Zaha Hadid opera house

Spectacular building on the banks of the Pearl River in Guangzhou

A new museum in Great Britain

The Hepworth Wakefield Gallery

by David Chipperfield
Water is our source of inspiration.
“The outstanding quality and functionality of our products has made it possible to complete major building projects all over the world. ‘View’ features examples of our broad involvement in the international architecture field and gives you a deeper insight into our philosophy.”

Strong companies make advances during times of crisis. This is also true of Geberit. In recent years, we were able to steadily strengthen our position as market leader on an international scale. Major construction projects are being realized all over the world with our products. We are now also focusing on other target groups – end customers, architects and interior designers. This new reference magazine “View” is a result of this development and is intended to serve as a beacon in this domain. “View” features a wide range of topics showing our broad involvement in international architectural projects and design, giving you a deeper insight into our philosophy.

Our clear commitment to innovation is part of our corporate identity and is a central element of the Geberit brand. For this reason, we invest considerable resources in new and further development of our products and technology. Our mission is to improve the quality of people’s lives. Sustainability plays a central role in our considerations, and the global trend towards sustainable construction means that investors, contractors and the sanitary industry are constantly having to face new challenges. We already today supply water-saving and energy-saving, low-noise and durable products that meet sustainable construction standards, such as those used in the green building “Le Monolithe” in Lyon (page 32), the new opera house in Guangzhou (page 26) and the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery in the North of England (page 20).

I am pleased to be able to present to you outstanding international buildings designed by renowned architects such as Zaha Hadid, David Chipperfield and Gigon/Guyer on the following pages, and hope you find the articles exciting, informative and enjoyable.

Albert M. Baehny, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors
The Prime Tower stands 126 meters high. The building by Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer, currently the tallest high-rise in Switzerland, dominates the Zurich skyline.

English architecture star David Chipperfield has built another new museum – the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery. The angular building consists of ten concrete cubes, all of different heights and widths.

In Hamburg, the mammoth project HafenCity is giving rise to an immense, new residential and business center. Flood protection is one of the project’s major planning issues.

The Indian real estate company Panchshil Realty chooses Western top design and innovative technology in its projects.
New major urban construction projects are currently underway in Lyon’s Confluence quarter, such as the green building Le Monolithe designed by five architecture firms.
“Waterfront” projects that transform shorelines into residential areas are commonplace around the world today. The mammoth HafenCity project in Hamburg is creating a huge, new residential and business center on 157 hectares in Hamburg. The area’s potential flooding problem is being handled through an unusual dwelling mound concept and spectacular constructions.
Repurposing former industrial districts is currently one of the most common urban development tasks in the world. “Waterfront” projects, which transform one-time harbor districts into attractive shore areas, pose a particular challenge for developers and architects. They redefine the interface between water and land and reclaim new urban spaces.

HafenCity is a massive new neighborhood rising up on approximately 157 hectares of the old harbor district of Hamburg, adjacent to historic Speicherstadt district. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2025. Architectural landmarks that are already attracting visitors include the still-under-construction Elbphilharmonie designed by Herzog & de Meuron as well as the Unilever headquarters and the Marco Polo Tower designed by Behnisch Architekten. HafenCity’s urban development and architectural mixed-use concept provides for about 33 percent residential and 50 percent office space. The remainder is reserved for cultural and commercial uses such as restaurants, hotels and retail businesses. The heart of HafenCity is the Übersee quarter, an urban space of just under eight hectares in which approximately 1,000 people will live and up to 7,000 jobs will be created. In addition, authorities reckon with around 40,000 to 50,000 visitors and tourists annually. The northern section of the Übersee quarter is
already mostly finished. It is the densest urban space to be created in HafenCity to date.

**Dwelling mound system for protection against flooding**

Hamburg has forever been a harbor that is influenced by tides. The city has always had to prepare for and adapt to high waters, particularly during storm tides. However, HafenCity, like the old Speicherstadt district, lies south of Hamburg’s main line of dikes, meaning the existing dikes offer no protection whatsoever to the new quarter.

Building a new system of dikes would have been a definite disadvantage. They would have blocked the direct connection to the water as well as the stunning views. Moreover, building the dam would have necessitated an extensive infrastructure and expensive flood barriers. A unique solution for protecting against storm tides had to be developed and was found in the form of dwelling mounds or plinths, which are artificially constructed hills. With the exception of the quayside promenades and those at water’s edge, buildings are constructed on plinths 7.5 to 8.3 meters above mean sea level, putting them out of the reach of flood waters.

Only construction plans for streets directly adjacent to the Speicherstadt district did away with additional elevation so as not to infringe upon the identity and functionality of the neighboring historic streetscape.

The Übersee quarter, located across from the Speicherstadt district, was constructed on such plinths. The dense mixed use in the new quarter is punctuated by ample boulevards and squares built at different heights, similarly also for flood protection. The various levels are connected with ramps, stairs and terraces. Unlike the buildings along the harbor basin that employ varying building styles and materials, red tile is the dominant feature of the Übersee quarter buildings. This material picks up on the brick facades of the old Speicherstadt district opposite, lending the buildings depth, sensuousness and stability.
Protective plinth zone

Three complexes number among the Übersee quarter’s completed projects: the residential buildings Arabica and Ceylon and the Java office complex, which houses retail and restaurant space on the ground floor and offices on the upper floors. The apartments in the Arabica and Ceylon buildings are primarily south-facing and have balconies and loges with views over the Elbe and harbor landscapes. The three striking buildings were designed by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Trojan Trojan + Partner and Dietz Joppien Architekten. The architects took their inspiration for the prismatic structures from the proportions of the historic warehouses and the expanses of water and opened them to the boulevard using interstices and cutouts. The three buildings owe their overall effect to their horizontal arrangement as well as their sculpture-like moldings with three-dimensional recesses and strong light-and-shadow effects. Using a combination of layering and overlaying various structural elements, the architects have achieved diversity in the facades across all three buildings.

The red-brick buildings have been built on one common elevated plinth zone that also bears semipublic and private terrace courtyards belonging to the mixed-use office and residential construction. But the primary purpose of the plinth zone is flood protection. The entrance area to the Übersee quarter is only 6.5 to 7 meters above sea level, positioning it within the flood zone. Thus, the plinth zone protects the buildings from being immersed under water. It also provides space for retail, services and restaurants, sort of like a “city platform”: Moreover, the buildings are connected via an underground garage with 3,000 parking spaces. It is currently the largest underground parking facility in Europe and also required special precautions against flooding (see infobox).

Geberit drainage system

Years of experience, research and practical development have made Geberit the most important know-how provider in matters of water drainage. Flexibility, unsurpassed tightness and durability are the cornerstones of the long service life of Geberit drainage systems. With their exceptional properties, Geberit PE-HD pipes and fittings are suitable for the full range of drainage applications: from branch discharge pipes to stacks, from collector pipes to buried pipes. Because strict flood protection standards were also in effect for installations, Geberit PE-HD pipes and Silent-db20 pipes were chosen to be installed in the underground garage and approximately 200 apartments.

To prevent water from entering the underground garage during storm tides, the entrance was moved to an elevated location 7.5 meters above sea level. However, the entire underground parking area is lower and is therefore susceptible to flooding since it is connected to the flood area via the tide gate connections. This is especially challenging for the drainage systems in use there. In accordance with the requirements of the Hamburg Office of Urban Drainage, in the event of flood conditions and possible pipe breakage inside the garage (e.g. from the approach of a car being parked), water must not be able to enter the building via the piping system. For this reason, the PE-HD pipes in the exterior walls of the garage have been fitted with closable sliders. The pipes have also been secured with heavy-weight fastening material, since during a flood they can be full of standing water and must be able to bear heavy weights.

↑ Cross section of a quay showing flood-secure location of the buildings and margins of the elevated mounds.
“India is no longer the slow runner”

Eon Free Zone and ICC Marriot in Pune, India

Abhay Chordia, Jt. Managing Director of Panchshil Realty, is making Western top design and innovative technologies accessible to an increasingly affluent clientele.
Interview with Abhay Chordia, Jt. Managing Director of Panchshil Realty

Mr. Chordia, India was regarded for a long time as a secluded economy with major potential lying idle. Is that an image of the past?

Look at the statistical reports today and you will realize that the Indian market, with its one billion plus population, presents lucrative opportunities for industries and workers from across the globe. India is no longer the slow runner in the big league. We have the second-fastest-growing economy in Asia and one of the fastest overall globally.

“We were the first to engage international architects when local construction companies were still skeptical of foreign involvement.”

To what extent is that growth propelled by the ubiquitous IT sector?

It is of course an important factor. In India, we have the second largest group of software developers behind the US, and India is one of only three countries that make their own supercomputers. But we also have the world’s second largest market for small cars. India is growing in breadth just as much as in depth and there are the widest opportunities to be explored.

And the growth is manifesting itself in the building segment?

Very much so. We have seen a drastic improvement in terms of architecture and construction in India in the last few years.
tries and ideas from all nooks and corners around the globe have led to a change in the mindset of the overall audiences.

Panchshil Realty, which was initiated in 1996, has made a name for itself throughout India with projects as diverse as condominiums, IT parks, hotels and shopping malls. What is your secret?

Today, quality, delivery and commitment have become synonymous with Panchshil. This has been due to the dynamic vision and leadership of our chairman Atul Chordia. Panchshil delivers world-class properties for residential, commercial and hospitality purposes. We are spanning the real estate processes from design and planning to ultimate construction, resulting in clever and innovative solutions. At the same time, implementing ideas and leading technology from all over the world has enabled us to grow and to earn a reputation.

The International Convention Center in Pune is the largest business and congress center in South Asia.
for class. The rest, I guess, is a team effort that has been well rewarded.

What distinguishes Panchshil Realty from its competitors in the Indian real estate business?

Basically, we have created our own ideas to be launched on spaces – ideas that catch the interest of people. Homes are more than four-wall structures. We were the first to launch signature homes with top-of-the-line amenities provided in every house. And we also started to appoint international architects when the local developers were not yet open to the idea of foreign ventures.

Panchshil Realty is responsible for a number of landmark buildings in the city of Pune. Why is the eighth largest city in India so attractive for both commercial and private real estate customers?

Pune has been better known as the engineering and automobile hub of Western India and is a major IT hub, with sprawling software parks coming up all over the city and especially in its eastern corridor. With a huge cosmopolitan market within reach, every developer eventually has a target audience to cater for.

You are currently realizing the prestigious "yoopune" project with French designer Philippe Starck. How did this collaboration come about?

The yoopune story began with a business trip to Tel Aviv, where our Director Sagar Chordia chanced upon two iconic, cylindrical structures. He found out that they were designed by Philippe Starck. Truly everything from the design concepts and the materials to the finish were unbelievable. He approached the yoo office in London for a tie-up. One of the main reasons why we decided to choose Philippe Starck was because he is a designer in every sense. He has designed everything from a toothbrush to a bicycle and therefore the way he understands design is incomparable.

"The blend of international and Indian designers is perfect for our market."

What is the status of Western designers in India today in general?

We consult international designers for the concept of the projects. The detailing is done by our in-house local team. The Indian property buyer in the premium segment is a globetrotter. His approach is to have an international feel for his local property. We also have many multinational companies setting up their facilities in India. These companies like to have the same international flair around them. The Indian designers work on the micro aspects of the project and the international designers do the macro planning. This blend is perfect for our market.

In the long-run, what kind of potential for urban development do you see in the growing metropolitan regions of India? India is now a billion people strong. The demographic profile is in favor of India. More and more young people are joining the workforce and the demand for housing and infrastructure is growing. The large metropolitan areas will see continued high-end residential construction. In its wake, the Tier II cities of India will also see growth in residential development.

www.panchshil.com

Geberit in India

Since the acquisition of its former sales partner in early 2010, Geberit now has a headquarters in Bangalore and branches in Mumbai and Delhi. All major cities in the country are handled directly by Geberit. The other areas are served by a network of more than 100 partners.
Glass stalactite
Prime Tower, Zurich, Switzerland

The Prime Tower in Zurich, currently Switzerland’s tallest high-rise building, will be completed in the fall of 2011. The Prime Tower forms an urban ensemble together with its two lower annex buildings “Cubus” and “Diagonal” as well as the office building “Platform”. The building, designed by Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer, is 126 meters high, with 36 stories and 74,500 square meters of floor space. The two Zurich architects have made a name for themselves through numerous, highly regarded projects at home and abroad and are among the most renowned architects in the world. During their search for a form which creates both a maximum number of optimally lit workplaces and also a distinctive building shape, Gigon/Guyer developed a building structure with an irregular octagon as floor-plan that goes against the usual expectations and expands upward.

Seen from a distance, the high-rise building appears as an elegant, abstract structure made of green-shimmering glass. Instead of typically tapering upwards, the building gets wider toward the top and takes on the shape of a “glass stalactite”, say the architects. The building’s cantilevered floors create additional office space in the higher, more attractive locations. The facades feature triple glazing without external frames, lending the polygonal building the appearance of a green crystal. The crystalline exterior distinguishes the tower from the surrounding buildings and makes it a striking urban landmark in the up-and-coming area of Zurich West.

Roger Bosshard, Technical Adviser, Geberit Switzerland

“The enormous height of the 126-meter building required special installation, in particular regarding high standards on waste water, acoustic insulation and the hydraulics of roof drainage.”

Green crystal: The Prime Tower grows wider toward the top, like a stalactite.

Prime Tower, Zurich (CH)
Building owner: Swiss Prime Site AG (CH)
Architect: Annette Gigon/Mike Guyer Architekten Zurich (CH)
Year of construction: 10/2011
Plumber: Benz, Zurich (CH)

Geberit know-how
GIS installation system
Electronic urinal flush controls and lavatory taps
Pluvia roof drainage system
PE piping system
Silent-db20 piping system

www.primetower.ch
At the beginning of this year, the traditional dairy company Luxlait opened an unusual visitor center in Roost, in the north of Luxembourg, called the Vitarium. The Grand Duchy’s first interactive participation museum combines a teaching-oriented science center and innovative brand communication. The building was designed by studio klv. The Berlin architecture company has been developing theme-related experience, visitor and brand worlds, showrooms as well as exhibition spaces since 2002. The Vitarium is over 2000 square meters and its exhibition deals with the themes of nutrition, health, exercise, well-being and agriculture. At the same time, visitors are given a clear picture of the manufacture of dairy products. Visitors can test and expand their knowledge of milk and related fields in a playful, challenging manner on around 50 interactive exhibits. The building which includes a bar, cafeteria, lounge, conference room and workshop area is part of the new production site and is connected to the dairy via a tunnel.

Studio klv covered the two-story building with a golden, matt-shiny shell. In their building design, the architects picked up on the rural environment’s gable-roof construction and gave it a contemporary interpretation. studio klv intends the construction to be a bridge between traditional and modern, between rural products and modern manufacturing. On the other hand, the glazed facades and the golden shingles are a counterpoint to the adjacent, gray production halls.

Patrick Schintgen, Sales Manager/Product Manager SAS, Geberit Luxembourg

“For quality reasons, only Geberit products were used for the supply and drainage pipes. In the sanitary technology area, Mepla piping systems were used for the drinking water supply. The Mapress stainless steel piping system and Mapress carbon steel piping systems were used for the distribution of heating and cooling energy.”
Inside the concert hall in the Hungarian town of Pécs you feel as if you are in a giant wooden instrument, say the architects from the Építész Stúdió in describing their building. The architecture firm, based in Budapest since 1990, was inspired in its design work by the principles of music. Thus, the architecture of the concert building is based on the principle of dynamics and balance, cold and warmth, consistency and intimacy. The architects also liken the outer cover of the building to a white, stone snail winding its way slowly around the wooden concert area. To ensure the best possible acoustics in the concert hall, the architects separated it from the other areas, in particular from the service areas, giving it the feeling of a house within a house.

The new building also includes facilities such as a large rehearsal room, the offices of the locally based Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra and a conference room. There are also additional rooms for the orchestra and storage areas for instruments and music. Visitors can spend their time in the café, in the shop and in a lounge. In 2007, Építész Stúdió won the competition for the new concert hall, the Kodály Center, in downtown Pécs. After compulsory archeological excavations were completed, construction was finally started on the building in 2009. Pécs, the 2010 “European Capital of Culture”, had been dreaming of a concert hall for some 200 years. Through the new building, which staged its first concert in December, the town wants to become a regional center and the musical center for southern Hungary.

Sandor Meszaros, Technical Advisor, Geberit Hungary

“The plumber had to provide a five-year warranty period and therefore decided to use exclusively Geberit products. To accommodate the high standards on acoustics in the concert area and to achieve the maximum possible acoustic insulation, Geberit Duofix was installed in the sanitary area and PE-HD pipes were used in the building drainage system.”
On the “red carpet”
New sports and town hall, Podčetrtek, Slovenia

The decisive factor in the design of the sports and town hall was the dual usage the building had to accommodate. Enota architecture firm from Ljubljana was awarded the 3.5 million euro project. The company, founded in 1998 by Aljoša Dekleva, Dean Lah and Milan Tomac, won the competition organized by the town of Podčetrtek in southern Slovenia four years ago.

In addition to numerous sporting events, the building also hosts important regional cultural functions that welcome a large numbers of visitors. The joint use of the hall for sporting and cultural events also inspired the architects to give the complex two completely different aspects. On the street side, the building welcomes visitors with an inviting “red carpet” that also brightly shows the way into the building. On the opposite side, the expressionist-shaped facade of the building shows a different side of its character, especially at night. Here, the architects spread large perforated flower patterns over black metal panel cladding. The result is that the building’s interior light shimmers to the outside at night. During the daytime, the ornamental facade also acts as sun protection.

The bright red entrance area leads visitors into the hall that hosts both sports and cultural events.

Two aspects were of particular importance for the building owners: water-saving installations and regular WC flushing, even when not in use so as to prevent the traps from drying out. For these reasons, Geberit products were used. Given the unusual shape of the roof, Geberit Pluvia was also installed in order to ensure drainage of the entire roof area via one single stack.

Sports and town hall, Podčetrtek (SI)
Architect: Enota, Ljubljana (SI)
Year of construction: 2/2011
Plumber: Stavbar Gradišče d.o.o., Maribor (SI)

Arnold Mažgon, Technical Adviser, Geberit Slovenia

“Two aspects were of particular importance for the building owners: water-saving installations and regular WC flushing, even when not in use so as to prevent the traps from drying out. For these reasons, Geberit products were used. Given the unusual shape of the roof, Geberit Pluvia was also installed in order to ensure drainage of the entire roof area via one single stack.”

www.podcetrtek.si
At 262 meters, the Aqua Tower near Millennium Park in Chicago may not be the city’s highest building, but it still stands out in the urban skyline. The unusual sculptural form gives the high-rise residential building a strong identity and has long since turned the building into an attraction for architecture tourists. Just the name Aqua Tower is a hint that the architects from Studio Gang were inspired by the wave shapes of the water in nearby Lake Michigan when designing the building. They wrapped the conventional high-rise box with an unusual, flowing balcony design that simultaneously provides shade to the building.

The building, winner of the International Highrise Award, was erected on a two-story pedestal on which the “vertical topography” arises, explain the architects. The extraordinary building, whose solar panels on the facade also make it green-building-compliant, has a total of 82 stories. The curved balcony design gives each floor a different shape. The organically shaped outside terraces vary in width between 60 centimeters and almost four meters. The lower 18 stories of the building house a hotel, the first Radisson Blu in the USA. The 60 upper stories house private apartments. The basement levels are reserved as parking lots for residents and guests.

"Geberit Duofix has been installed in the hotel area of the Aqua Tower. This is the first time that the Geberit installation system has been used in a newly built US hotel."
Clearly in sight
New school on Contiweg, Vienna, Austria

Each day, the Contiweg Grammar School welcomes around 1,000 pupils with big eyes. The building’s large lens-shaped windows are cut like ornaments into the facade and the wide, cantilevered roof. The new school in the Hirschstetten district of Vienna was designed by Atelier Heiss Architects. The company, founded in 1997, has 30 employees and is active in architecture and interior design projects in Austria.

The 11,000 square meter complex was designed as a facility with two horizontal building structures. The glass entrance atrium on the southern side with the library in the pronounced roof extension enhances the otherwise architecturally unattractive Contiweg street. The class and administration areas are in the side wings, connected via bridges in the atrium. The inner courtyard is organized around stage and terrace elements and leads to the external sports facilities via outdoor stairs that double as a seating area. The school library stands proudly over the foyer’s three-story atrium like a tree house. In this quiet place, pupils gaze at the surrounding areas through the lens-shaped window openings. The lenses run throughout the entire construction as a decorative leitmotif. In the outdoor spaces, they are used to create islands of green. In the break hall, they become furnishings in the form of three-meter-long, wooden, lens-shaped benches. The interplay of light and shadow created in the hallways by the window eyes underscores the lively atmosphere in the school building.

Mario Rosensteiner, Technical Advisor, Geberit Austria

“For safety reasons, Geberit PE piping systems were installed in the building as welded systems. They fulfill all requirements in terms of quality.”

↑ Various stages and terrace elements enliven the inner courtyard of the Contiweg Grammar School.

Panorama

Contiweg School, Hirschstetten, Vienna (AT)
Building owner: Bundesimmobilengesellschaft (AT)
Architect: Atelier Heiss Architekten, Vienna (AT)
Year of construction: 9/2010
Plumber: Caliqua Anlagentechnik, Wiener Neustadt (AT)
Geberit know-how
PE piping system

www.contiweg.at
Angular grouping of buildings

The Hepworth Wakefield Gallery in West Yorkshire County, Great Britain

English architecture star David Chipperfield has come up with a new museum building in West Yorkshire County in the north of England. The Hepworth Wakefield Gallery is a monolithic building made up of ten abstract blocks. The museum exhibits paintings and sculptures of well-known contemporary artists.
David Chipperfield is currently defining the discipline of museum construction as no other contemporary architect. Following the British architect’s recent completion of three important buildings – the Museum Folkwang in Essen, the Museum of Modern Literature in Marbach and the Neues Museum in Berlin – his focus in 2011 is on new projects in the United Kingdom, including the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery in West Yorkshire County. In 2003, Chipperfield – the recipient of numerous awards, including the Royal Gold Medal and the Mies van der Rohe Award – won the international competition to find an architect to design the new museum. The motivation for the project was a large donation from the Hepworth family to the Wakefield Art Gallery, making it necessary for the museum to expand. The museum’s collection focuses primarily on British and European artists.

The new addition covers 2,500 square meters and is dedicated to Wakefield-born sculptor Barbara Hepworth and her work but also contains works of Henry Moore, another native of Wakefield. The museum was constructed on a tongue of land extending into the River Calder in the middle of the historic harbor district and marks the entrance to the new urban quarter of Wakefield. The urban development area was formerly a production location for the clothing industry and grain processing. A bridge connects the museum building with the opposite river bank.

Monolithic effect
David Chipperfield Architects designed the angular building as an ensemble made up of ten large puristic cubes that formally refer to the small-scale industrial buildings in the vicinity. Together, the ten blocks form the new Hepworth Wakefield Gallery sits on a promontory along the bank of the River Calder.

The ensemble consists of blocks of varying sizes: the museum floor plan.
A family of buildings whose individual elements vary in height and width. The British architecture artist selected a uniform quality of concrete for the facades and roof surfaces, underscoring the building’s monolithic effect. Since the building is visible from all sides and is bordered by water on two sides, it has no front or back. Instead, all its structures are equally weighted.

The cubes house the individual museum spaces, which are divided on two levels horizontally. The reception area, museum store, auditorium, studios, offices, teaching workrooms and storage areas are on the ground floor. The upper level, accessible via a central staircase, accommodates the simply designed exhibition spaces. The interconnected rooms were designed as a flowing circuit that links the ten different large rooms to one another.

The unusual design of the museum as a building landscape can also be felt in the interior. The ceilings mimic the slopes of the roofs and the walls meet at various angles, creating different moods in the individual galleries.

As in any museum that must comply with conservation standards, the lighting plan and how to deal with natural light were central concerns in the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery. “Slot lights” in the ceilings allow diffused daylight into the rooms. Only a few windows interrupt the facades as carefully staged views out onto the grounds. This interplay of various light sources creates a variety of atmospheres, lending the exhibition spaces a special mood and providing the right low-key context in which to exhibit art.

Mapress: reliable piping systems for the right indoor climate in museums

Mapress carbon steel is the piping system especially suited to closed circuits. The reliable pressing technology enables systems to be installed quickly without complex welding and soldering. The material quality, the high-quality production process, the reliability of the pressed joints, the wide range of applications and the fast installation make the system an attractive solution for the installation of closed heating and cooling circuits and sprinkler systems. For museum buildings such as the Hepworth Wakefield Gallery in particular, the Mapress piping system therefore provides the greatest possible safety in terms of art conservation requirements. In exhibitions of valuable artwork, it is important to be able to maintain a constant room temperature in museum spaces and regulate humidity accordingly. The quality and reliability of Mapress carbon steel allow for perfect supply to the air conditioning and heating systems, thus protecting the artwork.

↑ The low-key designed exhibition spaces provide the right backdrop to the works of art.

Sculptures by the Wakefield-born artist Barbara Hepworth are on display in the museum.
The Celtic Museum was constructed on a unique location and today numbers among the most important Celtic finds and research facilities in Europe. The monolithic building recedes into the background in deference to the historic landscape and lets the burial mound take the leading role. The exhibits visually portray the history and culture of the Celts.

“Design a museum for Celtic art in the Keltenwelt archaeological park,” read the competition announced in 2006, which the team from the architecture firm kadawittfeldarchitektur in Aachen went on to win. “The monolithic structure of the museum will protrude into the landscape like an excavated archaeological find and form a counterpart to the mound of the Celtic burial site,” was how the architects described their design. The discovery of the graves of Celtic princes with elaborate, perfectly preserved burial objects, together with the cult area and its settlement are today considered to be among the most important Celtic finds and research facilities in Europe.
Perception enhancer of the landscape
In tribute to this unique location, the architecture shuns extravagant gestures. The clean lines of the structure of the Celtic museum harmoniously fit into the sweeping landscape. Thrust halfway into the hillside, it focuses attention on the Celtic mound as a “perception enhancer”, in the words of the architects, consciously ceding the principal role to the burial site.

The protected open area under the massive outcropping serves as the starting and ending points of the walking tour on the archeological nature trail and of the exploration of the museum. Inside the building, a wide flight of stairs welcomes visitors and leads them to the exhibits. The architecture of the exhibits lays bare the history and culture of the Celts in individual layers – beginning with the sequence of events in an archeological dig. A versatile corpus of exhibits has been assembled with variously shaped, horizontally running and vertically layered ledges that project and recede. The exhibit concept does not follow a strictly prescribed route, but rather openly and flowingly brings together the many facets of the Celtic world. In this way, visitors can continually discover something new and become “research partners”.

Homage to the Celts
Among the highlights of the exhibit is the giant panoramic window offering an impressive view of the burial mound and through which the architects have made the mound a part of the museum’s exhibition. The rooftop observation deck also provides a panoramic view of the countryside. The compact form of the building structure is further underscored by the large-scale, weather-proof Corten steel plates cladding the building. The material is intended to symbolize a connection with the earth and weightiness but also serve as a reference to the advanced and technically artistic metalworking skills of the Celts.
Polished pebbles

The opera house by Zaha Hadid in Guangzhou, China

Zaha Hadid selected a light granite for the facade, a material that suits the building’s organic shape.
The new opera house by Zaha Hadid in Guangzhou is situated on the banks of the Pearl River. The spectacular building comprises a large concert hall for 1,800 spectators and a smaller multifunctional theater, both erected on a pedestal. Hadid’s design work was inspired by river pebbles made smooth by flowing water.
Until fairly recently, Guangzhou, situated close to Hong Kong, was known as an industrial city with a rapidly growing population. Now, the southern Chinese town on the banks of the Pearl River has developed into a mega polis and is reinventing itself: The city is undergoing construction on a grand scale. In addition to anonymous office towers, sophisticated architectural projects are also being erected. Among them is the opera house by Zaha Hadid, opened in the spring in the new culture zone of Zhujiang New Town – what public officials also call the Mall of the World. Zaha Hadid, a building artist who received the 2004 Pritzker Prize – the “Oscar of architecture” – is currently being inundated with international construction projects. Together with around 300 employees, the London-based native of Iraq is involved in building projects all over the world, including in Poland, Hungary, Russia, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, Australia and the USA.

Architecture that develops like landscape
The new, approximately 70,000 square meters opera house in Guangzhou comprises two buildings, the somewhat larger opera house and an adjoining, smaller multifunctional theater, both of which are positioned on a pedestal. Numerous, completed and under-construction office skyscrapers tower over the new area in which Hadid’s charismatic building stands out for its almost intimate feeling.

Both buildings recall smooth gravel pebbles that have been washed and polished by water. Zaha Hadid looked to the nearby Pearl River for her inspiration. The architect chose a granite for the facade design that fits in with building’s organic structure and is divided into triangular sections. A darker, charcoal-colored granite with a rougher surface was used for the facade of the opera house. A brighter, white granite was used in the smaller multifunctional theater. “These textured finishes reinforce the over design concept of the project as boulders, eroded by water, on the banks of a stream – a continuation of our architectural language of landscape formations and natural systems,” comments Zaha Hadid. Hadid also continues the river theme in the interior of the building. Walls and pillars look as if they have been pushed out of line. Ramps and stairs wind like large rivers. Structures and spaces meander like streams. Triangular glass panels in the facade underline the organic form of the complex and open the public areas of the opera house to the outside. The sun refracts onto them as if onto a lake in the evening light.

The colors used in the large auditorium shimmer between gold and champagne, giving the room an aura-like appearance.
Geberit Pluvia roof drainage system
The Pluvia roof drainage system from Geberit is an intelligent negative pressure suction system. Pluvia requires smaller pipe dimensions and less discharge stacks than conventional roof drainage systems in order to collect and drain off roof water. The collector pipes can be brought together into a few downpipes directly under the roof construction. This is particularly advantageous with large and complex roof surfaces such as that of the opera house in Guangzhou. The roof water need only be fed through the building structure or out of the building at a few points. The correct dimensioning of the pipes and arrangement of the roof outlets results in rapid filling of the pipe system and thus negative pressure in the pipes. This negative pressure in the pipe quickly sucks up the rain water instead of merely allowing it to flow off. This also ensures improved self-cleaning.

Conventional roof drainage systems presuppose large discharge stacks. These pipes must be fed through the entire building structure at identical intervals. In contrast, Pluvia is an ideal solution above all for modern architectural concepts because the efficient roof outlets can be brought together directly under the roof with one collector pipe without slope. This enables drainage of even large roof surfaces via a single discharge stack. This facilitates planning and reduces construction times. There is likewise no need for cost-intensive discharge and it greatly increases architects' options for underground pipes, planning choices and building usage. As additional support, Geberit offers full service on-site, from technical service and installation service to after sales service.

Concert hall with aura-like atmosphere
The opera house's large auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,800 is done in a shiny gold-champagne tone. “A similar appearance of luxurious silk,” is how Zaha Hadid describes the design of the room that harmoniously continues in the copper-colored seats. The aura-like atmosphere is further enhanced by the countless small LED lights that shine out of the glass-fiber-reinforced gypsum mass. “As with all our work over the past ten years, we wanted to achieve the ultimate fluid space to deal with the complexities of the demanding acoustic engineering, and also the complicated programming requirements that allow for a variety of events and performances in the building. Therefore, we have continued the seamless, organic architectural language in the asymmetrical auditorium space,” says Hadid about her concept.

In this space too, the water also appears to have shaped the curved seating areas and balconies – like cliffs in a wild stream that have been washed gently over the course of time. The architect also consistently continues the water theme in the multi-functional theater with its 400 seats, the walls of which are covered with traces of water. “So when designing the building, we were not thinking so much of metaphor, but more in terms of analogy – the landscape analogy – where features of natural landscape are expressed within the architecture. For example, the smooth transitions between territories and zones, and smooth transitions between levels,” explains Hadid. With the opera house in Guangzhou, Zaha Hadid has taken a major step towards achieving her long-standing desire to develop buildings like landscape, with structures and spaces that meander like a river.

Hadid also consistently uses the organic architectural language in the interior spaces.
The long, end-to-end interior courtyard is the central element of the superblock that houses living quarters, offices and retail space.

Le Monolithe, Lyon (FR)
Building owner: ING Real Estate Development; Atemi
Architects: Winy Maas, MVRDV (NL), Pierre Gautier, PGA (FR), Manuelle Gautrand, MAG (FR), Erick van Egeraat, EEA (NL) and ECDM (FR)
Year of construction: 12/2010
Plumber: Billon S.A., Saint-Priest (FR)
Geberit know-how
Mapress carbon steel piping system

↑ The long, end-to-end interior courtyard is the central element of the superblock that houses living quarters, offices and retail space.

Focus: Lyon

Green superblock
Le Monolithe, France
The Confluence quarter in the heart of Lyon is currently one of the most impressive urban development projects in Europe. The development of the city site will last more than ten years. Diverse large-scale projects designed by internationally known architects are currently under construction. The future cityscape is already taking shape in gigantic, sustainable building complexes such as Le Monolithe.

The development of the Confluence quarter in Lyon is running in high gear. Large-scale urban development projects are being built on a 150-hectare tract on the Presqu’île peninsula. The Place nautique alone is already home to immense blocks of buildings, comprising a total of 660 flats and 15,000 square meters of office space. Several architecture firms designed each of these blocks. And one of them, Le Monolithe, particularly stands out for its striking form.

Le Monolithe consists of five building sections arranged in a row, each designed by one of five architecture firms. Dutch architects Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs and Nathalie de Vries of the MVRDV firm provided the design for the distinctive top construction of the impressive building. They are the same firm that devised the master plan for the entire development zone in 2004. The other sections of the building were designed by the architecture firms Pierre Gautier, Manuelle Gautrand, ECDM and Erick van Egeraat. The public squares and parks were laid out by the Rotterdam landscape planning firm West 8. Although Le Monolithe is an entire complex, the facades of the five segments each have a different surface and color. The group-effort architecture incorporates larch wood and grey-white enameled glass, brushed concrete glazed in gold, mirrored stainless steel, anthracite-colored concrete as well as grey aluminum panels with window shutters, each embossed with a letter.

Le Monolithe – sustainable construction

The mixed-use, urban superblock includes an unusual combination of owner-occupied and rented apartments, council flats as well as holiday flats, offices and retail spaces. The flats and offices have been designed with extremely flexible floor plans, making it possible for users to customize them to their personal requirements. One central element is a long, end-to-end interior courtyard with a raised, publicly accessible space affording a panoramic view of the city, the new harbor and the park.

In addition to its extraordinary architecture, Le Monolithe is also noteworthy for its sustainable planning. Up to 80 percent of the energy consumed in the complex comes from renewable energy sources, and only environmentally friendly materials were used in its construction. The building has a rainwater management system, efficient space layout, heating comfort and acoustic damping, and an energy concept that includes heat storage, solar cells, insulating glazing and natural ventilation.

Le Monolithe meets all requirements for sustainability and has been designated as a “green building”. Up to 80 percent of the energy consumed in the building comes from renewable energy sources. Geberit Mapress carbon steel pipes were used for the connections between the solar collectors on the roof and the water heating system. They guarantee long-term resistance to corrosion, can be quickly and safely connected to each other and are exceptionally well suited for closed hot-water circuits.
An airy high-rise
The Oxygen Tower, France

They’re building in Lyon. Impressive new construction is under way not just in the Confluence quarter, but also in the La Part-Dieu business district downtown. The Oxygen Tower designed by the Paris architecture firm Arte Charpentier Architectes is the second highest high-rise building in the city.
The 28 stories in the Oxygen Tower are accessible via elevator systems.

The Oxygen tower is the second-tallest building in Lyon.

Lyon is expanding not only in the Confluence quarter. The skyline of the La Part-Dieu business district downtown is also being reshaped by spectacular buildings such as the Oxygen Tower. The building, clad completely in green glass, is the second highest high-rise building in Lyon. At 115 meters, the Oxygen Tower visibly looms over all the surrounding buildings. The building was designed by the Paris architecture firm Arte Charpentier Architects. The firm, founded in 1969 by Jean-Marie Charpentier, has branch offices in France and China and is active in the areas of architecture, planning and urban development, hence its name Arte, an acronym for architecture, research, technology and environment. The Paris firm’s projects include the Coquelles passenger terminal in Calais (1995) and the DaimlerChrysler office complex in Bailly (2000), as well as the Ala’er Museum in Xinjiang and General Motors Headquarters in Shanghai, both of which were completed in 2010.

Like a big mirror

The Oxygen Tower, also completed in 2010, is part of the project, which also includes a large shopping center in addition to the office high-rise. The glass tower comprises 28,000 square meters of office space distributed over 28 floors. The biggest tenant is the SNCF (the French federal railway) with around 16,000 square meters on 17 floors. The Cours Oxygen, the shopping center located on the ground floor, comprises around 15,000 square meters in commercial space. The imposing high-rise consists of two different facades. The north facade features an angular recess which breaks up the entire height of the construction, opening to the street side, whereas the south facade is a convex bowed shape. However, aside from the unusual shape, the tower’s most notable detail is the transparency it gets from the glass facades. The building’s theme of transparency and its openness to the outside have been carried through in the interior of the building, as in the ten-meter-high entrance hall that welcomes visitors with an airy atmosphere. City life and daylight are reflected in their different moods in the shimmering green glass facades. The Oxygen Tower should be like a giant mirror in the city, the architects say in explanation of their design.
The minimalist design of the Geberit Monolith is getting a new addition. The company is presenting additional Monolith studies at the ISH in Frankfurt. The narrow version of Monolith for washbasins and wall-mounted taps will be available on the market beginning in 2012 to supplement the Monolith line for WCs.

Concept Cars demonstrate what might be possible in the automobile industry through design studies that are not intended to be manufactured as production series. The prototypes of the Monolith family are the Concept Cars 2011 from Geberit. Monolith studies were presented for the first time at the ISH in Frankfurt, the world’s largest showplace for innovative bathroom design, energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning technology and renewable energies, as part of the “Illumination, integration and individuality” theme. With Monolith for WCs, Geberit presented a product that is equipped with an orientation light and touchless actuation. In keeping with Monolith’s minimalist design, the light is only visible at night to show the bathroom’s basic outline. The Monolith for washbasins and wall-mounted taps combines the concealed mixer of the wall-mounted tap, trap and storage area with sideways opening draws in a single element. The glass surfaces, printed on both sides in various colors and motifs, open up completely new possibilities in bathroom design.

A narrow version of the Monolith for washbasins and wall-mounted taps will be available starting in spring 2012.
The wheel reinvented
The purist Monolith for WCs, launched last year, is a completely new element in the bathroom and has already won the renowned “iF product design award 2010”. It is a cistern that is no longer a cistern – a focal point and an attractive alternative to exposed cisterns. Geberit commissioned the Tribecraft studio in Zurich to design the product. The team of industrial designers around Daniel Irányi and Tom Stäubli succeeded in reinventing the wheel with the design of the Monolith. Simply developing one more cistern was not innovative enough for Tribecraft. They based their design work on architectural, space-related considerations, the goal being to completely redesign the WC ceramic. The result is a sanitary module that defines the bathroom as “low-height furniture” and, at the same time, conceals the complete sanitary technology in a sophisticated manner behind a glass surface and brushed aluminium. The standards of superior design, quality and the proven application technology of Geberit can be seen in every detail. Behind the elegant module are water feed and discharge pipes, cistern, dual-flush actuation and the connection for the WC. Its installation provides an esthetic, stylish change in the bathroom without major costs and conversions, not only in new buildings but especially in renovation.

A large number of individual design options
Discussions on the topic “Monolith as low-height furniture” ultimately led to the idea of a Monolith family. The narrow version of the Monolith for washbasins and wall-mounted taps will be launched in spring 2012. The element complements the Monolith for WCs and is an elegant solution for tiled walls in the bathroom. A slightly differentiated design distinguishes the two Monoliths from one another.

The addition of one of the modules creates many individual design options through which the bathroom becomes a harmoniously designed room, structured by its functional areas. Depending on the room concept, the Monolith’s clear and purist stylistic elements let it play a supporting role in a room’s design or be its starring focal point.

With its Monolith family of products, Geberit presented new design possibilities for the bathroom at the ISH in Frankfurt.

The narrow version of the new Monolith for washbasins and wall-mounted taps will be available in Europe starting in spring 2012. For further information visit:

→ www.geberit.com
Maximum flexibility
The Geberit prefabricated module bathroom

The residential establishment of the National Police Security Academy in Graz is an old building that was in urgent need of renovation, including its bathrooms. The landlord, the Austrian Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft (BIG), opted for the installation of standardized prefabricated bathrooms with glass surface from Geberit Huter. Issues such as the tightness of the bathrooms, specific design wishes, quick installation and exact forecasted costs were enough to convince the landlord to decide for the Geberit subsidiary. The order for the residential establishment totaled 28 prefabricated bathrooms.

Among the major advantages of Geberit Huter prefabricated bathrooms is the fact that the facilities can be designed completely according to individual wishes. This meant that the bathrooms for the residential establishment were carefully planned to meet the customer’s own specifications and prefabricated at the Geberit Huter plant. Special changes for this order included increasing the normal dimensions of the prefabricated bathrooms from 1.6 x 2.2 meters to 1.5 x 2.6 meters. The company’s own installation team installed the individual modules at the Police Academy’s residential establishment. The local plumber then performed the connection work on the existing water supply, the ventilation system and the drainage pipe.

Production using a modular system
The Geberit subsidiary Huter based in Matrei am Brenner has 90 employees and produces prefabricated bathrooms in lightweight construction and modular design. The prefabricated bathroom installation kit consists of the following components: an absolutely tight floor construction; lightweight construction walls with internal piping; a ceiling with lighting and prefabricated surfaces in glass or other materials for the wall coverings; a glass sliding door with fixed part and facilities such as WC ceramics with or without AquaClean enhancement solution; washbasin; browser faucets; mirror and heating. The bathrooms are produced within two days using a modular system. The support plate, which already includes the shower drain, is fastened to the floor construction. The side walls are then assembled from metal profiles and clad with gypsum fiber plates. Then, the cistern, pipes and the floor heating are installed, if requested by the customer. Finally, the bathroom is insulated against moisture and clad with prefabricated surfaces that can be made of glass or other materials. The prefabricated modular bathrooms are especially used in hotels, hospitals and in student and residential establishments.

The prefabricated bathroom can be customized to plan. It is lightweight and based on a modular system.

The residential establishment of the National Police Security Academy, Graz (AT)
Building owner: Bundesimmobilien-gesellschaft (BIG)
Construction management/architect: Architect Zengerer, Weiz (AT)
Renovation: 3/2011
Plumber: Company Heiz-Hofstätter, DI Anton Hofstätter GmbH, Graz (AT)
Geberit know-how Prefabricated module bathroom
This coming fall, the St. Regis Hotel Saadiyat Island ("Island of Bliss") in Abu Dhabi will be opening its doors. Saadiyat Island is one of the largest islands situated off Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.). It was connected to the mainland through numerous bridges sometime in 2009–2010. By 2020, it will be graced by a number of cultural buildings designed by internationally renowned architects. One of these is a new Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry, twelve times larger than the one in New York. Jean Nouvel is designing a branch of the Paris Louvre. Norman Foster is the architect of the Sheikh Zayed National Museum. Tadao Ando is the creator of a maritime museum. And Zaha Hadid is doing a concert hall. In the immediate neighborhood of this sensational architecture event is the St. Regis Hotel. The five-star hotel is built on spa-tious grounds and features 380 luxurious rooms and suites as well as eight restaurants, three lounges and a 2,800-square-meter conference area. An affiliate residence also offers 259 apartments and 33 exclusive villas.

Everything revolves around comfort in a posh holiday resort. And comfort includes quiet and relaxation. Disturbing noises are not welcome. Acoustic insulation is a major factor in acoustic comfort, and the sound of running water in building technology installations and pipes can become the major source of noise. The noise of draining water is among loudest noise sources. Sanitary technology noise can be reduced through the use of acoustically optimized materials. Geberit has best possible solutions for this problem, which is why it was considered in the hotel bid from the very outset. "Our local team of technical advisors succeeded in anchoring Geberit Silent-db20 as an essential element of the lavish hotel concept," says Vicente Raurich, Sales Manager U.A.E., about the Geberit acoustic insulation solution. Drainage pipes positioned in less acoustically sensitive locations were also equipped with Geberit PE-HD.

Complete acoustic insulation systems from Geberit
The pipes, bends and branch fittings of the Geberit Silent-db20 drainage pipe system are made of heavy, acoustically optimized plastic that considerably reduces the transmission of noise. Nevertheless, high acoustic insulation requirements are only best met through use of a system, i.e. through the coordinated connection of acoustically optimized individual components. In combination with the Duofix UP320 installation system, Geberit also guarantees optimum safety for the component in the event of fire, in addition to acoustic insulation. The system also includes all major components: concealed flushing systems for the WC; fresh or drinking water pipes with accompanying connections for bathroom, shower and washbasin, drainage pipe installations, ventilation pipes; and a support system with paneling. The integral approach of the system as a unit not only reduces the level of noise but also especially optimizes acoustic comfort.

St. Regis Hotel & Residences
Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.)
Architect: Woods Bagot (U.A.E.)
Construction management: Mirage Mille Leisure & Development Inc. (U.A.E.)
General contractor: JV Al Habtoor Engineering Contracting and Murray & Roberts Contractors (U.A.E.)
Mechanical: Electrical & Plumbing Contractor (U.A.E.)
Completion: fall 2011
Plumber: BK Gulf L.L.C., (U.A.E.)

Geberit know-how
Silent-db20 piping system
PE-HD fittings
Duofix UP320 installation system
Bolero actuator plate
UP320 concealed cistern
Duofix bidet elements

Building technology laboratory
Geberit has a building technology laboratory at the Jona site that is unique. 5,000 to 6,000 people visit the specially constructed laboratory where complete domestic installation systems can be tested for their acoustic qualities. Important here is to examine not just any noise in an individual living unit but also especially the transmission noise to the rooms of neighboring apartments. Complex noise transmission in a multi-story residential building is simulated and analyzed in detail with the help of horizontal, vertical and diagonal measurements. Geberit is continuously working on the optimization of existing systems and on new developments.
Wellness zone

The Geberit shower element

The bathroom has long since ceased to be a purely functional room and is increasingly a zone of regeneration. Accordingly, the trend is towards larger and more open rooms in which a floor-even shower is much more inviting than a narrow shower stall. But a drain in the floor is often perceived as a foreign body and is also difficult to install. Geberit offers an ideal solution with the shower element. The new, innovative product simply transfers the water outflow from the floor to the wall. It is a solution that also convinced the architect Alois Bommer and his building owners to choose the shower element for their conversion project in Oberdürnten.

Consistent to the last detail
An old barn was being converted into a new single-family house. The architect retained the simple character of the original agriculture buildings in both the facade design and the interior. Alois Bommer also reduced the bathroom design to clear, linear forms and simple materials. Dark stoneware tiles were used for the floor, white tiles for the walls. The washbasin supports are made of light-colored olive wood. With the Geberit shower element, the architect consistently applied esthetic simplicity right down to the smallest of details.

Shower with a system
The shower element was developed from system technology. The purist-designed plate can be incorporated into the well-proven Duofix installation system or into the GIS installation system and adapts flexibly to every construction situation. As a result, the shower element combines the advantages of prewall technology with the trend towards floor-even showers. At the same time, the Geberit system shower element and prewall installation also cover fire prevention and acoustic insulation. It ensures a good workflow for plumbers during maintenance work. For users, it is extremely easy to clean, thanks to its simple and easy opening. The design covers are available in four different versions, bright chrome-plated, stainless steel brushed, white alpine and tile bearing.
Clear and simple

The new Geberit Sigma60 actuator plate

“Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to cut away,” once noted Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. There is no better way to describe the minimalist design of the Sigma60 actuator plate. Installed flat and flush with the wall, the plate has been pared down to its essentials. The Sigma60 was designed by the internationally renowned watch and industrial designer Christoph Behling. For eight years running, the London-based German designer has been the one to give Geberit actuator plates their distinctive design. The Sigma60 is Geberit’s first plate that is installed surface-even into the wall. The idea that led to this design was very simple. Flushing the water does not necessarily require a frame, just buttons, which resulted in a design reduced to only two buttons. The installation frame and the two actuator plates are made of high-quality die-cast zinc. The model is a stand-out not only for its timeless elegance, but also because it is well conceived, right down to the final detail, and is compatible with existing Geberit systems. The two large buttons easily fold open, giving ample access to the cistern and enabling tool-free maintenance. However, installation of the Sigma60 requires very careful planning and coordination between all craftsmen involved. The clear and aesthetic stylistic elements of the plate only achieve their impact if it is installed perfectly and the surrounding materials are all carefully executed, especially ceramic tiles, grout, and marble.
The most sustainable building is also the largest

The high-rise building Uptown in Zug, Switzerland

The new building complex Uptown was recently completed in Zug. The urban residential and commercial property fulfils the strict sustainability criteria of the real estate fund “Credit Suisse Real Estate Fund Green Property”. Geberit products play a big role in the construction.

Zug’s new high-rise building, the Uptown, is part of a comprehensive urban development plan that also includes the new Herti Ice Stadium as well as a public multi-story car park, a covered outdoor ice rink and a generous town square. The 60-meter-high, 18-story building with low energy consumption was designed by the renowned Lucerne architects office Scheitlin Syfrig AG. The trapeze-shaped design, the clear lines and the glass facade give the building an urban character and make it highly visible from afar. Space for a restaurant and shops has been created on the ground floor. Situated above this is approx. 4,140 square meters of office space. Floors 6 to 18 feature apartments with between two and a half and five and a half rooms. Situated on the top floor is a sky lounge offering an exceptional view of Lake Zug. The building, designed as a so-called sliced-based high-rise, features a structure with only a few static elements. In this way, the architects are able to guarantee that rental space in particular can be customized as much as possible.

The project building owner is the Credit Suisse Real Estate Fund Green Property, which had the building constructed in accordance with the requirements of the greenproperty quality seal. The new sustainability label was developed in 2009 by the Real Estate Asset Management of Credit Suisse together with the engineering and planning office Amstein + Walthert in Zurich. In order to meet the demands of the new quality seal in all areas of sustainability, the quality standards of the building owners were accordingly high, including the installations used in the complex. For the sanitary area, Geberit products were almost exclusively chosen. The high acoustic insulation standards were partially met through the laying of more than three and a half kilometers of Geberit Silent-db20 pipes. And, the Geberit Duofix prewall installation was suitable not only for acoustic insulation but also for meeting the strict fire protection standards. More than five and a half kilometers of Geberit Mapress stainless steel pipelines were used for drinking water pipes wherever hygiene was a priority. Two and a half kilometers of Geberit PE-HD outlet pipes completed the total of more than eleven kilometers of pipelines.

Uptown, Zug (CH)
Building owner: Credit Suisse Real Estate Fund Green Property (CH)
Architect: Scheitlin Syfrig AG, Lucerne (CH)
Year of construction: 6/2011
Plumber: Tobias Hürlimann AG, Walchwil (CH)
Geberit know-how
Duofix washbasin elements
Duofix WC elements
Duofix mounting plates
Water meter sections
Mapress stainless steel piping system
Silent-db20 outlet pipes NW 56-160
PE outlet pipes NW 50-200
Tango actuator plates, chrome-plated
Built-in traps for washing machines
Bathtub drain assemblies including drain and overflow valves
Tubular traps
Two-piece kitchen-sink set

↑ Primarily, Geberit products were used in the sanitary area, such as WC and washbasin elements.
Why has Credit Suisse developed its own real estate fund for sustainable building with its own quality seal?

We noticed that there was a certain demand for sustainable investment opportunities among our investors. Consequently, we developed a theme fund that focuses on sustainable real estate. The real estate fund Credit Suisse Real Estate Fund Green Property caters precisely to this need. Since its launch in April 2009, seven construction projects have been acquired with a value of 425 million francs. Residential use accounts for a third of this figure, the rest being commercial real estate. By the way, Uptown was the pioneer project. We also considered how we could guarantee the quality standards in terms of sustainability of the property in the real estate fund.

How do you ensure this guarantee?

We developed our own greenproperty quality seal for this purpose. The declared goal is to establish greenproperty as the first integral quality seal for sustainable real estate in Switzerland. This gives the Real Estate Asset Management of Credit Suisse a future-oriented, strategic instrument for the sustainable further development of its real estate portfolio. We are convinced that a sustainable approach to buildings has become indispensable. Consequently, the real estate fund invests in projects and objects which must satisfy the requirements of greenproperty.

What criteria are applied when deciding whether a building can be awarded the greenproperty quality seal?

The innovative evaluation system on which greenproperty is based takes account of ecological, economic and social aspects of sustainability. A total of 35 criteria are evaluated; these represent the decisive areas for the sustainability of the buildings. These are use, infrastructure, energy, materials and lifecycle. Independent, accredited experts are appointed for the certification of the buildings. The evaluation system is kept flexible to enable us also to take account of future social, technical and economic developments, meaning it is reviewed periodically and adapted to new standards where necessary.

Geberit was involved in the launch of the WELL Label, a new quality seal for sustainable products. Could it be possible in the future that sanitary products must have an A-Level in order to be used in greenproperty projects?

When awarding our quality seal, careful use of water resources is also one of the essential aspects of building sustainability. To keep water consumption as low as possible, we encourage practices such as installation of water-saving faucets in our buildings just as we only allow the use of appliances with an A-Level rating. If similar environmental labels are also introduced in the sanitary area going forward, they will a big help to us in making the right choice.

WELL Label

The new water-saving label Water Efficiency Label (WELL) should make it easier for consumers and operators to choose efficient, water-saving faucets and flushing systems. The new classification system should also encourage responsible use of the resource of water. Geberit played a decisive role in the development of the new environmental label that was launched at ISH in Frankfurt in April. WELL takes its direction from the well-known and well-established energy labels, such as those associated with electric household appliances, and fulfills a similar function. The following Geberit products bear the WELL Label: all model variants in the UP320 series, Monolith, urinal flush controls and Hytronic lavatory faucets.
What a fabulous view! Secured to the far end of a pier, the small viewing platform stretches like a diving board out over the sea and gives a sweeping view of the countless offshore islands and their small fishing villages. A small steel staircase leads to the glass-enclosed landing made out of Visstalitt gneiss stone. The platform is situated on the Atlantic coast of Norway, near the small fishing village of Askvågen. It waits for any visitors to take them a little farther out onto the water. The sea has long since taken over the construction and lent it a salt-encrusted patina.

The viewing point was designed by the Oslo office 3RW Arkitekter as part of the National Tourist Route Project. Along the road to the North Cape, Europe’s farthest point north, unusual infrastructure projects designed by young architects are gradually springing up on 18 different highways. Their eye-catching designs leave traces in the Norwegian countryside—“Traces of Our Time”—as the project’s concept states. These are unusual objects that will be finished by 2012; genuine landmarks with an equally spectacular view. While the projects themselves are highly unusual, their economic background story is quite down-to-earth. Fishing and agriculture are facing an uncertain future in Norway, whereas tourism is becoming increasingly important. The project, designed by 3RW Arkitekter, is also to be understood as a reference to the transformation of coastal areas from self-sufficient fishing villages to service-oriented holiday locations. It is a development that also brings changes to architecture on the water.

→ www.nationaltouristroutes.com
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Trend, pages 6–9
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Panorama, pages 14–19
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IND-Pune 411032
T +91 988909 17329

Aqua Town, hotel-
and high-rise residential building
Architects
Studio Gang Architects
1212 N Ashland Ave.
Suite 212
USA-Chicago, IL 60622
T +1 773 384 1212
F +1 773 384 0231
→ www.studiogang.net
Plumber
R. Carrozza Plumbing
9226 W. Chestnut
USA-Franklin Park, IL 60131
T +1 847 451 7041
F +1 847 451 7044
→ www.rcarrozza.com

School on Contiweg
Architects
Atelier Heiss Architecten
Schleifmühlgasse 1a/4
A-1040 Vienna
T +43 222 638 55-0
→ www.atelier-heiss.at
Plumber
Caliqueta Analagentecnico
GmbH
IZ-NO-Süd
Strasse 2d, Objekt 57
A-2335 Wienes Neudorf
T +43 2236 65920-0
F +43 2236 65920-209
→ www.caliqueta.at

Focus, pages 20–35
Hepworth Wakefield Gallery
Architects
David Chipperfield
Architects
11 York Road
UK-London SE1 7NX
T +44 20 7620 4801
→ www.davidchipperfield.co.uk
Plumber
Crowne House Engineering
Rushwood
Billoius Business Park
UK-Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EW
T +44 191 238 1430
→ www.crownehouse.com

Celtic Museum
Architects
kadawittfeldarchitektur
Aureliussasse 2
D-52064 Aachen
T +49 241 946 90 0
→ www.kw.ac
Plumber
Hoier Heizung-Lüftung-
Sanitär-Aktien
Am Kreuz 1a
D-53776 Mönich
T +49 241 9027 910
→ www.hoier-gmbh.de

Opéra house Guangzhou
Architects
Zaha Hadid Architects
Studio 9
10 Bowling Green Lane
UK-London EC 1R 0BQ
T +44 20 7253 5147
→ www.zaha-hadid.com
Plumber and Plumber
Shenzhen Z.H.C.
Technology Co., Ltd.
1912, Block B
International Chamber of
Commerce Building
No. 1 Futian District
CN-Shenzhen
T +86 755 82 972 248
F +86 755 836 660 038

Le Monolithe
Architects
MRDV
Dunantstraat 10
P.O. Box 63136
NL-3002 JC Rotterdam
T +31 (0)104772860
F +31 (0)104773627
→ www.mrdv.nl
Plumber
Billon S.A.
2, rue Maurice Audibert
F-69000 Saint-Priest
T +33 4 72 76 78 20
F +33 4 72 76 78 21

Oxygen Tower
Architects
Arte Charpentier
Architects
Maison Mozart
B, rue du Sentier
F-75002 Paris
T +33 1 555 041 300
F +33 1555 041 313
→ www.arte-charpentier.com
Plumber
Patricia Entreprise
ZA La Croix des Ormes
F-69260 Montnay
T +33 4 72 08 77 77
F +33 4 72 08 78 80

Spectrum Technology, page 38
Residential establishment of the National Police
Security Academy
Architects
Zengerer Planung GmbH
Birkfelderstrasse 56
A-9160 Weiz
T +43 3172 67 191-20
F +43 3172 67 191-20
→ www.zengerer.com
Plumber
Dipl.-Ing. Anton Hofstätter
Gesellschaft heiz-hofstätter
A-8074 Raaba/Graz
T +43 3172 67 191-209
F +43 3172 67 191-0
→ www.heiz-hofstätter.at

Spectrum Technology, page 39
St. Regis Hotel & Residences
Architects
Woods Bagot
Büro Abu Dhabi
Level 3
Al Muhair Centre
Zayed The First Street
AD-Abu Dhabi
P.O. Box 10710
T +971 2412 1600
→ www.woodsbagot.com
Plumber
BK Gulf L.L.C.
P.O. Box 10079
Dubai
United Arab Emirates
T +971 4 8801606
F +971 4 8801603
→ www.bkgulf.com

Design Spectrum, page 40
Single-family house
Architects
Alois Bommer
Planung und Architektur
Im Höfli B
CH-8363 Bichelsee-
Balterswil
T +41 71 971 41 24
F +41 71 971 41 25
Plumber
Claudio Meni
Neuhofstrasse 6
CH-8630 Rüti ZH
T +41 55 260 26 85

Courier Environment, pages 42–43
Uptown Architects
Scheitlin Syfrig AG
Brünigstrasse 25
CH-6005 Lucerne
T +41 367 79 00
→ www.scheitlin-syfrig.ch
Plumber
Tobias Hürlimann AG
Zugerstrasse 16
CH-6318 Walchwil
T +41 41 759 85 85
F +41 41 759 85 86
→ www.tobias-huerlimann.ch