FOCUS ON ZINC



#23

VMZINC

Editorial

Dear reader,

Every project begins with a question. How will it contribute to society today, and to future generations? In this edition, twenty-two architects share their insights, and each time, zinc is part of them.

Cities are growing denser, existing buildings are being transformed rather than replaced, and every construction is expected to last longer while still benefiting the people who use it. Zinc meets that brief: it fits bold, sculptural forms as well as clean, simple lines, provides a renovation with a new identity, and offers colours and textures that allow freedom for every intention.

Whether redefining an existing envelope, meeting ambitious low-carbon objectives or confronting extreme climates with 100% recycled zinc, each project explores a different expression of the material. Alongside many other projects featured in the magazine, they reveal the diversity of contemporary architectural approaches using zinc.

Each of these projects is born from an architectural vision and is brought to completion by a dialog with design, knowhow and technical expertise. From the intention to completion, the architect, installer and technical team combine their competencies to bring the project to life. The details and drawings of this issue provide precise insights.

Twenty-two insights in zinc. We look forward to featuring yours in a future edition.

Enjoy reading this edition of FOCUS ON ZINC,

The editorial committee

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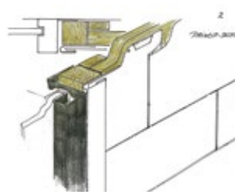

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N°23 FOCUS ON ZINC

Zuidlaren - Netherlands

Majestic forms

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

In Zuidlaren, in the Netherlands province of Drenthe, this detached house reinterprets the tradition of the Drenthe farmhouse.

Designed by the architect Wim Maas of Maas Kristinsson Architecten, it draws inspiration from old, modest local farmhouses whose thatched roofs descended almost down to the ground. Here, this silhouette is given a contemporary interpretation through its 850 m² of PIGMENTO® grey Standing seam zinc, with long strips completely enveloping the roof and façades in a continuous, sculptural cover.

This freedom in shaping zinc made it possible to transpose the original vocabulary of the farmhouse into a volume that is both pared-back and timeless, echoed by the adjacent annex. The roof and façades are covered with the same material, thereby ensuring the aesthetic cohesion of the whole.

The openings carefully cut into the zinc according to the direction of the sunlight offer views across the surrounding landscape, without ever disrupting the clarity of the overall form.

Combined with a timber frame structure, PIGMENTO® grey also meets the project's environmental ambitions through its durability and low maintenance requirements.

This house was nominated for the 2025 Drenthe Architecture Prize.





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Individual housing

Architect	Maas Kristinsson Architecten
Installer	Zink- en Dakwerkbedrijf Sietzema
Contractor	Apoll Bouw B.V
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® grey
Surface	850 m²



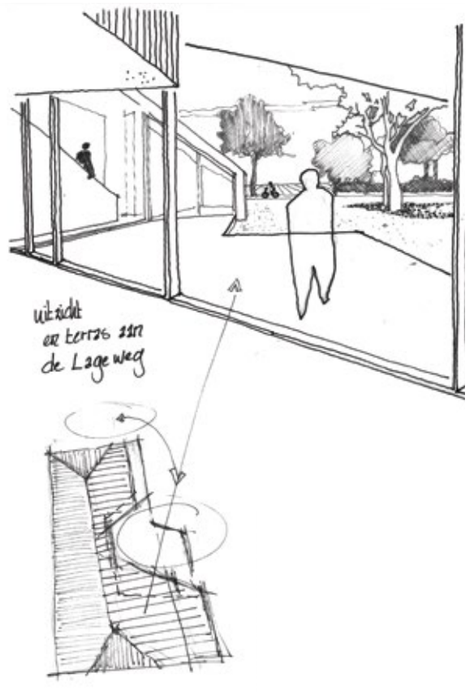


Illustration: Maas Kristinsson Architecten

Basel - Switzerland

Restraint and elegance

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

In Basel, the building at 1a Erlenstrasse forms part of the extensive transformation of the Riehenring, a former railway freight site to the north of the city, now converted into a neighbourhood combining housing, offices and services.

Designed by SSA Architekten, the refurbishment of this building forms part of a considered renovation approach: rather than demolition and reconstruction, the practice prioritised retaining and enhancing the existing structural frame, guided by a commitment to restraint and sustainability.

This approach is carried through in the choice of the envelope: 800 m² of AZENGAR® zinc cassette panels.

This material was chosen for its exceptional longevity, low maintenance requirements and ability to evolve naturally over time without losing its quality. These benefits align with the longevity objective underpinning the renovation.

The light, matt appearance of AZENGAR® gives the volume a finish suited to a service-oriented scheme set within a dense urban area.

The use of cassette panels highlights the rigour of the composition and the precision of the façade design.

This demanding architecture based on adaptive reuse combines construction quality and restraint.

1a Erlenstrasse building

Architect	SSA Architekten
Contractor	Lemp Haustechnik AG
Technique	Cassettes
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	800 m²







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Adelaide - Australia

The show must go on!

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Opened in 1928, the Thebarton Theatre is an iconic performance venue in Adelaide.

Tasked with carrying out the necessary transformation, JPE Design Studio sought to adapt the building to the requirements of today's audiences while preserving the site's heritage, identity and charm. To achieve this, a new contrasting and contemporary two-storey entrance pavilion was created.

Reorganising the reception areas and circulation routes within the building, while facilitating access for people with reduced mobility in particular, the extension is clad in an envelope of 200 m² of PIGMENTO® red Flat lock panels.

Engaging with the ochre brickwork and original ironwork, the colour and aesthetic naturally extend the materiality of the century-old theatre, offering a contemporary expression open to the general public and designed to support the cultural development of the site.

Thebarton Theatre

Architect	JPE Design Studio
Contractor	Klek Roofing & Cladding Pty Ltd
Technique	VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	200 m²





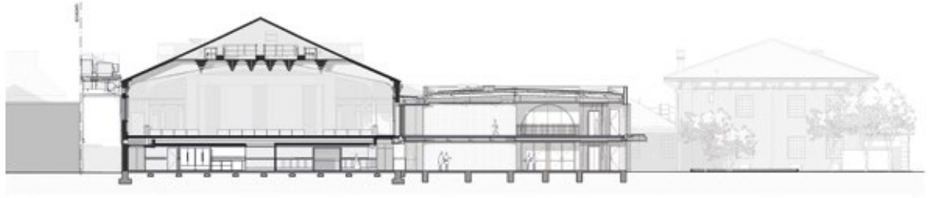


Illustration: JPE Design Studio



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Saint-Jérôme - Canada

Peace of mind

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

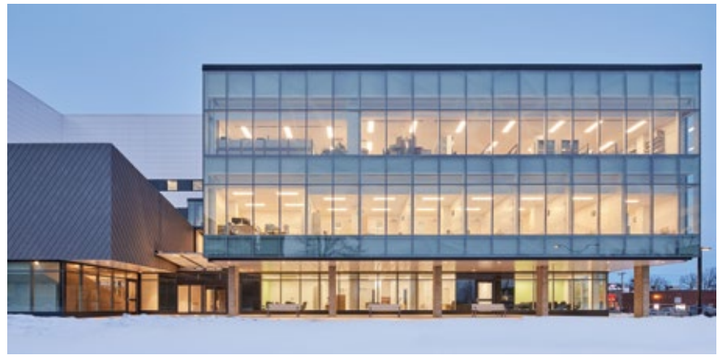
In the Laurentians, the mental health pavilion at Saint-Jérôme Regional Hospital was designed to destigmatise care and ensure the well-being of medical teams, visitors and patients.

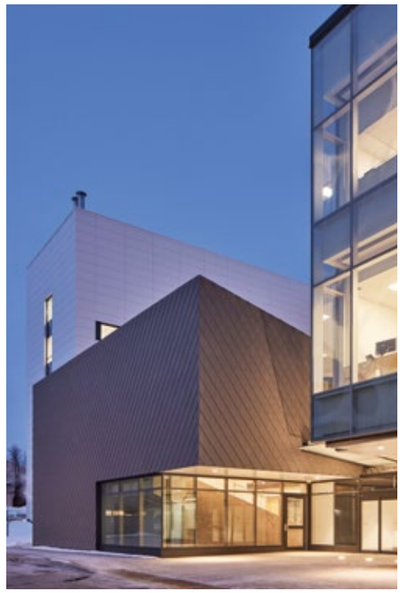
The choice of fragmented volumes, patios and abundant natural light contributes to this ambition, as does the choice of natural materials, such as this ventilated QUARTZ-ZINC® envelope, which also contributes to the overall environmental quality of the LEED Gold-certified building.

Architecture and materials contribute to the healing process.

Saint-Jérôme Hospital

Architects	Yelle Maillé Architectes Provencher_Roy Yves Woodrough Architectes
Contractor	RTSI
Technique	VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	1,858 m²







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Aveiro - Portugal

The eye of time

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

With its lagoon connected to a network of urban canals, Aveiro is often referred to as the Venice of Portugal. In the 19th century, a flourishing ceramics industry developed there, resulting in prosperity that can still be read on the city's walls, in particular on these houses, which display a local variant of the Art Nouveau style, characterised by the ornamental treatment of its architectural details (grilles and ironwork, window surrounds, friezes and ceramic façade decorations).

Featuring resolutely contemporary lines by the Tiago do Vale studio, Casa de Sà seems poles apart from this tradition. It occupies a vacant plot on a street dominated by terraced houses, with a terraced house to its left that is representative of Aveiro Art Nouveau and was designed by the architect Francisco Augusto Silva Rocha (1864–1957), a master of the genre. It guided the design of the new building and fostered a dialogue between ages and styles.

For this house project combining two dwellings – a rental flat on the ground floor topped by a duplex occupying the roof space - the studio undertook a transcription of its neighbour, taken as a model.

An oculus – small eye – present at the centre of the façade of the 1900 house is, in a way, transplanted into the contemporary project, in a niche housing the two entrances to the flats in the new house.

The treatment of the material reinterprets the moulding of Silva Rocha's building. White ceramic clads the ground-floor plinth. Dark wooden shutters form a mobile, kinetic wall, offering numerous possibilities for filtering light and views.

Their open position also echoes the tripartite system of the neighbouring façade.

ANTHRA-ZINC® cladding crowns the attic storey of the façade and encloses the dormer. Its dark hue and vertical joints extend the slats of the wooden shutters while echoing the frieze of the neighbouring house.

Several openings in this roof illuminate the rooms in the roof space. A light well marks the entrance on the first-floor landing.

This light well is a characteristic feature of traditional Portuguese architecture, which has many such features designed to illuminate deep dwellings built on narrow urban plots.





Illustration: Tiago do Vale



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Individual housing

Architect	Tiago do Vale
Contractor	Engicivil-Cardoso & Manata Lda
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface	150 m²

Angers - France

New era

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Angers, a medium-sized city in western France, has begun reclaiming the banks of the Maine, a tributary of the Loire that runs through its historic centre.

The heritage component of this city-centre development is particularly sensitive. It is fully integrated into this market hall project, which takes the latest environmental constraints into account and notably follows the low-carbon agenda imposed by French legislation on all new buildings.

The programme, a food hall with around twenty stalls, provides for leisurely strolling. It occupies a site constrained by a line of trees along the banks of the Maine and an elongated, irregularly shaped plot. The architect Bruno Huet has successfully turned these limitations to his advantage. His proposal reinterprets the nineteenth-century urban market hall. Its glazed façades open out expansively onto the public realm and the riverside landscape.

Instead of the single roof that traditionally crowned this kind of building, Bruno Huet divided the roof into a series of trapezoids, facilitating its integration into the site and reducing the impact of the facility: the façade, a transparent skin subdivided by timber columns, is the first thing the visitor observes.

The multiple roof planes reappear occasionally in the manner of bandstands or old lightweight industrial structures. Zinc facilitated the deployment of this arrangement, thanks to its ability to cover shallow pitches and incorporate box gutters for rainwater drainage, which were subject to particularly careful detailing.

Embedded in the roof, the rainwater channel is extended by a light cantilevered canopy and disappears completely from view. Part of the roof is provided with openings to accommodate an existing tree or air-conditioning units. The metal surfaces of the roof engage in a dialogue with the roofs of local slate, which is a traditional material of Angers' historic town centre.







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Food Hall

Architect	SABH
Contractor	Gohard
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	Natural zinc
Surface	1,800 m²

Dublin - Ireland

Back to the river

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



On quays that had long been closed to the public, Urban Agency, together with the Quayside Watersports Center, has created the first public watersports centre in the Irish capital.

The project combines a municipal watersports centre with an administrative building, both linked by a public square and an accessible promenade along the River Liffey.

Inspired by the former brick warehouses that occupied this part of the riverbanks, the architecture echoes the industrial memory of the site. With 1,600 m² of PIGMENTO® Standing-seam zinc cladding, the two buildings in the complex reinterpret this heritage and give it a contemporary, origami-like expression.

While the red colour of the envelope evokes the brick of the former buildings, its highly graphic geometry gives the volumes their distinctive identity, poised between the solidity of a warehouse and the lightness of canvas.

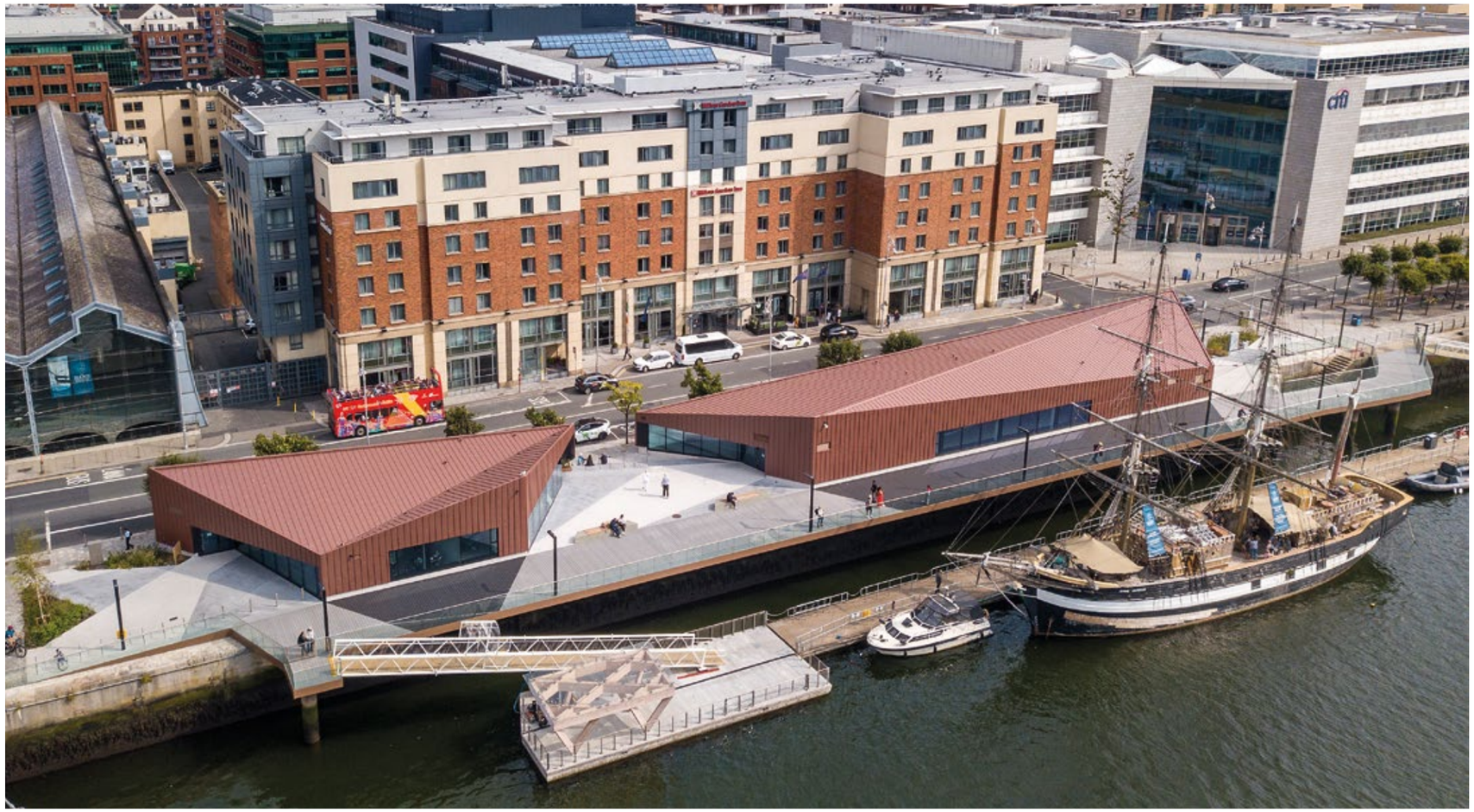
To protect the historic walls that support the whole complex, the two new buildings were raised, allowing the Quayside Watersports Center to incorporate the city's flood protection system, while the technical properties of the zinc ensure their strength and durability.

Quayside Watersports Center

Architect	Urban Agency
Contractor	Copeland Coppersmiths Ltd
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	1,600 m²



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Børøya - Norway

Light and reflections

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Nordlaks has been dedicated to farming high-quality salmon since 1989. Since then, the company has grown in Børøya, a small island in the Vesterålen archipelago.

Close to the coast, it is connected to the mainland by a viaduct, which also connects it to the neighbouring island of Hadseløya. We are on Norway's northern Atlantic façade, above the Arctic Circle, far from the kingdom's major urban centres.

Always seeking to remain at the forefront of production, the Bergs, the company's owners, have undertaken to expand and modernise their facilities. Operations have been further automated, the production area is expanding, and new premises dedicated to office activities have been added to the industrial harvesting facility.

The three office levels are managed as open spaces which benefit from a spectacular view provided by large horizontal windows opening onto the horizon.

In this vast geographical area, available land nevertheless remains limited. To free up space, these premises were built above the changing rooms and partly rest on a series of stilts, freeing the loading bays for traffic.

The use of prefabrication facilitated the construction of the façade, composed of modules fitted with glazing in the upper section and an AZENGAR® 3R zinc spandrel panel in the lower section.

The choice of material is explained by its ability to withstand the harshness of polar climates. This project is also one of the first to be made using 100% recycled zinc (hence the name AZENGAR® 3R).

The innovative geometry and the undulating movement of the panels provide the building with a strong and contemporary architectural identity.

Why not imagine that the colour and finish of the architecture translate the silvery reflections of salmon scales, which represent the fundamental purpose of this industrial complex?



Nordlaks

Architect	Asplan Viak Oslo
Contractors	Svolvær Blikk AS, Øksnes Entreprenør AS
Technique	VMZINC® Corrugated panel
Aspect	AZENGAR® 3R
Surface	4,000 m²





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St Ives - United Kingdom

Writing history

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

In the village of St Ives, in Cornwall, Story of Emily pays tribute to Emily Hobhouse, a British humanitarian figure from the Second Boer War.

Designed by Stonewood Design, the site combines heritage restoration with contemporary writing, with materiality fully contributing to the narrative. Thus, the new exhibition building adjacent to the Vicarage — a local Grade 2 listed property — houses the latest museography.

Its enigmatic, almost abstract envelope combines 1,016 m² of PIGMENTO® green in three installation systems: Standing seam, Sine wave profile for one section, and, on the main façade, an ISOPLI® cassette system. The slightly included entrance to this space, named War Rooms, highlights the architectural character of this project, with a strong presence that deliberately contrasts with the traditional housing elsewhere on the site.

Zinc was chosen here for its freedom of form and durability, essential qualities for a cultural facility designed to stand the test of time.

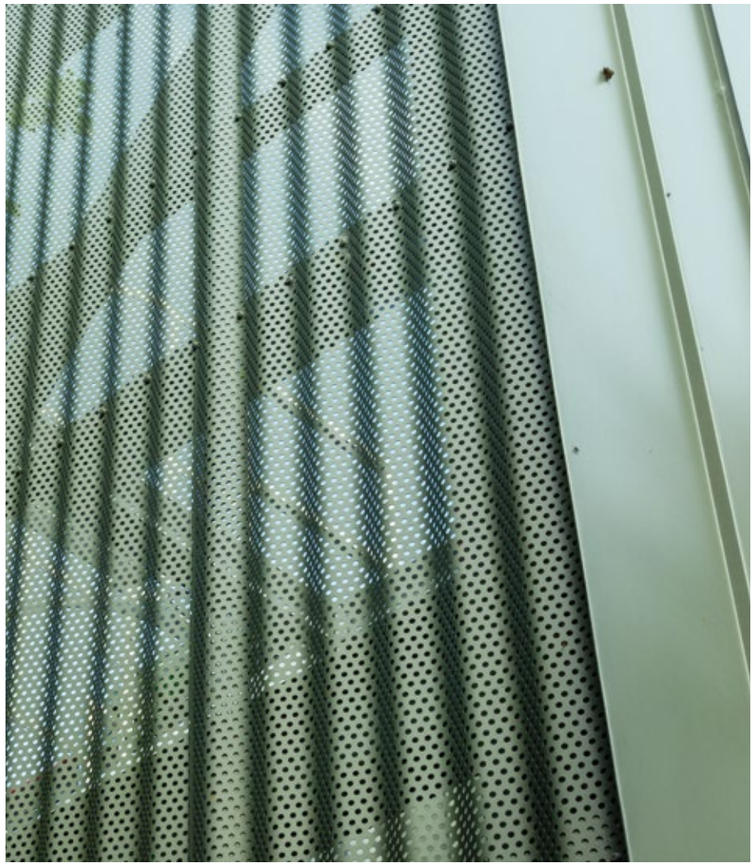
This building was awarded RIBA SW Project of the Year Award 2025 and Royal Fine Art Commission: Building Beauty Awards as Grand Winner.

Story of Emily

Architect	Stonewood Design
Contractor	Architectural Metal Roofing
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, VMZINC® Sine wave profile ISOPLI® cassettes
Aspects	PIGMENTO® green (facade) QUARTZ-ZINC® PLUS (roof)
Surface	1,016 m²







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Villefranche-sur-Saône - France

The Merchant's Parable

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Market halls have been an important feature of French towns and cities since the Middle Ages. Following the use of timber in the imposing medieval market halls, metal became widespread, eventually defining the architectural style of this building type in the 19th century.

Today, timber is making a strong comeback for environmental reasons. While these ecological concerns are encouraging the construction of new buildings, they are also driving the preservation of existing structures and the recognition of lesser-known architectural heritage, such as the covered market hall in Villefranche-sur-Saône, completed in 1933.

Projects designed by engineer Eugène Freyssinet, notably the airship hangars at Orly (built between 1921 and 1923) and the Boulingrin Market Hall in Reims (constructed between 1927 and 1929), are key references for this type of structure. The covered market hall in Villefranche-sur-Saône, built in reinforced concrete like its counterpart in Reims, clearly belongs to this architectural lineage.

However, the Villefranche-sur-Saône market hall features a simpler structural system than its Champagne counterpart, which employed the prestressing techniques developed by Eugène Freyssinet. This relative simplicity facilitated its restoration.

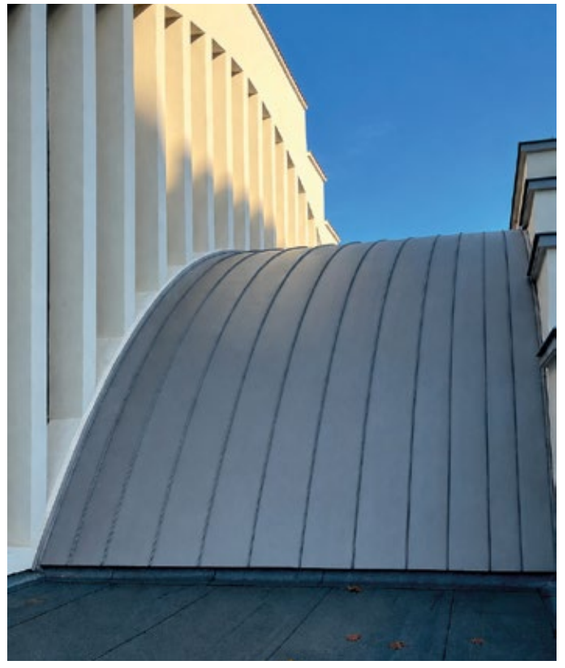
Several factors led the architects of Architekt-on to choose zinc for the roofing: the steep parabolic profile, which can generate creep-related issues in bituminous waterproofing systems; the durability of the material, particularly valued in a heritage context; and, finally, its aesthetic qualities, which elevate the roof to an architectural feature in its own right while taking full advantage of zinc's ability to follow the curves of the structure.

The zinc roofing was installed over the existing waterproofing, avoiding the need for temporary weather protection systems such as tarpaulins or "umbrella" scaffolding, while also accelerating the return to service of this remarkable building.

As a result, all project objectives were successfully achieved: preserving a historic landmark while enhancing its long-term durability, improving thermal comfort, and reinforcing the architectural value of the building envelope.

Market Hall

Architect	ARCHITEKT-ON
Contractor	Le Ny
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, Cassettes
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	1,600m²





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Stühlingen - Germany

Built to last

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS







Copyright© Gehring Sanitärtechnik GmbH

In Stühlingen, in the heart of the Black Forest, the new headquarters of Gehring GmbH, designed by Oeldenberger Architekt, stands out for its external envelope with contemporary lines, which, over approximately 1,050 m², combines a ventilated façade in PIGMENTO® blue with an ANTHRA-ZINC® roof.

Situated at an altitude of 720 metres, with no overhangs or protection, the building is highly exposed to the local climate. This choice was driven both by the desire to give rhythm to the façade by alternating Flat lock panels of different widths and by the need to provide the whole structure with high resistance to wind and weather.

The photovoltaic panels installed on the roof add an environmental dimension to the project.

Gehring Sanitärtechnik GmbH

Architect	Oeldenberger Architekt
Contractor	Gehring Sanitärtechnik GmbH
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspects	PIGMENTO® blue, ANTHRA-ZINC®
Surface	1,050 m²



Götzis - Austria

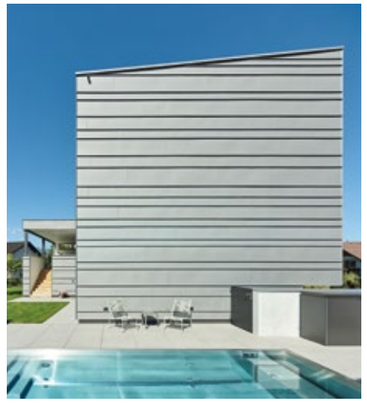
Garden levels

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING





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By developing its living spaces over three levels, this single-family house designed by Dieter Klammer (architektur.terminal) respects the typology of the local urban fabric.

The unity of this volume with clean lines is based on a continuous monochrome envelope of 360 m² in QUARTZ-ZINC®.

Its use of random Standing seam, fitting around the openings, allows for graphic continuity across the façades and a sense of their horizontality as these facades elegantly absorb the change in level between the street and the raised garden.

A resolutely contemporary finish with a strong geometric identity.



Individual housing

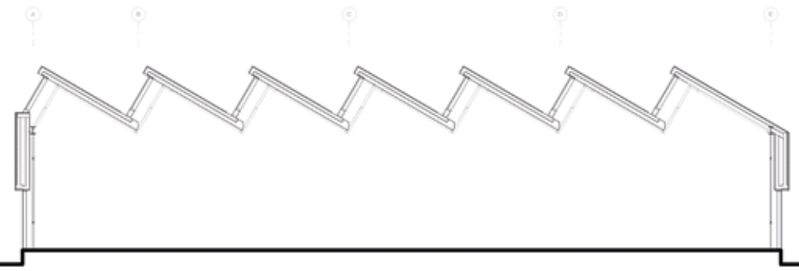
Architect	architektur.terminal Dieter Klammer
Contractor	Ganath Spenglerei GmbH
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	360 m²

Redwood City - United States

Modern sawtooth roofs

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS







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Drawing: WRNS Studio



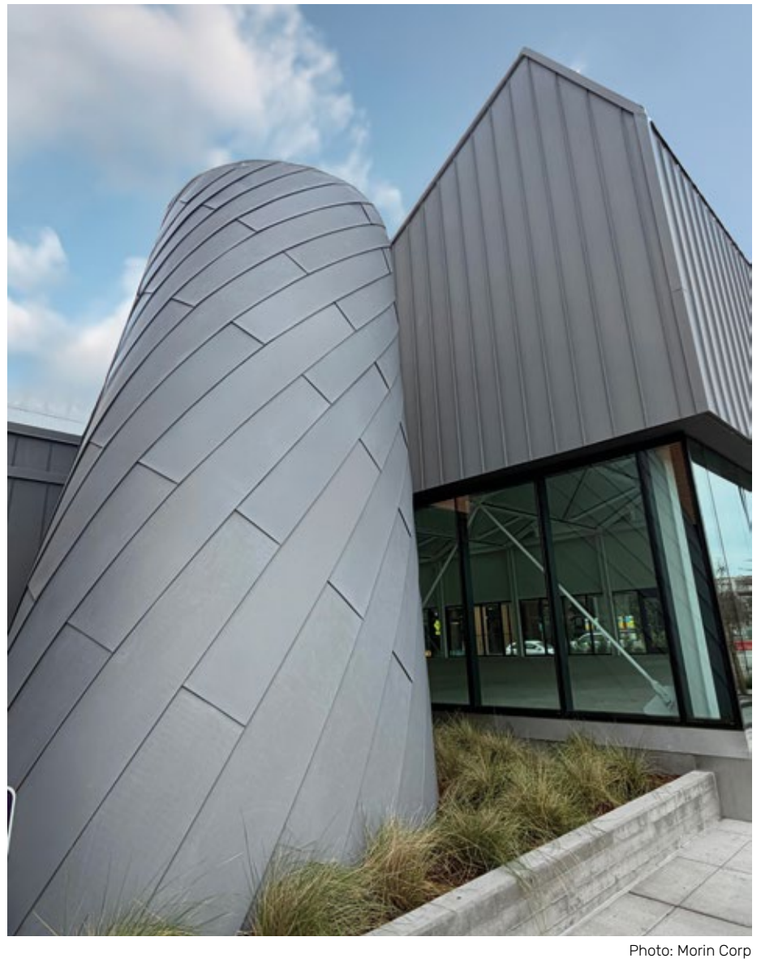


Photo: Morin Corp

Designed by WRNS Studio and named "Elco Yards", this urban development plan includes a group of buildings designed to accommodate offices, laboratories, community spaces and housing.

At the heart of this complex, one building particularly echoes the industrial past of the port city by adopting the aesthetic of the sawtooth roofs of former factories.

Its 12,000 m² of QUARTZ-ZINC® in Standing seam offer a contemporary version of this factory architecture that complements the brickwork of the neighbouring buildings, contributing to the creation of an urban landscape rooted in its history and supporting a sustainable vision for the city.

Elco Yards

Architect	WRNS Studio
Contractor	Morin Corp
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	12,000 m²

Staffordshire - United Kingdom

Reimagined estate

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



At the heart of the historic Consall Hall estate, in Staffordshire, The Tawny Hotel reinvents the hotel experience through a deconstructed hotel concept, with accommodation scattered across a landscaped park dotted with lakes and terraced gardens.

Designed by CTD Architects, the project is part of an ambitious conversion scheme that brings a historic site back to life while preserving its landscaped character.

The hotel's main building is the central point within the estate. Named *The Plumicorn*, it stands out with its red PIGMENTO® envelope and continuous lines that reinforce the building's aesthetic.

To quote the architect: "The precise rhythm of the Standing seam technique emphasises the proportions of each volume, allowing architecture to express itself through light, shadow and texture rather than ornament."

Here, the red hue echoes the estate's former buildings, typical of Staffordshire, while pre-weathered zinc reveals subtle variations as the seasons change.

In conclusion, when combined with glass and steel in a pared-back design, the zinc provides the durability and low maintenance expected of a hotel development intended to stand the test of time.

The Tawny Hotel

Architect	CTD Architects
Contractor	North West Metal Roofing Ltd
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® red
Surface	1,300 m²





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Oviedo - Spain

Sports shield

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Like other regions of Europe, the province of the Asturias experienced a fervour for modern architecture in the 1960s, of which the Oviedo Sports Palace is undoubtedly the most striking testament. Ildefonso Sánchez del Río, a municipal engineer responsible for several works renowned for their reinforced concrete structures, here revisited the vaulted structures he had already tested on the Oviedo reservoir.

At the Sports Palace, he applied this construction system on a scale he had never previously attempted: creating a column-free space more than 90 metres wide, with a clear height reaching 19 metres at its highest point, and roofing consisting of a series of twelve arches with a parabolic cross-section.

The eight arches that are raised in the central section create an opening allowing natural light to enter from two sides of the hall. The arches are composed of prefabricated concrete elements and ceramic components integrated into the structure to make it lighter, an original material combination that was particularly close to the engineer's heart, to the extent that in 1942 he opened his own terracotta factory to develop his patents.

Nearly half a century after its completion, a comprehensive refurbishment of the complex had become necessary for a number of reasons. The project involves both the conversion and extension of the building, notably increasing its capacity to 5,400 seats, made possible by the reconfiguration and by removing part of the stands. It also involves a complete renewal of the building envelope to ensure compliance with thermal and environmental standards, as well as a redesign of its surroundings and a re-evaluation of its place within the urban fabric.

The Architects Antonio Desmonts, Alfredo Antuña, Daniel Villanueva and Bienvenido Turrado, opted for a QUARTZ-ZINC® roof covering, in accordance with Ildefonso Sanchez del Río's original design, who had shown a keen interest in metal roofing but had ultimately been unable to implement it.

Both flexible and lightweight, zinc follows the double curvature of the arches of the roof covering without placing excessive additional loads on the structure, while withstanding the rigours of the climate, made corrosive by sea air carried in from the ocean. The concrete shell of the Sports Palace is armed with a metal shield against the rigours of the climate.



The original building

Rehabilitation of the Oviedo Sports Palace

Architects	Antonio Desmonts Sierra, Alfredo Antuña Presa, Daniel Villanueva Zarraolandía, Bienvenido Turrado Lamuño
Main Contractor	CONSTRUCTORA SANJOSE, S.A.
Contractors	Transformed by La Palomillera Installed by Aszinco Cubiertas
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	12,000 m²



Photo: Álex Fernández Photography

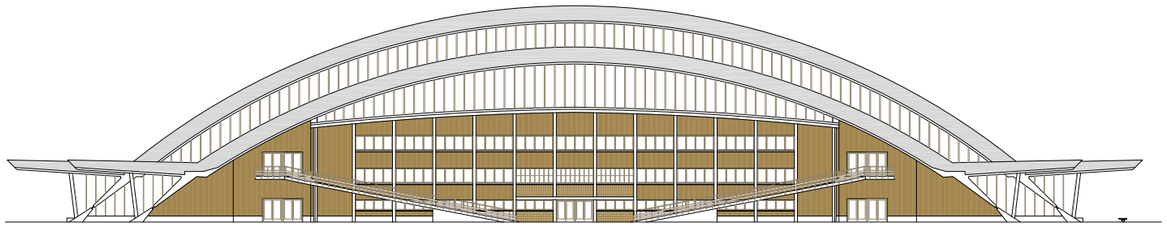
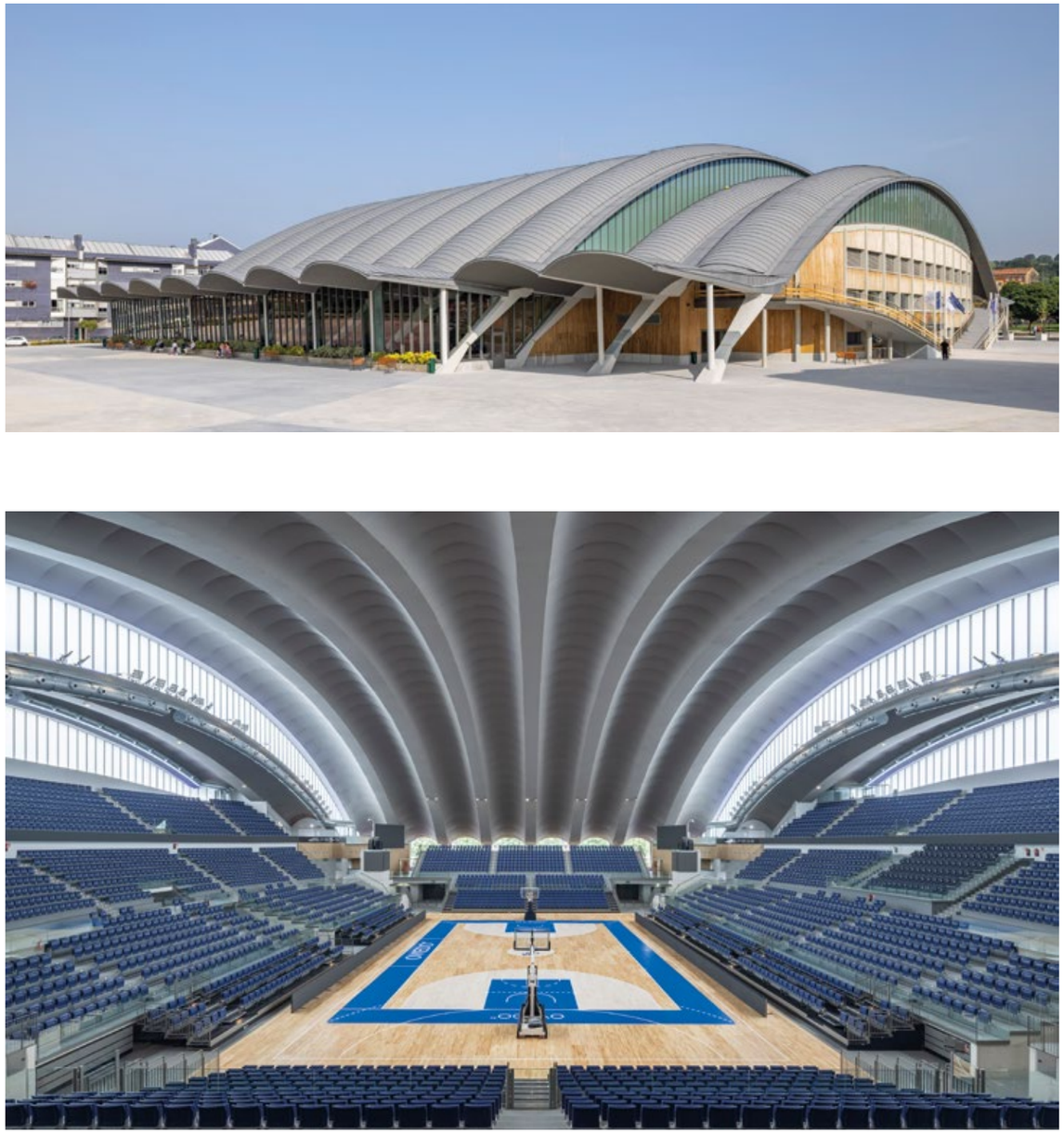


Illustration from the architects





Photos: Álex Fernández Photography

Pozzillo, Sicily - Italy

Between volcano and sea

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

On the slopes of Mount Etna, among citrus orchards and sweeping views over the Ionian Sea, Puleo Architettura has designed a series of prefabricated eco-lodges with sleek volumes.

This refined architecture aims to reduce the visual and environmental impact of the buildings on the surrounding agricultural land. To ensure durability and resistance to the adverse weather conditions and corrosion that are characteristic of Etna's exposed environment, the timber volumes are clad here in PIGMENTO® brown Standing seam.

This finish was chosen to evoke the colours of the earth and rural buildings, fostering visual integration into the agricultural landscape.





Mantàri Eco Lodges

Architect	Puleo Architettura
Contractor	Lattoneria Edile F.Lli Pane
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	PIGMENTO® brown
Surface	360 m²



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Profondeville - Belgium

Silent presence

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Designed by Pascal Mathieu, the new Notre-Dame de Covis Chapel soberly reinterprets the archetypal silhouette of the vanished place of contemplation.

Set in the heart of a wooded environment, this refined volume is entirely clad in AZENGAR®, using VMZINC® Shingles specially developed for the project.

Their texture and changing reflections unify the roof and façade, reinforcing the building's monolithic character and the subtle dialogue between architecture, light and landscape.

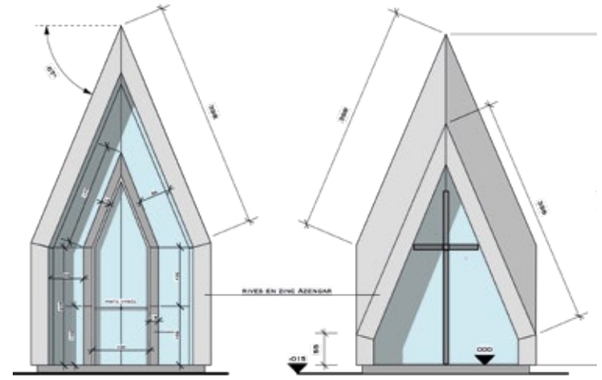


Illustration: Pascal Mathieu



Notre-Dame de Covis Chapel

Architect	Pascal Mathieu
Contractor	Entreprise Closse SRL
Technique	VMZINC® Shingles
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	100 m²



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Skövde - Sweden

One room, two curves

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Located in the heart of the Billingen massif, the Billingehus hotel, built in the 1960s, underwent a complete renovation entrusted to the teams at Wingårdhs and PE Teknik & Arkitektur.

Winner of the Skövde Urban Design Award 2025, the project stands out in particular for the concave double curvature of the roof of its new conference room “Bergasalen”.

Entirely made of QUARTZ-ZINC® using the Standing seam technique, this spectacular 600 m² roof follows a complex geometry without a roof overhang, illustrating the great malleability of this material and its ability to adapt precisely to the most ambitious architectural lines – here, for example, specially formed panels reaching up to 12 metres in length.

Beyond this technical and aesthetic challenge, the designers were convinced by the durability and low maintenance of this pre-weathered zinc.

Billingehus Hotel

Architects	Wingårdhs, PE Teknik & Arkitektur
Contractor	OpejraPlåt
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	600 m²

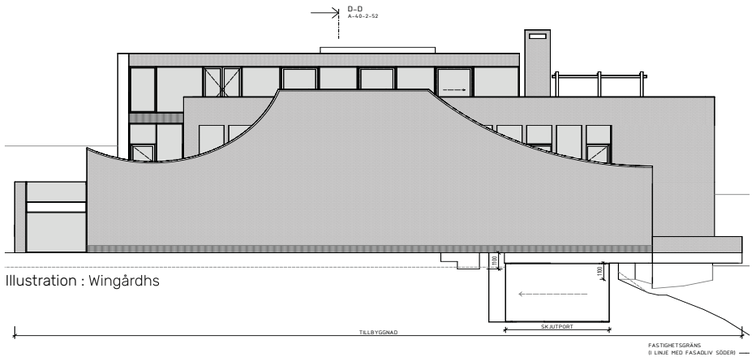
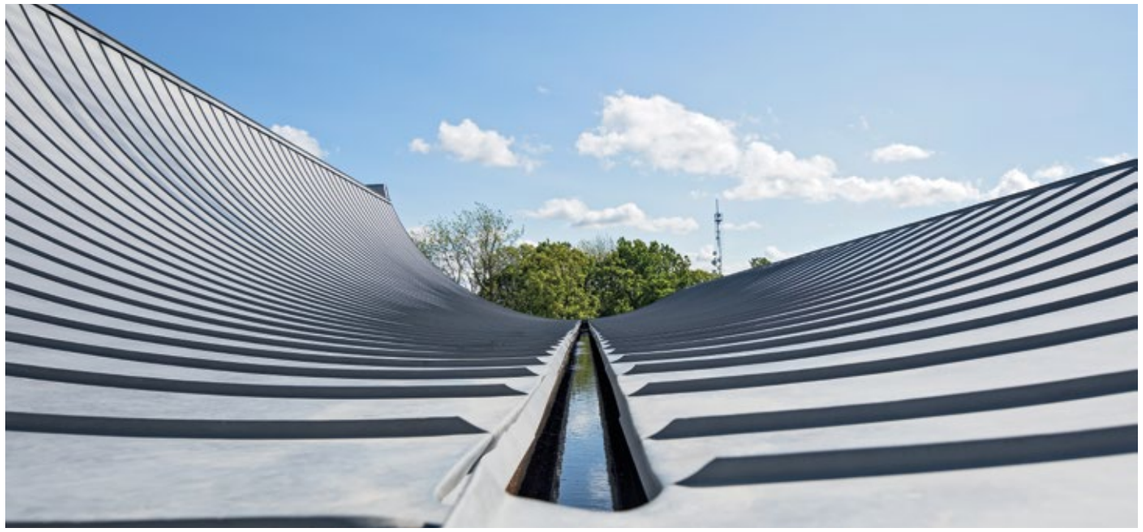


Illustration : Wingårdhs



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An envelope for history

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

With 8 million inhabitants in central China, Xi'an ranks among the country's 10 largest cities. When it was known as Chang'an (Everlasting Peace), it held the highest rank, having been granted the status of capital of the country during the Qin, Han and Tang dynasties.

According to various estimates, it had almost 2 million inhabitants around AD 750. Spending three millennia at the forefront of history inevitably leaves numerous remains: among the most famous are the Terracotta Army and the Small Wild Goose Pagoda, built at the beginning of the Tang dynasty.

This monument is the centrepiece of an archaeological complex centred on the former patrician district of Anrenfang.

The complex of two buildings designed by DDB Architects Shanghai houses archaeological remains and welcomes visitors across the entire site.

The site's historical significance led the architects to adopt an approach they describe themselves as modest. The new buildings establish a dialogue with the pagoda, the large neighbouring museum and the urban sequences surrounding it.

The low, compact volumes are inspired by the ancient houses of the Tang dynasty, particularly their large roofs, which interlock while creating narrow passageways providing access to terraces overlooking the pagoda, even when the museum is closed. The largest volume encloses a spacious area containing archaeological remains, beneath a glass floor.

With the intention of avoiding any confusion with the site's historic components, the architects opted for materials unknown in the dynastic periods: glass façade, solid timber board and cassette panels in PIGMENTO® grey.

A matt metal roof covering imitates traditional tile. Architecture from the past, revisited in a cleaner, sharper version reflecting our era, nonetheless resonates with traditional architecture at its finest.

Anrenfang Museum

Architect	DDB Architects
Contractor	Leju Lezhu (Beijing)
Technique	Zinc rainscreen cassettes (*)
Aspect	PIGMENTO® grey
Surface	6,000 m²

(*) Zinc Honeycomb panel in VMZINC®









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Eupen - Belgium

In perfect harmony!

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The identical replacement of the roofs of Bellmerin Academy of Music is part of an approach aimed at respecting and enhancing the existing heritage.

Although a contemporary extension providing access to the upper floors was added to the building in the neoclassical style characteristic of the late 19th century, the architectural identity of the entire building and its dialogue with the urban context were ensured through the use of some 750 m² of preweathered QUARTZ-ZINC® Standing seam.

The mansard roof with its many details – arched dormers, mansard slope, mansard roof bands – thus shares the same language and the same longevity with the new glass extension and vertical zinc cladding.

For the agency AUPa, responsible for the project, the site's proximity to the historic manufacturing site of Vieille Montagne reinforced this choice of material, which combines local expertise, durability and aesthetic continuity.

Bellmerin Academy of Music

Architect	AUPa
Client	Communauté germanophone de Belgique
Contractor	Tychon Frères
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	750 m²







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Combourg - France

Urban Hamlet

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

A small town in Ille-et-Vilaine, Brittany, Combourg owes its renown to the writer François-René de Chateaubriand. The author of Memoirs from Beyond the Grave spent his childhood there in the family château.

Combourg nevertheless has other, less well-known features. In 1953, a local association bringing together craftspeople, shopkeepers and local dignitaries founded a facility to help families whose children were experiencing difficulties. Since its foundation, 2,000 young people have been welcomed, and 24 young people aged 6 to 21 reside there each year.

The centre's premises gradually became obsolete. Containing asbestos and in poor condition, they were demolished to make way for a new project designed by Rennes-based architect Claire Gallais.

Relocated during the works, the residents were able to discover their new reception centre at the beginning of 2026, organised like a hamlet within the Combourg urban area. The spread of the scheme, divided across five buildings resembling large houses grouped around a square, offers the protective feel of a micro-neighbourhood while remaining open to the city.

The choice of materials and the quality of the architecture demonstrate the importance attached to the well-being of the residents.

Whether assigned to administration, accommodation or communal life, each building adopts the same formal vocabulary: a volume drawing on the codes of the detached house, between a rural farmhouse and an urban single-family home, with stone walls topped by a zinc roof.

The occasional insertion of large windows suspended between the façade and the roof adds a touch of so-called erudite architecture.

As contemporary reinterpretations of the traditional dormer, these zinc-clad window spaces contribute to the identity of the house and diversify the bedroom spaces they illuminate.

Children's home

Architect	Claire Gallais
Contractor	Desilles
Technique	VMZINC® Standing seam
Aspect	AZENGAR®
Surface	1,400 m²



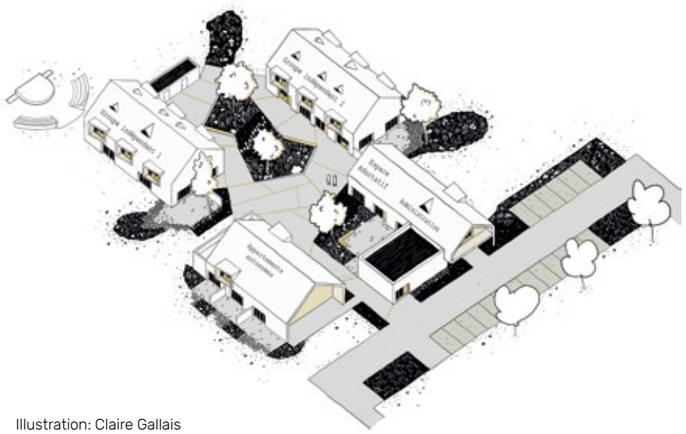


Illustration: Claire Gallais



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Hanimadhoo - Maldives

Contemporary biomorphism

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Nature remains a recurring source of inspiration for architects, interpreted differently in each era.

The columns of Egyptian temples reproduced papyrus plants. At the beginning of the 20th century, Art Nouveau sought to capture the plasticity of plants in its load-bearing metal structures. In the 21st century, the very form of fauna or flora may sometimes be reproduced in a building. Which animal should be chosen? That is the question facing designers who follow the path of faunal mimicry.

The manta ray was an obvious choice for the architects at DRA, tasked with designing the Maldives' third international airport terminal.

Firstly because of the formal resemblance between this giant of the seas and aircraft, and secondly because the country occupies 90,000 km² spread across 1,200 atolls – atoll being a Maldivian word adopted by many languages.

Situated by the water, Hanimadhoo terminal evokes a ray frozen in an aerial leap. The roof encompasses all passenger activities – access, control areas, boarding areas, etc. Resistant to sea air, the zinc cladding follows the roof's volutes and incorporates roof glazing or light wells that naturally illuminate the various passenger spaces. The Standing seam panels articulate the primary roof surfaces, while rectangular and triangular Flat lock panels resolve specific conditions.

It is, however, from the air that visitors arriving in the Maldives will best appreciate the airport's non-human appearance, and contemplate this monumental ray with its "living" metal skin.

This roof design, which architects customarily refer to as the 'fifth façade', takes on an animalistic character here, encapsulating the destination's attractions. 1.3 million visitors are expected to see it each year.

Studio DRA transforms a functional airport canopy into an architectural expression of movement and nature.

Hanimadhoo International Airport

Architect	Studio DRA (Kapil Handa)
Contractor	Vijaynath Roof & Wall Cladding Systems Pvt Ltd
Techniques	VMZINC® Standing seam, VMZINC® Flat lock panel
Aspect	QUARTZ-ZINC®
Surface	12,800 m²



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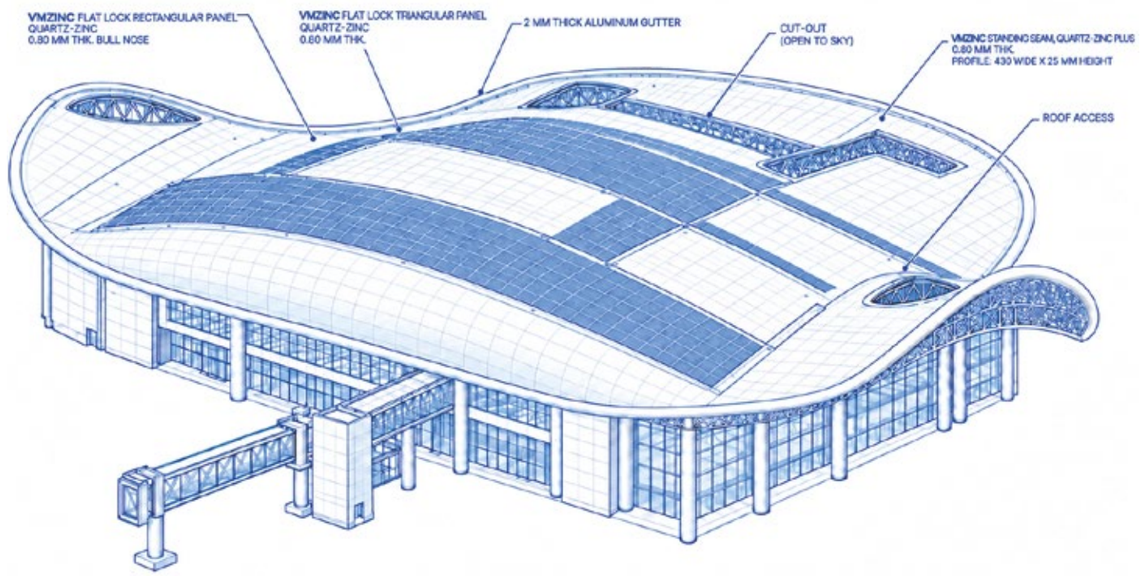


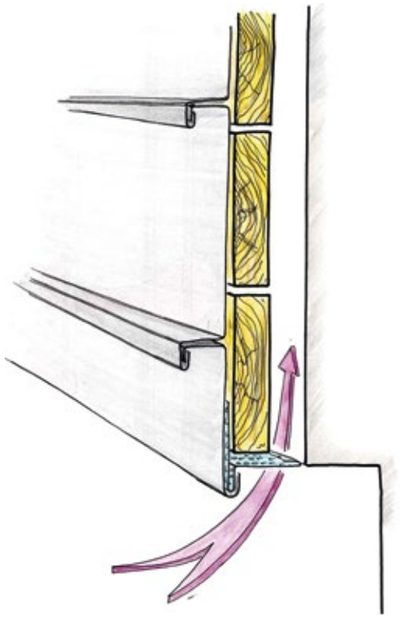
Illustration: Studio DRA



Photos: ©Vijaynath Roof & Wall Cladding Systems Pvt Ltd

Details & drawings

These architectural details reveal what the eye does not always perceive at first glance: an intersection of lines, a fold, a junction, an intention. They highlight some of the unique details of the projects presented.



VMZINC® Standing seam

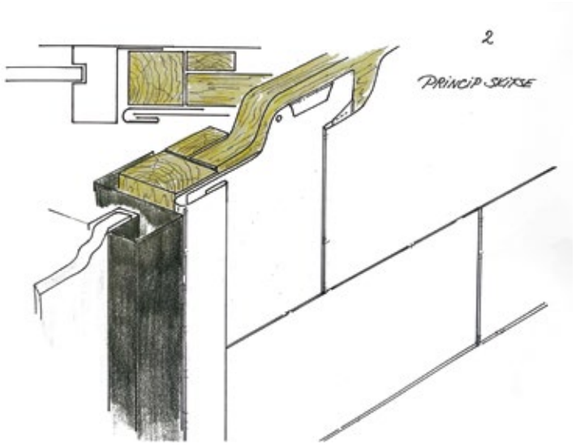


Individual housing - Austria (page 21)
Aspect: QUARTZ-ZINC® - Architect: architektur.terminal

VMZINC® Flat lock panel



Gehring Sanitärtechnik GmbH - Germany (page 20)
Aspect: PIGMENTO® blue - Oeldenberger Architekt



Photos: Bruno Klomfar Fotografie, Gehring Sanitärtechnik GmbH

Drawings: Erwin Nielsen



Covered hall, St Sulpice et Cameyrac, France - Bulle Architectes
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