FOCUS ON ZINC

#22

VMZINC

Editorial

This edition brings together 21 projects that celebrate zinc's enduring place in architecture. Across schools, cultural spaces, housing and industrial buildings, VMZINC surface aspects support clear architectural intent.

Each project is a reminder that the materials we choose connect us to the past, define the present, and help shape the future of our environment.

We believe every building envelope is part of a larger story. This is not only a question of protection; it is about spaces that inspire, adapt and endure. The geometric forms featured in this edition show how precision and imagination can come together to create long lasting architecture.

Sustainability is at the heart of our business. Zinc's durability, recyclability and low maintenance make it a natural choice for responsible architecture. This year we introduced AZENGAR® 3R, the first fully recycled titanium zinc, combining a low-carbon footprint with the same detailing freedom you know. It's a step forward for circularity and a new benchmark for our industry.

We invite you, as architects and designers, to join us in shaping the next chapter. Let's collaborate, exchange ideas, and build together so that the spaces we design today will inspire and protect generations to come.

The editorial commitee

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N°22 FOCUS ON ZINC

Vulbens - France

Welcoming triptych

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Located in the heart of the Geneva region, between Vulbens and Valleiry, the new secondary school for the Vuache area is set in a site of contrasts, between business parks, farmland and mountainous horizons.

An open educational and sports centre, it comprises three volumes oriented east-west and linked by landscaped areas - the northern-most volume housing the sports and events centre, and the other two housing the secondary school.

Designed by Epicuria Architectes, the three buildings with their double-sloped roofs and slightly offset ridges offer a contemporary take on the traditional large roofs of the region's houses and farm buildings, the length of which they reflect.

They also meet the project owner's desire to limit their environmental impact. These three bioclimatic buildings, which have been awarded the E+C label (level E4C1), demonstrate a careful and economic approach to architecture that favours the use of sustainable materials.

A PIGMENTO® red zinc cladding with random standing seam highlights the whole and blends harmoniously with the wood and glass to make it pupil-friendly.

This contributes to the durability and sustainability of a contemporary building rooted in its local area.

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Vuache Secondary School

Architect	Epicuria Architectes
Contractor	Sas Ferblanterie Thononaise
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, Perforated panels
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	4,000 m²

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Bellinzona - Switzerland

Scheduled operations

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Completed in spring 2025, the extension to the San Giovanni Regional Hospital in Bellinzona is part of the long-term transformation of the hospital site.

The new building, designed by Orsi & Associati, is an extension which houses six operating theatres with the highest standards of safety and comfort, and provides a rational organisation designed to guarantee continuity of care.

EcoEntreprise certified (Swiss benchmark certificate for sustainable development), the extension stands out with its monochrome, sculptural 900m² AZENGAR® zinc envelope installed in modular cassettes.

The undulating movement of this matt, textured cladding lightens the compact geometry of the volume, interacting perfectly with the concrete at the base and on the other buildings, and thereby reinforcing the integration of the extension into the existing building.

Beyond this graphic expression, which alone symbolises the modernisation of the building, zinc also demonstrates the technical qualities of durability and low maintenance that are essential for a public infrastructure of this scale.

A successful contemporary intervention that ensures the hospital's functional continuity and heralds its future transformation.

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Regional Hospital

Architect	Orsi & Associati
Contractor	DEG.MO SAGL
Technique	Locally fabricated cassettes
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	900 m²

Oxford - United Kingdom

Sustainable domain

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Founded in 1865, the Oxford School of Art gradually expanded its curriculum, adding courses in technology, engineering and law, until it achieved university status in 1992.

As it diversified, its premises also became more scattered. Can educational coherence dispense with spatial coherence? For a number of years, the university has been looking to consolidate its property holdings on the Headington campus.

At the same time, it has been pursuing an active refurbishment-extension-transformation policy of its existing buildings to make the site denser without damaging its landscape setting.

As the park is protected, every action must be carefully considered. Entrusted to ADP's architects, the construction of two new buildings provides students, teachers and researchers with a connected working environment equipped with cutting-edge technology.

An initial rectilinear building dedicated to lectures is built around a succession of central voids, a way of facilitating exchanges between students. Its resolutely modern appearance contrasts with that of the new workshop, which is in the shape of a farmhouse or barn, echoing the roofs of the neighbouring historic building and presenting a traditional appearance to passers-by.

Heritage constraints influence the architectural style. The green PIGMENTO® zinc integrates the building into its surroundings. Moving from the façade to the roof, the zinc envelope incorporates large areas of solar panels. In this way, it contributes to the carbon agenda set by the university, which aims to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The standing seam envelope reduces the imposing scale of the new facility.

Its vertical blades echo the vertical rhythms of the cladding used on farm buildings. They place the workshop in a familiar register.

Less visual impact and less carbon footprint: the cubic blocks housing the technical installations are clad in perforated zinc, a contemporary metaphor for the lively minds on campus.

Oxford Brookes University

Architects	ADP Architecture
Contractor	Roles Broderick Roofing Ltd
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam VMZINC® Interlocking panel, Perforated panels
Aspect	PIGMENTO® green
Surface	2,250 m²

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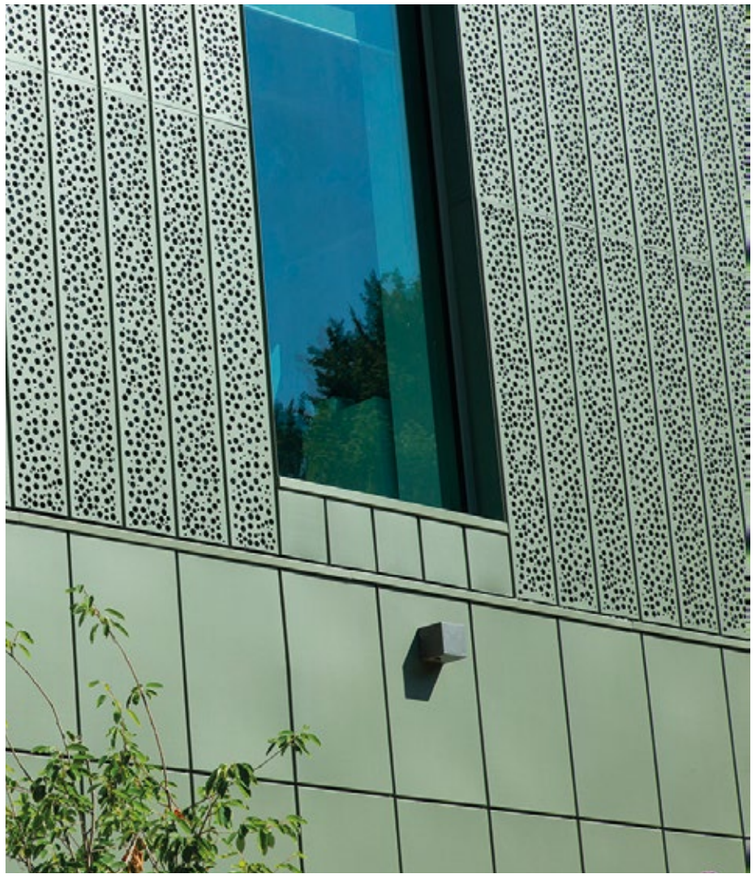

Suzhou - China

Urban refuge

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The Suzhou Industrial Park was created in 1994 as an act of cooperation between Singapore and China. The People's Republic wanted to mark its new policy of openness by creating a showcase district in terms of urban planning, development and public management.

The development of this extension zone takes into account the rich historic centre of this city near Shanghai, and its natural landscape which is characterised by two large lakes, including Jinji Lake, extending over more than 7 km².

The Suzhou of yesterday and tomorrow are linked by an axis embodied by the Orient Gate, two twin towers joined on their top floors to form an arch rising up out of the lake.

The pavilion seems to emerge from the park at the foot of this monumental building. Its simplicity is evocative of a rural cabin clad in zinc, a material chosen by the Galaxy Arch architects because it was already present on a pre-existing cabin. A four-sided roof covers a series of platforms. They lead to a café hidden by the wide overhang of the roof. The removal of the gutter on the lower edge of the roof gives its four sides a circular shape, making it an exceptional sculptural object.

The roof becomes a textile object, a hat, a light skirt vibrating under the standing seam pattern and the variations in light.

At dusk, the metal takes on a bluish hue, almost matching the glass walls of the Orient Gate, and during the day, a sparkling white hue is added to the reflections of the lake water through the trees.

The architects made the most of the material's ability to withstand cutting, removing part of the roof to create a triangular terrace, inserting a glass roof to bring light underneath, or cutting a discreet opening to the forest.

At night, the opaque veil lets the light from the café filter through, inviting the evening visitor to join this welcoming stopover.

Jinji Lake No.1 Pavilion

Architect	Galaxy Arch
Contractor	Suzhou Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	1,000 m²

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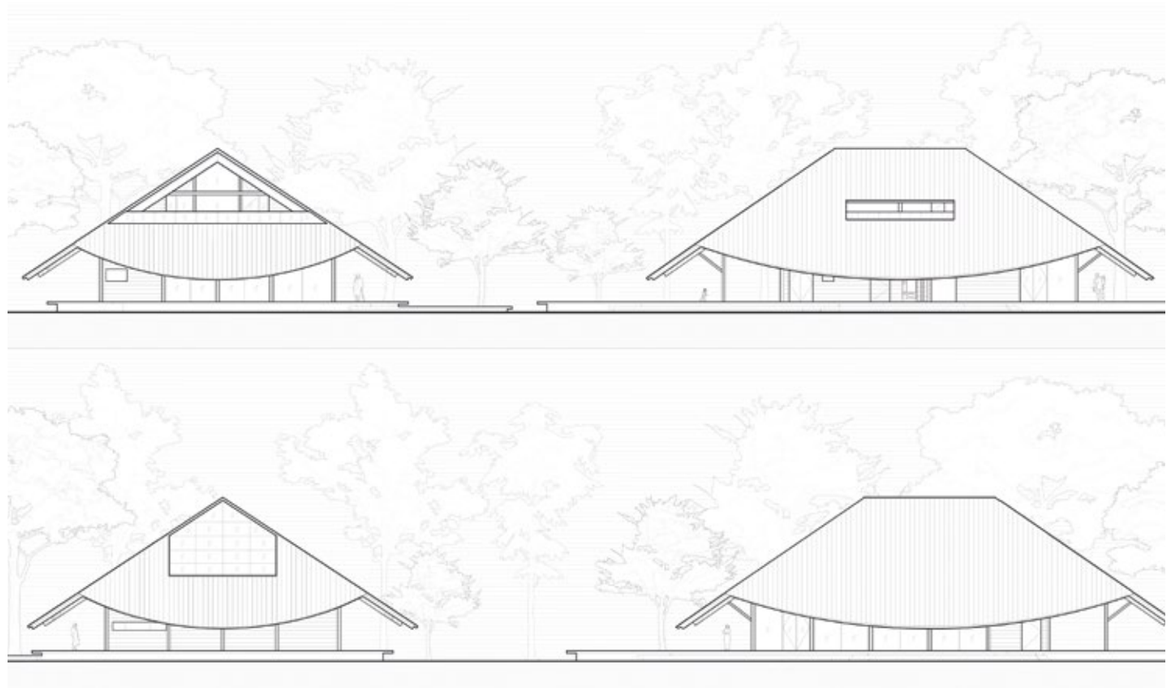

Gjøvik - Norway

A history of shades

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

"Farverikvartalet" is a mixed-use residential area built around a vast, landscaped, elevated courtyard on a brownfield site that was once dominated by cars.

Designed by StudioNSW, the development offers 130 homes and a number of shops opening onto a public promenade.

The buildings unfold in a play of differentiated proportions and volumes: variations in height, split roof lines and templates adjusted to the relief offer spatial diversity, generous interiors and openings onto the neighbouring river.

This fragmentation breaks up the scale while maintaining the overall cohesion. The latter is ensured by the materiality of the façades, which is a structuring element of the project.

No fewer than 6,500 m² of QUARTZ-ZINC®, AZENGAR® and PIGMENTO® red, green and brown cassettes create a subtle chromatic envelope, inspired by the local history of the dye works that once stood on the banks of the river.

This colourful register highlights the division of the masses, gives each building its own identity and develops the visual coherence of the district, whose name, "Farverikvartalet", means "District of Colours".

Farverikvartalet Residence

Architects	StudioNSW, Sleth and Kontur
Contractor	Gjøvik Blikkenslagerservice AS
Technique	Cassettes
Aspects	QUARTZ-ZINC®, AZENGAR®, PIGMENTO® red, PIGMENTO®green, PIGMENTO® brown
Surface	6,500 m²

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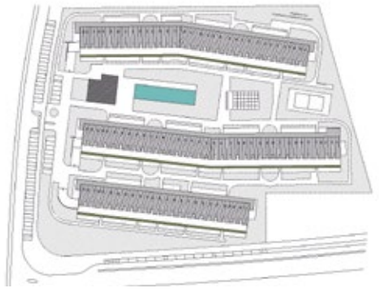
Apúlia - Portugal

A secure trio

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

On the protected Esposende coast, the three buildings that make up the Rialto residential complex have to withstand the oceanic climate of north-west Portugal. While their layout has been designed to combine solar orientation, marine views and dialogue with the surrounding nature, the materials have been chosen for their strength, durability and aesthetic appeal. The exposed concrete of the structure is matched by 9,500m² of curved standing seam ANTHRA-ZINC® roofs.

The malleability of the material ensures that the curved geometry of the roofs is even, while the aesthetics give the buildings a refined matt pre-weathered finish. Something to last, in style.



Rialto Residence

Architect	Grupo Acrescentar
Contractor	Funinorte
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface	9,500 m²

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Vila Nova de Gaia - Portugal

Dialogues on the terrace

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

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Inspired by the terraced vineyards of the Douro Valley and the region's traditional wine cellars, the Splendouro project redesigns the landscape of the Afurada district overlooking the mouth of the river.

Designed by NN Arquitectura, the 11 houses in the programme stand out from the local housing thanks to the modernity of their standing seam QUARTZ-ZINC® façades and roofs.

This choice is not just aesthetic. It is also based on durability and resistance of the zinc material to salty winds. Contemporary elegance and sustainability meet where ocean and river join.

Splendouro Marina Houses

Architect	NN Arquitectura
Contractor	Asa Revestimentos
Promotor	Sharp Developers
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	5,600 m²

Mumbai - India

Sweet living

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

In Juhu, a coastal district of Mumbai, the Shivkunj residence embodies a contemporary and luxurious vision of multi-generational family living.

Designed by SPASM Design Architects as a reinterpretation of traditional family homes, the building has been conceived as a stack of "living slabs" where architecture and vegetation evolve together over time.

Subjected to the climatic constraints of the Indian coastline, with its humidity, monsoons and wide temperature variations, the designers chose durable, resistant materials for this haven of peace in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city. 3,000 m² of ANTHRA-ZINC® STRAT covers the façades, forming a protective second skin. Composed of VMZINC interlocking profiles and perforated panels, this forms an elegant grid that encourages ventilation, filtered light and the play of shadows.

The matt anthracite colour of the surface appearance adds understated style and depth, while blending harmoniously with the surrounding buildings. The clean lines accentuate the special link between inside and outside.

The play of light and shadow accompanies plant growth, with zinc becoming both a protective filter and an aesthetic expression.

For a sustainable habitat where built volumes and nature are shaped and honed together.

Shivkunj Residence

Architect	SPASM Design Architects
Contractor	Spacesmith Designs Pvt Ltd
Techniques	VMZINC® Interlocking panel, Perforated panels
Aspect	ANTHRA-ZINC® STRAT
Surface	3,000 m²

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Whitehaven - United Kingdom

The bow of the port

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Bordered to the west by the Irish Sea and to the north by Scotland, Cumbria is both the largest and least populated county in England. This helps to preserve the magnificent landscapes that attract so many visitors.

With access to the sea between two cliffs, the picturesque port of Whitehaven is just a few miles from the Five Lakes Nature Park. Whitehaven itself is a fishing village with a few houses, dominated by a small castle.

Integrating an activity centre into this picture-postcard site seemed impossible. Yet this was the request made to Manchester-based Chartered Architects Northmill Associates. The plan was to build a mixed-use complex including a café, toilets, a sailing centre and around ten hotel rooms.

Bringing together these disparate elements with such opposing needs under the same roof was a second challenge. Would the architects throw in the towel or pick up the gauntlet?

After reflection they decided not to construct a building, but instead... a rock, without falling into the trap of mimicry or camouflage.

Their rock does not form a grey mass with rounded contours. Instead, it takes on the appearance of a rhombohedral volume with each facet clearly demarcated by zinc edges.

Depending on the position of the observer, this human rock appears long or short, blind or pierced with windows, a bit like a troglodytic dwelling.

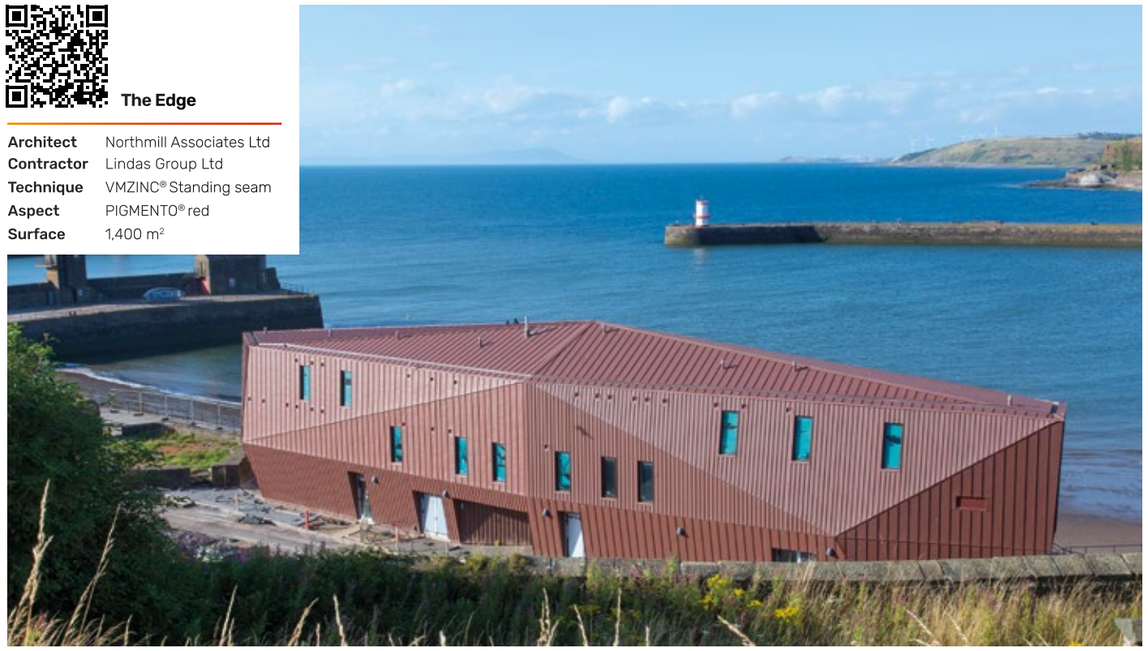
Notions of roofs or façades are irrelevant. The pebble seems to have broken away from the neighbouring wall, or looks like a ship that has run aground if you look at its metal skin and the sharp angles of its ends.

The PIGMENTO® red colour echoes the local granite rocks.

Facing the sea, its patina provides welcome protection from the marine climate, which is rarely kind to architecture.

The Edge

Architect	Northmill Associates Ltd
Contractor	Lindas Group Ltd
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	1,400 m²



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Kaunas - Lithuania

Zinc, naturally

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Furniture manufacturer Kauno Baldai has chosen to locate its new plant in Kaunas, near the wooded banks of the River Niemen.

Extending over 20,000m², the building's contemporary, environmentally-responsible industrial architecture embodies the company's values of innovation, dynamism and ambition. 2,000m² of standing seam PIGMENTO® give the façade a bold curved line.

The aesthetic choice of a green surface finish demonstrates the company's commitment to materials that respect the natural environment. The flexibility of the zinc completes this technical choice. The art of combining innovation, quality and environmental awareness.

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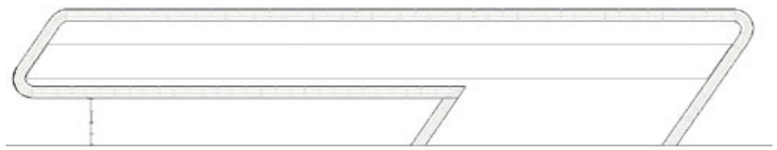

Kauno Baldai plant

Architect	Tomas vaičiulis
Contractor	UAB Statija
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® green
Surface	2,000 m²

Gijón - Spain

In full transparency

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

In Gijón, the new local police headquarters stands out with an architectural style that is both understated and vibrant.

Set in a complex urban context along the railway lines, the building is a dominant vertical volume, punctuated by patios that encourage transparency and light while preserving the privacy required for a building of this nature.

Its 2,800m² façade of perforated QUARTZ-ZINC® cassettes forms a light, ventilated veil.

Resistant to sea spray, this durable material captures the changing reflections of the sky, giving the institutional building a strong identity that blends subtly into the city's maritime landscape.

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Gijón Police Headquarters

Architects	SSARQ Fernando Serrano Suñer de Hoyos Marcos Cortes Lerín Victor Rodriguez Prada
Contractor	Rendal
Technique	Perforated corrugated panels
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	2,800 m²

Heiloo - Netherlands

A leap in time

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

In Heiloo, the "Ons Podium" cultural centre has been renovated and extended, restoring coherence and strength to its architecture, which dates from the late 1970s.

The 45° roofs and pronounced overhangs typical of this period had long since lost their unity, the original slate roofing having been replaced by a variety of different materials.

In order to restore the original spirit and unity of the site, architects Kerssens de Ruiter architecten KDRA (Alkmaar) opted for a homogeneous envelope of PIGMENTO® storm grey, laid in standing seam on all surfaces - roofs, overhangs, as well as the volumes of the newly created entrance and multi-purpose hall. Extending over an area of almost 800 m², this uniform treatment reveals the building's angular geometry with precision, while ensuring visual continuity between the existing building and the extension.

This technical and aesthetic choice (the new colour blends harmoniously with the original brick) is also based on maintenance and durability considerations associated with its intended use.

A building that is both true to its architectural pedigree and boldly contemporary!

Dance and music school

Architect	KDRA Architecten
Contractors	Siris B.V. Zwaag, Wit Wognum B.V.
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® storm grey
Surface	650 m²

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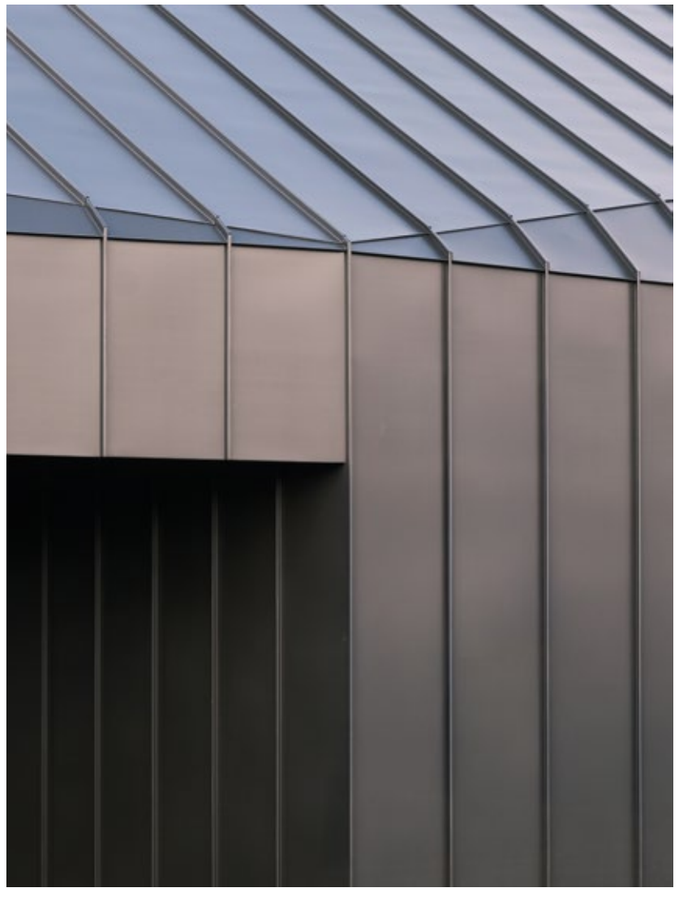


Forlì - Italy

Fifth dimension

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

On the outskirts of Forlì, in a relatively impersonal industrial zone, the new headquarters of the CIA Conad cooperative stands out with its resolutely contemporary, asymmetrical lines.

Architect Filippo Tisselli (tissellistudioarchitetti - Cesena) drew inspiration from neuro-architecture to meet the functional and logistical requirements of the client, while providing an ideal workspace for employees.

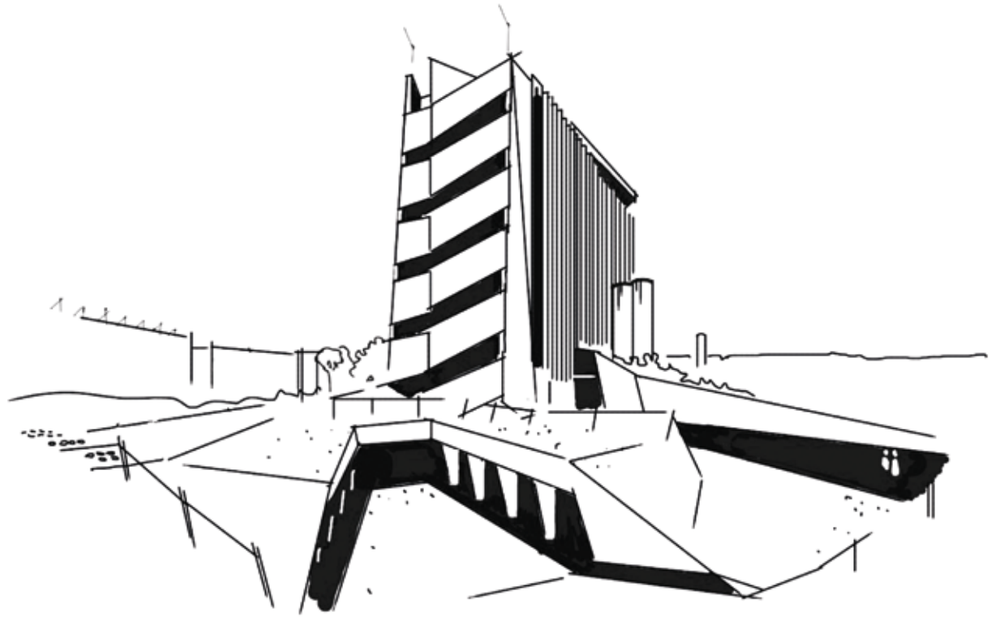
Called Sidera, the 8-storey, 100-metre long and 33-metre high building combines black concrete, aluminium and glass in a moving façade that alternates opacity and transparency. Its sloping six-sided roof, with three large roof lights serving as connection points, has been designed as a "fifth façade" visible from the sky. This unique geometry, inspired by the vernacular motif of sloping roofs, interacts with the distant line of the Apennines.

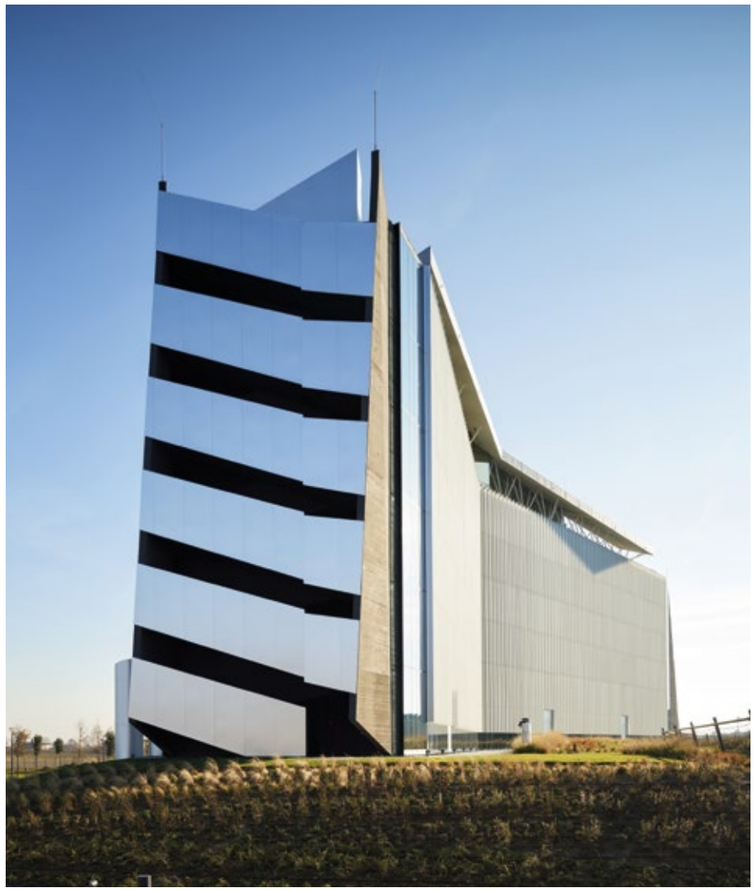
To clad this unusual building located in an industrial context, 1,100 m² of AZENGAR®, contrasting with the other materials, were installed in a random standing seam, giving the building a unique character.

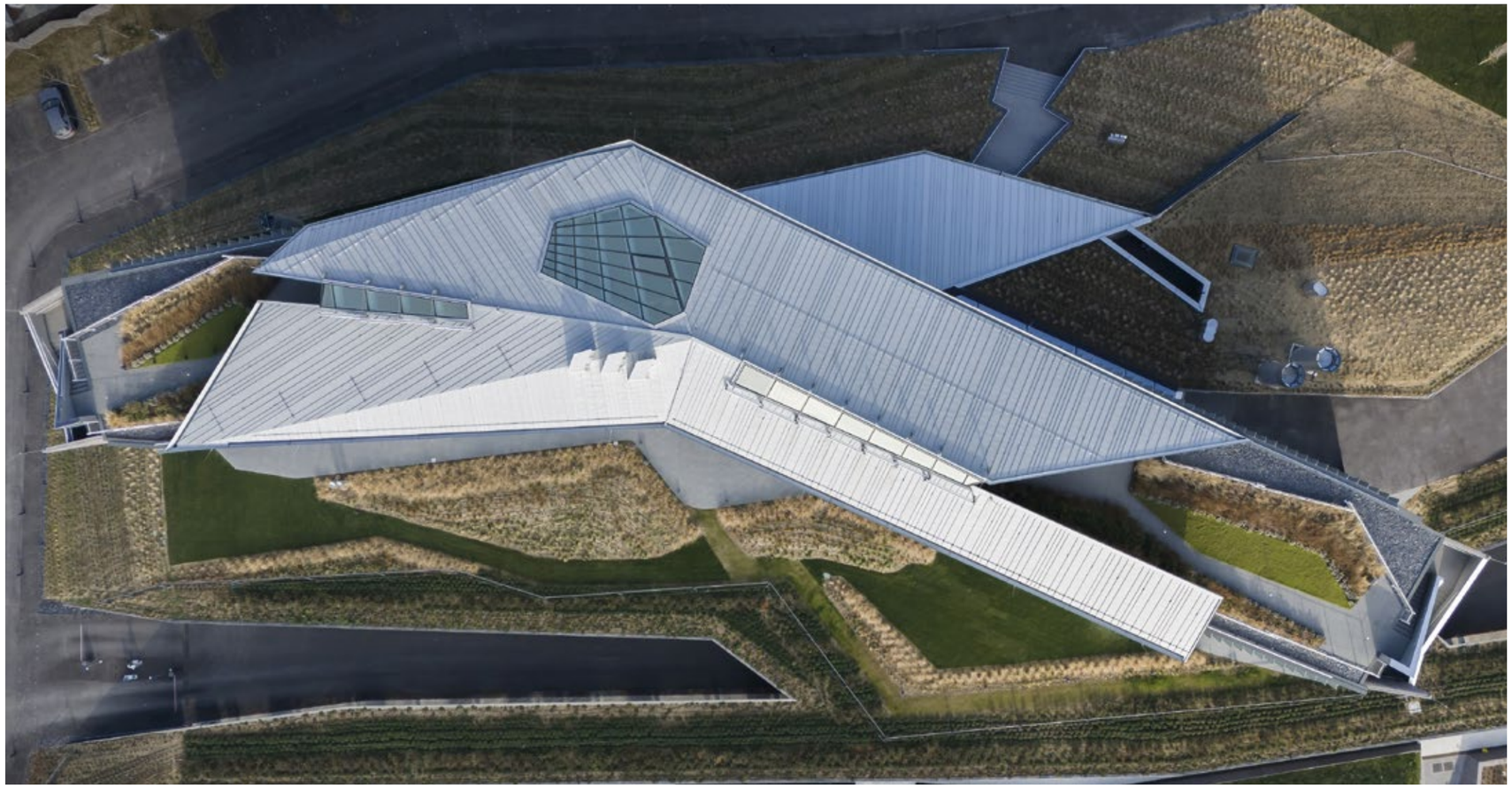
Although designed primarily for its functionality, Sidera goes beyond its purely industrial purpose to become the icon of innovative and sustainable architecture through its formal style and the quality of its envelope.

Sidera - CIA Conad Headquarters

Architect	tissellistudioarchitetti
Contractor	Steel Pool Cantieri Srl
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	1,100 m²







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Crisnée - Belgium

The spirit of zinc

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Following the collapse of part of its façade, the Crisnée church underwent an ambitious renovation project led by the A.A.V.T. agency (Liège).

Designed as a contemporary reinterpretation of the place of worship, the new 730 m² façade is clad in standing seam PIGMENTO® zinc, the red colour of which blends subtly with the rest of the building and the original brickwork.

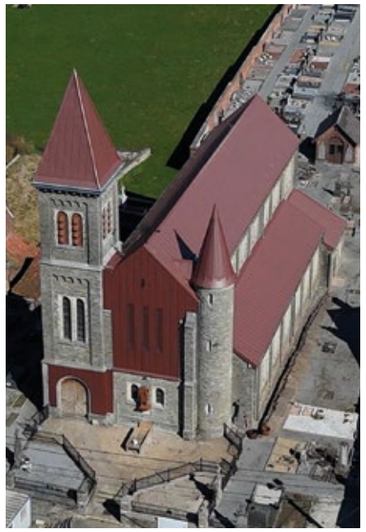
Some façade elements in VMZINC perforated panels add rhythm and transparency to the whole.

The covering of the chapel within the church echoes the bold exterior cladding that first surprised and then won over the parishioners.

More than just a simple replacement, this new façade gives the building a strong identity that successfully combines respect for its heritage with contemporary design.

Crisnée Church

Architect	A.A.V.T.
Contractor	Michoel toitures
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam Perforated panels
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	730 m²



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St Sulpice et Cameyrac - France

Open-hearted

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Located in the heart of a commune with a rich architectural and wine-growing heritage, this curved multi-purpose hall was designed by Bulle Architectes (Bordeaux).

A 600 m² venue for cultural, commercial and community events that is restructuring and revitalising the town centre.

Its design reflects a strong environmental ambition. A cross laminated timber structure with panels from the Landes region and low-carbon concrete are all part of a low-carbon approach.

On the façade, a filtering system completes the bioclimatic design, providing comfort, natural ventilation and a direct link with the public space, whose landscaping aims to reduce heat islands. To complete this choice of sustainable and recyclable materials, 600m² of AZENGAR® has been used for the roof.

A standing seam installation reflects the complex proportions of the hall's module and guarantees a precise design, while the natural colour of this surface appearance creates a play on reflections and light.

A contemporary design that combines innovation, sustainability and environmental excellence in the heart of traditional buildings.

Covered multi-purpose hall

Architect	Bulle Architectes
Contractor	Houdusse Picard Ets
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	600 m²

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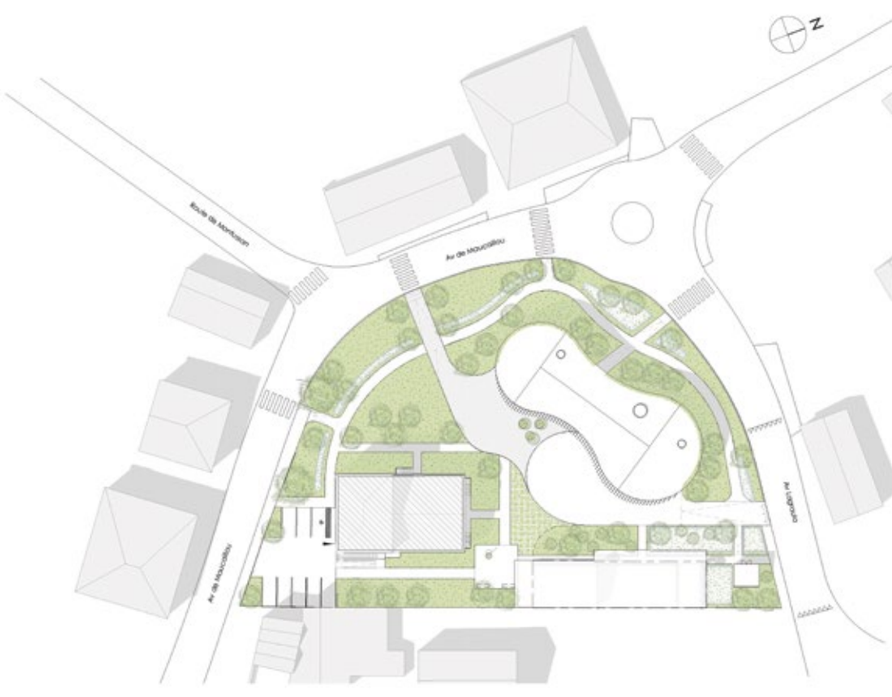

Illustration© Bulle Architectes

St. Louis - United States

Immersed in nature

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Although some 18th-century authors, such as Abbé Laugier, saw vegetation as the origin of our buildings, architecture and nature remain fundamentally two opposites that each project aims more or less to reconcile, whether through ornament or the inclusion of plants.

Called in to give the Missouri Nature Park an entrance worthy of its status, the Ayers Saint Gross agency sought a way to bring these two opposites together.

The agency's project for a reception pavilion cultivates a paradox, erasing the architecture so that it is no longer a barrier to accessing the park to which it provides access. And this in spite of a programme requiring a large surface area to accommodate an auditorium, a shop, waiting areas, a café, etc.

The building is organised as a series of thresholds leading to the rich natural surroundings of the park. One could say that nature has been "augmented" through the concentration of several hundred species that don't usually cohabit in such a small area. The heart of the pavilion is an architectural clearing, recreating its natural equivalent with a series of perforated panels forming a double-height box.

These metallic leaves are enclosed in a glass volume that becomes a lantern at nightfall, and during the day lets in light that filters through perforations of different sizes that have been scientifically calculated.

The pattern of perforations imitates the effect of sunlight through a two-lobed ginkgo tree. The zinc prepares the way into this architectural canopy.

A grey metal wall guides visitors from the outside in. The QUARTZ-ZINC® colour is reminiscent of sandstone and natural stone. It looks like a variation of the adjacent stone coverings, or the terrazzo floor incorporating different minerals.

The interlocking profile installation is matched by careful, sophisticated finishing, affirming the public status of architecture that pays homage to nature by reinterpreting it rather than slavishly imitating it.

Jack. C Taylor Visitor Center
Missouri
Botanical Gardens

Architect	Ayers Saint Gross
Contractor	IWR North America
Technique	VMZINC® Interlocking panel
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	1,900m²

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Göteborg - Sweden

Future Past

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

On the former site of the Fixfabriken factory in Göteborg, some elements of which have been preserved, the “Brf Spanjoletten” residential project successfully combines heritage renovation and sustainable contemporary construction.

Inspired by the industrial architecture of the 19th century, the development reinterprets this heritage over some 17,750 m² with façades and gables in graphic script, a veritable “wallpaper” of bricks aligned with the angles of roofs with continuous lines.

Awarded the “Miljöbyggnad Silver” label for its sustainability, this 141-home development has 3,600 m² of standing seam PIGMENTO® brown zinc roofs.

Brf. Spanjoletten
Résidence

Architect	Olsson Lyckefors
Contractor	Apells Plåtslageri
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® brown
Surface	3,600 m²

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Faqra - Lebanon

A zinc case

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

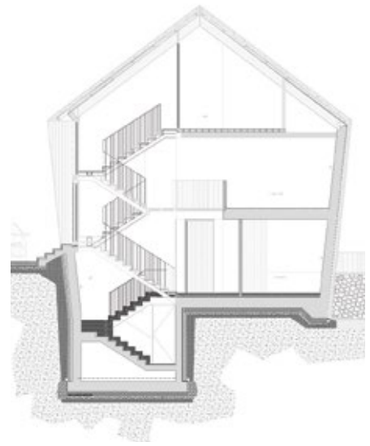
Designed by 109 Architectes, the “Far 5” villa blends into the mineral landscape of the mountainous heights of Faqra (Lebanon).

Over 600 m², its continuous envelope of ANTHRA-ZINC® pre-weathered zinc with standing seam hugs the sloping sides of the façade and the double-sloped roof, forming a compact, protective and monolithic geometry.

Chosen for its durability at altitude, its resistance to the elements and its maintenance-free nature, ANTHRA-ZINC® is used here as a complete architectural material, ensuring aesthetic and technical unity with the elements of a minimalist villa in a refined design.

Far 5 Villa

Architect	109 Architectes (Youssef Mallat)
Contractor	Modelo sarl
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface	600 m²



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Anderlecht - Belgium

Zinc in the plural

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Located in the heart of Anderlecht, the CYAN II residential development is part of a dense urban fabric undergoing major change.

The project, designed by Ateliers des Architectes Associés, consists of 179 homes and 5 shops around a vast central block, which provides much-appreciated breathing space in a densely populated neighbourhood.

The varied composition and proportions makes the most of recesses, openings and loggias to optimise natural light and intersecting views. On the façade, two materials give structure to the project: ceramic tiles and 2,600 m² of VMZINC zinc.

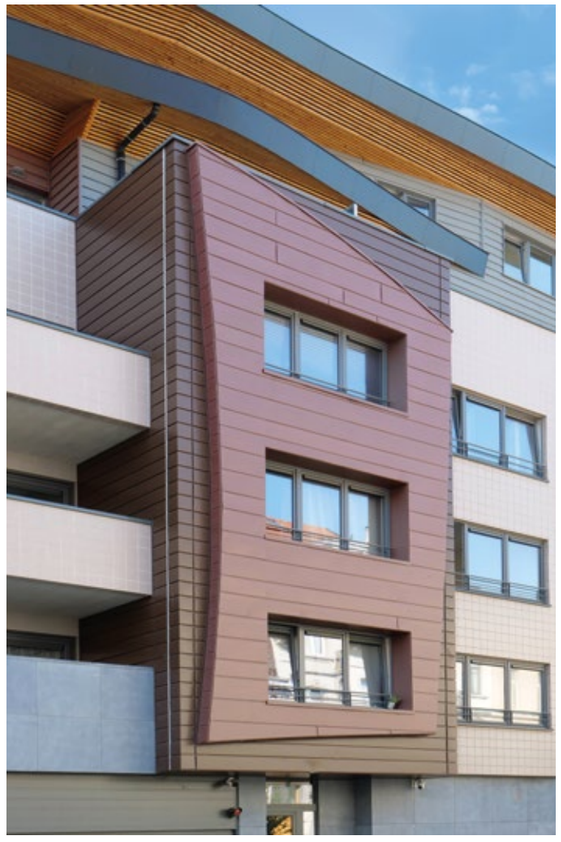
The housing modules can be identified in the alternating textures, while the recessed loggias create a vertical rhythm accentuated by the double depth.

Inside the block, horizontal standing seam ANTHRA-ZINC® ventilation stacks become aesthetic elements, punctuating the composition and linking the terraces to the blocks.

This diversity of aspects and uses helps to unify the formal complexity and gives the whole a contemporary coherence that combines architectural style and technical performance.

CYAN II Residence

Architect	Atelier des Architectes Associés sprl
Contractor	Société Momentanée Dherte SA & Louis De Waele SA
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, VMZINC® Interlocking panel, VMZINC® Flatlock panel, Cassettes
Aspects	ANTHRA-ZINC®, QUARTZ -ZINC®, PIGMENTO® red, PIGMENTO® brown
Surface	2,900 m²



Architectural renaissance

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

At the heart of the urban fabric of Neu-Listernohl, the contemporary lines of the new Saint Augustinus church and its community centre redefine the central space of Augustinusplatz.

This new building replaces a construction dating from the 1960s that had become too large and too expensive, and of which only the bell tower has been preserved. It is now more closely linked to the adjacent building by more than 2,000m² of PIGMENTO® red standing seam cladding.

Zinc is perfectly suited to the architectural project by DEEN Architekten (Munster), unifying the materials of the façades and roofs and accentuating the symbolic effect of the elevation of the bell tower and the rest of the building, through the choice of a vertical installation.

The symbolic shade of red lends a certain timelessness to the whole, in harmony with the light bronze details of the joinery.

The complex graphic composition of the roof, dictated by the interior use of the religious building and the slender bell tower, forms an original silhouette that makes the new church a strong architectural and urban landmark.

Saint Augustinus Church

Architect	DEEN Architekten
Contractor	Schabos Klempnertechnik GmbH
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	2,000 m²

Cambridge - United Kingdom

From secondary to tertiary

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

For more than a century, the Swiss Laundry on Cherry Hinton Road has kept Cambridge's interiors clean. Its industrial laundry service supplied local universities and hotels with linen laundered using state-of-the-art methods, which became the name of the company. As such, the word 'Swiss' on the sign does not refer to the country, but to the cleaning of linen tablecloths with a special finish.

The constant increase in business prompted the company to move from its historic premises to larger, more modern facilities in 2021. Just a 10-minute cycle ride from the city centre, the abandoned factory attracted a great deal of interest. A new housing project was planned in its place. Keen to preserve the heritage building, PiP Architecture (responsible for the concept and planning submission) instead successfully convinced an investor to transform this wasteland into offices for innovative companies, arguing that a city needed activities to stay alive.

The unprecedented concentration of universities has turned Cambridge into Britain's Silicon Valley, nicknamed Silicon Fen after the local area. This situation created favourable conditions for the conversion of the Swiss Laundry site to the tertiary market. Sites that have long been dedicated to industrial activities often contain a patchwork of buildings, built at different times to suit different needs. The half-dozen sheds on the Swiss Laundry site were no exception to this rule.

Rather than seeking to unify a disparate whole, the original concept have instead celebrated the differences, accentuating the different volumes with a variety of coverings. New and existing buildings are clad in a way that individualises each volume, from the smallest to the largest. The realisation of this makeover, made possible by MCW Architects who carried out the detail design and oversaw construction, creates a picturesque landscape, in the sense given to the word in garden design: a series of paintings.

The diversity of appearances and techniques that can be achieved with zinc encouraged the creation of these new scenes, both in terms of finishes and implementation. And the ease with which it can be used with other materials was an ultimate advantage, whether it was with the original brick or wood.

The zinc stands out as you enter. The broken lines of the gables on the existing pavilion are reminiscent of sheds, the iconic roof of industrial architecture. The ANTHRA-ZINC® cladding in ADEKA® imitating slate reinforces its character as an urban landmark.

A reminder of the site's past, which the developer has renamed "Old Swiss", where the old is the basis for renewal and transformation a unique identity.

Rehabilitation of the Swiss Laundry

Architects	PiP Architecture (Stage 0-5) MCW Architects (Stage 2-5, Phase 2)
Contractors	A Class Metal Roofing, All Metal Roofing
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, VMZINC® Roll cap Perforated panels, ADEKA®
Aspects	ANTHRA-ZINC®, QUARTZ-ZINC® PIGMENTO® orange
Surface	3,500 m²


OLDSWICS

Geometric shapes

There are no limits to architectural expression with zinc, which combines technical performance and elegance. Zinc fits the most daring geometric shapes, playing with volumes, angles and sophisticated lines.

VMZINC's unique range of surface finishes and systems gives each building a unique identity that blends harmoniously with its surroundings while asserting its presence.

1

Public buildings

1 > China, Hangzhou
Architect: Line+ studio
Technique: VMZINC® Honeycomb panels
Aspect: AZENGAR®

3 > France, La Ferrière
Architect: Pelleau & associés architectes
Technique: VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect: PIGMENTO® red

4 > Germany, Odenthal
Architect: Technische Universität Dortmund
Technique: VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®

5 > Norway, Stavanger
Architect: LINK Signatur
Technnique: VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect: PIGMENTO® green

Collective housing

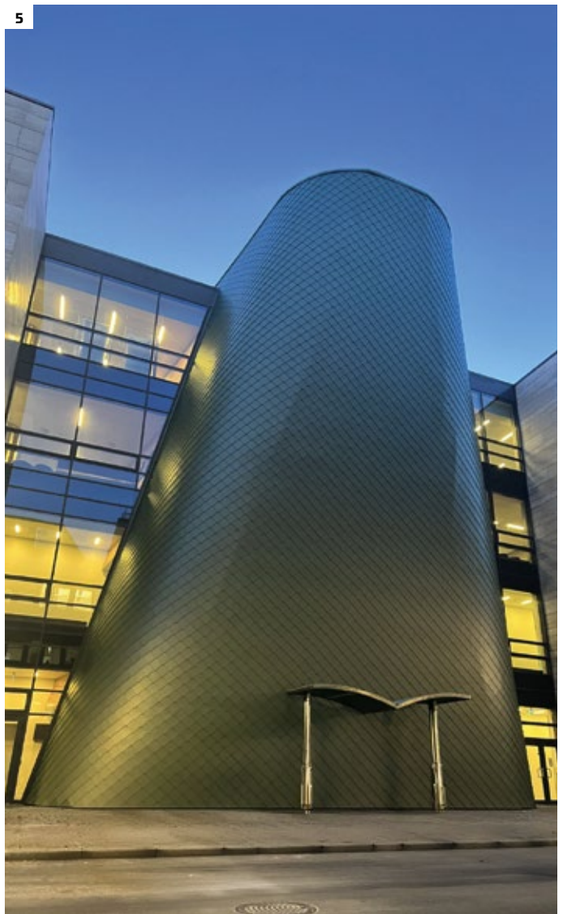
2 > Portugal, Matosinhos
Architect: Marco Gonçalves
Technique: VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC®

2

3

4

5



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