
Innovate.
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Amazing!

Architecture is a story written with past, present and future as narrative ingredients. In that continuous genesis of culture, ceramic materials interpret a core theme. This should not be a surprise, because products made of clay can boast exceptional qualities and amazing flexibility. As a result, architects can always re-use them for new, current design tasks and challenges. Clay bricks and clay roof tiles are therefore ideal for the sustainable and circular use of materials, as you will see for yourself in this edition of Innovate.

Masonry patterns and mortars, jointing detailing, volume effect, the play of lines and surfaces, lively nuances or a monolithic statement: facing bricks and clay roof tiles offer you virtually limitless variation possibilities. In addition, you can always let history resonate in the background in the form of typological or stylistic references, subtle winks, outright quotes or quasi-stray details. There are good reasons why designers and brick architecture have been an inseparable duo for ages.

Let yourself be surprised!

Wienerberger

Glazed bricks show their colours

Although the glazing technique is centuries old, it only really broke through in the production of ceramic bricks in the early decades of the last century. At that time, glazed facing bricks resolutely claimed their place in architectural styles as diverse as eclecticism, art nouveau, art deco and early modernism. They never gave up that position again. In fact, because of their durable character and their aesthetic potential, glazed bricks now score higher than ever among designers and clients.

Intensely colourful

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Glazed bricks introduce colour accents into façades, facilitate finely detailed ornamentation and create beautiful visual contrasts. This makes them an inexhaustible source of inspiration for designers who can juggle colours, gloss levels, mirror effects, textures and special designs, such as metallic or mother-of-pearl, to their heart's content. The glaze layer is ingrained in the stone. It does not let water through and has an exceptionally long service life. Moreover, it is resistant to graffiti and other forms of contamination, so that the need for maintenance is limited. As a result, the aesthetic expressiveness of glazes does not diminish with time. All these properties make glazed bricks the ideal partner for prestigious restoration and exclusive renovation projects, as well as for contemporary new buildings that want to showcase a little more creativity.

Mint Green Glazed,
Archipl architecten, Gent

Glazed bricks, a durable option

Green Glazed,
Tom Van Mieghem architecten, Oostende

Customised to your project

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Wienerberger's glazed bricks from the Terca range of extruded facing bricks are available in 'waal' format and in the shades blue, green, red, yellow, black and white as standard options. But everything is customisable for your project. Almost all RAL colours are available, as well as hand-made and moulded bricks, brick slips and other formats. For restorations or expansions, for example, we can make a replica of the existing glazed bricks. For custom work, our advisors always take into account the broader context of the project: design, location, zoning. The orientation of the building may determine the degree of gloss. The masonry bond, the grout colour and the grout depth also have to be meticulously matched to obtain the intended effect.

With respect for the environment

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To glaze our bricks, we only use high-quality lead-free glaze that becomes embedded in the brick at a high temperature for optimum adhesion. If possible, the bricks and the glaze layer are fired at the same time, which is the most energy-efficient solution. For the firing process, maximum use is made of green energy. Wienerberger also uses strict ecological procedures for the consumption of water.

Strict monitoring of the raw materials and additives, as well as meticulous quality control during the production process, help to guarantee the unique qualities and longevity of glazed bricks. In short, it's time to show your colours!

Project Heverlee, see p. 46

PLS Newton redeems high expectations

Wienerberger's range of Porotherm ceramic adhesive bricks has a new addition and it is remarkable. The PLS Newton is suitable for building projects of up to six storeys, thanks to its ingenious clay composition and optimised perforation pattern. The wall compressive strengths have a higher value than what follows from a theoretical calculation. These wall compressive strengths have been confirmed by laboratory tests. For the rest, the PLS Newton can boast all the properties of Porotherm adhesive bricks. In this way, it can provide the same thermal performance as the PLS 500, and the standard size and smooth processing method contribute to an excellent yield.

Developed by request of building professionals

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Due to their excellent properties and the benefits they offer, Porotherm adhesive bricks are widely acclaimed by building professionals. They have been asking for an adhesive brick that is suitable for taller construction projects for some time now. Wienerberger is responding to this wish with the PLS Newton. Unique to the latest PLS is the clay composition that results in an optimal ratio between block pressure strength and volume weight and a bigger pressure strength (declared average block pressure strength f_{mean} 25 N/mm^2). In addition, a specifically developed perforation pattern ensures a more constant contact surface between superimposed brick layers.

Regardless of the stacking method, this results in a great and nearly-constant wall compressive strength (typical wall compressive strength fk 8.5 N/mm^2). The wall compressive strength is higher than if one would calculate the wall compressive strength from the block compressive strength with known formulas from the Eurocode. This makes the PLS Newton suitable for projects of up to six storeys, i.e. for the majority of apartment and utility buildings.

Easy to process

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In addition to all the obvious requirements, return on investment was an essential criterion in the development of the PLS Newton. The standard size 500/138/249 and the ergonomically responsible weight are designed for optimal processing. At 16 kilos per brick, the PLS Newton is actually lighter than similar products with the same wall compressive strength. As for the other bricks in the series, contractors have the choice between two processing methods. They can start with Porotherm Dryfix, the plug & spray method. With a view to quality execution, an ATG certification was set up for this. A second option is the Porotherm Glue System, which works faster than classical bricklaying and is easy to master.

In addition, the inner wall stone is easy to saw or grind. It goes without saying that the format is compatible with the other bricks in the PLS range. All these elements make the entire PLS series a budget-friendly solution.

Proven ceramic quality

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In addition to its outstanding load-bearing capacity, the PLS Newton has all the other qualities of the PLS assortment of ceramic interior wall bricks. This results in a whole host of advantages in terms of insulation, thermal bridges and working methods. In terms of thermal insulation, the PLS Newton has the same lambda value (λ_{ui} 0.26 W/mK) as the PLS 500. Just like the other PLS bricks, it is highly inert in terms of thermal inertia. The thermal and hygroscopic expansion and shrinkage are negligible compared to similar products. Thanks to the form stability of the brick, no expansion joints are required and the quality of the interior rendering and airtightness are guaranteed for a long time. The other properties of ceramic adhesive bricks are well known: a good score regarding fire safety (the PLS Newton belongs to group 2 masonry bricks of Eurocode 6), a long service life, great flexibility of application and freedom of design and an excellent moisture management which contributes to a healthy indoor climate.

Goal-oriented support

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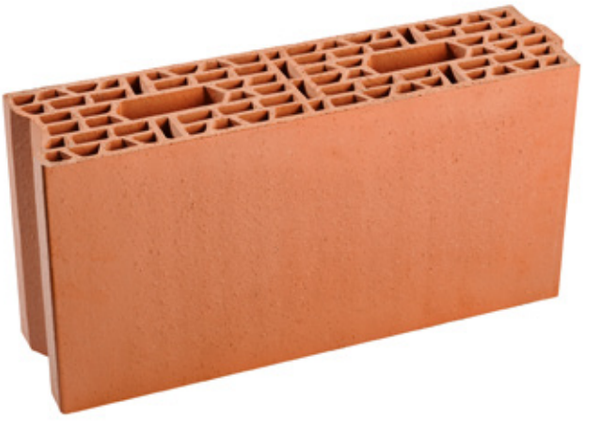
For the Porotherm range, Wienerberger developed the NRd tool, a handy tool for the calculation of vertically loaded masonry walls. The calculation of the pressure resistance of the wall is done according to Eurocode 6 (NBN EN 1996-1-1 + ANB), takes into account the advantages of BENOR inspection and calculates the influence on the stability when SonicStrips are applied. Vinçotte verified the compliance of the tool with Eurocode 6. Inside the online tool, any user can use his or her personal web space. The tool displays very transparent formulas, calculation steps, intermediate results and boundary conditions. Designers can also get a visualisation of cross-sections and side views, as well as interaction diagrams for a quick estimation of the sizing.

Finally, the PLS Newton is integrated into the Nodes map, so that a simple search will suffice to check whether a node is EPB-approved, and if not, how you can then bill for that node. As you can see, you can have high expectations of PLS Newton.

Apartment building ‘Caendel’, Deinze
Atelier voor Stedelijke Architectuur, Ghent



The miX factor

Diversity is pervasive: in the kitchen, in the street scene, in the workplace and in architecture. Just think of tex-mex, the marriage between Texan and Mexican cuisine that is guaranteed to lift your taste buds to higher spheres. When it comes to architecture, Wienerberger offers the designer equally unique opportunities for diversity with the Tile mix and the Brick mix.

Unique mix

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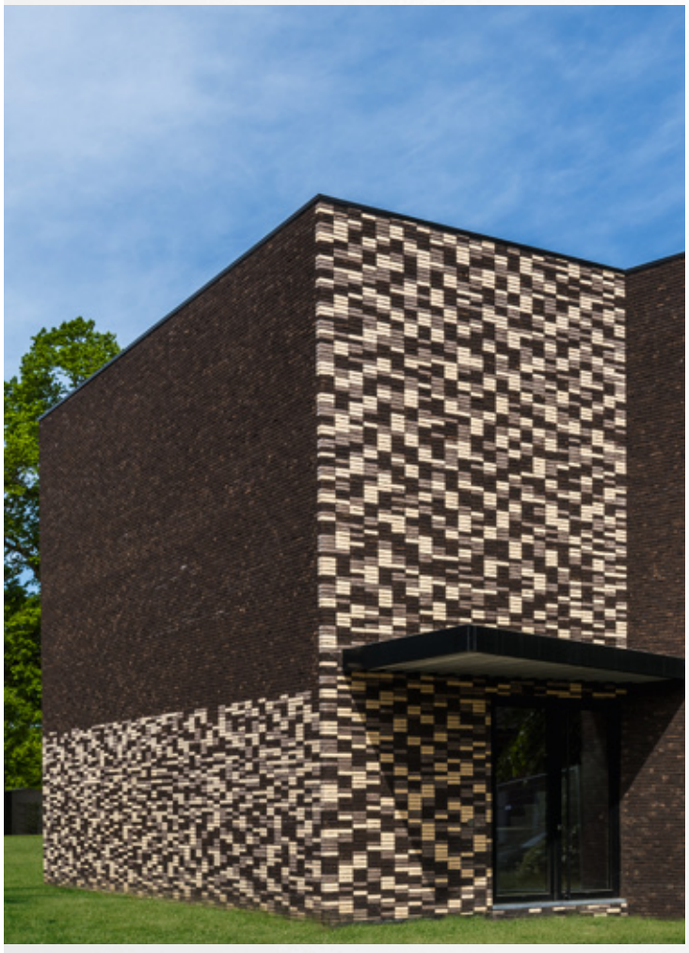
With the Brick mix you can present your client with a nice surprise. Creatively, this provides unprecedented perspectives to create a unique façade, tailored to the customer, because you can juggle with various collections and patterns.



Brick mix Terca Forum Branco - Forum Cromo - Forum Ombra
Architect Kristien Verhaeghe, Berlaar

With clay roof tiles you can also create unique architecture, thanks to the Tile mix. Different clay tiles in different shades can be brought together on the roof and/or façade. The possibilities are endless.
For example, you can combine matt, embossed and glazed shades in the same building, which then looks different at different times of the day, depending on the intensity of the light coming in.

Exception service

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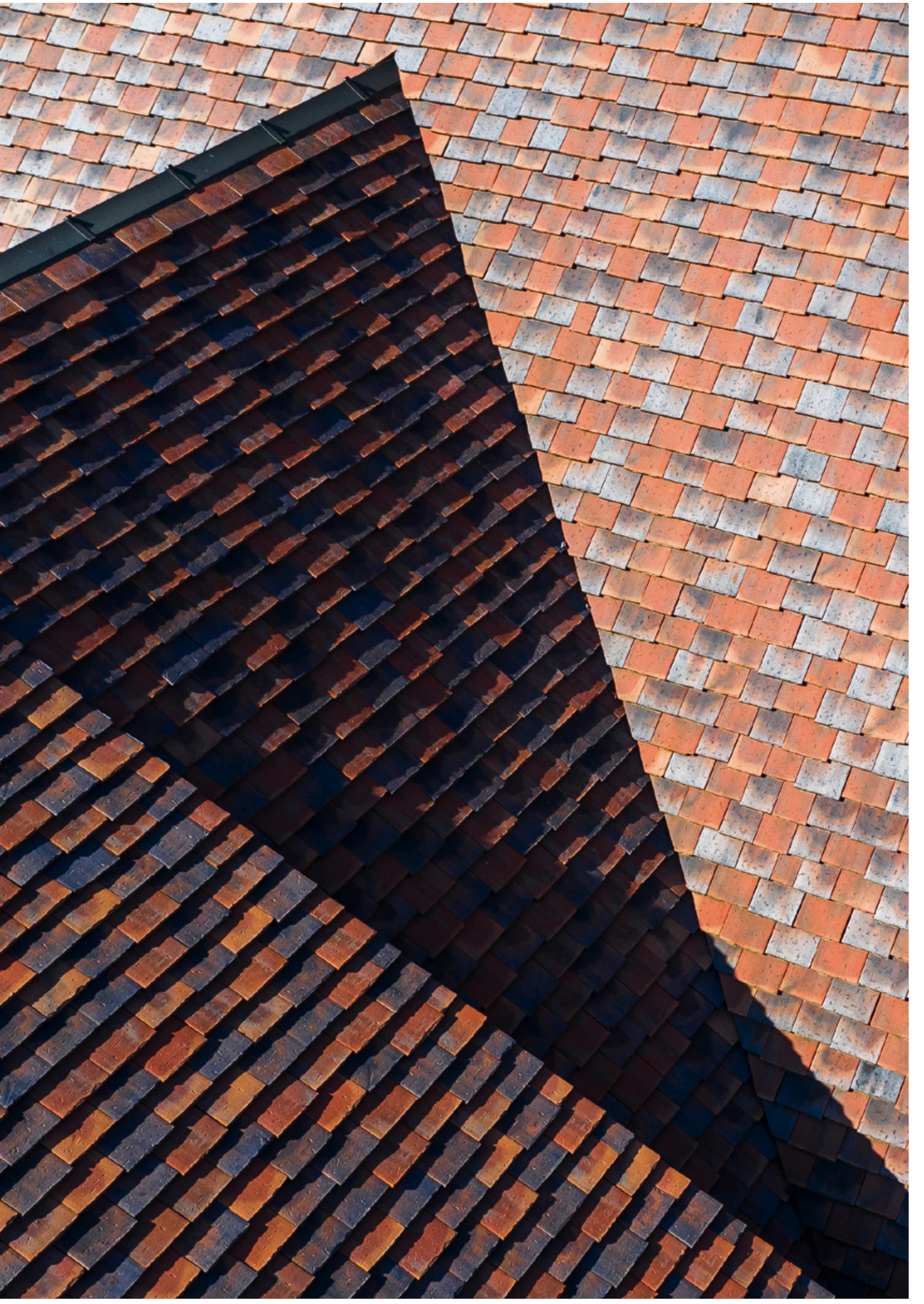
You can put your ideal patterns, mixes and colours to the ultimate test in the new online BIM/Texture Generator. In our showrooms, the Brick mix Simulator allows you and your client to partially construct the desired façade, so you both know perfectly which end result you can count on. All you have to do is indicate the desired bricks in advance, and we take care of the rest. Your customer will be positively surprised. We also offer you whatever support afterwards. Wienerberger will put together your chosen brick mix in the right percentages on pallet for you, with a maximum of 4 different types of bricks. We will then deliver the pallets to your property. Not only that; you may also opt for small pallets that are placed directly on the racks. You won't have the inconvenience of deliveries that take up a lot of space and that need to be sorted and combined after delivery.

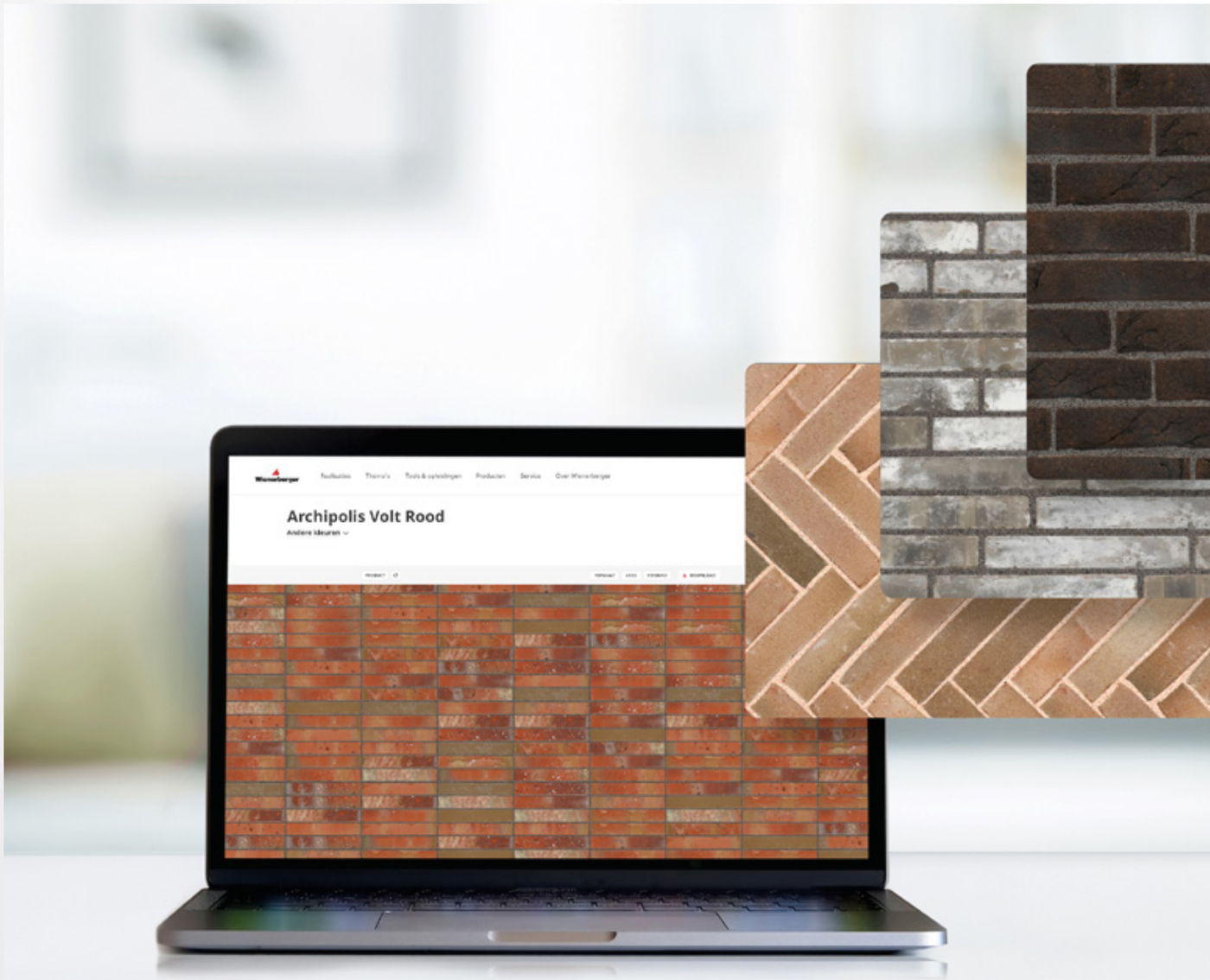
With all that, the Brick mix and the Tile mix can boast of a considerable x-factor, right?



Koramic Aléonard Esprit Patrimoine mix of Kent Red and Vineyard Black
Archium Architectuurbureau, Roeselare

The online BIM/Texture generator: your smart assistant

With the updated online BIM/Texture generator for facing bricks and clay bricks on our Wienerberger website, you can design and assess the future appearance of your client's façade, patio or driveway. Moreover, you can generate a Revit file from this for your BIM model.



Extremely efficient helper

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The feasibility of the result is always guaranteed, because the smart generator allows only technically feasible combinations of joint thicknesses, brickwork or installation bonds, facing bricks/pavers and formats. During the modelling, textures are generated ‘on the fly’, so that you can immediately assess the visual aspect. If you are not completely satisfied with the random distribution of the various tiles in the texture, you can use the ‘reshuffle’ facility. You can load the textures directly into your 3D design. Much of the information about the facing brick or clay paver can be found in the ‘Material Browser’ of the Revit file. In order not to make that file unnecessarily large, there is a URL link to the facing brick or clay paver on the Wienerberger website. Here you can find all the additional information.

The output of the smart tool includes a 3D texture for visualization purposes and Revit data as well as a PDF containing the data of the texture generated. The generated texture will remain available for two weeks. During that time, you can retrieve it using a unique code.

Realistic visualisations

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The generator provides realistic visualisations of façades and paving. For facing bricks, the generator allows you to combine the type of facing brick, size, joint thickness, joint colour and masonry bond. For clay pavers it is about the type of clay paver, the format and the colour of the grout. You can also mix facing bricks and clay pavers into ‘Brick mix’ or ‘Paver mix’ textures. There is no additional information linked to these mixes in a Revit file, however.

Sophisticated power

Roof tile Elfino
Great & easy

Great as a slate, high-performing as a roof tile: that is how we can briefly summarise the characteristics of the roof tile Elfino by Koramic. Elfino combines the excellent performance of a full-fledged ceramic roof tile with the great look of a slate. Thanks to its great, contemporary design, it lends itself perfectly to new construction as well as renovation. It is also easy to install, is UV-resistant and has a long service life, supported by a 30-year warranty. Environmentally, it also scores high.

Best of both worlds

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Characteristic of the plain tile Elfino is its thin bottom side. In combination with the adjusted width of the ridge, this results in a roof that appears ultrafine. Ceramic fittings support a sleek finish and detailing and enhance the architecture. This aesthetic punch goes hand in hand with the characteristic properties of clay roof tiles.

Elfino forms a ceramic, breathable skin that is weatherproof and rainproof. It is made in a sustainable way with natural materials and has a long service life. All these years, it keeps its shape and retains its colour, because, thanks to the engobe process, it is not subject to UV-aging.

The engobe, a fine matte coating, is fired into the clay, which gives an aesthetically much more durable result than a coated finish.

The ideal date for the roofer

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Roof tile Elfino is easy to install. Thanks to the continuous suspension tip at the top, the roofer does not have to attach all the ceramic tiles one by one. This increases the ease and speed of installation, always bearing in mind, of course, the applicable fastening standards.

Roof tile Elfino also covers a wide range of applications. It is available in two opening angles, suitable for roof pitches from 25° to 50°. The façade tiles fit tightly and are perfectly interwoven into the roof surface.

The roof tile Elfino also offers clear advantages for renovations. Old roofs usually have a solid structure, so that old slates or tiles can often be replaced without additional reinforcement. In such cases, a limited number of interventions are generally sufficient to make the structure flat enough.

Environmentally-friendly and ash-resistant

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The Elfino ceramic tile is produced locally using local and recyclable natural raw materials. Transport is kept to a minimum. Moreover, it effortlessly fits into the story of circular construction. After all, it can be disassembled and therefore re-used afterwards.

30 -year frost warranty

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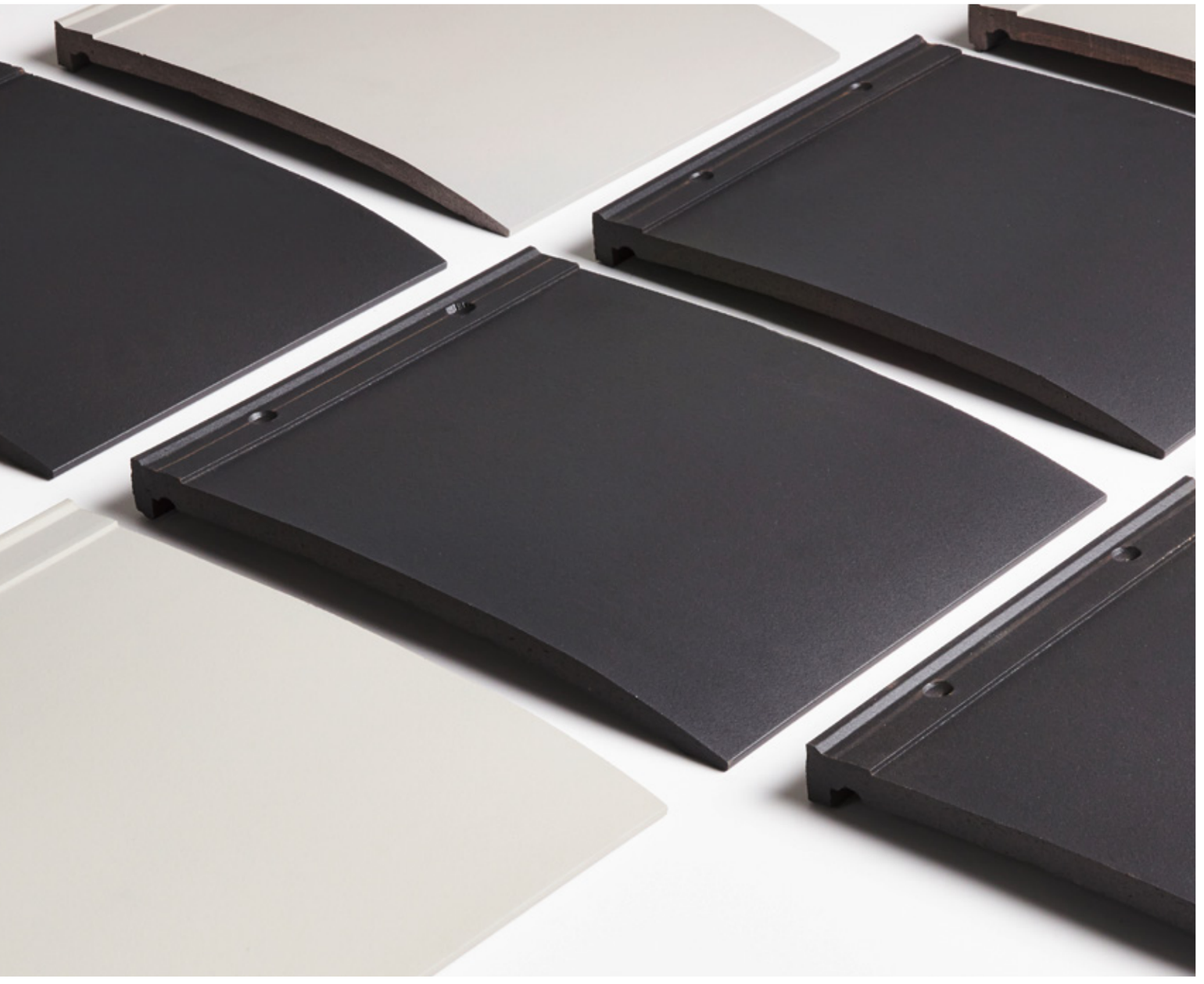
Roof tile Elfino carries the Belgian quality mark BENOR. In view of these solid quality guarantees, Koramic guarantees a frost resistance of 30 years on all ceramic tiles and fittings. The 30-year warranty applies on the condition that all Koramic installation instructions are correctly observed.



Simply the best!

A striking trend in today's architecture is the success of round, geometric shapes. Designers prefer this design for a wide variety of reasons. Whatever their motivation, the accompanying examples show that ceramic materials offer unprecedented flexibility to work with round shapes without sacrificing design freedom.

Location

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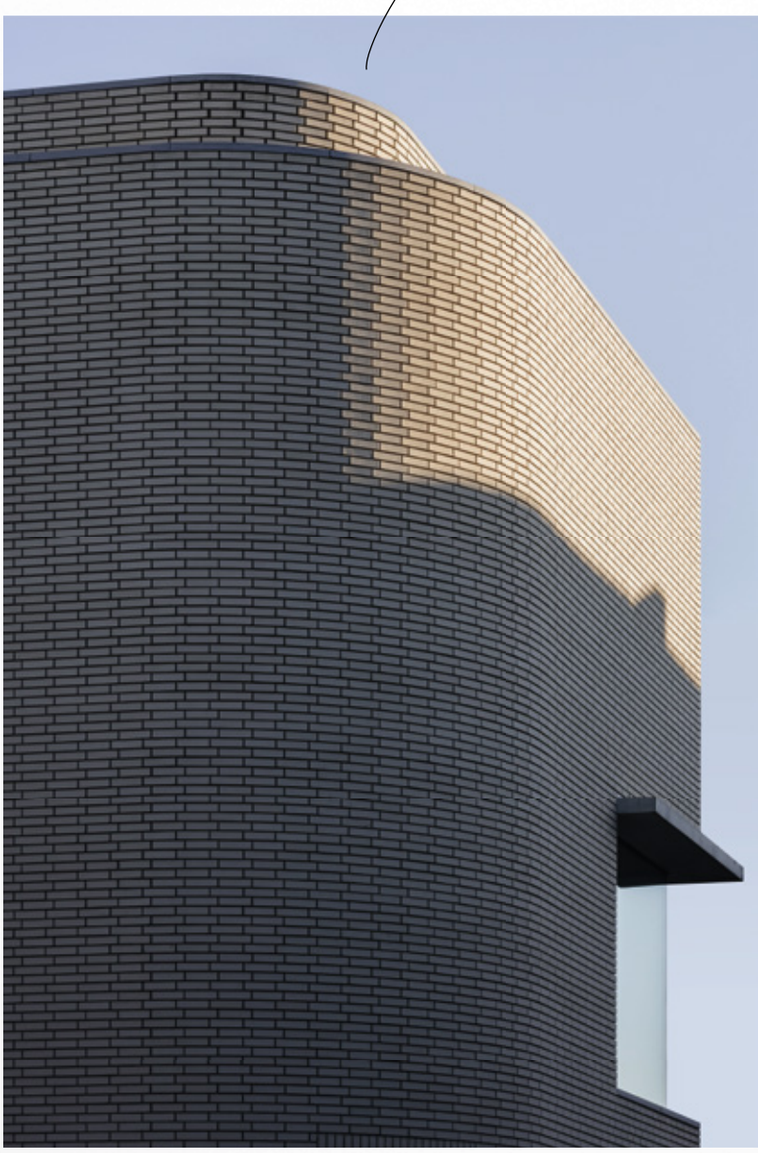
The choice of round shapes in an architectural design may be dictated by the location. For example, the design may relate to a certain element in the environment, such as a corner location, the progression of the street or the contours of the surrounding landscape. Or the design may refer to a building in the environment that includes the same characteristics. A source of inspiration that appeals to many designers today are Art Deco buildings with their characteristic, austere, abstracted geometric shapes. Sometimes designers start from a certain design philosophy and use shapes from nature as a guideline, based on the conviction that this creates a more harmonious environment that benefits the wellbeing of both the user and the local residents. Architects may also resort to curved façades for more practical reasons, e.g. to achieve better daylight access, an optimal view and a more intense experience of the building. If necessary, curved elements can soften the scale of a building. And sometimes it is just anecdotal playfulness on the part of the architect without any hidden major theories or practical considerations.

Project Ledeberg, see p. 88



Project Bellegem,
see p. 42

Scientific research

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Anecdotal or not, round shapes in architecture rarely leave people indifferent. It is often argued that round shapes are more appealing and even benefit the wellbeing and health of the user or occupant. Just think of the usual reflex to automatically associate religious gatherings under a vaulted ceiling with the concept of harmony.

Over the past two decades, the first part of this thesis has been supported by several scientific studies. In 2006, neuroscientists Moshe Bar and Maital Neta, for example, argued in the journal Psychological Science that people prefer visually round shapes. These scientists hold that this preference has nothing to do with personal preferences, but rather, that is a consequence of the way our brain functions.

Emotional

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Oshin Vartanian et al. (PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, US 2013) had test subjects assess about 200 photographs of interiors for the qualities ‘pleasant’ and ‘beautiful’ while these people were in a functional MRI scanner where their brain activity was measured. The result clearly indicated that the participants found round shapes to be more beautiful and pleasant, and that these shapes caused greater activity in the structure in our brains that has to do with the processing of emotions, among other things. According to the scientists, we may extrapolate these results to architecture in general.

A commentary on the study reminded us, by way of illustration, that the famous architect Philip Johnson was moved to tears the first time he saw his colleague Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao for the first time.

The Pope's Heaven

'The Pope's Heaven' is the title of Ross King's fascinating historical work on the creation of Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Of course, overhangs cannot present such an artistic passport in the architecture, but in their own way, they provide very interesting aesthetic and functional possibilities. Brick slips are the ideal solution for the finish.

Depth and rhythm

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Viewed from an architectural perspective, an overhang provides the option to give a façade more depth and rhythm through a well-designed interchange and interaction between surfaces and volumes. Certain details, such as strategically placed lighting sources can enhance that effect and give the streetscape a completely new, previously unknown dimension in the evening. Overhangs, or canapes arouse curiosity, guide visitors in the right direction and warmly welcome guests on arrival. Finally, overhangs soften the transition between inside and outside and between strict private spaces and more meeting places.

Shelter

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The functional possibilities of an overhang system are countless. In addition to the already mentioned feeling of welcome, visitors or guests can also ring the doorbell without standing in the rain. A canopy protects the façade and façade openings from the weather and, if installed properly, can make an important contribution to preventing overheating in summer. In winter, on the other hand, the canopy allows the low sun to penetrate part of the building, so that users or residents can benefit from passive and therefore energy-efficient heat radiation. This constructive solar control function will only increase in importance in the future, given the expected frequent return of heat waves and the price of energy, and will make façade-dismantling facilities redundant. In the intervening seasons, underneath the shelter people can soak up the outside atmosphere without being directly exposed to the elements.

Project Brugge, see p. 30

Project Frasnes-lez-Buissenal,
see p. 52

Ceramic frescoes

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Both technically and aesthetically, overhangs require a sound finish with beautiful, durable, high-quality and low-maintenance materials. Brick slips are the appropriate choice thanks to their light weight and intrinsic qualities. They can also be used perfectly for cladding ceilings.

Virtually all facing bricks from the Terca assortment are available as brick slips, which provide an endless range of colours, textures, sizes, patterns, tactile properties, ways of processing, dressings and detailing within reach. Glued or masonry, with eye-catching masonry grouts, nuanced or resolute in hue, it's all possible. For example, architects can use a single material to create a monolithic volume in which the façade and overhang form a single unit with a strong appearance. The result is virtually indistinguishable from a finish with conventional facing bricks.

Technical finish

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Speaking of common facing bricks, brick slips have the same qualities. In other words, they are dimensionally stable, non-combustible, robust, easy to maintain and frost-resistant. Thanks to their minimal thickness, they look perfectly at home against a ceiling or overhang. Corner strips and corner sole strips enable a perfect connection between a façade with strips and an overhang. As far as the technical execution is concerned, fixing on EPS insulation with the Façabrick system is possible, as well as on a ventilated substrate with the help of a cement fiber plate.

Project Emblem,
see p. 70

Wienerberger completes the circle

To reduce the consumption of raw materials, reduce CO2 emissions, reduce environmental impact and prevent the production of waste, the construction sector is focusing on circular construction. Wienerberger is not lagging behind in this endeavour; on the contrary.

Various solutions

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In addition to their broad and high-quality applicability, our clay roof tiles, clay pavers and bricks have a long service life, making them suitable for multiple use cycles. To make future reuse of bricks easier, building professionals can resort to easily removable lime mortars. Another technically sophisticated solution is ClickBrick, a 100% reusable drystacking system for extruded facing bricks. Finally, in many cases our ceramic products can be used for high-quality recycling.

ClickBrick: 100% circular

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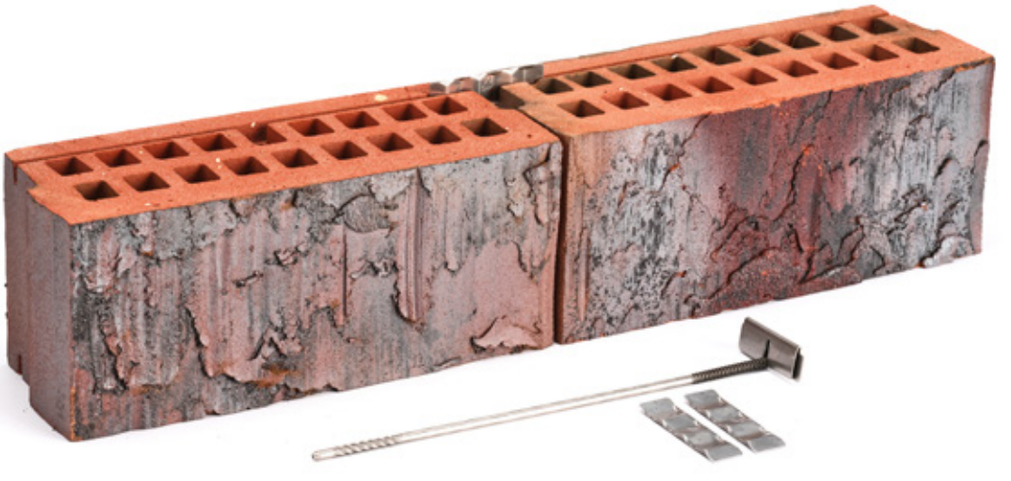
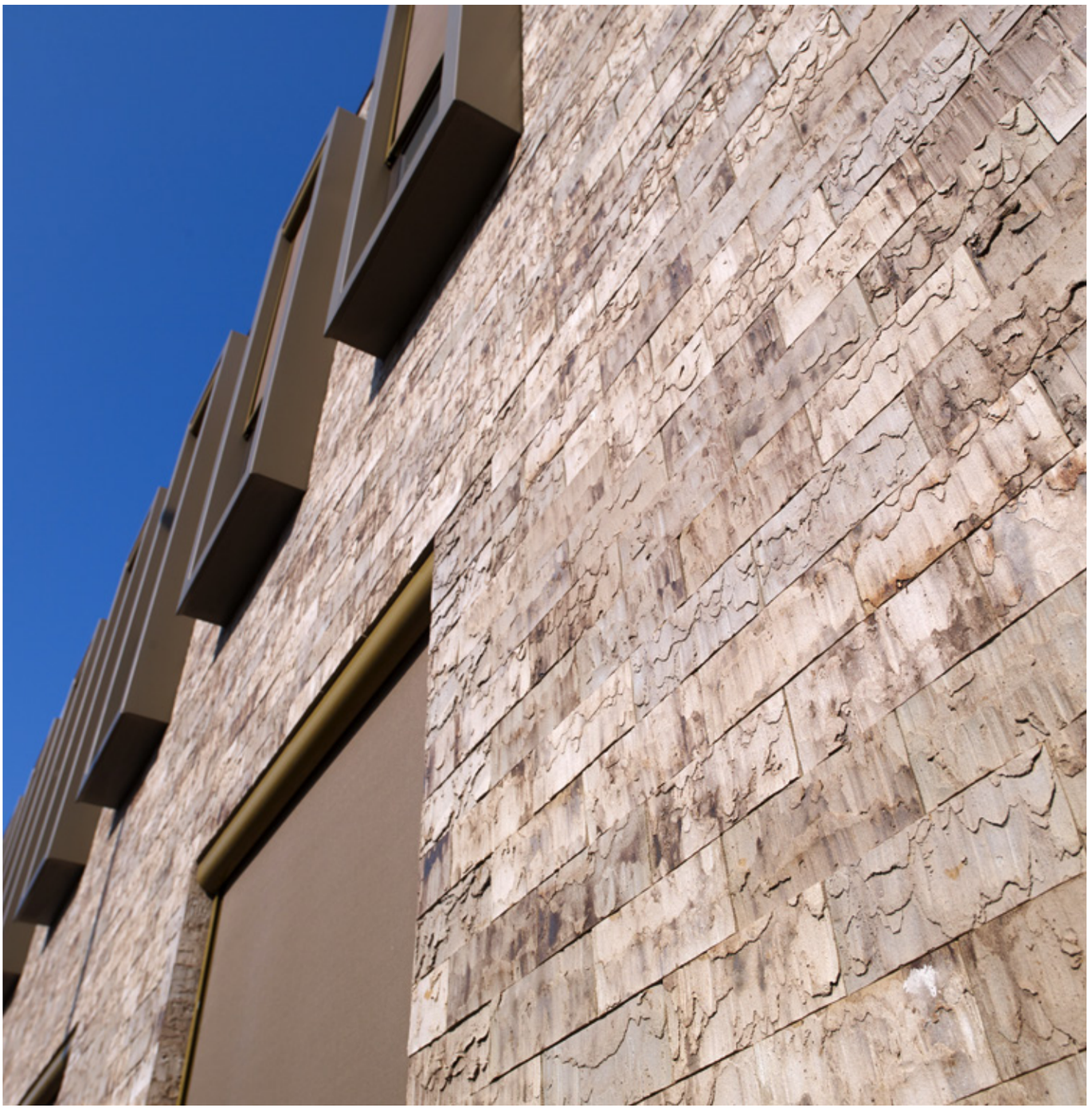
ClickBrick is a modular dry-stacking system that connects polished bricks that have a groove in them with small stainless steel clips.
Due to its special shape, the clip clamps itself into the groove and the bricks are firmly anchored against each other. Thanks to this mechanical connection, the contractor can easily remove the bricks afterwards and reuse them elsewhere. ClickBrick can therefore justifiably boast a silver cradle-to-cradle certification. The system creates a ventilated cavity wall, which you can complete according to your wishes in terms of degree of insulation and back wall construction. The cavity anchors are attached with the stainless steel clips, just like the facing bricks.



Technically, the system functions extremely well, as various implementations have been showing for several years. The flat-cut bricks have a customised calibration with minimal tolerances, namely: < 0.1 mm in height and < 1.5 mm in length. The façade is completely drawn and detailed in advance. It goes without saying that you can rely on the expertise of our specialised staff for the preparation and start-up of the site. The required accessories have been developed to perfectly take care of all the details.

For ClickBrick, standard-sized, perforated, pressed bricks are used, which are available in various colours and structures. Of course, in addition to whole bricks, the assortment also includes half bricks, corner bricks, lintels and exposed bricks. ClickBrick can also offer aesthetically outstanding features. Jointless walls lend themselves perfectly to a monolithic design and are permanently beautiful thanks to the characteristics of the ceramic bricks. The façades are also maintenance-free, because moss and algae don't get the chance to attach and the use of mortar rules out efflorescence.



Birchwood ClickBrick

Circular construction

Project Dudzele, see p. 48

Reuse of clay roof tiles and clay pavers

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As façade cladding or roofing, clay roof tiles lend themselves perfectly for reuse. They last a very long time and retain their functional and aesthetic qualities all that time. Because they can be dismantled, they can be easily removed and given an equivalent new use. Modular dimensions make it easy to combine old and new ceramic materials.

This also applies to clay pavers. Thanks to their special clay composition and high firing temperature, they have an extra-long service life of more than 125 years. They are 100% colourfast and develop a beautiful patina over the years. The Aquata clay paver also provides a water-permeable pavement for private driveways, subdivisions, evacuation roads for the fire department or pavement for parking garages, squares, bicycle paths and other public spaces. Spacers are placed to create a 6-mm insert between the pavers for the rain-water to pass through. The insert is approximately 10% of the total surface area and thus meets the minimum requirement for a water-permeable pavement.

Lime mortars for circular façade brickwork

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A different way to be able to reuse ceramic facing bricks is to use lime mortars such as pure lime mortar, trass lime mortar or bastard mortar. These mortars can be easily separated from the bricks afterwards, so that the bricks can be reused in new brickwork without loss. Lime mortars have proven their durability in various historical projects. The latest generation of lime mortars is also certified for strength classes M5 and M10. The application is also simple; the mortars are available in silos and easy to process. The risk of salt efflorescence is low, the malleability of the material prevents cracking and hairline cracks are automatically repaired by the chemical process of carbonation. A nice feature is that lime absorbs CO2 during the curing process.

The other advantages speak for themselves. Contractors can continue to process the familiar ceramic products in the familiar way. Builders and designers retain their freedom of choice. In short, circular construction has no impact on cost price, quality, technical reliability, application possibilities and aesthetic freedom.

If you want to see the result of such reversible brickwork, you can visit the guidance centre for people with sensory disabilities that engineer-architect Gino Debruyne built in Oostkamp. Another project where the contractor applied traditional brickwork with lime mortar is the Tuighuisstraat garden district of the social housing company Wonen Regio Kortrijk. There, according to a design by Lieven De Groote, partner of MAKER and TETRA architects, 18 existing houses will be demolished and replaced with 31 new units, tailored to various forms of living and working. The facing bricks of the demolished houses will be reused and combined with the new facing bricks for the new residential units and processed with lime mortar. The old clay roof tiles will also be reused.

Recycling

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If ceramic material, often after several lifecycles, is ultimately no longer reusable, it can be crushed and 100% of it can be used as a raw material for the production of new ceramic materials. This reduces the amount of waste as well as the need for primary raw materials.

At Wienerberger, the firing waste and factory brickwork are currently already being recycled at a high-quality level for the production of new products. In addition, we are investigating whether we can extend this recycling to demolition rubble. That could eventually grow into a completely new source of raw materials: so-called urban mining.

Circular building: a great opportunity

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The construction sector in Belgium produces almost 1.6 million tonnes of waste a year, or 43 kilos per person per day. Circular construction is the perfect way to bring about a turnaround there. Research by Symbiosis, a collaboration between various public and private institutions in Denmark, shows that material cost savings can be as much as 50%. Moreover, a productivity gain of 3% is realistic.

More generally, circular economy is the future. According to a study (2016) led by PwC and commissioned by the federal government, the transition to a circular economy could create between 15,000 and 100,000 new jobs by 2030 and generate an economic potential of between 1 and 7 billion Euros. Another study (Willeghems & Bachus, 2018) shows a potential of 27,000 new jobs and 2.3 billion Euros in returns for Flanders. A promising scenario for the future that Wienerberger is fully committed to.

Inspirational projects: some eye-catchers

Recent project completions highlighted

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Wienerberger selected projects for you that were executed using our materials. From ultramodern, sleek residential homes to imposing public buildings. These diverse examples of architecture give you an idea of the wide range of possibilities of our ceramic materials.

Pascal François architects,
Pascal François, Aalst
in collaboration with Matexi
and Revive

Renewal of the urban fabric

After the Tupperware production moved to an industrial area a few years ago, the site became vacant and fell into disrepair. With a view of complete reconversion, a master plan was drawn up. Phase 1 provided for the realization of 4 Urban Villas and 27 ground-level houses. The four Urban Villas with a total of 60 units were built around a raised semi-public area on top of the underground parking garage. In addition, the four volumes are accessed via this central square, which looks more like a garden with a lot of greenery, giving an extra dimension to coming home. Situated on the Dender banks, this project is important in an attempt to renew the urban fabric on the right bank and to make it part of the centre. Phase 3 is currently already underway in this new district.

"Monochrome is anything but monotonous."

Wink to the industrial past

The Recup Molenlandse Rijnvorm was chosen, as a nod to the industrial past of the site. Recessed windows give the exterior of the four volumes an expressive character. The floor slabs in the different volumes were marked in the façade plane by a vertical mortar that runs up to the bottom of the windows. The grouting of these bands differs in colour per unit and follows the colour of the brickwork. The storey-high façades between the floor accents were executed in glued brick. One material, differently processed and with different patterns, creates the right connection between the different units and at the same time gives them the intended uniqueness.

Recup Molenlandse RV

"Blurring boundaries between public and collective"

Frederic Vandoninck Wouter Willems architecten, Gilles Vanneste and Josephine Van Haverbeke, Antwerpen, in collaboration with Matexi and Revive

Elignia Arctica White

Compact residential care homes

The central building block with compact care homes on the Tupperware site has been rotated 15 degrees with respect to the planned buildings around it; a gift, as it were, to the architects. This way, it is in line with the historic shed roof structure and distinguishes itself almost automatically as the heart of the site. The block was cut into four parts: three buildings and the carcass of the former curved sheds. The space between the residential buildings opens up the garden to the public space. And the slender structure of the sheds opens the garden towards Dender. Partly because of the publicly accessible garden, the boundaries between public and collective are blurred here. The services are not locked in one-on-one, attached to the residential care units, but are interwoven into the site. Different social groups that need or desire different types and gradations of care can live together in this way. The care is not isolated, but embedded and shared. The masonry façades consist of a simple stacking of square bricks and sills in a rational pattern of window openings that connects to the interior spaces.

Play of light and shadow

The architects opted for the white Terca Elignia Arctica facing brick, which contrasts with the red brick architecture of the surrounding area. This reinforces the visual impact of the twisted central building block on the site. The application of a dummy joint creates a seemingly simple stacking of square bricks in the façade, which allows for extensive detailing with sunken brickwork zones. The nuance between the white bricks enhances the play of light and shadow: the buildings look different at different times of the day.


"Expansion of a monastery with
a small-scale residential care centre"

Daylight deep inside the building

In a clearing in the forest, a small-scale residential care concept, Huize Vogelzang, was developed as an extension of the convent building of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Two small residential communities of 12 units were built on the monastery grounds. The division into smaller units and volumes keeps the scale under control and brings daylight deep into the building. From the living spaces, the focus is on the centuries-old plantains and the forest pond. The new residential care centre consists of two storeys, a sloping roof and a basement. In terms of volume and design, the new building fits in with the existing monastery, which also consists of two storeys with a sloping roof. The new building is finished in black-brown brick and wood, resulting in a clear contrast between old and new.

Tonality and texture in the volumes

For the volumes, wood and brick were alternated. For the sake of the perfect combination in tonality and texture, the facing bricks Milosa Kogelbloem and the clay roof tiles Plain Tile Plato Old English Weathered were combined. This created a beautiful unity and volume between the façade and the roof.

Detoo Architects,
Oostende

Façade: Milosa Kogelbloem. Roof: Plain Tile Plato Old English Weathered

Classo Bronze Rustic

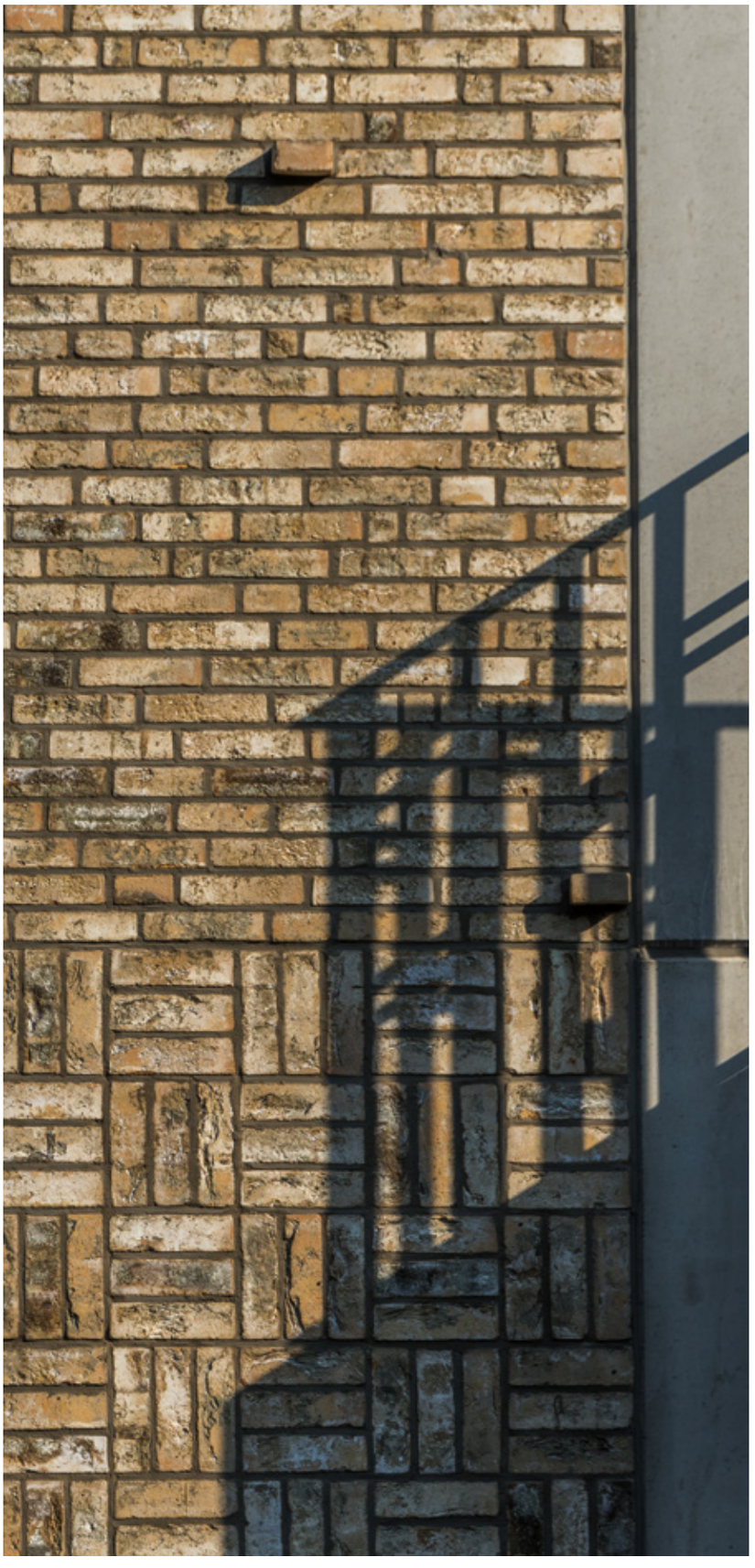
BUROBILL,
Peggy Geens, Lien Moens, Kristien Vanmerhaeghe,
Brussels

Urban building block with access to the inner courtyard

This housing complex, consisting of a single-family house and three apartments, is perfectly integrated into the urban fabric. Due to its shape and location, the project refers to the many pipe bowls in the neighbourhood. This activates the alley and promotes social contact between the residents. These are solar houses with a maximum connection to the street and to the alley itself, thanks to windows reaching up to the ceiling and other features. The quiet façade consisting of richly variegated bricks, bronze railings and wooden windows give the street a new dimension. The rounded corner of the corner building acts as a landmark in the area.

Subtle contrasts and playful connections

The architects opted for the Classo Bronze Rustic, a light and beautiful brick with many colour hues that provide a subtle contrast with the other elements in the façades. In combination with numerous details such as a bronze mailbox, lighting and balustrades, this stone creates a soft and peaceful atmosphere. Different brick connections define different zones. For example, a checkerboard pattern was used below and a staggered pattern above, giving the façade a certain relief.



"Closed becomes half-open,
with activation of the alley."

Groep Infrabo, Westerlo

"Multifunctional central square with visual corridor to underlying green"

Retro Varia, Retro Red, Retro Dakota,
Old Hollands Old Amsterdam, Old Hollands Old Rotterdam, Old Hollands Old Volendam,
Old Hollands Old Schiedam and Old Hollands Old Maasdam

Wink to the former brickworks

The redevelopment of the church square in Begijnendijk had a number of specific criteria. The square was designed to be as flat as possible, with a view of bigger events and the benches were made to be movable. Centrally, a dyke pattern of clay pavers was created as a link between the visual view under the buildings to the greenery behind and between the village centre and its church. The clay pavers are also a wink to the former brickworks of Betekom. A fountain in the central part provides a playful element in the design. However, the fountain was kept flat so that the square can be fully used for events.

Clay pavers bring life to the square

For the paving the choice fell on various Wienerberger clay bricks: Retro Varia, - Retro Red, - Retro Dakota, Old Dutch Old Amsterdam, - Old Rotterdam, - Old Volendam, - Old Schiedam and - Old Maasdam. This resulted in a combination of different colours to visually give the square some life. On the other hand, the colours could be combined with the already existing environment: red colours of the bricks of the surrounding new buildings (Begijn residence and Dijk residence) on the square and on the other side, the brown colour of the old church.

Architectenbureau Michel Muylaert, Michel Muylaert, Bonheiden

Light and openness in all privacy

Sober lines and volumes characterise the architecture of this kangaroo house. A vertical niche in the façade shelters and accentuates the entrance area and an open space gives the entrance hall a monumental character. The south façade, situated on the street side, is visually widened by a protruding volume finished with an oblong brick façade. The large windows in the north façade draw in abundant daylight without risk of overheating in the house. Due to large open spaces, the office space on the first floor and the hall also have optimal contact with the sitting and dining area and the garden. A large portal in masonry protects the window and the wooden cladding from dirt and visually separates the living areas of the parents on the 2nd floor from those of the children. Large terraces on the 2nd floor on 3 sides of the house ensure that the parents can also enjoy the beautiful surroundings without disturbing the privacy of the children.

Grey with warm colour nuances

The Waterstruck Special Grey was chosen because of its elegant and slender format with warm colour nuances for a grey facing brick. The colour of the brick provides sufficient contrast between the façade brickwork and the white renderings and the cladding in black-brown wood. The tone-on-tone jointing gives the scraped rough structure of the brick a more even look without losing the refinement of the masonry surfaces.

“A kangaroo house: living together in style under one roof”

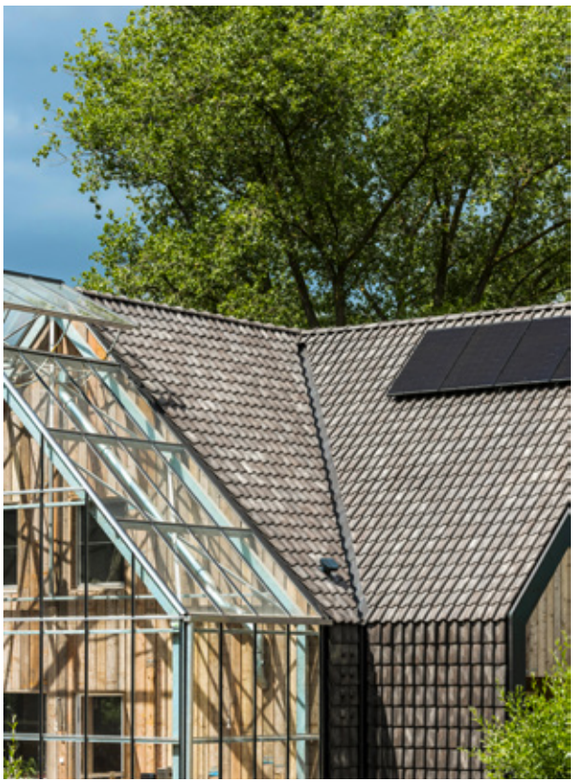
Waterstruck Special Grey

Overarching cover of clay roof tiles

This house on stilts effectively has its feet underwater in winter, making the ground level inaccessible. The design therefore needed a continuity of quality outdoor spaces raised to the level of the house so that they can be used year-round. Around the house there is a covered entrance area to the north, the winter garden, which also serves as a bioclimatic conservatory to the east, a heat-absorbing, covered porch to the south, the sunny and panoramic evening terrace with two floors to the west. The interior and exterior spaces are united under an overarching cover of clay roof tiles, which gives the house its characteristic appearance.

Coherent whole

Both the roof and the façades were clad with the Koramic Old Hollow Tile 451 Braised Blue. Façades and roofs thus lead to a uniformity that makes the variety of spaces around the house a coherent whole. To achieve this effect, a finishing material that could be applied to both façade and roof was essential. Moreover, the Koramic Old Hollow Tile 451 Braised Blue gives a natural and slightly rougher look to the otherwise rather austere volume, thanks to its relief and colour shades.



eA+ architecten,
Martijn De Coster,
Stijn Van den Broecke,
Gent

Façade and roof: Koramic Old Hollow Tile 451 Braised Blue

"An outdoor space for every time of day"

Architecten- en ingenieursbureau D'hondt Beyens Goesaert DBG in collaboration with Claeys-Haelvoet architecten, Kortrijk

In harmony with the past and the village core

At this brewery in Bellegem, West Flanders, the architects were responsible for the construction of a new, additional brewing hall. The brewery is located in the centre of the village, surrounded by 3 streets, on an island as it were. The project was technically very challenging due to the complex brewing process: A power plant, an upper room with silos, a lower room with pipes, filters, pumps and the logistics of supply and drainage. A social aspect also had to be taken into account, as the building had to be accessible to regularly visiting groups. Because of the visibility of the tower (22 meters tall and surrounded by 3 streets) a certain playfulness in the construction was decided on. The corners of the building were rounded off and functions were extended through openings in the brick masonry. Playing with heights, recesses and a circular staircase cutting into the project led to an organic whole in harmony with the village centre and the older parts of the brewery.

"An old story is continued."

3 Versions of playful grouting

For reasons of visibility, location and historical context, Colorada and Recup Tongerse RV were chosen. Uniform surfaces of the Recup Tongerse RV were applied in an alternating pattern with the Colorada in a Brick mix. They also worked with a playful alternation of thin, scratched out joints, regular joints and careless joints, according to the various functions of the building. The expressive whole contributes to a look of the ancient Bellegem village centre.

Brick mix Colorada and Recup Tongerse RV

Concreet Architecten,
Herent

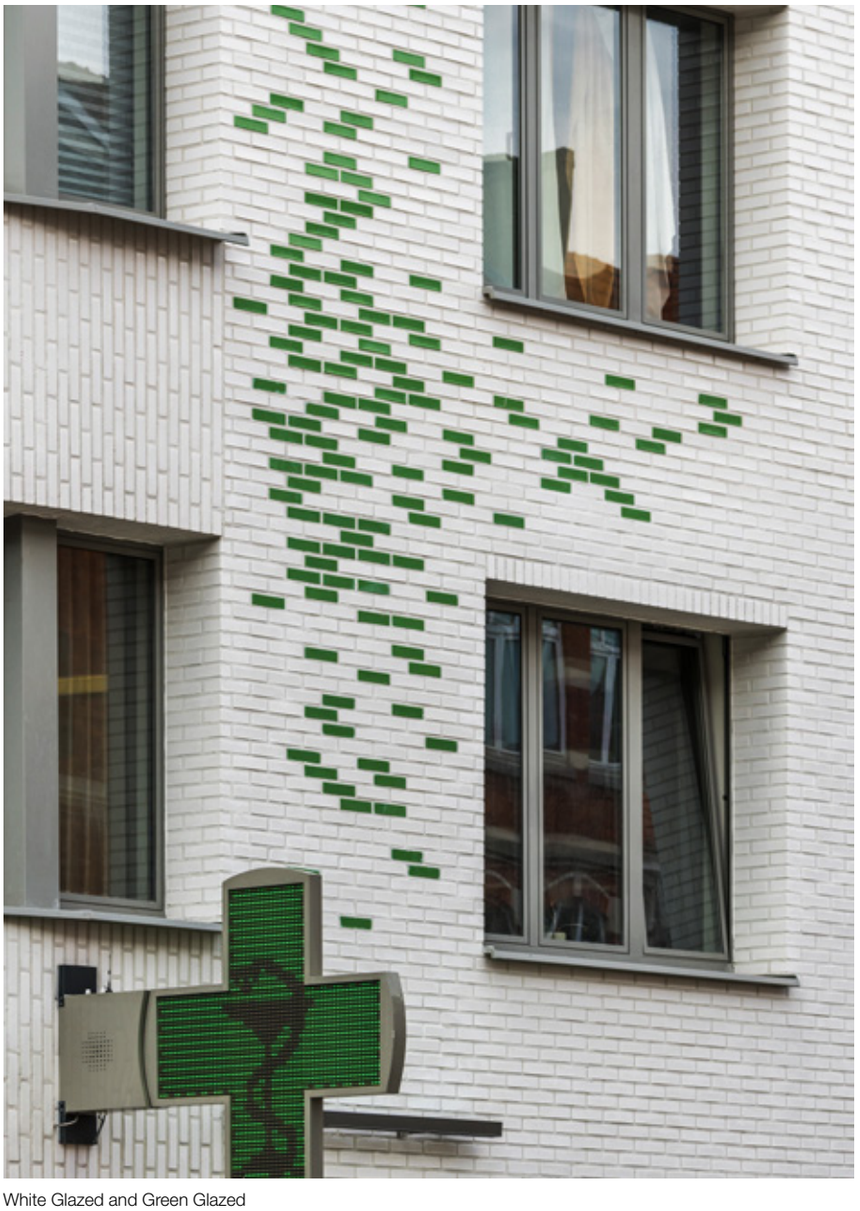
Refurbishment of a commercial corner building

The owner of this corner building, on a busy access road, wanted to tackle the soiled façades and provide the building with extra insulation, with a view to the thermal comfort of the apartments above. Attention to the commercial function and the creation of a new image in the surroundings was also required. The pattern of a bursting cross was taken as a starting point and has a connection with the function of the building, namely a pharmacy. On the other hand, it is not a literal translation, which means that other functions will eventually be possible in this building and the renovation thus fits in with a sustainable approach.

Brick slips in ‘pharmacy colour’

Two facing bricks were used: Green Glazed and White Glazed. The ground floor of the building was left unchanged. The former façades characterized by red-brown brickwork were renovated using the Façabrick system. The new façades were finished with glazed brick slips in two shades, white and green. The characteristic green as a ‘pharmacy colour’ was the starting point. The brick slips were applied in an alternating vertical pattern against the rounded corner façade. The glazed finish provides a subtle statement.

"Strikingly discrete"



White Glazed and Green Glazed

Visual separation between different zones

This pharmacy in the village centre of Dudzele urgently needed extra parking space for cars and safe bicycle parking. On the advice and by requirement of the City of Bruges, this was done with water-permeable clay pavers. Two different colours were combined to visually separate car and pedestrian traffic. The bicycle rack was integrated into a zone with clay pavers and equipped with seating blocks. A lot of attention was also paid to the integration of greenery with flowering perennials.

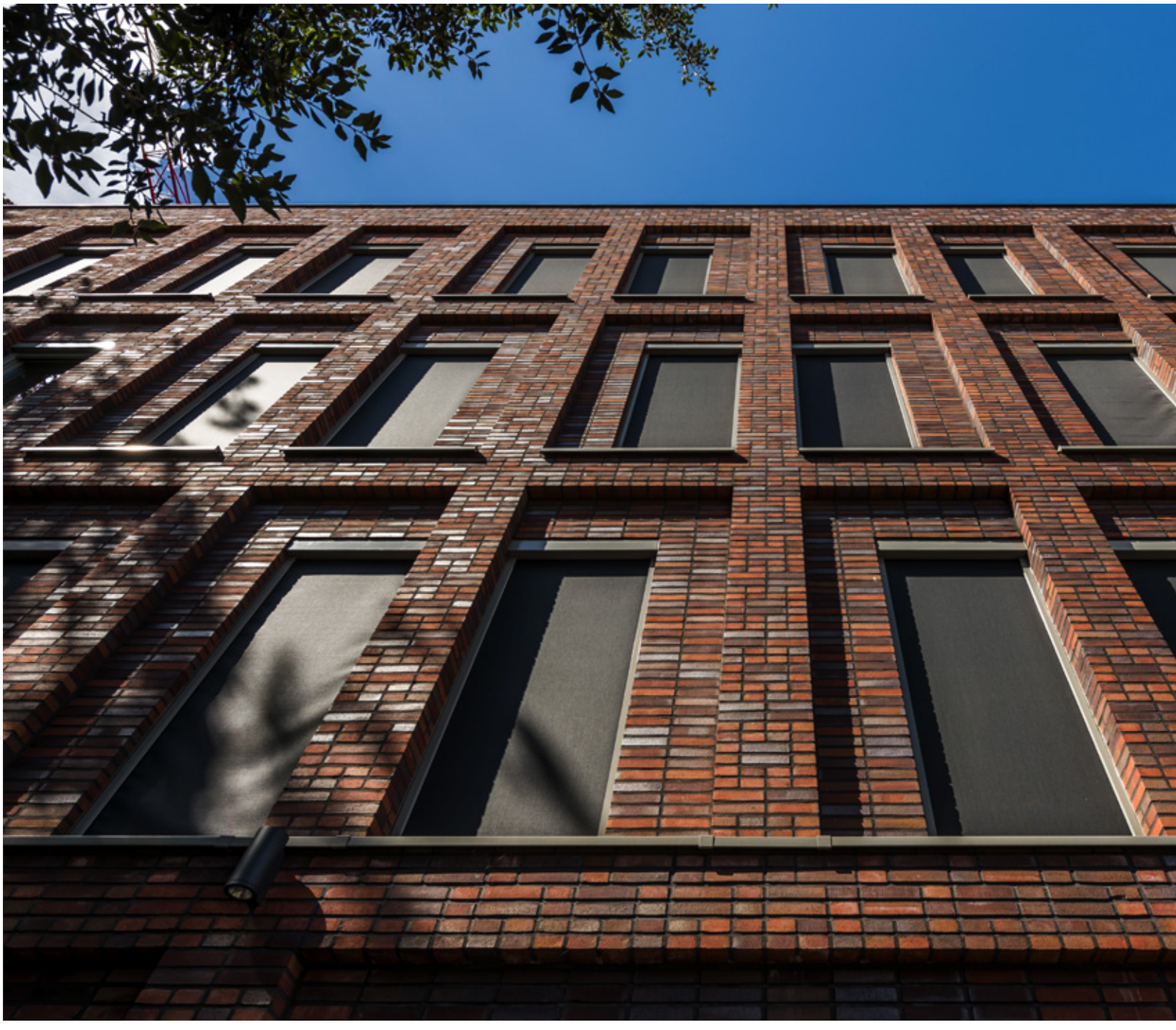
Sustainable water-permeable characteristics

As a visual separation between the different zones on the one hand and car and pedestrian traffic on the other hand, two Aquata clay pavers, more specifically the Brown and Grey types, were used. These pavers were chosen for their water-permeable properties, their aesthetic qualities and their natural, ecological character.

"Nature and sustainability in the village centre"

Pieter Watelle, Damme

Aquata Brown and Aquata Grey



Milosa Passiebloem

Former police station is given a new purpose

In the historic city centre of Bruges, the former police station was converted into a contemporary meeting place for students and liberal humanists. The flexible construction of the 70s building made it possible to accommodate the two very different target groups together, yet separately, with limited interventions. The project is a fine example of sustainable use of the heritage building, while retaining as much of the existing building as possible. With its well-thought-out use of new materials and techniques, it meets the BEN standards. By creating an opening in the floor plate of the ground floor, they were able to build a double-height party room, according to the box-in-box principle. On the second floor there are conference rooms and meeting rooms for the students. The second floor houses the offices of the liberal humanists. The third floor is used flexibly, pending a future expansion of the offices. A new pavilion was built in the garden as a meeting place for the liberal humanists. The building has a large outline and the forecourt makes it stand out in the streetscape. The old façade was stripped, and the new façade gives the building the place it deserves within the urban fabric.

Patrimonium Building Management, City of Bruges
Ramona Nicolaescu, Bruges

Classical and contemporary at the same time

The dark red colour of the Milosa Passiebloem facing brick harmonizes very well with the historical surroundings. The colour variation between the bricks, their smooth texture and sleek design create a contemporary character. The self-supporting character of the façade can be clearly seen in the original context and by playing with wall thicknesses. This was only possible with a brick of very regular shape with a modular format, which the Milosa Passiebloem perfectly meets. The result looks classic and contemporary at the same time, a perfect image for the centre of Bruges.

"Sustainable management of the heritage"

Martens Van Caimere Architecten,
Gent

"Sustainably designed based on the landscape"

Naturally embedded in the environment

This house seems to merge into the green and sloping landscape of the ‘Pays des Collines’. In order not to cut any new ground, it was built on the L-shaped footprint of an old farmhouse and embraces the former yard. With an enormous passion for sustainability, the house was designed in function of the landscape. The house has a red brick exterior to match with the current regulations of the region. Characteristic for this project are the large windows, the pedestal with Cor-ten steel, the spacious overhangs, the floating terrace and the extreme attention to sustainability through solar panels and a geothermal heat pump.

In harmony with the regional masonry typology

Pays des Collines is a protected natural landscape with specific rules for materialization. The chosen stone, a Metropolis Aula Red, looks particularly robust and shows a strong affinity with the materials used and the masonry farm typology of the environment. As a result, the house is almost seamlessly embedded in the existing landscape.

Metropolis Aula Red

Between two outer facing walls

An empty parcel located between two outer facing walls was the starting point for the design of the house. Literally and figuratively little room to move for the design. The volume had already been determined in advance. The concept: a house with patio / inner garden and outbuilding. The template of the street was reinforced by executing roof and façade in the same material. This single-family house consists of a ground floor with indoor garage, storage room, entrance hall with powder room, living and dining area and kitchen. The rooms connect to a cosy courtyard garden with a wall that embraces everything. At the back, this wall is duplicated into an outbuilding and covered terrace. Upstairs there are 3 bedrooms, an office, a hallway and a bathroom. On top of this, a very spacious attic space as a studio.

Façade and roof as a whole

The house as a monolithic volume in the streetscape. The atypical template follows that of the neighbours and excels in its primal form; building volumes with a sloping roof. In order to arrive at this monolithic shape, it was decided to work with the Koramic Plain Tile Aléonard Pontigny Red Flamed. Its versatile installation options allowed the same material to be used for both roof and façade. This natural texture, in stark contrast to the cold black aluminium of the exterior joinery, provides an element of material tranquillity in a hectic streetscape.

Wielfaert Architecten,
Waregem

Façade and roof: Koramic Plain Tile Aléonard Pontigny Red Flamed

"A moment of materials rest in a hectic streetscape"

"Reference to the rhythm of the individual houses in the street"

Agora Silvergrey

Urban Platform,
Brussels

Playing with volumes

Project ‘Tenbosch’ is a residential complex with heights varying between 4 and 7 floors. It consists of 35 apartments and a commercial space. The first phase of the project consists of 10 modules that take up the width and depth of a traditional house. To approach the playful diversity of the existing houses on the opposite side, the modules were constructed with alternating protruding and retracted façades. The last two modules are higher and provide a visual connection with the adjacent 11-storey building. These last two modules have south-facing façades that open up towards the street side. In addition, all the apartments face the street so that you can also enjoy this ideal orientation. The terraces are indoors and thus form an integral part of the residential units.

Visual continuity

An Agora Silvergrey facing brick was used. Certain parts of the façade were built with a different bond with 2 sizes of bricks (M50 and Eco brick WF), creating surfaces and lines that playfully break through the solidity of the façades. The use of this facing brick also ensures the visual continuity of the project within the existing context.

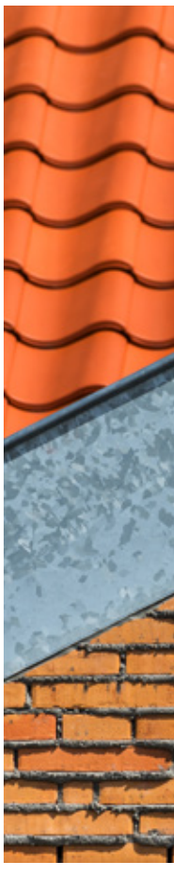
"Individuality versus collectivity"

A search for density, linking and stacking

This cohousing project comprises 27 units and is located in an area that is difficult to access, which means that a close collaboration with various institutions, including heritage, was necessary. A common house was provided in the renovated villa on the site. No two houses are the same, each resident was able to personalize his own unit through participation in the design process. The whole project was a search for density, linking and stacking. 3 volumes of linked and stacked houses were realized around a villa with a communal garden. The fourth volume was a classic development, independent of the rest but an integral part of the whole. The whole setup is a balancing act in individuality versus collectivity, while maintaining the visual quality of the whole.

The power of a sober extruded brick

The basic material is façade brickwork is Linnaeus Betula, an extruded brick in which the back is used as the visible side. This backside shows the traces of the production process and in that sense gives the most natural image. The entire project was built with this one facing brick that was processed in different ways, giving each unit within the project its own look. Madura Natural Red tiles were installed on the roofs.



Façade: Linnaeus Betula. Roof: Madura Natural Red

ampe.trybou architecten,
Oudenburg

Group housing with strongly individual interpretation

This social housing project was developed in line with the residential character and scale of the Tuinwijkstraat in Geetbets. On the street side, there is a semi-public green yard, which functions as the main entrance and via a transverse view indirectly connects to the city centre behind. This creates a meeting place, a resting place which all front doors are based on. The compact 'total volume' consists of 12 residential units, which, due to the toothed arrangement and specific implantation, have a maximum connection to the front courtyard and the street. Each residential unit has its own front façade and front door, and the reference to the scale of the surrounding single-family dwellings is obvious. This arrangement also results in a dynamic voluminous mass at the rear, where the privacy of the gardens and terraces is maximized and the panorama of the centre is equal for all residents. The result is collective housing units with a highly individual interpretation in a distinctly green context.

"Scale reduction with context anchoring"

Façade: Brick mix Maaseiker Bont and Purple Blue
Roof: Actua 10 Slate Engobe

Orange accents on a light-purple background

A Brick mix of Maaseiker Bont and Purple Blue was chosen for the bricks. The rough texture and playful colour shades of the bricks create a unique effect. Orange accents on a light purple background give the whole a warm look. The black aluminium joinery and the anthracite roof tiles nuance this colour tone. The materialization is sober and timeless, but on the other hand also clearly ‘new’: a subtle contemporary transformation of the brick palette of the neighbouring houses and a neutral background for the (ever changing) colour tones of the surrounding ‘green’.

driewerf architectuur,
Zoutleeuw

"Living and working in a permanent vacation atmosphere"

Imperium Albius

The hall stairs as central light well

A parcel a stone's throw from the sea, but in a quiet residential area, is the starting point for the design of this single-family house with home office. The program includes both an office for the owner and living quarters for a young family. The office requires a quiet place, the living area should be fully involved in the experience of the garden. The internal relationship between the living functions is also of great importance. The staircase forms the link between all living functions and provides a three-dimensional experience of the house.
It connects the level of the bedrooms with the open kitchen and sitting area as well as the play area for the children. Thanks to the many windows that are connected to the open space, the roof terrace and the patio at basement level, the staircase forms a light well that can be felt from anywhere in the house. In this family, at least as much time is spent outside as in the house itself. The outdoor spaces, the construction and layout of the garden were an essential part of the design. A swimming pool and evening patio were therefore indispensable.

PVL architecten,
Oostduinkerke

Tactility and solid appearance

We used the Imperium Albius to give the house a massive appearance. This rough brick with a beforehand applied limewash layer showed up again several times in the palette of materials that were put together for the design of the house several times. The brick was added tone by tone, to emphasize the idea of façade surfaces. The black window frames create a strong contrast with the light façade brick. The difference in tactility between brickwork and wooden boards ensures a sober detailing of the façade and perfect integration into its surroundings. Together with the light colours of both the brickwork and the wooden shelves, this leads to a permanent vacation feeling and a quiet workplace.

Façade: Waterstruck Special E1. Roof: Aléonard Esprit Patrimoine Kent Red

Architectenbureau Geert Billiet, Geert Billiet, Gent

Structural approach

This house from the late 60s was renovated by order of the new owner to bring more soul, life and tactility into it. The original house was solidly built with reinforced concrete walls and quite geometric in design, but had only small windows. Over the years, an extension was built at the back, which included storage space and a garage. The house was structurally adapted, and the window openings enlarged, but with sufficient consideration for privacy from the street side. The builder wanted to place a grand piano in a prominent place and for this purpose a bite was taken, as it were, from a corner of the floor along the street side. This was developed in glass, which provided extra perspective and openness. At the back, the existing annex was demolished, and the kitchen was pulled open with a sliding glass corner. This optimally strengthened the relationship between inside and outside.

"More soul, life and tactility"

Colour and structure in the façades

The Waterstruck Special E1 was used for the new façade cladding, which was glued. This brought colour and structure into the façades. Following this, the Koramic Roof Tile Aléonard Esprit Patrimoine Kent Red was used. This gave the whole a more contemporary look and it was also provided with contemporary energy control.

Milosa Kogelbloem

M2 Architecten,
Philip Mortelmans,
Antwerpen

A canal in the backyard

‘Hof Emblehem’ is a quiet residential project along the Nete Canal. It consists of 4 optimally oriented new apartment buildings containing 51 apartments, 2 commercial spaces with semi-public outdoor spaces between them. A whimsical façade at the front of the buildings provides lightness and transparency to the street behind it. The simple base in the back behind, made of durable brown-grey brickwork, provides a peaceful backdrop that gives free rein to the playful lines of the over-hanging terraces. For the railings, glass and natural stone were used alternately to give the façade a varied and human scale. The varied play of the terraces gives a special touch to the project and made it possible to create the façades harmoniously but individually. Because the buildings are located on the Dorpstraat, the front façades are the same width as the opposite open/half-open buildings. This resulted in optimal integration into the streetscape.

Subtle reference to the surrounding greenery

The brown Milosa Kogelbloem facing brick contrasts nicely with the light-coloured finish of the overhanging terraces and the end walls. It also gives a timeless, balanced touch to the whole. The Milosa Kogelbloem also provides a subtle, natural reference to the surrounding green framework

"Optimal integration into the streetscape"

Alverna

Brick as binding agent

This single-family house focuses on the rear garden and the views all around thanks to large windows, sill-free transitions and covered outdoor spaces. Close contact with the green surroundings was therefore the clients' starting point. To connect a realistic construction budget to a house with a surprising and unique character, the ground floor and the first floor were shifted in relation to each other. This not only creates more playful volumes, but also a covered terrace and a carport. To emphasise the compactness and unity, a vertical band was built around the house that keeps the whole together, as it were. Brick as a binding agent. Moreover, this very simple intervention became one of the most important characteristics of this house. Unique in its simplicity. This surprising simplicity is also reflected in the organisation of the house: simple and logical links.

Fair and pure

In this traditional and green environment, it was important to design a "soft" building. A building that refers to the traditional architecture of the Druivenstreek. Red brick is ideal for this. This Alverna with its warm, nuanced colours all the more so. The rougher and imperfect character of the hand-shaped brick also gave rise to the choice of other materials, such as the exposed concrete: the concrete partition between the carport and the terrace, the unplastered curves, the polished concrete terrace, etc... Fair and pure.

"Close contact with the green environment"

Blanco Architecten,
Hoeilaart

Studio Okami Architecten,
Antwerpen

‘Maison invisible’

Building a contemporary, light-rich villa on a steeply sloping, undeveloped plot in Kluisbergen... that was the information the architects had to work with. What the builders wanted was light, a view and tranquillity. It took quite some time to get Urban Planning onboard for this. The house was implanted half-underground on the sloping terrain. It became a single storey, robust villa that only shows a hedge and a ‘lonely’ scale figure, a ‘maison invisible’ as it were on the street side. The exterior of the villa, the tour along the rows of columns and the terrace, as well as the interior create a spatial experience in which the ‘experience’ of the house and its surroundings is central.

Robust appearance

The choice of a classic-looking Colorada facing brick contributed to the robustness of the whole. It also accentuated the separate design language with a colonnade all around and resulted in a solid, uniform whole. The colour of the brick is about the only reference to the dominant building typology in the region and also fits in perfectly with the landscape and lush greenery.

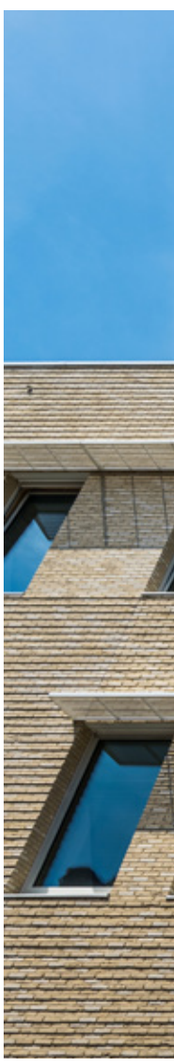
Colorada

"Hidden from the view of the hikers on the Kluisberg"

Brick mix Agora Super White and Forum Branco

"A place for meeting and social cohesion"

B2Ai,
Sigrid Decramer,
Brussels, Ghent
and Roeselare

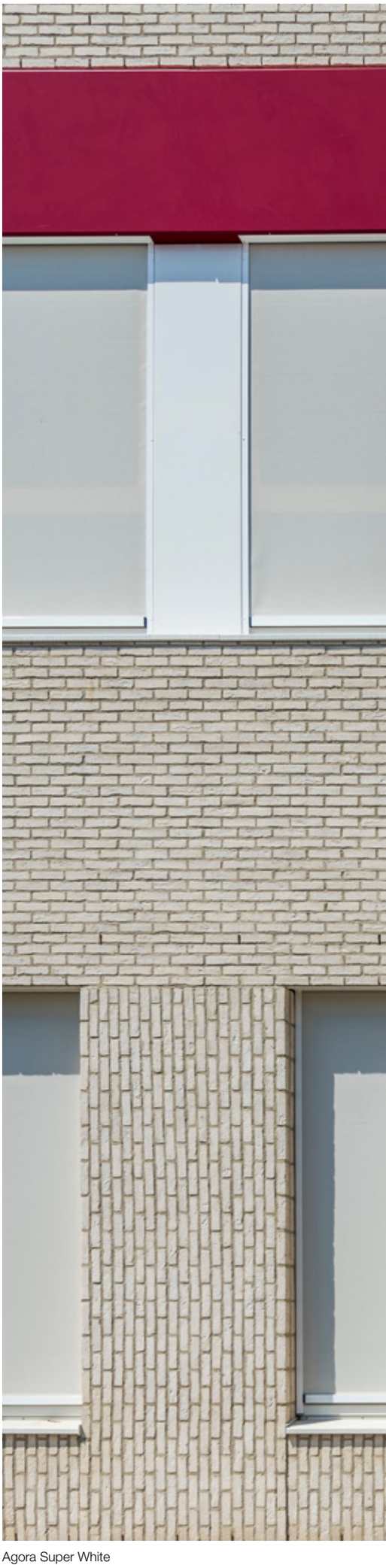


Infrastructure tailored to the neighbourhood

The Flemish Community Commission (FCC) built this campus near Simonis in Koekelberg, to meet the growing demand for Dutch language childcare and education in Brussels. The construction project gives a new face to a site with a rich educational history. The 1978 and 1981 buildings have now given way to an infrastructure tailored to the neighbourhood. The result of the collaboration between the VGC and Campus Koekelberg is a state-of-the-art campus where meeting is central. With a total surface area of 12,599 m² of learning and recreation space and 4,000 m² of outdoor spaces, the project provides a crossover between school and neighbourhood, study and leisure.

Game of lines in the façade

The nursery was done with Forum Branco, the elementary school with Agora Super White and the secondary school with a mix of both bricks (30% white and 70% beige). In addition to the mix of 2 facing bricks, the secondary school was also built with a relief in the brick to create a play of lines in the façade. This choice was determined by considerations of aesthetics, but also sustainability.



Agora Super White


GO!

Arch. Jean-Pierre Ryssen,
Zaffelare

"From cottage style to contemporary visual language"

Tile mix Plain Tile 301 Slate Matt Glazed, Winered Glazed, Brown Glazed and Black Glazed

Complete and successful transformation

This detached house in a ribbon development was already expanded with a multifunctional purpose at the back in 2002. This extension served as a nursery, reading veranda and as an enlargement of the kitchen. Recently a new extension was needed, this time on the street side. A cube-shaped volume was placed against the façade with a full storey and a flat roof. This gave the house, originally built in cottage style, a resolutely contemporary look and the old façade literally and figuratively disappeared into the background. The superstructure, the side wall and part of the front were covered with a mix of roof tiles. The transformation was complete.

Play of colours and reflections

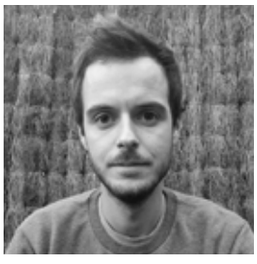
The architect opted for the Koramic Roof Tile 301, in a mix of Matt Glazed, Wine Red glazed, Brown glazed and Black glazed. This treatment already provided a sleek, contemporary look. With this colour mix, the house looks different every moment of the day, due to the different reflections and colour hues, depending on the position of the sun and the amount of light coming in.

Open landscape character

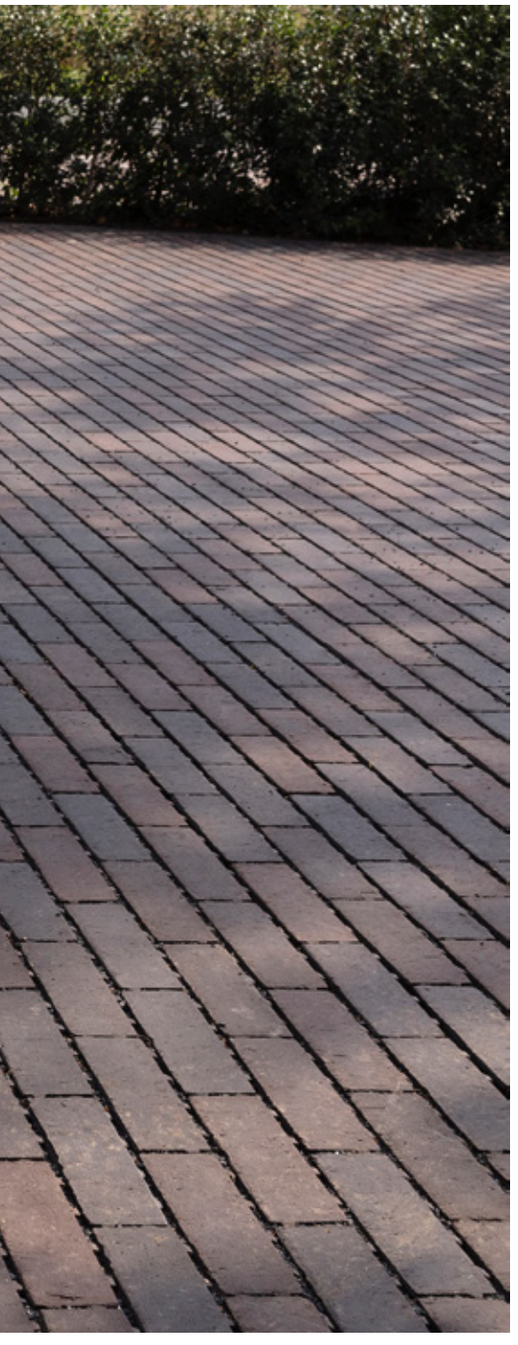
‘t Moorken is a bistro located on the edge of nature reserve ‘Het Maldegemveld’, part of the Drongengoedbos. The restaurant was restored to its former glory by a Lievegem entrepreneur. The entire outdoor space of the restaurant was redesigned and rebuilt. The actions were rather limited: in addition to preserving the open landscape character, the preservation of the existing trees was an absolute priority.
By enlarging/expanding the surface of the restaurant, the canopies of several trees ended up above the floor pass. Using custom-made cor-ten steel boxes enabled this difference in level to be perfectly absorbed. The application of clay pavers is particularly well-suited in combination with the cor-ten steel. In addition to the cor-ten steel bins, a clay paver stairway was also built to compensate for this difference in level.

Optimal water management

The builder opted for a brown nuanced water-permeable Aquata Brown clay paver, both for its natural look and because the colour best matches the exterior carpentry of the restaurant. The rapid water infiltration benefits both the existing trees and the water management in general.



Landscaping Trenson,
Nils Trenson, Adegem



Aquata Brown


"With conservation of existing trees"

"Cohabitating with the swallows in the city"

Argenti White Silversand

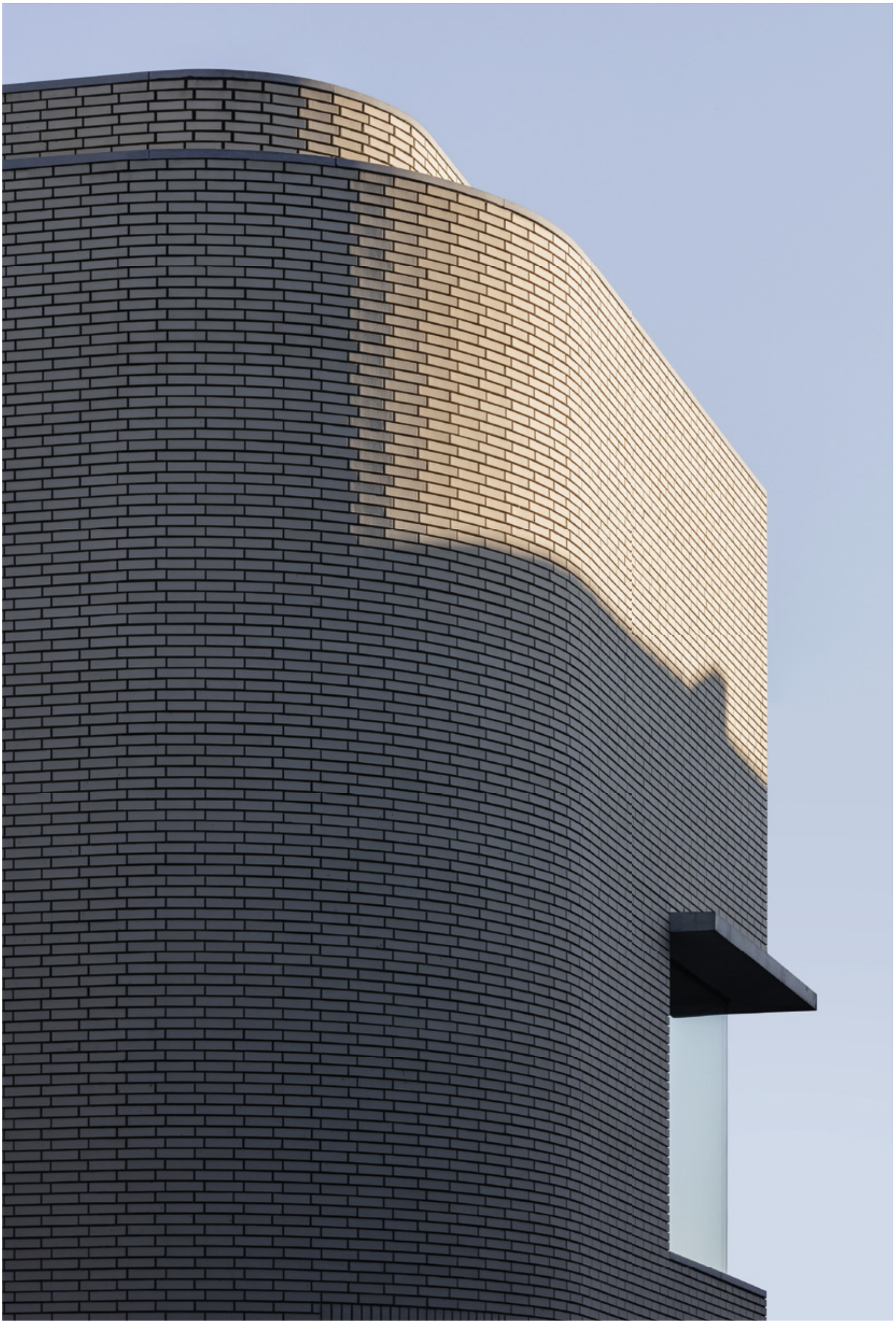
STUDIOLO architectuur,
Karolien Vanmerhaeghe,
Ghent

Corner house with three roof gardens

This house was built on an undeveloped corner plot that was bordered on two sides by other houses. This corner, in the heart of Ledeberg, is one of the SoGent city development projects, where a neighbourhood is revitalised in collaboration with the builders. The latter wanted a contemporary home 'with the qualities of a home from the interbellum period'. The architects used some of the formal characteristics of the interbellum period and translated these into a contemporary design: a strong verticality, due to stairs placed one above the other, a façade with a rounded corner and a yellow brick in clay with masonry bond with dark, sunken joints. Both staircases and the floors were constructed in split-level. This created rooms with high ceilings and rooms with low ceilings. In this way, within the limited permitted building volume, more spaces could created. The outdoor spaces are also situated on different levels. For example, a low and narrow 'vegetable terrace' was created, as well as a high and spacious sun terrace and a patio garden on the ground floor.

Reference to the interbellum period

The façade was built in an Argenti White Silversand brick. This smooth, pressed brick has a light ecru tint. In combination with the masonry bond, the dark, sunken joints and the rounded corner façade, the architects thus achieved a direct reference to interbellum architecture, an important wish of the builders.



© Photography: Stijn Bollaert

A2O, Brussels

Waterstruck Special Sablé

"A beacon for the new urban development"

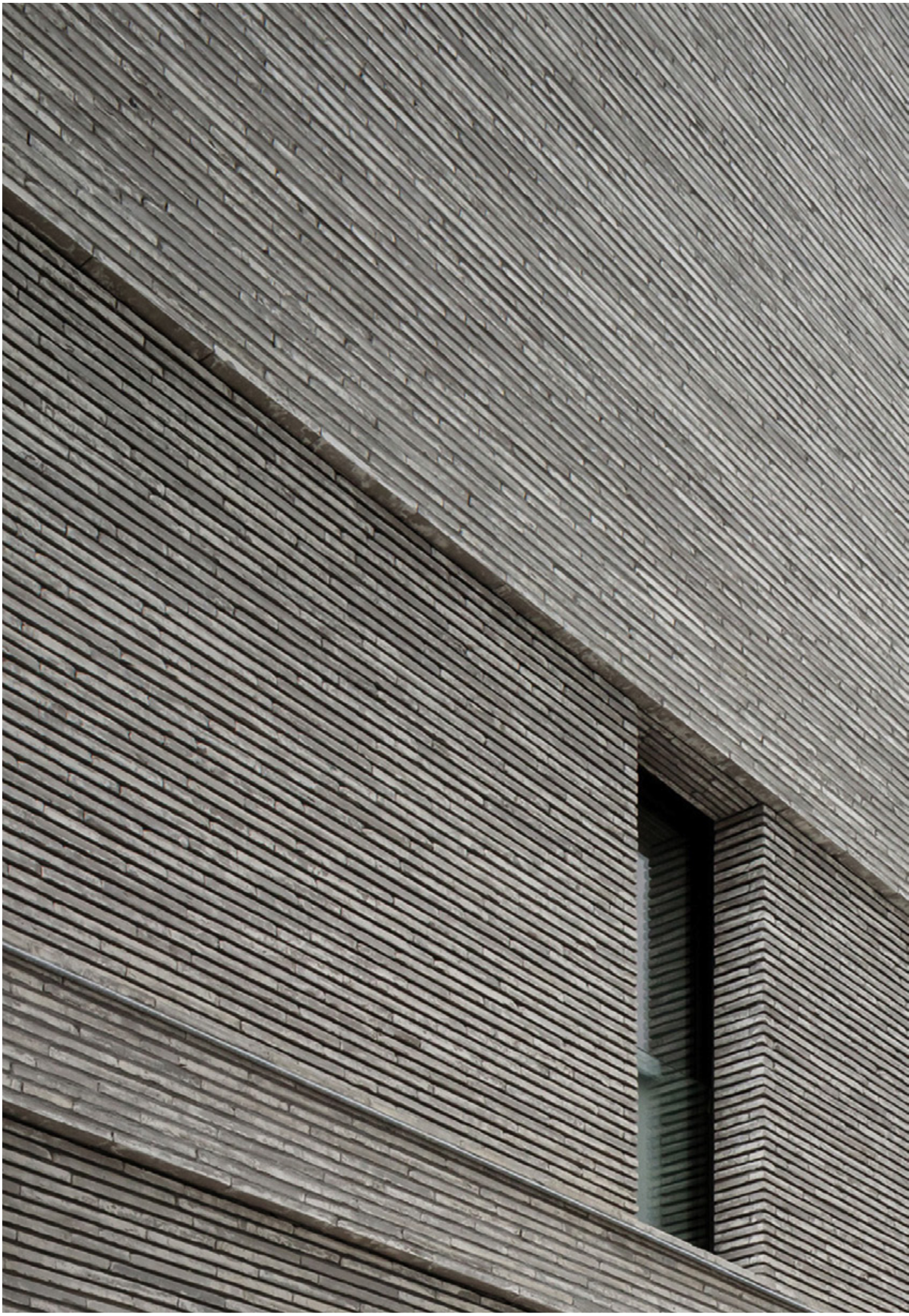
Specific volumes with sculptural design

Sky One is the final phase of a complete building block along the banks of the Leuvense Vaart, a beacon for the new urban development. The whimsical shape of the site gave rise to specific volumes with a sculptural design. Although the building block forms a monolithic whole, its upward shape makes a slender impression. The massiveness of the volume is emphasized by the use of brick, but at the same time deep incisions for the windows and balconies give the building a fresh character. Above the ground floor are the floors with lounge apartments and penthouses, which enjoy unique views of the Vaartkom and Leuven. On top of the building there are two spacious private roof gardens with a private swimming pool. A green zone has been designed around these terraces, with high grasses that create a 'green crown' on top of the building.

Brick emphasizes the massiveness of the volume

For this project, the architects applied the Waterstruck Special Sablé facing brick. This slender, unsanded and uneven facing brick oscillates in colour between grey and sand, with pearly white nuances. The oblong brick undeniably but subtly emphasizes the solidity of the volume.

© Photography: Stijn Bollaert



Strong bond with the garden

This architect's house fits in perfectly with the specific characteristics of the location. It is a semi-detached building, set back from the street so that the façade is hidden. The house has a strong link to the garden and shows great attention to aesthetics in combination with functionality and detailing. Because of the orientation of the parcel but also because of the design of the house, the sun can be enjoyed all day long. The largest window area is oriented south-west and the awning that keeps the sun out during the hottest part of the day keeps it pleasantly cool even in summer. In winter, the sun is low enough to penetrate deep into the house through these windows. The barrier details in the façade are both aesthetic and functional since the windows behind these barriers are equipped with mosquito nets that are thus hidden from view. The house divides the garden into several 'garden rooms', one of which refers to the cosy city garden of the architects' previous house. This effect was emphasized by walling this part of the garden in the same brick as the rest of the house.

Emphasis on façade material and detailing

The architects were instantly charmed by the beautiful colour shades of the Hectic facing brick. This was further accentuated by a red thin-bed mortar, the rough structure and the traditional manufacturing process. The brick also lends itself very well to working out various details in the same material: railings, detailing around the windows in brick sills, the elaboration of window frames and the finishing of the canopy without visible metal profiles. All this ensures a uniform result of calm and finesse, without being monotonous. For the roof tiles, the choice fell on the Vauban Slate Engobe, because of the sleek, austere appearance. The emphasis in this house is on the façade material and the detailing; the black roof matches the black windows and black zinc flanges.

Façade: Hectic. Roof: Vauban Slate Engobe

MVH Architect,
Magali Van Havenbergh,
Melsele

"Warm modern look with an eye for quality, functionality and detailing"

Life at the back

This house looks solid and very closed at the front. It is built in a green environment on a narrow, oblong parcel. Everything takes place in the depths, with the house being pulled open towards the trees and the light at the back. The spaces run smoothly into each other. The contrast between materials and the language of form brings out the essence of the project: a dialogue between inside and outside. Nature, the swimming pool, the sun... are visually drawn inside and are, as it were, part of the interior. The architecture is no longer essential but becomes subordinate to the daily life and experience of the residents.

Atelier d'architecture
Philippe Lefèvre,
Somzée

Texture reinforced structure

The use of two bricks, Imperium Flavius and Imperium Nerus, fits perfectly into the cube-shaped architecture at the front of the house and provides a perfect separation from the public space. The façades are enhanced by the structure and texture of the brick masonry and give a warm, natural touch to the whole. A fascinating and constructive clash between structures and volumes.

Imperium Flavius and Imperium Nerus

"Fascinating clash between materials and structures"

FSV² ARCHITECTS,
Brussels

Varied uses

Commissioned by the non-profit organization Kaleo, an organization for youth and social tourism, this “Gîte Mozaïk” was built in the centre of Louvain-La-Neuve. The building is intended for group accommodation, has a ground floor, 3 floors above ground and a rooftop floor. The building is located on a narrow, triangular corner plot with a pronounced slope, so that the ground floor is partly underground. Of course, all rooms are accessible for wheelchair users. In the façade above the main entrance, a large sunken window was installed, creating a small, covered terrace. This window provides an abundance of light in the high reception area.

Polymorphic brick façade structure

The choice of the Wanlin Red facing brick was prompted by various considerations. The brick architecture fits in perfectly with the urban fabric. The solidity of the façade is broken by the different brick connections that create playful lines and surfaces. The retracted windows also contribute to this playfulness. The red colour of the brick contrasts nicely with the 3 seminar volumes on the roof.

"Residential building with fascinating, polymorphic façade structure"

Wanlin Red

Brick mix Pagus Iluzo Brown-Black and Pagus Iluzo Grey

Bureau d'architectes
Emmanuel Bouffioux,
Brussels

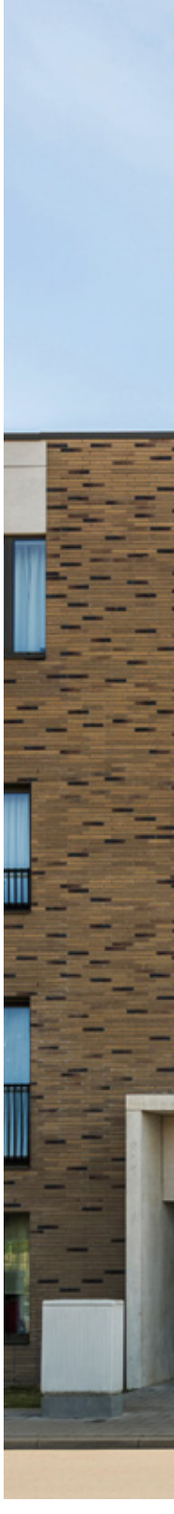
Building on the seventies

Ninove's new police station is located in the heart of a complex built in the style of the 1970s on the site of the former mail sorting centre. The lines of the building are inspired by the existing buildings and blend into the style of the complex. In this neighbourhood around the town hall, the court house and the post office were traditionally built with brick. The volume and materialization are a contemporary interpretation of the architecture of the seventies. The ground floor includes public spaces, spaces for the defendants and spaces for the staff. The floors are entirely dedicated to the agents. The building's volumetry ensures natural light and solar gain on each floor. A patio has been created on the ground floor to take advantage of this light.

One with the surroundings

Because the post office was made of brown brick, a Brick mix of Pagus Brown-Black Iluzo and Pagus Grey Iluzo facing bricks was chosen to build the new police station. These ensure the distinct character of the building, while still blending in with the building typology and materialization of the surroundings.


"A building that radiates care
and security"



Connection of different urban zones

This residential project zone in Sint-Truiden consists of a large inner area with a narrow connection to the southwest block. The site is embedded between four streets with varying characteristics, such as row housing of up to three storeys high, low-rise service buildings with closed façades, a semi-detached building with garden district allure and an urban street with prevalent, narrow row houses. The urban design aims to harmoniously connect the different urban zones to create a high-quality residential zone in the inner area. It was essential to let all the dwellings enjoy the green inner area; the housing types are also completely set up for this. All the houses and apartments have a spacious patio or a garden. As many ‘sunshine’ homes as possible are offered. An attempt was made to give each home as many spatial qualities as possible, using open staircases, light living spaces, deliberate lines of sight, and so on. That is why the building block was constructed from different zones.

Sustainable base materials

Because of the strong vertical division of the façade walls, a simple use of materials is chosen, which in essence can be traced back to two sustainable basic materials: brick and concrete. The façades were executed in a warm- coloured nuanced brick: a Brick mix of Marono Grey-Brown Extra Nuanced and Linnaeus Salix. Two types of bricks were provided: roughly suspended and smooth. The roughly suspended one is used as a plinth and is a reference to the quarry stone that was often used in the region in the past.

Brick mix of Marono Grey-Brown Extra Nuanced and Linnaeus Salix

santermans+cielen
architecten, Hasselt
ism DMT-architecten,
Antwerpen

"Enjoying the green inner area"

Thorn Bronzegreen

awg architecten,
Peter Van doninck and
Geert Driesen,
Antwerpen

Bulwark volumes around a collective courtyard garden

This project is a design for 33 ground-level units, 3 apartment buildings with an underground parking garage and the layout of the public space. The buildings will be integrated in the underlying urban plan. Searching for balance in scale, between ground-level units and apartments, high and low, transparency and mass, and using a limited palette of sustainable materials and colours, the different window openings, patios, corner and roof solutions provide subtle variation and recognizability of the different components. The large apartment buildings are conceived as compact bulwark volumes around a collective courtyard garden. The small apartment building is a half-bulwark model around a garden. The façades were uniformly executed in light-coloured brickwork.

Uniform, robust and timeless character

Thorn Bronzegreen was chosen for the façade brickwork to give the building volumes a uniform, robust and timeless character. The specific choice of colour and texture of this facing brick is in line with its location on the edge of a nature reserve and the landscaping in the project. The light colour of the façade brickwork ensures a mild reflection of daylight.


"A search for balance"

Studio Basta, Kortrijk

"Reconversion of old industrial site"

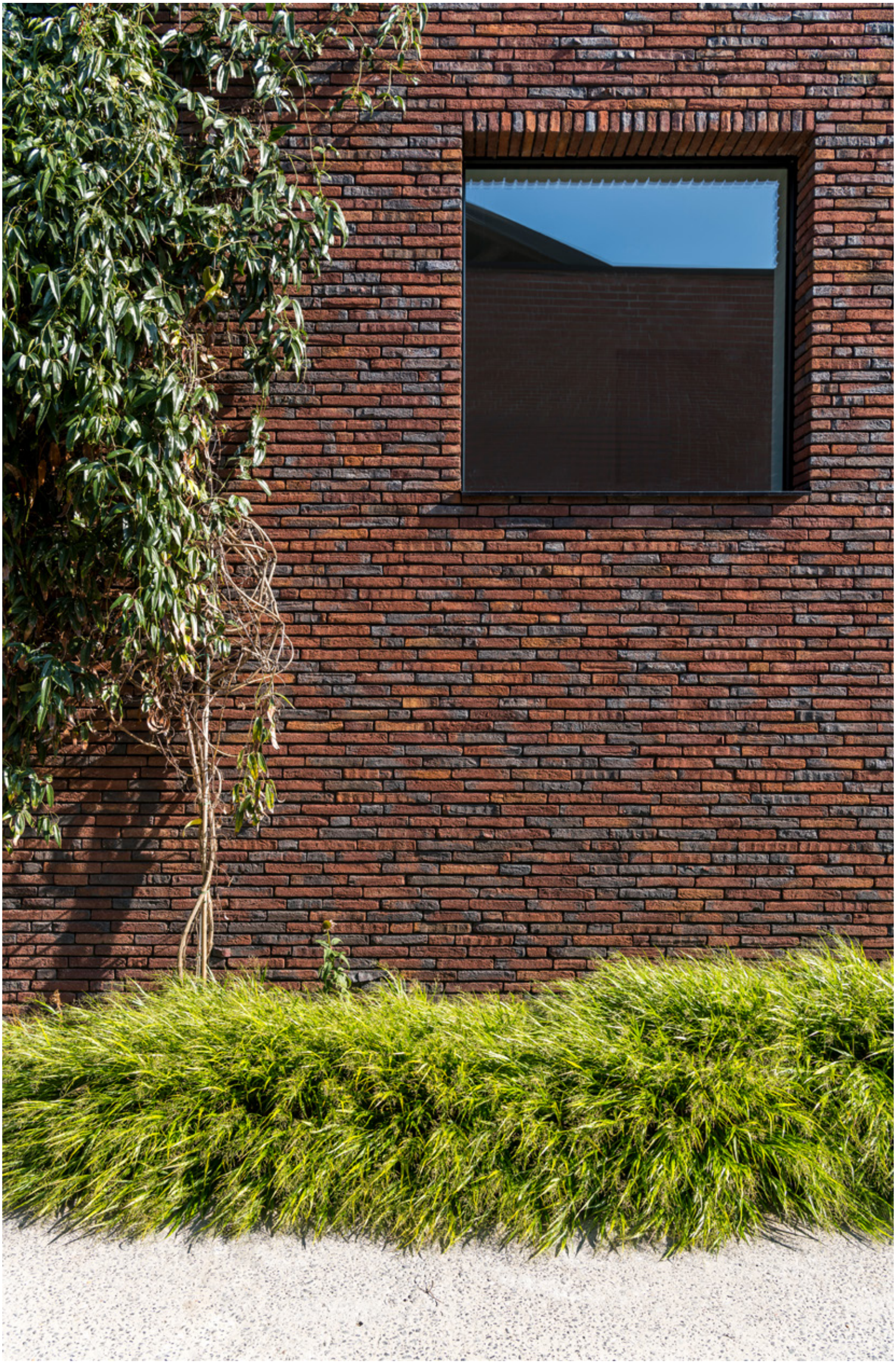
Triton

Optimum preservation of park views

This apartment complex was built in several phases on a former industrial site, close to the city centre. It is intended as a residence where different generations can live together. In addition to the apartments, the project also includes various commercial functions. The preservation of existing park views and the further integration of the buildings in a strong green context were important starting points. The garden architect was responsible for drawing up the environmental plan and coordinating the landscaping, including a flower meadow of no less than 1.5 hectares. He was also responsible for the paving around the buildings.

Durable paving

In phase 1 of the project, the garden architect provided over 1,500 square meters of paving with Triton clay pavers. They form a beautiful and natural transition between the greenery and the materialization of the buildings. The durable pavers fit perfectly into the extensive park landscape, in which the garden architect wanted to intervene only minimally but qualitatively. With their light colour, the bricks also provide an optimal reflection of light.



Linaqua Viola

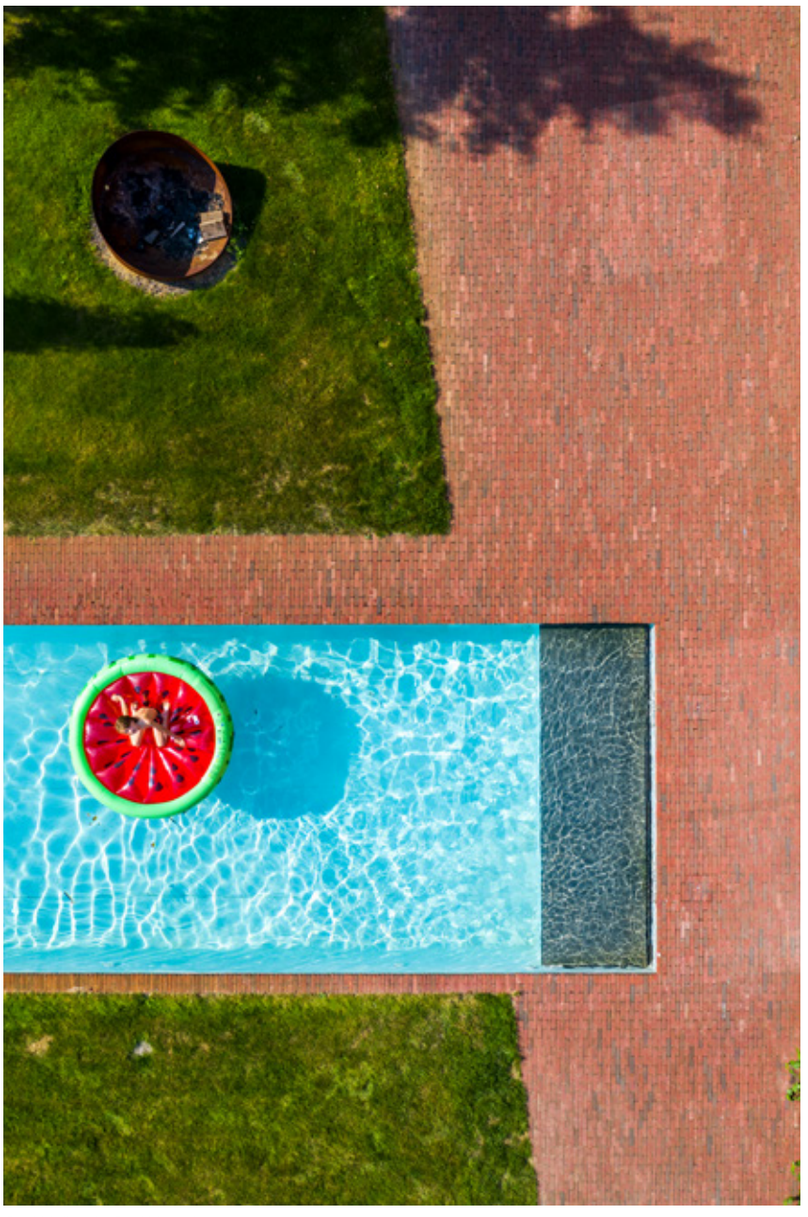
Two flanking solid volumes

The concept for the renovation of this house is aimed at optimising the relationship between the house, the garden and the rural environment. The long L-shaped house was completely changed in terms of organisation, layout and architecture.
An elevation of the ground was removed to make the garden completely flat, flush with the surroundings. The split-levels of the house were retained, one at half a meter below ground level and two other ones high above ground level. For a direct relationship with the garden, however, an additional level was needed. Architecturally, this was translated into a transparent zone where the plinth provides the connection between the two flanking solid volumes. This ‘glass core’ of the house, where the kitchen is situated, provides the relationship between the different spaces, both functional and visual. With open sliding windows, the garden continues, as it were, from one side to the other. Visually, this is further enhanced by the solid steps as wide as the sliding wings.

ONZE architecten,
Kluisbergen and
Machelen-aan-de-Leie (Zulte)

Using an available colour palette

The Linaqua Viola hand-moulded brick with its red and grey shades picks up on the existing colour palette of a red brick shed and the grey pavements. Together with the Oud Hollands Oud Veendam clay pavers, this creates a harmonious whole that contrasts nicely with the green of the attractive garden.



Oud Hollands Oud Veendam

"The red of the brick connects the inside with the outside."

Linnaeus Betula

Responding to new housing needs

In Wilsele-Putkapel a residential ensemble was built next to the new swimming pool. The four residential buildings provide a total of 36 residential units, two commercial spaces and a collective courtyard garden. The realization of this residential project fits in with the ambitious plan to create a beating heart for Wilsele-Putkapel. Together with the Sint-Agatha church and the new swimming pool, the residential building forms a third façade on a new green square in the centre of the village. The complex comprises a varied range of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, plus two commercial spaces on the first floor. The right amount of space between the buildings ensures adequate privacy between the residents and gives shape to the collective courtyard garden with an appropriate intimacy. The roof shape of the residential volumes is a unifying factor and seeks to reconcile the flat roof of the residential care centre with the classic saddle roofs in the village. The slightly sloping butterfly roof is a contemporary answer to this.

A clever mix of two bandages

The Linnaeus Betula was traditionally processed with great care as ordinary brickwork with a slightly recessed grout. Four masonry grouts were applied. A standing mortar on the ground floor places the residential volumes with their feet on the ground. Elsewhere, in the terraces for example, a double coloured mortar emphasizes the length of the brick but at the same time provides a visual reduction in scale of the residential volumes. For the garden walls, decorative open work was used to create subtle views of the courtyard garden.

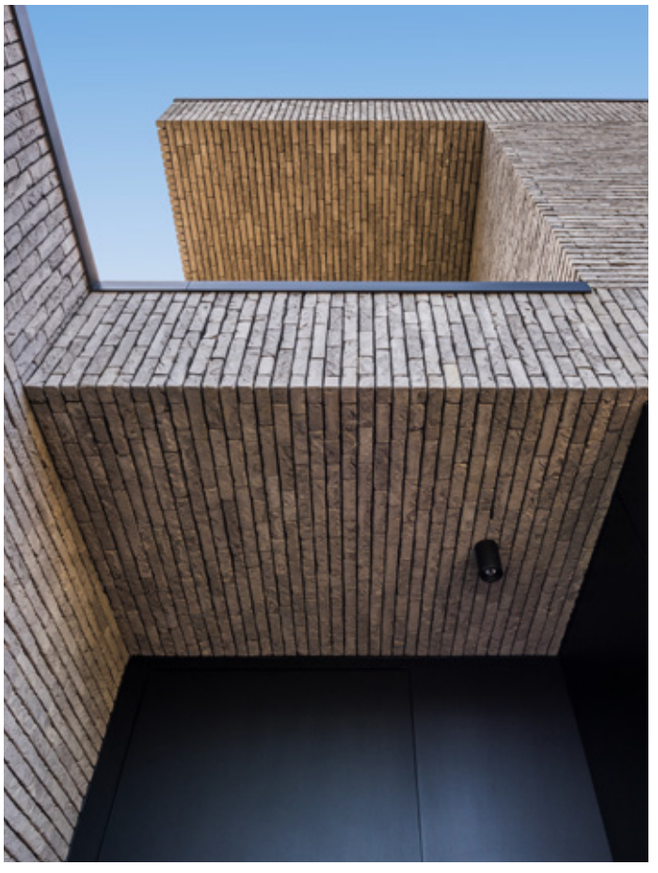
RE-ST Architectenvennootschap,
Antwerpen

"Generous co-habitation around a shared garden"

© Photography: Franky Larousselle

Agora Agate Grey Eco-brick

"Sleek, compact house with timeless appearance"



ir.-arch Karolien De Weerdt,
Putte

Playful masonry mortars with open work

There used to be an old house on this property, which was replaced with new construction. The sleek, compact house is made up of two volumes placed on top of each other. A covered outside area was integrated into the ground floor. The top volume is pulled back on one side. The combination of horizontal and vertical masonry and the creation of open work at the height of the two bathrooms is striking. The open work allows enough light to come in and safeguards privacy at the same time. Below the eaves of the ground floor volume, a band was created in vertical masonry as contrast. The façade s are also characterised by the narrow, tall windows with black carpentry and by the black surface into which the front door was integrated. The graceful, black eaves also contribute to the sleekness of the whole and the general, characteristic lines of the house.

Sanded façade brick in staggered pattern

Eco-brick Agora Agate Grey WF was used in a staggered pattern. The individual differences in sanding of the bricks give the sleek volume a playful character. The Agora Agate grey WF was chosen primarily because of it colour and flat, elongated shape. This type of long, narrow brick reinforces the horizontality of the design beautifully.

"Landscape as painting"

Oriented maximally on the green surroundings

The landscape looks like a painting from inside this austere, contemporary home. An integrated covered terrace forms the link between the outside room and the living spaces. In stark contrast to the scenic involvement, the house is ‘closed off’ from the street by a pivoting gate that merges into a black façade. A parsonage house is a mirror image. From the entrance area one gets a view of the patio garden which is linked to the consultation room. Cupboards allow spaces to flow into each other. From the office space on the first floor you look over the stairs to the vast landscape. Wood accents interrupt the desired black and white contrast.

Tonality and playful nuances

The architect has a weakness for brick due to its durability, texture, colour, nuances and its link to the Belgian building tradition. With its tonality and playful nuances, the Hectic ensures that the façades don’t appear too massive and that the house merges into the green as a natural whole.

Egide Meertens Plus Architecten, Egide Meertens, Riemst

Hectic

Two distinctive volumes

The existing house was renovated to meet today's comfort standard. In terms of stylistic elements, we opted for two volumes. The side wall on the ground floor and the back wall were opened up with big windows. This created a maximum connection with the outdoor space. The first storey and the façade on the street side provide passive cooling. The Eco-brick concept with narrower facing bricks provided optimum insulation and allowed for narrower window openings. The bottom of the overhang was constructed with the same façade brick.

Playful contrast with the carpentry

We opted for sustainable and timeless façade cladding which also fits in with the rural surroundings. The Metropolis Vesta Black Eco-brick facing brick is a beautifully nuanced brick that provides a playful contrast with the black aluminium joinery and the pleating. This facing brick also provides a mild dynamic in the massive façade surfaces. The extra options on the surface of insulation with the narrower brick played a role in the choice of façade material.

"Maximum connection with outdoor spaces"

Metropolis Vesta Black Eco-brick

KLOU - Architecten,
Roeselare

Variety of places and preservation of greenery

This project is the expansion of the kindergarten and elementary school GO! Het Laar in Zwijndrecht, embedded between a railway track on the street side and a nature zone in the back. To safeguard the existing greenery, it was decided to build in a long strip on the street side. The new construction includes an expansion for the elementary school, a new refectory and a new administrative building. Administration and refectory are in separate volumes on the ground floor, with a new entrance between them. The new classrooms will be on the top floor. Between the ground floor volumes, a semi-public outside area is created, which also serves as a covered playground. The staggered patterns on the top floor soften the scale of the building and contribute to the spaciousness of the classroom wing. At the level of the staggered patterns there are terraces for more light and view. The new building is surrounding by greenery and the different functions are facing towards it. The variety of places and the preservation of the existing trees ensure that the outside area is not experienced as one big whole, but more as a combination of several small spaces.

Façade brick with spunk

For the sake of sustainability, budget, but especially appearance, the building is seen as a brick volume from the outside. Metropolis Aula Red was used for this; a façade brick with spunk, which was installed with vertical stacking mortar. Several windows were accentuated with lacquered, steel frames.

HASA-architecten, Muizen

Metropolis Aula Red

"Readability of the spaces, security and views of the surroundings"

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