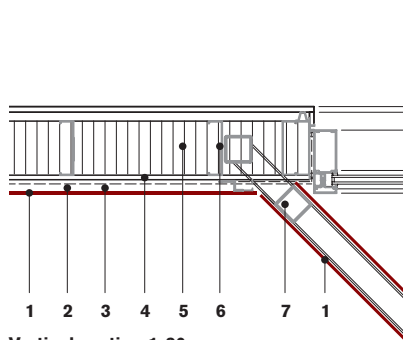
At the core of this Californian middle school lies a large rounded courtyard. It is at once a recreational area for the students, an access and circulation area for the classrooms and an open-air classroom in itself. “Our design focuses on the connectivity and flexibility of learning environments,” says Senior Project Designer Devan Mitchell. Founded 20 years ago, Gkkworks has become a real specialist in the educational sector and realises school and higher education projects throughout the USA.

The brief for this project was to design a middle school building for 600 students on an existing campus in the city of Pasadena. The building was to encompass 28 classrooms and administrative offices with several outdoor and recreational spaces. Positioned next to a communal park and surrounded by rows of trees, the new school building “will be like a pavilion within the park and will share an extended play yard for students,” Edmund Einy, FAIA Director of Design explains. With the above-mentioned spacious courtyard and additional outdoor gathering spaces, the design connects outdoor learning environments of various scales, including a large central all-school courtyard, a smaller outdoor classroom with a rounded yard and sheltered benches, an outdoor reading room and central receiving forecourt, all designed to encourage exchange and collaboration between students, instructors and the outside world.

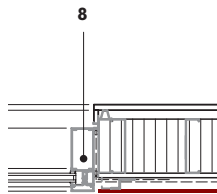
Another highlight of the LEED certified building is the beautifully curved cladding on the southern tip of the building, framing the main building entrance and tree courtyard. The application of a curved façade using Swisspearl cement composite panels works to accentuate the main entrance and soften the corners of the building to respond to the park atmosphere. A mock-up for the curved areas of the building was provided by Swisspearl in order to test and verify the performance of the material in a curved application. The results are fluid, curving corners that respond well to the environment and the design.

*Mirko Beetschen*





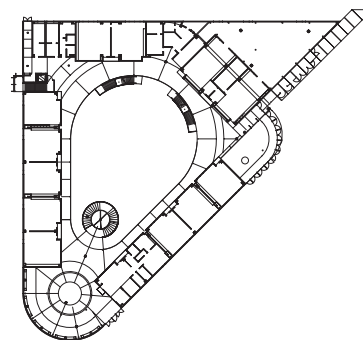
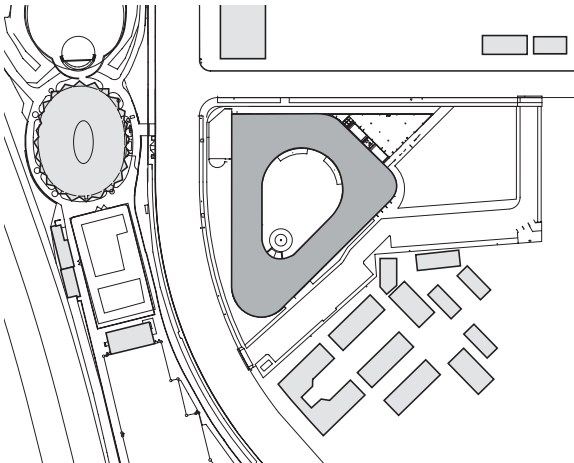
Vertical section 1:20



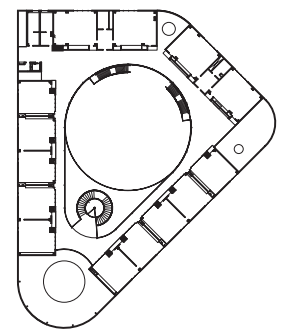
- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Moisture barrier
- 4 Exterior gypsum board
- 5 Thermal insulation
- 6 Steel column
- 7 Steel tube
- 8 Aluminium window frame

The rounded southern tip of the building sports an exceptional application of the use of radiused Swisspearl panels.

**“ULTIMATELY, THE RESULT OF OUR DESIGN WORKS TO FOSTER A HARMONY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND NATURE.” EDMUND EINY, FAIA, DIRECTOR OF DESIGN**



Ground floor 1:2000



Upper floor

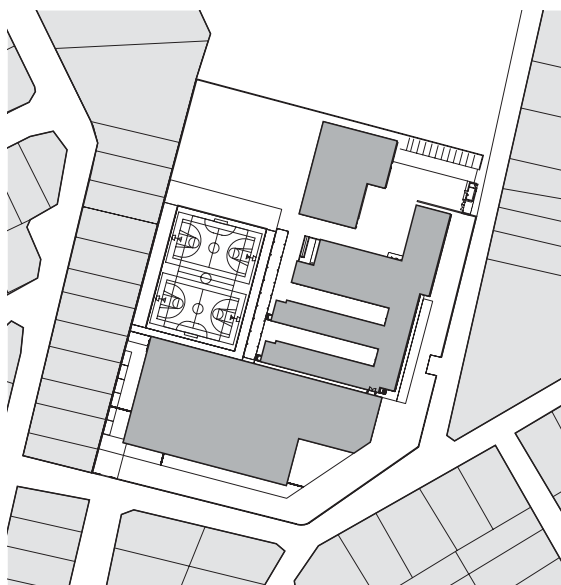


## High School Alonso Quijada, Esquivias, Spain

### White Box

You cannot get much plainer with a building. When Spanish architect Alfonso Terceño González got the contract to add a new building to an existing school site in the town of Esquivias, situated in the province of Toledo south of Madrid, he decided to create a white box, reduced to its very basic functions. The new building was to supply additional teaching and learning facilities for the Institute of Secondary Education Alonso Quijada. The architect created a range of rooms, placing them around the perimeter of the building, all with big windows to supply a maxi-

mum of natural light. In the centre of the building is an open courtyard encircled by the corridor to the classrooms. Perforated aluminium panels, running from the ground to the eaves of the two-storey building, interperse the solid walls and let daylight in. Whereas the outer walls of the new school are clad in horizontally placed white Swisspearl panels, the vertical panels in the courtyard are in different shades of blue, creating a stark contrast and a very pure and serene atmosphere at the heart of the school. *Mirko Beetschen*

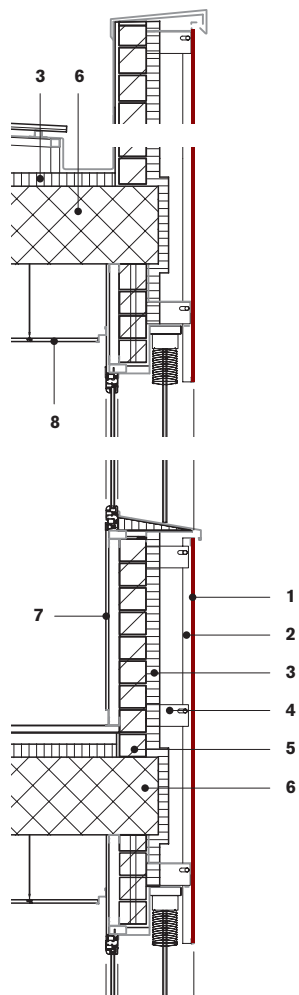


**Location** Calle de Emilia Pardo Bazán, Esquivias, Spain  
**Client** Municipality of Castile-La Mancha, Ministry of Education  
**Architect** Alfonso Terceño González, Ávila, Spain  
**Building period** 2010–2011  
**General contractor** UTE Coinvegar-Cadarso XXI, Toledo, Spain  
**Quantity surveyor** Asteco Consultores S.L., Madrid  
**Façade construction** Grupo Coliseum, Yuncos, Spain  
**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7099, Azurite 7042 and 7043

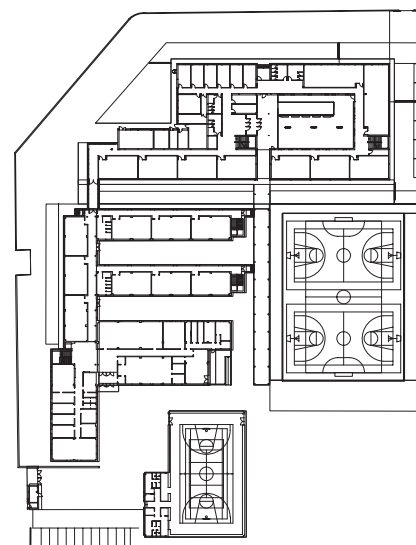




This very plain, functional school building makes the most of the natural light and holds a surprising space at its centre.



Vertical section 1:20



Ground floor 1:2000

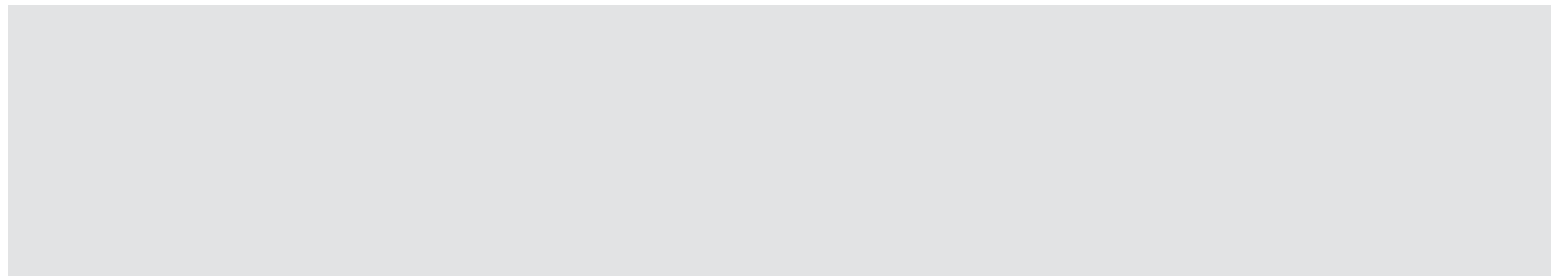
- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity, aluminium subframing
- 3 Thermal insulation
- 4 Bracket
- 5 Brickwork
- 6 Concrete
- 7 Gypsum board
- 8 Suspended ceiling



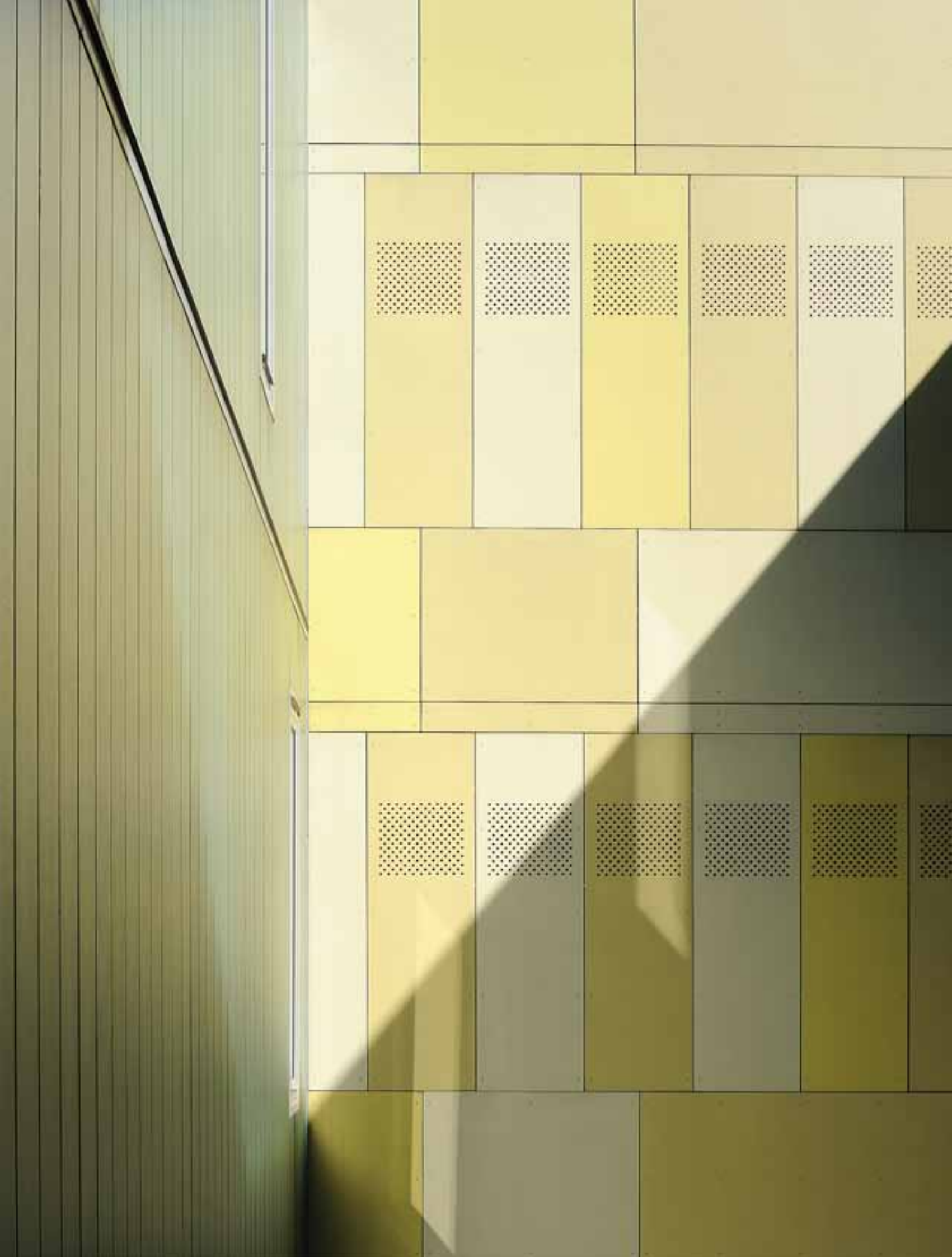
The new complex at the University of Rijeka had a demanding brief as the building had to house two separate faculties as well as a student counselling centre and an underground parking area.

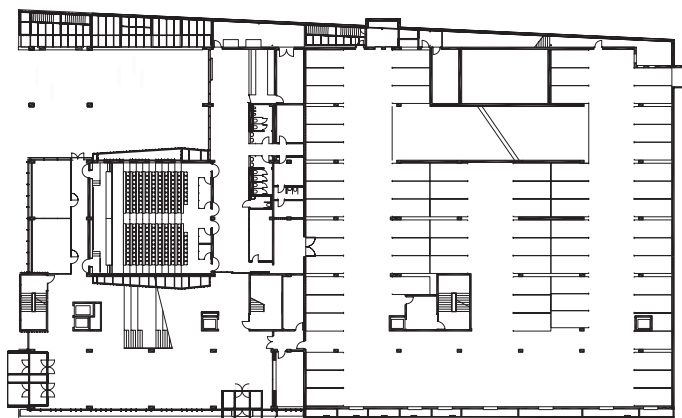
Faculty of Humanities, University of Rijeka, Croatia

## RHYTHM AND MOVEMENT

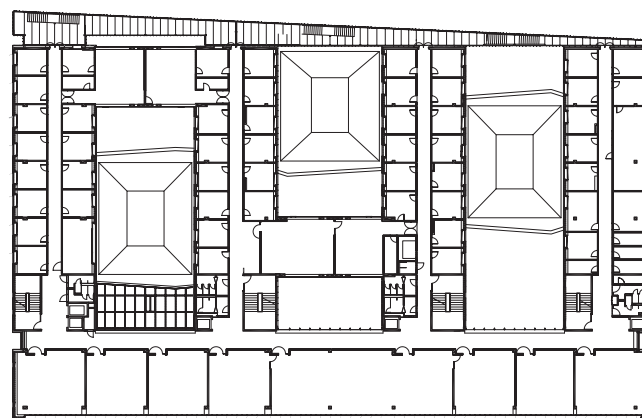








Ground floor 1:1000

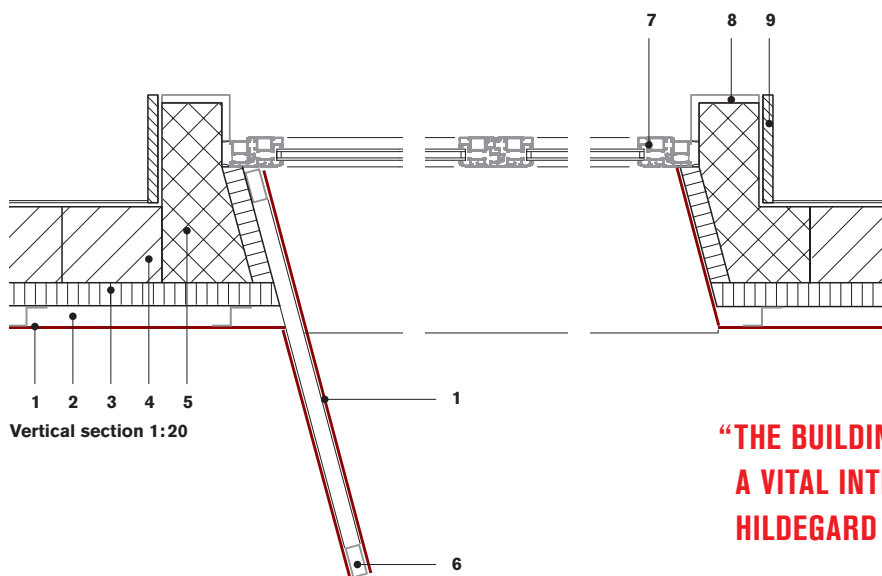


Second floor

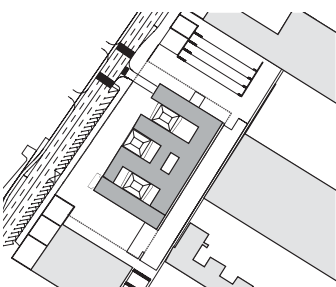


**Location** Slavka Krautzeka, Rijeka, Croatia  
**Client** University of Rijeka  
**Architects** Hildegard Auf-Franić, Tin Sven Franić and Vanja Rister, Zagreb  
**Building period** 2008–2009  
**General contractor** Lavčević inženjering d. o. o., Split, Croatia  
**Façade construction** Gecko d. o. o., Zagreb  
**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Amber 7080, 7081, 7082 and NOBILIS, White N112  
**Award** Nominated for annual award for The most successful architectural achievement “Viktor Kovačić” 2011





- 1 Swisspearl® cement composite panel 8 mm
- 2 Ventilation cavity
- 3 Thermal insulation
- 4 Brickwork 200 mm
- 5 Concrete
- 6 Steel frame, galvanised
- 7 Aluminium window
- 8 Aluminium panel
- 9 Medium density fibreboard 25 mm



**“THE BUILDING’S STRUCTURE IS CLEARLY SHAPED, ARTICULATING A VITAL INTERWEAVING OF NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES AND USERS.”**  
**HILDEGARD AUF-FRANIĆ, TIN SVEN FRANIĆ, VANJA RISTER**

The architects used the incline of the site to carefully model the ground plane of the project, creating three levels of terracing that link the upper level of the site with the lower. An internal circulation “street” links the public spaces, lecture rooms, library, common areas and atriums, while the more private spaces, offices and department meeting rooms are situated on the upper floors. The external landscaping has also been carefully modelled to integrate the building subtly into its surroundings, with a cascade of steps that follow the length of the building. Thanks to the architecture – the confident combination of form and materials – the complex has a distinctive character. The solid volumes are perched above a delicate glazed façade that gradually “grows” as the landscape descends. The delicate mullions read like the spindly legs of a millipede, elevating the building delicately above the site.

The random interplay of three different shades of buttery yellow Swisspearl panels creates a counterpoint to the regulated rhythm of the openings.

The strong vertical thrust of the seven-storey volume counterbalances the low-lying wings. The slender, high section is crowned with a perforated latticework of sheet metal that obscures the service equipment and blurs the silhouette of the volume against the sky. The filigree sheeting, which sweeps all the way down to the ground plane on the northern façade, has been used to enclose the fire staircases. The translucent surfaces interlock with the Swisspearl-clad façades to create an intricate play of opacity and translucency. The architecture of the new complex for the various faculties creates a warm, friendly, inviting atmosphere: a place conducive to study and learning. *Anna Roos*



## Hungary – Dynamic Streetscape

The new hall of the large market in Kaposvár is accessible for cars as well as pedestrians starting from Baross Gábor-Street. The southern main façade had to be designed in order to fit into the streetscape, thus the long building was divided in the middle and the height set to ensure it harmonises with the neighbouring buildings.

Seen from the southern side, the building has three storeys. The shops on the ground floor open directly on the street. The ground floor and the upper floors were separated from each other by a distinctive projecting ledge, which also protects from the rain. In the selection of the tile cladding planned for the façade under this projecting roof, certain aspects had to be fulfilled. Its colour should fit harmoniously into the streetscape. The material must be weather- and waterproof as well as resistant to exposure and pollution. Another important point was that there would not be any colour change in case of scratches or damage. Finally, the panels should have a durable fastening technique.

The Swisspearl products corresponded best to all these conditions. The otherwise grey façade surfaces were broken up mainly on the ground floor with brown tone panels, which gives the façade an additional dynamic.

*Boa Árpád*

### Market, Kaposvár, Hungary

**Location** Baross Gábor utca, Kaposvár, Hungary

**Client** Town of Kaposvár

**Architect** Boa Árpád, Kaposvár

**Building period** 2010–2011

**General contractor** ZÁÉV ZRt, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary

**Façade construction** Meilinger János, Győr, Hungary

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® XPRESSIV, Brown 8270

## Sweden – Prize for Triangle Railway Station

The Triangle Railway Station in Malmö (see Swisspearl Architecture 10) received the Kasper Salin Prize for 2011, the most eminent Swedish annual award for buildings of high architectural quality. The jury wrote: “An unusually consistent implementation of a clear and insightful architectural idea” has been created by KHR and Sweco architects.

The City Tunnel is a 17 km rail line that links Malmö Central with the Öresund Bridge and the train to Copenhagen. Station Triangle has given Malmö a unique new regional and commuter train station in the heart of the city. The station is located at a depth of around 25 m and has been built as a bored rock cavern. It consists of a 250 m long station hall with a central platform, two tracks and two entrances. The shape of the station hall is a result of the technology used to create the rock cavern.

A new kind of space has been framed inside this large-scale infrastructure, one in which the flow of light creates an atmosphere that eases being in a large public space. *mb*



### Triangle Railway Station, Malmö, Sweden

**Location** Triangeln, Malmö, Sweden

**Client** City Tunnel Project (CTP) and City of Malmö

**Architects** Sweco Architects AB, Malmö, and KHR Architects AS, Copenhagen

**Project Manager** Anders Nilsson, Malmö

**Building period** 2005–2009

**Contractor** NCC, Oslo

**Façade construction** Nauth SL Fassadentechnik GmbH, Kapellen-Drusweiler, Germany

**Façade material** SWISSPEARL® CARAT, Onyx 7090

**Award** Swedish Association of Architects: “Kasper Salin Prize” 2011



**Publisher**

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

**Editor** *Michael Hanak, Zurich, Switzerland*

**Advisory Board** *Stefan Cadosch, Zurich*

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*Anders Nilsson, Malmö (p. 64 right)*

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