Press release

Waldachtal, 5 March 2021

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art building extension with Structural Point Façade

Straight to the point with glass Façades

fischerwerke GmbH & Co. KG
Corporate Communications

Klaus-Fischer-Straße 1
72178 Waldachtal

First a brewery, now an art gallery: The KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art achieved this transformation in Berlin's Neukölln district. Its original industrial charm was ingeniously incorporated into a modern overall design. The stairway made of glass and exposed concrete on the east side of the museum is an eyecatching feature that adds a futuristic component to the brick building. The extension transitions into a transparent foyer that extends in front of the red-brick external wall. Modern façade technology made this special effect possible while providing security to the new entrance area.

The idea to bring the former Kindl brewery back to life as an art gallery was the brainchild of Burkhard Varnholt and Salome Grisard Varnholt. The art collector couple acquired the industrial monument in 2011 and initiated its use as a cultural institution. Zurich's grisard'architektur ETH SIA architectural firm is run by the owner of the building and created the design and concept for the conversion. The origins of the listed ensemble consisting of a seven-storey tower as well as a boiler, brew and machine hall date back to the late 20s. Based on red-brick German expressionist style, the buildings were home to Berlin's renowned Kindl beer brewery between 1930 and 2005. After being used for events for years, the three floors of the Maschinenhaus and

the 20-metre Kesselhaus spaces have been used to display international contemporary art since opening in October 2016.

“Our aim was to make the expressionist cathedral-like brick building shine through appealing illumination”, the owner of the building Salome Grisard Varnholt says. “We wanted to add to this through contrasting new parts made of exposed concrete, such as the stairway or the square outside the front, so as to create a unique new art location”.

Various testimonials to the early 20th century were combined with modern stylistic elements. One example includes the six enormous, preserved copper kettles, once the largest of their kind in Europe, which were integrated into the modern ambience of the new König Otto cafe. This concept is also felt when it comes to the façade, which incorporates the historical red brick in a unique combination of new elements made of glass and exposed brick. Three companies from the field of façade construction and technology pooled their competence during planning and implementation. GIP GLAZING GmbH (Brunswick), BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG (Bretten) and the façade experts at fischer SystemTec GmbH (Waldachtal) realised the transparent foyer and the seemingly floating glass stairway that reaches from the cellar to the top floor. The experts planned and installed the reinforced concrete cubatures of the foyer and stairway with glass elements on a total area of 600 m² within the space of a year and three months.

The new Structural Point Façade developed in cooperation by fischer, GIP GLAZING GmbH and BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG provided the basis for the façade. “Glass blades” were used as supporting structures. These are transparent reinforcing elements as vertical glass posts with extremely slender cross-sections and high rigidity. They are unsupported and were installed

from floor to ceiling. Combined with fischer's minimalist Zykon glass point holder FZP-G, the use of these glass blades instead of metal posts creates a flowing, organic cubature. This technology makes the large-scale glazing appear to be a single transparent surface allowing a wide uninterrupted panoramic view across Berlin. The special undercut technology with corresponding drill holes in the glass means that the anchors are not penetrating the front side of the glass panel while securely and firmly fastening the glass elements to the supporting structure.

62 free-form elements (custom built) made out of laminated safety glass were used as glazing. The laminated glass was made out of two BI-Tensit model toughened glass types by BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG. This fully thermally tempered glass is particularly resistant to impacts, blows and bending, as well as to thermal stress.

Old and new elements are combined with cunning ingenuity without dominating one another thanks to a sense of architectural awareness. Innovative façade technology makes the discreetly elegant and futuristic extension become a reality with its large-format glass panel that is set before the brick wall like a second skin.

Image captions:

Image1
The substructure and fixings systems of the building extension of Berlin's KINDL are practically invisible thanks to innovative façade technology. The extensions appear to consist of a single piece of glass.

Image 2
Transparency meets intelligence: The façade of the KINDL's building extension combines the appealing optics of large-format glass elements with high-quality technology and safety. The modern, transparent elements create an interesting contrast with the preserved early 20th-century brick.

Image 3
Glass is the material of modern-day architecture, and Berlin's KINDL museum serves as an impressive example of this.

Image 4
Innovative fixings systems for a flawless glass façade: The special undercut technology with corresponding drill holes in the glass mean that the anchors are invisible from the outside while securing glass elements to the supporting structure.

Image 5
Glass blades create a flowing, organic cubature as a supporting structure in combination with the minimalist Zykon point fixings by fischer SystemTec GmbH.

Image 6
The INPOINT logo, the brand name of the new Structural Point Façade by fischer, GIP GLAZING GmbH and BGT Bischoff Glastechnik AG.

Images: GIP GLAZING GmbH

The fischer Group of Companies

The fischer Group of Companies, headquartered in Waldachtal in Germany's northern Black Forest, generated sales of 872 million euro in 2020 with a worldwide staff of 5,200 employees. The family-owned company operates 50 subsidiaries in 38 countries and exports to more than 120 countries. It includes the five divisions: fischer fixing systems, fischer Automotive, fischertechnik, fischer Consulting and LNT Automation

fischer fixing systems is the technological market leader in key areas of fixing technology. fischer offers products that deliver technical perfection to a wide range of customers, from do-it-yourselfers to tradespeople to key account partners.

fischer Automotive manufactures high-quality parts for vehicle interiors. The company is highly competent in the plastics processing segment and is an important partner for the automotive industry. Its range of products includes air vents, cup holders, trays and multi-function components.

With its construction kits, fischertechnik is active in both the toymaking and the educational sector. fischertechnik is one of the last remaining toy makers to exclusively develop and produce in Germany.

fischer Consulting evolved from the competence developed in the company itself, which includes the fischer ProcessSystem with its central aim of permanent improvement for the ultimate benefit of the customer. fischer Consulting advises small and medium-sized businesses, government agencies and major companies on their path towards lean and efficient processes.

LNT Automation develops and manufactures custom electronic solutions. The company also develops, produces and distributes custom and capacitive touch systems such as multi-touch solutions made of glass and the corresponding controller units. All electronics are manufactured in-house.

www.fischer.group

Contact partner

Katharina Maria Siegel
Press Relations Officer fischer fixings
Telephone: +49 7443 12 – 4217
E-mail: Katharinamaria.Siegel@fischer.de