

MMZ Architekten design Schunk Group

Heuchelheim, Germany

FIRM **Publisher: BRAND ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE**

TYPE Commercial › Office
Hospitality + Sport › Restaurant

YEAR 2013

SIZE 3000 sqft - 5000 sqft

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In recent years the Frankfurt-based architecture studio MMZ Architekten has created a constantly expanding independent brand architecture for Schunk, a technology corporation with international operations. The most recent addition was the new administration building plus staff restaurant.

It all began back in 2006, when the architects faced the difficult task of subtly integrating a new reception and conference building into an existing complex. In 2012 an office and social building followed, also at the original site in Heuchelheim near Gießen, still the firm's main location. At the same time, in nearby Reiskirchen an office building was completed for the subsidiary Weiss Umwelttechnik.

The consistent and clear architectural language that MMZ Architekten developed for Schunk reflects the group's technical innovative force and precision. The materials and colors employed mirror the company spirit: The sharp-edged façades featuring anthracite-colored elements are in keeping with the basic production material graphite dust, while enduring stone surfaces correspond with the group's values.

The architects Claus Marzluf and Raimund Maschita also placed great emphasis on a future-oriented energy concept. Consequently, the waste heat from production at the Heuchelheim site covers the energy requirements of the buildings. Specifically, in all four buildings the annual primary energy consumption is reduced by up to 30 percent.

The most recent project at the main entrance to the factory site, the administration building with staff restaurant completed at the end of 2013, shows once again that MMZ Architekten understand the spirit of the company and translate it successfully into architecture:

The building's height and a green zone serve to mediate between the existing production buildings and the adjoining housing development. For a company that has grown for over 100 years in a small community, good relations to local residents – many of whom are employees – are crucial. Schunk also attaches great importance to securing and strengthening the regional location. For this reason, MMZ Architekten selected primarily local firms and planners to realize the building. Inspired by the existing brick buildings on site, the façade was given a modern interpretation as a ventilated tiled façade.

In designing the staff restaurant on the ground floor the aim was to make it a highly agreeable place to spend time and staff were consulted on the matter. Next to it are seminar rooms for internal events. On the top floor staff work in open office landscapes that promote communication.

The extraordinary spatial graphics together with the orientation and designation system are the work of 22quadrat, a design studio from Osnabrück. Lemon-yellow graphics float through the rooms, having been applied to the walls by hand in yellow acrylic paint. Individual yellow dots combine to form an extensive surface of color, only to separate again – sometimes gradually, sometimes in an explosive manner, at other times flowing.

With these four buildings tailored to the company, MMZ Architekten have demonstrated a transparent and loyal cooperation with the client over several years. This was surely not MMZ's final project for Schunk – in 2012 talks were initiated on a possible upwards extension of the social building.

About MMZ Architekten, Frankfurt:

Architecture studio MMZ GmbH designs residential, office and social buildings in a consistently clear architectural style. It is also constantly expanding its experience and expertise in modernizing listed buildings. Founded in 1999 by Claus Marzluf and Raimund Maschita, the team of 20 employees stands for a balanced architectural approach creating reduced, yet at the same time complex designs. Thanks to precise planning, the finished buildings are not only of a high architectural quality, but also meet budget and deadline requirements.

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Facts & figures

Administration building with staff restaurant, 2013:
Location: Heuchelheim near Gießen
Client: Schunk Dienstleistungsgesellschaft
GFA: 4,850 sq. m.
Project Management MMZ: Daniela Grenner
Statics/fire prevention: Reichmann + Partner Ingenieure
Building services planning: Hans Dönges GmbH
Spatial graphics: 22quadrat

Office and social building, 2012:
Location: Heuchelheim near Gießen
Client: Schunk Dienstleistungsgesellschaft
GFA: 2,940 sq. m.
Project Management MMZ: Beate Voglreiter
Statics/fire prevention: Reichmann + Partner Ingenieure
Electrical engineering planning: AH Ingenieur-Gesellschaft
Planning for heating, ventilation, sanitary fittings: Rempe + Polzer

Office and administration building, 2012:
Location: Reiskirchen-Lindenstruth near Gießen
Client: Weiss Umwelttechnik GmbH
GFA: 2,160 sq. m.
Project Management MMZ: Verena Kraus
Statics: Reichmann + Partner Ingenieure
Fire prevention: Hammer & Partner
Electrical engineering planning: ITG
Planning for heating, ventilation, sanitary fittings: Energieart

