New university in Abu Dhabi
Hadi Teherani creates a high-tech oasis of knowledge in the desert

Reykjavík’s new landmark
The Harpa concert hall from Henning Larsen Architects
Water is our wellspring.
“Good design is the essence of many considerations and valid reasons. That is why a well-designed product not only speaks to the senses but especially impresses the mind.”

Geberit products such as the Monolith sanitary modules or the Sigma80 actuator plate are excellent examples of this ability. Through their unique design language, they communicate both significant benefits and state-of-the-art technology.

Good design makes a product objectively better. And yet, products from Geberit not only look good – they really are. Because before we launch them on the market, we do our homework thoroughly. Does the product really satisfy the needs of our customers? Does it provide a significant improvement over previous solutions? Does it do justice to the quality standards that the name Geberit represents worldwide? Is it sustainable? And can it be manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner? Year after year, we invest heavily in finding convincing answers to these questions, without any compromises that would detract from quality, functionality and sustainability.

And the effort is worth it because good design creates trust. We are convinced of this, and so are our customers. The proof lies in the many outstanding international architecture projects that use Geberit products – in front of as well as behind the wall. In this current issue of our reference magazine “View 2012” we take you on a journey around the world and introduce you to buildings by prominent architects who work together with us. Such as Vietnam’s second-tallest building, Bitexco Financial Tower in Ho Chi Minh City designed by Carlos Zapata Studio, Chicago (page 12). Or the Aquatics Centre designed by Zaha Hadid for the 2012 Olympic Games in London (page 16). In Reykjavík, Iceland, Henning Larsen Architects have built the colorfully dazzling Harpa concert hall and conference center in the historic harbor district (page 22). And in Abu Dhabi’s Zayed University, Hadi Teherani has created a high-tech oasis of knowledge in the desert (page 32).

Wishing you an enjoyable read.

Albert M. Baehny, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of the Board of Directors
1 The sports goods manufacturer Adidas had its new research and development building “Laces” built on the campus-style company grounds.

2 Vietnam’s second-tallest building: the Bitexco Financial Tower in Ho Chi Minh City.

3 Rekjavik’s new landmark, the “Harpa,” is located in the old harbor. The gleaming glass facade of the new concert hall reflects a wide variety of lighting moods.

4 Flowing shapes inspired Zaha Hadid’s architectural concept for the Aquatics Centre in London.
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The immense roof landscape covers the buildings of Zayed University in Abu Dhabi like a veil.

The opening has been postponed. However, the check-in units are already waiting for the future passengers at the new Berlin Brandenburg airport.

At the end of August, “View 2012” will also be available as an app for the iPad. This digital publication contains numerous images, videos and animations and is available free of charge at the app store.
"Image is not just appearance but rather what is intrinsic," says Otl Aicher, one of the most influential designers in Germany. In this regard, the design of company buildings also plays a major role in a company’s image. Outstanding examples of creative partnerships between companies and architects have been around for some time, such as that of Walter Rathenau, owner of the electric systems company AEG, and architect, painter and industrial designer Peter Behrens, which dates to the beginning of the 20th century. In 1907, AEG named Behrens its artistic consultant. He was responsible for the design of all products, graphics, advertising and architecture. Behrens is considered the world’s first corporate designer.

Consciously designed "corporate architecture" is now increasingly a key component of companies’ corporate identities. A new trend has recently been emerging in the field: Above all, companies are opting for individual corporate architecture concepts to concentrate their presence in one distinctive location. They have realized that for companies and their brands, it is becoming ever more important to have a prominent address that fosters an identity so as to be recognized on the global market.

Prominent companies increasingly want buildings that fit with their brands architecturally. They have realized that it is becoming ever more important to have a prominent address so as to be recognized on the global market. Outstanding examples of this trend have recently been realized by sporting goods manufacturers Adidas and Salewa and clothing manufacturer Diesel.

Criss-crossed laces
In Herzogenaurach, Germany, set in the midst of the tranquil countryside, stand the corporate headquarters of Adidas, one of the largest and most influential international sports goods manufacturers. Just as in the days of company founder Adi Dassler, shoe and sports fashions are created and developed here and taken to their market launch. The campus-like World of Sports company complex already had several characteristic buildings. An additional building was added to the campus in 2011 with the new "Laces" research and development building, which provided workplaces for
“Laces,” Adidas headquarters, Herzogenaurach, Germany (DE)
Building owner: Adidas AG, Herzogenaurach (DE)
Architect: kadawittfeld-architektur, Aachen (DE)
Completed: 6/2011
Plumber: Imtech AG, Nuremberg office (DE)
Geberit know-how
Duofix WC element
Actuator plate Bolero
Electronic urinal flush control

Serrated building shape: Around 1,700 designers, developers, researchers and marketing strategists work in the new Adidas building “Laces.”

The connecting bridges, the “laces,” gave the research and development building its name.
around 1,700 designers, developers, researchers and marketing strategists. Laces blends into the existing World of Sports ensemble as a floating counterpart to the black, recumbent mass of the Adidas Brand Center. The building was designed by the kadawittfeldarchitektur firm in Aachen, which won the 2006 competition for the project. The objective of their design was to create a building that fit the brand, its architecture, but especially in the working atmosphere and daily creative tasks. Ultimately, the process resulted in the concept of a building laid out in rings with connecting walkways, i.e. the laces that give the building its name. A generous atrium forms the creative center of the complex. “The laces tie the building together into a multi-layered office building that is rich in relationships. They facilitate maximum interaction and allow open communication areas to emerge,” say the architects of their concept. The sleek, saw-toothed building appears to float above the green meadows. The entry area is raised, allowing the outside to flow into the interior. The slightly jagged building shape comes from the long sides of the building, which are pitched from their centers, and which lend a dynamic shape to what is essentially a conventional office building. This establishes a continual element of movement and dynamics in the complex, which is meant to make employees feel a part of the creative work process. The outer appearance of “Laces” is distinguished by its clearly contoured mirror-like smoothness and elegant restraint. The smooth facade surfaces are structured and divided by receding loggias on the walkways. With “Laces,” the architects of kadawittfeldarchitektur created not the usual office building parceled up into departmental areas, but rather a distinctive space in which the primarily young employees from around the world can identify with the company.

Massif with climbing wall
International sporting goods manufacturer Salewa, based in Bolzano, Italy, has also built a new company headquarters. The project was designed by the Milanese architecture team Cino Zucchi Architetti and Park Associati. Enclosing over 350,000 cubic meters of building space, it is one of the largest construction projects in South Tyrol. Like a mountain, the building stretches...
The building stretches along the landscape of the Bolzano Valley like a mountain.

Salewa headquarters, Bozen (IT)
Building owner: Salewa SpA, Bolzano (IT)
Architects: Cino Zucchi and Park Associati, Milan (IT)
Completed: 9/2011
Awards: 2nd place US Award 2011, “Architecture” category
Plumber: Gaetano Paolin Impianti, Padova (IT)

Geberit know-how
Duofix WC element
Duofix bidet element
Duofix washbasin element
PE piping system
Pneumatic urinal flush controls and lavatory tap

along the landscape of the Bolzano Valley, its tower thrusting 50 meters into the air. The architects differentiated the building facades by using perforated blue-gray-shaded aluminum panels on the south side and a curtain of glass on the north and east sides. The building is intended to serve not only as a new office complex but also to promote communication and interaction between Salewa and its sports-minded customers through its mountainscape architecture, explain the architects about their design. Besides offices for staff and management, the building also contains a conference hall, a research center, a fully automated warehouse and offers a colorful, diverse visitor program. The exhibition hall, the Factory Shop, a cafeteria, a public parking facility and a customer service...
Diesel headquarters, Breganze (IT)
Building owner: Diesel SpA, Breganze (IT)
Architect: Pierpaolo Ricatti Architetto, Vicenza (IT)
Completed: 7/2011
Plumber: Campesan F.lli, Mason Vicentino (IT)
Geberit know-how
Mepla piping system
Silent-db20 piping system
Kombifix concealed cistern

A transparent, horizontally structured building: the new headquarters of the Diesel Group.

center are visitor draws. The highlight, however, is a 2,000-square-meter, glassed-in climbing hall with a view to the mountains.

Creative city
Diesel, the international fashion company with more than 5,000 stores worldwide, is headquartered in Breganze, Italy, near the town of Vicenza. Because the Diesel Group’s different areas were spread across different locations, a new, central headquarters was commissioned in 2006. Vicenza-based architect Pierpaolo Ricatti was commissioned for the project. Today, a transparent, horizontally structured building stands on a 90,000-square-meter parcel and opens onto the surrounding countryside through large glass surfaces. Through the complex completed in 2011, Ricatti created a type of creative city in which all areas are housed under one roof: offices, warehouses, material and sample collections storage facility, showroom, company museum, auditorium and foyer for events, kindergarten, cafeteria, fitness center for indoor and outdoor sports, parking garage and research center. Part of Diesel’s agenda in offering its employees an architecturally innovative workplace includes meeting high sustainability standards, such as the resource-efficient use of water and energy. The new headquarters is intended to communicate to the outside world the company’s sustainability strategy and particularly its environmental awareness. Innovative workplaces with unique benefits are in turn a way for a company to recruit skilled employees.
Geberit actuator plate Bolero

Geberit concealed cisterns have been in use worldwide for over 40 years. Once the cistern is installed, only its actuator plate is visible. In addition to reliable functionality, design therefore also plays an important role. Through a great many design solutions with different finishes and shapes, Geberit offers architects and interior designers a large selection and considerable creative freedom. Such as in the bathrooms of the new "Laces" building on the Adidas campus, where Geberit Bolero actuator plates were installed. The actuator plate won over the architects of kadawittfeldarchitektur with its sleek, linear design that fits in perfectly with the purist design of the research and development building. Bolero is available in a total of 13 different colors, including chrome-plated, bright chrome-plated and matt chrome-plated. It has two buttons that release either a large or small volume of water, thus enabling a resource-efficient use of water.
Surrounded by the Saigon River, the “lotus flower” reaches to the sky. With the construction of the Bitexco Financial Tower, Ho Chi Minh City has acquired an icon. Mission accomplished, says Erwin V. Ciar of the Bitexco Group.
“The Tower exerts an enormous fascination”

Bitexco Financial Tower, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mr. Ciar, the southern Vietnamese metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City has not previously attracted much attention in architectural circles. What has the Bitexco Financial Tower changed in this respect? It has increased the attention paid to our city since planning commenced. This effect was strengthened even more with its inauguration. The Tower exerts an enormous fascination that reaches far beyond the limits of Ho Chi Minh City and even Vietnam itself.

How can you tell that? Well, the tower has become a tourist attraction, for example. Our government has even developed special visitor programs for it. Even though it is no longer the highest building in the country at 262.5 meters, it certainly remains one of the most impressive and one of the most photographed buildings.

Have you counted the times that the word “iconic” has been used to describe the Bitexco Financial Tower? Especially the fact that the CNN travel website has ranked it as the fifth “most iconic building” in the world stays with me. It is true that this word is used often—and rightfully so, I believe.

The Tower is above all an icon because of its symbolic, distinctive design. What considerations were behind this? The architects from Carlos Zapata Studio who were responsible for the design gave our ideas a form that symbolizes...
Established in 1985, the company group has its roots in the textile industry. In 1997, it began its meteoric rise to become the leading multi-industrial company of Vietnam, with currently over 1,100 employees and subsidiaries in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Thai Binh. In addition to the real-estate and structural development division, the Bitexco Group is currently active in the areas of electricity, infrastructure, mining and foodstuffs. In addition to the Bitexco Financial Tower, their most important projects include the JW Marriott Hotel, the “Manor Residences” and the “The Garden” shopping center (all in Hanoi) as well as the residential building “Nguyen Cu Trinh” in Ho Chi Minh City.

We are very pleased with the response, with regard to both quantity and quality. The presence of companies such as Adidas, Ernst & Young or Samsung proves us right.

How do you regard the development of the Vietnamese real estate market outside the large urban centers? Vietnam as a whole is making a leap forwards. We at Bitexco are not only active in locations such as Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi, but equally in creating master plans for residential construction and infrastructure projects in rural areas, for example in Lao Cai.

Will Ho Chi Minh City still remain an attraction for fans of unusual architecture?

I certainly hope so. We are currently working on a further large-scale project in the middle of the city in which the symbolism is at least as important as that of the Tower. “The ONE” consists of two towers. Connected to each other by a podium, they embody the Vietnamese myth of two dragons.

It is not the highest building in Vietnam, but definitely the most impressive one.”
Doi Moi

The Vietnamese economy is growing at a disproportionate rate of 7 percent annually on average. This is due to a policy of liberalization known as “Doi Moi” that has been implemented by the Communist Party since 1986. This focuses on the modernization of infrastructure.

→ In “District 1,” the central area of Ho Chi Minh City, old meets (more and more) new.

“Doi Moi”

The Vietnamese economy is growing at a disproportionate rate of 7 percent annually on average. This is due to a policy of liberalization known as “Doi Moi” that has been implemented by the Communist Party since 1986. This focuses on the modernization of infrastructure.
Among the first buildings on the grounds of the 2012 Olympic Games in London to be completed is the Aquatics Centre designed by Zaha Hadid Architects. The complex is situated at the southeast end of the Olympic grounds bordering the Stratford section of London and is separated from the other Olympic sites by a canal of the Thames River. Several bridges link the building to the Olympic Park on the opposite shore. In her architectural concept, Zaha Hadid was inspired by the flowing movement of the water, borrowing from the riverscape of the Olympic Park.

The curved, parabola-shaped roof line of the Aquatics Centre extends the public space to the southeast and turns crosswise toward the pedestrian bridge. The building contains three pools that form a large podium under the roof and bridge. Inside the building, the ceiling, walls and windows also undulate. Even the curvature of the diving platforms follows the building’s flowing gestures. For the Olympic Games, a compromise had to be found for the grandstands in order to increase the seating capacity to 17,500. After the Games, the extension structures required for the increased capacity will be removed and the number of seats will be reduced to 2,000. Curving glass facades will later replace the extensions, which will make the pools and interior of the stadium largely visible from the exterior.

Even the diving platforms have a flowing curvature.

Chris Pain, plumber, Pipetech

“The most difficult bit was the curved top of the building so for the heating pipes we used Geberit Mapress which enabled us to customize the bends in order to adapt to its shape. An impressive 130 customized bends had to be fitted.”
The Portuguese mountain town of Gouveia lies in the Serra da Estrela mountains in the northeast of the country. With the new court building, the city of 4,000 has obtained a structure that is awe-inspiring for its massive, snow-white, concrete facade. But thanks to the urban concept of José António Barbosa and Pedro Lopes Guimarães, the building and the town’s historic center are harmoniously connected to one another. The two young architects from the coastal city of Matosinhos won the 2002 design competition with their unusual building, which is not modeled after anything in the region.

Four massive blocks stand on a base made of light granite that is two meters high in some places and houses the parking garage. A wide ramp runs along the west side up onto the base; a stairway leads visitors back down on the east side. The four blocks hold the cores for the elevators, emergency stairways and the technical infrastructure. The words “domus iustitiae” (house of justice) are inscribed on the building’s long sides, an inscription found on all Portuguese court buildings. A wide, freestanding staircase leads to the courtroom on the clearly organized upper level. Grouped around the courtroom in a U shape are judges’ chambers, attorneys’ offices and anciliary rooms such as kitchenettes and restrooms. The courtroom also stands out from the other rooms through its materials and is completely paneled in Brazilian sucupira hardwood, while the walls of the surrounding offices are clad in marble. The Serra da Estrela is the highest mountain range on the Portuguese mainland and its only ski area, which, say the architects of their concept, is why they thought of snow when they were invited to participate in the competition. The inspiration for the expressive design of the white facade, they say, was drawn from snow crystals.

João Simões, Technical Advisor, Geberit Market Portugal

“The new court building enhances the beautiful old town of Gouveia with an outstanding, symbolic complex. During construction, high quality standards for architecture and technology had to be met, which is why the Geberit Pluvia roof drainage system was installed. It was an exciting challenge for me, to support the project and be there for the plumber to answer technical questions and help solve problems.”
Building in China these days also means thinking and designing in large-scale dimensions. One recent example of this trend is in Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province. Six high-rise buildings are grouped around a smaller central building, on the roof of which a green paradise has been planted. It stands like an island between the towers’ reflecting glass facades.

The approximately 20,000-square-meter ensemble is the new international congress center of Hangzhou, also housing the city government’s administrative offices. The impressive facade’s concept and planning are the product of Psyall Ruge Architekten. Further support and planning was handled by Peter Ruge Architekten, who carried out the project in cooperation with the Chinese architect Wang Xiaosong and engineers from Schlaich Bergermann und Partner. After many years of planning and construction, the complex was completed in 2011. Seen from a distance, the facade appears voluminous but then dissolves into a network of structures and levels as one approaches, explain the architects. “The structures of a tea plantation with its differently oriented and overlapping structures of cultivation pathways and planting grids form a typical regional image in Zhejiang Province, a major tea-producing area in China.” The facade picks up on this image and develops a structure that envelops the building like a multi-layered fabric, emphasizing its plasticity.

“The Pluvia roof drainage system stands for durability, very high quality and safety. These aspects convinced the congress center developers as did the comprehensive product guarantee that the name Geberit represents.”

**An island between glass facades**

Congress center, Hangzhou, China

Zhou Shu Cong, Technical Advisor, Geberit Market China

“...”

Congress center, Hangzhou (CN)
Building owner: Hangzhou (CN) city government
Completed: spring, 2011
Plumber: Zhejiang Construction Group Co., Ltd, Hangzhou (CN)
Geberit know-how
Pluvia roof drainage system
Cruise ship on the beach
Hotel Lone, Rovinj, Croatia

The medieval town of Rovinj is among the most picturesque cities on the Istrian peninsula and a jewel of the Adriatic. On the small beach of Lone, within sight of the old town, 3LHD Architects have completed Croatia’s first Design Hotel. 3LHD Architects’ sources of inspiration included passing cruise ships and the terraced structure of neighboring Eden Hotel. With its sweeping rows of terraces, the Hotel Lone looks like a pleasure ship surrounded by the forest.

Dominating, horizontal lines define the curved facade. The white balustrades together with the dark, recessed exterior facades create a dynamic interplay of light and shadow. The hotel offers 236 rooms and 12 suites as well as three restaurants and large conference facilities with four conference rooms, meeting rooms and a VIP lounge. The architects explain that they used a Y-shaped floor plan to provide the building a functional organization and at the same time allow beautiful views from all rooms. A six-story central atrium with lobby rises from the center of the Y. This area, with its rippling balconies and their white balustrades carrying the design of the building’s exterior over into the interior, is lit from above. For the interior design, the renowned Zagreb architects worked with other creative professionals from Croatia, such as furniture designers from Numen/For Use, fashion designers from I-GLE and various artists. The lobby is done in white and beige-gold. The furnishings underscore the flowing character of the room and are done in color-contrasting warm, dark tones. The overall design of the hotel is based on the contrasts between black, white and wood.

Hotel Lone, Rovinj, Croatia (SI)
Building owner: Maistra d.d., Rovinj (SI)
Architects: 3LHD, Zagreb (SI)
Completed: 7/2011
Plumber: Zagrebgradnja d.o.o., Zagreb (SI)

Geberit know-how
Electronic urinal flush control and lavatory tap
Waste fitting
Duofix installation system
Mepla piping system
PE piping system
Pluvia roof drainage system
Silent-db20 piping system
Duofix concealed cistern

Mladen Petrović, Technical Advisor, Geberit Adriatic Region
“It was important to the developers that reliable, high-quality products be used in the Design Hotel. That is why a wide range of Geberit products was used to satisfy the demand for high quality.”
Norbert Cuhat, Technical Advisor, Geberit Market Switzerland

“This building houses important archives that are protected by the strictest of safety precautions. The use of high-quality material was of essential importance during construction. That is why the developer chose Geberit products. Decisive were the durability and environmental friendliness of the products as well as their low maintenance requirements.”

Folded facade
The ICRC logistics center, Geneva, Switzerland

The logistics hub of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a highly sensitive contact point for the global humanitarian organization. The facility is primarily used to store medications but also orthopedic devices and food that are sent out to the charity’s various locations from the logistics and management department, also housed at the same location. The stipulated variety of uses and the flow of people, vehicles and goods created a list of special requirements for the building. The Geneva architects from group8 devised an impressive solution for the complex construction project in an unpretentious building block whose unusual facade nevertheless gave the building high symbolic value. The boxy construction measures 66 by 67 meters and is 15 meters high. Zones designated for different uses are packed closely together.

With its outer skin of white tarpaulins wrapped esthetically around the structure, the building visually stands out from the neighboring neutral, industrial buildings. The material symbolizes both the building’s function as a logistics hub and the work of the ICRC in conflict zones: The tarpaulins invite both the aid convoy vehicles and refugee tents. But the architects point out that concerns for sustainability also led them to select this amply available, environmentally and user-friendly material. The building also contains small “hanging” gardens that are protected from the surrounding industrial area and are intended as relaxation areas, as well as an atrium designed for social gatherings to promote team spirit.

↑ White tarpaulins form the outer skin of the logistics center.
Small town with houses and gardens
AZ Groeninge hospital, Kortrijk, Belgium

A large-scale project in the Belgian town of Kortrijk has been completed. In 2011, the AZ Groeninge hospital was finished after several years of construction work. This huge building has a footprint of 144,000 square meters (just over 1.5 million square feet) and despite its size blends harmoniously and discreetly into the park-like landscape. The renowned Austrian architects Baumschlager Eberle have achieved this by the use of a traditional typology, the courtyard structure. They divided the entire complex into five connected blocks that serve as both visual and operational units.

The entire facility is defined by its courtyards, each with its own design, which, according to the architects, are intended to counter anonymity and create identifying architectural elements. The courtyards also serve to merge the building with the landscape.

It was also important to the architects to generate the maximum degree of normality with the architecture. The two-story reception hall is characterized by spatial clarity and generous proportions. Walking through the building, one continuously notices the building’s links to its environment. The arrangement of the imposing facility around the courtyards creates compelling sequences of rooms with alternating moods and a pleasant environment for patients and staff. The homogeneous facade with its columns symbolizes relief from the burden of illness. The clinic, surrounded by green, gives the impression of a multifaceted, urban structure resembling a small town with houses and gardens, “introverted but not hermetic – open but not exposed.”

Philippe Van Maae, plumber

“We have been working with Geberit for a long time. When we started this project, there was no question as to whether we would use Geberit products, as they offer us plumbers safety, quality and durability.”
Glittering crystal in the old harbor

Harpa Reykjavík concert hall and conference centre, Iceland

↑ Harpa, Reykjavík’s new concert hall. The colors of the glass facade change according to the weather.
↓ Structure of the double glass facade.

Harpa Reykjavík concert hall and conference centre, Iceland (IS)
Owner: Iceland and the city of Reykjavík (IS)
Architects: Henning Larsen Architects HLA, Copenhagen (DK), and Batterið Architects, Hafnarfjörður (IS)
Facade design: Studio Olafur Eliasson, Berlin (DE), Copenhagen (DK)
Acoustics: Artec Consultants Inc, New York (USA)
Opened: 8/2011
Plumber: ÁAV, Reykjavík (IS)
Geberit know-how
Duofix installation system
Mapress piping system
In August 2011, a new city symbol whose glittering facade dominates the old harbor was inaugurated in Iceland's capital. The new complex is a concert and conference building and is home to both the Iceland Symphonic Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera. However, its completion was uncertain for a long time. Construction on the symbol of Icelandic art and culture was started by a private investor group in 2007. But the financial crisis in 2008 brought the project to an almost immediate halt. The building shell became public property and was finally taken over by the government. The design of the sculpture-like building is a joint effort of the Danish architecture firm Henning Larsen and the Icelandic Batterið Architects, who won the 2005 design competition. The name Harpa was also chosen in a competition to find an Icelandic name that could be easily pronounced in other languages. From the 4,000 entries, the woman’s name Harpa (which means “harp” in English) was finally selected.

Block-shaped spaces with sloping edges
The 43-meter-tall building consists of two block-shaped spaces with sloping edges, slightly offset from one another. Inside are a large, 1,800-seat concert hall painted in lava red, three smaller concert spaces and a conference center with interpreter booths for up to nine languages. The US engineering firm Artec Consultants Inc. in New York is responsible for the acoustics of the concert halls, having developed a fully automated system that optimizes the sound of all types of music using, among other things, felt-covered walls and baffles.
The 28,000-square-meter building also houses a hotel, a bar and a rooftop restaurant with a view over Reykjavik and Tjörnin (The Pond).

The striking, sparkling double facade was designed by Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson, who was inspired by the different moods of light of his island country. The glass facade envelopes the building and transforms it into an architectural attraction and spectacle. The facade is made of more than 8,000 hexagonal-shaped glass blocks set in steel frames, which refract the daylight and reflect it in different colors and pastel tones.

Yellow, green and orange color effect glass
As in much of his work, Eliasson has also combined natural beauty with technical sophistication in the angular building complex. While the architects focused on the rough, swooping coastal cliffs for the building’s shape, the artist based the glass blocks on the basalt columns omnipresent in the treeless, volcanic Icelandic landscape. Thus, no one piece of glass is like any other. Together, however, they create a multifaceted mirror and light-refracting effect. To achieve the glimmering ambience, special laminated safety glass containing what is called dichroic glass was used. This color effect glass absorbs certain light wavelengths while it reflects others so that the color of the glass changes depending on the weather and viewing angle. Yellow, orange and green glass was used in Harpa. These colors can be seen by looking directly through the glass, while their complementary colors can be seen in the reflection.
Curving lattice facade
Viborg city hall, Denmark

Viborg, the second-largest city of Denmark, has a new city hall. The building was designed by Henning Larsen Architects, who also designed the “Harpa” in Reykjavík. The city hall is one of the first public buildings in Denmark that fulfills the requirements of a green building.

In addition to the opening of the “Harpa” in August 2011, the internationally active Danish architectural firm Henning Larsen Architects was able to hand over a further building to the public in the same month: the new city hall in Viborg, Jutland. The fusion of Viborg with five other municipalities required the establishment of a new city administration. The building therefore also symbolizes the merging of the municipalities, which combined to create a large city.

Like an accordion
The architects built the six-story city hall on a green hill on the outskirts of the city center of the second-largest city in Denmark. The building, which consists of two low-lying wings, was erected on former barracks grounds and houses around 900 employees of the city administration. A white, box-shaped building consisting of three blocks rises from a darkened wing base. With its filigree lattice structure, the facade resembles an accordion and lends the complex a certain lightness.

According to the architects, the new building creates a new urban location that is shaped by the interaction between the architecture and the surrounding park. The large atrium, the heart of the city hall, promotes communication between the administration and the citizens. In addition, the community hall, which is adjoined by the foyer, cafeteria and meeting rooms, remains flexible and can be converted into a conference center. The city hall of Viborg is one of the first public buildings in Denmark to meet the strict conditions of low-energy class 1, the highest sustainability standard, and thus all the requirements for a green building. The rules for the low-energy class set by the Danish Ministry of Economics are based on the ambitious concept for keeping the resource requirements in buildings to a minimum. It is obligatory for all new buildings. Among other things, the code of practice sets out clear requirements for the use of rainwater as well as for the durability and safety of products used in this area.

City hall, Viborg (DK)
Building owner: Viborg city administration (DK)
Architects: Henning Larsen Architects, Copenhagen (DK)
Completed: 8/2011
Plumbers: Brøndum VVS A/S, Viborg (DK)
Geberit know-how
Pluvia roof drainage system

↑ A box-shaped building with a lattice facade: the city hall of Viborg.
Focus Scandinavia

Leaning towers
Hotel Bella Sky, Copenhagen, Denmark

↑ 3XN Architects have designed the Hotel Bella Sky, which consists of two leaning towers.
Hotel Bella Sky, Copenhagen, Denmark (DK)
Building owner: Bella Center A/S, Copenhagen (DK)
Architects: 3XN Architects, Copenhagen (DK)
Completed: 5/2011
 Plumbers: ENCO A/S, Glostrup (DK); Basen A/S, Glostrup (DK)

Geberit know-how
PE Sovent fitting d 160 for waste water discharge stack
Mepla piping system
Pluvia roof drainage system
Mapress stainless steel piping system
Concealed cistern

Landmark on the skyline
The Hotel Bella Sky is part of the expansion of the existing Bella Convention and Congress Center, constructed in Ørestad on Amager Island. Ørestad is the newest district of the Danish capital and one of the fastest-growing and most economically important regions in Scandinavia. With its two 76-meter-tall towers, the hotel soars into the sky and is an impressive addition to the Copenhagen skyline. The landmark boasts a special feature: To offer the best possible view in all rooms, the two towers of the hotel lean in opposite directions at an impressive 15-degree angle. By comparison, the leaning tower of Pisa inclines a “mere” 11 degrees. Some rooms offer not only a phenomenal view into the distance but also straight down, so that one appears to be floating over the landscape. The hotel contains a total of 817 guest rooms and 30 conference rooms. The top floor houses the hotel’s guest rooms and 30 conference rooms. The top floor houses the publicly accessible Sky Bar, from which the view literally lays the city at guests’ feet.

The angle of the towers gives the building’s exterior varying unusual shapes. Depending on one’s location when viewing the complex, it sometimes looks like an X and sometimes like a Y. The facade is made up of windows shaped like various polygons, from triangular to rhomboid. The Hotel Bella Sky can be seen from almost everywhere in Copenhagen and its striking silhouette has already made it a landmark of the new city district.

The Hotel Bella Sky in Copenhagen is currently the largest hotel in Scandinavia. The 76-meter-tall landmark boasts a special feature: To ensure hotel guests the best view possible, the two towers incline at an impressive 15-degree angle.

The Hotel Bella Sky in Copenhagen marks the opening of the largest hotel in Scandinavia. The building, consisting of two leaning towers, was designed by 3XN Architects. The Copenhagen firm, which numbers among Denmark’s most creative, feels obligated to uphold the Scandinavian building tradition of clarity and functionality. The architecture firm, founded in 1986, can in the meanwhile point to a whole series of renowned buildings, including a museum in Liverpool, the music building in Amsterdam and the Danish Embassy in Berlin, some of which have won various architecture awards.

The Copenhagen architects also designed the interior of the hotel and were inspired by the bright Scandinavian style of interior design.

↑ The Copenhagen architects also designed the interior of the hotel and were inspired by the bright Scandinavian style of interior design.

Geberit PE Sovent d 160
The flow-optimized Geberit PE Sovent fittings facilitate an optimal layout of waste water discharge stacks in high-rises. They prevent hydraulic closings in the discharge stacks, which on the one hand increases the capacity of this pipe by a factor of up to 4 and at the same time makes it unnecessary to install a separate ventilation pipe. Unlike with roof drainage systems, for instance, negative pressure in a building’s discharge pipes is to be avoided, as this essentially clears out the traps, making them ineffective. For this reason, conventional discharge stacks without Geberit Sovent are equipped with an air bleed.

With the Geberit PE Sovent d 160, hydraulic know-how from Geberit is now also available for discharge stacks with a diameter of 160 mm. This size discharge stack enables drainage of waste water from up to 200 residential units and is especially installed in high-rise hotels, residential and office buildings, such as in the 76-meter-tall Hotel Bella Sky in Copenhagen.
A large glass hall is the centerpiece of the new Berlin Brandenburg Airport, symbolizing openness and generosity. Inside, the building captivates with its clearly laid out, orthogonal organization and comfortable proportions. The new airport was designed by the Hamburg, Germany, firm of von Gerkan, Marg und Partner, which collaborated with JSK Architekten to realize the construction.
The new capital city airport, which also bears the name "Willy Brandt," initially received much praise until the drama of the postponed opening dampened all high-flying expectations. The new airport is to replace the current Berlin airports Tegel and Schönefeld, the latter of which is being used in part for the new facility. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on September 6, 2006, and the airport was scheduled to celebrate the start of operations in summer 2012. But problems with fire protection technology forced a delay in the opening. Now airline passengers will be handled at the new facility starting March 17, 2013. At peak hours, up to 6,500 passengers will take off or land every hour.

The new airport consists of a passenger terminal and the Airport City, located in the center of the parallel take-off and landing runway system. Maintenance areas are located to the west of the airport and service and cargo facilities lie east of the facility. All together, the new airport covers 3,600 acres, the equivalent of approximately 2,000 soccer fields. The Hamburg architecture firm von Gerkan, Marg und Partner (gmp) is responsible for the design of the airport. In 1965, 30-year-old Meinhard von Gerkan, working with Volkwin Marg and Klaus Nickels, won the competition to design the Tegel airport. Now the same architect, who meanwhile operates multiple large offices and heads up construction projects worldwide, is building the new airport in the same city – in cooperation with JSK Architekten of Frankfurt/Main at the customer’s request.

Two architectural identities

The design of the airport building is based on the idea that the airport’s two partners, the states of Berlin and Brandenburg, should both be reflected in the overall concept and in the buildings themselves. Thus, two areas were created, each with its own architectural identity. The large, glass-enclosed main hall symbolizes the capital’s openness and generosity. Its dimensions set it entirely apart from the neighboring buildings. The colonnades of the two lower connecting buildings are intended to invoke Potsdam and the park at Sanssouci.

The architectural center of the airport is the 240-by-240-meter main hall, which is...
27 meters tall. The building houses the central functions related to check-in and baggage handling as well as retail stores and restaurants. Here, too, all passenger flows from both surface and air transportation run together, as well as those from passenger drop-off and the train station. By constructing the glass facade with filigree components, the architects succeeded in lending the hall maximum transparency. The roof of the hall spans the various areas, from passenger drop-off to departure concourse, thus linking surface and air transportation. The hall roof is a lightweight construction with a span of about 44 square meters, consisting of a space framework. In an interview*, Hans Joachim Paap and Hubert Nienhoff, the head project architects from gmp, explained the concept behind the roof construction. The element is intended to be readable, say the architects, via directional lighting as well, which is softened by a membrane stretched over the support grid between the support columns. Clear, bright light shines through the column capitals. The roof is meant to seem as if it were floating, an illusion which is created by its translucent appearance from below, which gives it depth and reveals a bit of the construction elements.

**Clear, orthogonal structure**

The airport complex is structured orthogonally. A sweeping architectural gesture was passed over in favor of a simple appearance. The needs of the user were given priority, not the need to draw attention to an extravagant, representational construction. To create the overall spatial effect, the architects placed more importance on a high-quality design in material
No other actuator plate from Geberit offers nearly as much design freedom as the Sigma50. It is suitable for use with all Sigma concealed cisterns with dual flush. The Sigma50 is offered in a total of nine different models, including one customizable to the customer’s wishes. This model offers customers the possibility of choosing the material and color for the inlay. Everything has been carefully prepared for this option: An easily understandable dimensioned drawing enables any carpenter, mason, glass or plastics specialist to prepare a precisely fitted inlay. And the die-cast zinc frame is prepared with an adhesive so that once the inlay is cut to fit, it can be easily and permanently fixed in place.

This option to design a plate entirely according to the customer’s wishes together with the plate’s streamlined, functional design is a perfect fit with the airport’s architecture, convincing the architects from von Gerkan, Marg und Partner to choose Geberit products. The Sigma50 was coated with the same high-pressure laminate (HPL) as the urinal and WC partitions in the WC facilities, and colored to match the anthracite fixtures. In this way, the color concept was continued throughout the building, enabling the architects to satisfy their requirement of creating high-quality design in the selection of materials and development of details in this area as well. A total of 650 Sigma50 units were manufactured for the Berlin Brandenburg Airport and installed in both the VIP and standard areas of the passenger terminal.

* See “Bauwelt” (22/2012)
Recently, Hadi Teherani and his team at BRT Architects in Hamburg have designed and constructed a number of striking, sculptural, large-scale buildings at significant locations. One of the latest examples is in Abu Dhabi. Zayed University is a high-tech oasis of knowledge encased in imposing architecture.

Striking, futuristic and built to the highest technical standards, Zayed University, named after its founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, was designed to meet the highest demands in all respects. This unusual complex was designed by a team from BRT Architects in Hamburg, headed by Hadi Teherani. The work of this architectural artist from Teheran is characterized by his holistic approach. He also works as a product and interior designer to create all-round, complex architectural living environments. In all his projects, Teherani focuses not exclusively on the architectural space, but also on a harmoniously designed space with a coherent atmosphere that can be experienced with all senses down to the last detail.

**Seamless feature roof**

For Zayed University, Hadi Teherani created a large-volume, sculptural solitaire with dimensions that make the observer think the architects decided to test the limits of what is statically feasible. The design combines futuristic architecture, engineering ingenuity and traditional elements. The symmetrically designed complex is divided into two halves, one for the women’s campus and one for the men’s campus. The two areas are connected by a promenade that leads to the large, central square in the center of the university. The unifying element of the building ensemble is the seamless, almost floating feature roof that was inspired by the flowing form of the abaya, a traditional Arab head covering for women. Around 6,000 students have been studying at the campus, which covers an area of 80 hectares (nearly 200 acres), since autumn 2011. In addition to lecture halls, research and computer rooms, the campus includes administration offices, a cafeteria, a sports complex, a conference center and a library covering 18,000 square meters (nearly 194,000 square feet).
Interview with Hadi Teherani about the construction of Zayed University

Sculptural solitaire

Why did this project appeal to you?
The university is of great cultural and political importance for the entire region. It is the first institution of its kind for male and female students on the same campus, if not yet in the same rooms. One aspect of this project was also the development potential of this society as well as new ideas, new products and not least of all the local importance of the country after the energy revolution.

What was your inspiration in designing its roof?
The traditional veil inspired us. This is a veil that doesn’t shape the body, but softly wraps around it. Another source of inspiration was the desert sand with its dunes wandering with the winds. In this way, it is possible to draw the main functions of the university together to create an organic form. A roof with this shape that spans several building complexes as well as the space between them has never been constructed before. With its unique dynamics, it is not simply an architectural element, but also meshes with the paths and squares to create an urban space.

What were your greatest challenges during the construction of the complex?
The greatest technical challenges were the climate, the huge dimensions of the construction and the speed at which it had to progress. The roof also covers a library of more than 500,000 books, and the conference center houses the largest theater in Abu Dhabi, while the cafeterias can seat 2,600 people. In total, the site comprises an area of 100,000 square meters (almost 1.1 million square feet).

It was not easy to work with such building dimensions with 7,500 construction workers, 320 site managers and temperatures of 50 degrees Celsius (120 ° F) without anything going wrong. But the end result – a shady oasis of scholarship – made all our efforts worthwhile. This was what motivated us all.

Was sustainability a priority in building Zayed University?
Yes, environmental protection and sustainability were important aspects in the design of the university. The form of the building, ventilation and lighting, the shading elements on the front of the facades and the shading effect of the roof that spans the entire unit are all expressions of this focus. The landscaping with its areas of water and vegetation was also integrated into the concept.

Futuristic architecture is combined with engineering ingenuity and traditional Arab elements.

6,000 students study on the 80-hectare campus.
Geberit lavatory tap type 185

During the construction of Zayed University, a great deal of attention was also paid to good design, quality, durability and sustainability in selecting products. For this reason, electronic Geberit lavatory taps type 185 were installed in the bathrooms, as they combine these qualities in one product. Due to their economical energy and water consumption, the taps were also awarded the WELL label in 2011. The main feature of the taps is the hygienic touchless activation of the water flow by the user. This is based on an infrared, two-beam recognition feature that can be individually adjusted. With its additional functions such as a water-saving program, energy saving mode and a hygienic flush program, the electronic washbasin tap can be easily adapted to the user’s needs. The taps are easy to clean and resistant to moisture and dirt. Power can be supplied either conventionally from the power supply network or a long-lasting battery. Since the beginning of 2012, the taps have also featured an internal generator that supplies the taps with electricity in a sustainable manner. Like a small hydroelectric power station, the generator uses the pressure of the tap water to generate the required electricity and makes the electronic washbasin taps independent of other power sources.

For further information: Geberit Product Magazine “NEW” 2012

→ www.geberit.com
Mr. Behling, you have been working as a designer for Geberit for several years. How are design studies originated at Geberit?

The development cycle for new products at Geberit is relatively long, and it generally takes two to three years before production begins. For me as a designer, these processes mean that the design studies I am currently working on have to be visionary, so that the products look contemporary enough when they are launched on the market. For this reason, I also constantly work with interdisciplinary teams on so-called "concept cars."

The focus here is not only on new products, but on details such as a new actuator or enhanced ergonomic design. The starting point is, however, always a new design. You could say that good design is developed around a problem. Over time, a large pool of design concepts has evolved in this way, and we can always use this to find new inspiration.

The "floating plate" also originated from this pool. What is so special about it?

The plate, which appears to float a few centimeters in front of the wall, was a flash of Geberit genius – a cistern concealed behind the wall, in front an almost invisible plate. The “floating plate” is perfectly in keeping with Geberit’s goal of supplying uncompromising functionality combined with aesthetics. The aim was to create a product that exudes lightness and iden-
tity. Everything that was unnecessary had to disappear. All that remains is a floating plate.

What inspires you in your work with Geberit?

Here, there is still a vision – to combine technology, infrastructure and aesthetics to create the bathroom of the future. And all this happens with the courage to create the invisible. The floating plate is a good example of this concept. The technology and the construction, i.e., the know-how behind these, are invisible. You don’t even suspect that it is there. At Geberit, innovation doesn’t stop at the exterior. You could say that we work from the inside outwards. Our solutions aren’t just superficially cosmetic. That is the unique characteristic of this company.

What does that mean for your work as a designer?

Geberit products don’t scream: “Look at me, I’m different.” For this reason, I have to work very discreetly. They are made modestly, but as perfectly as possible, which is also something you can see. Every product is made with the same love and patience. The quality of Geberit products cannot be found in mass-produced items. Take the metal treatment of the Sigma60 actuator plate as an example. You can hardly find anything to match it today.

At first, the floating plate was simply a design draft without any specific function. How did it evolve to become a new product?

The function came a few years later with the development of odor extraction. I was really enthusiastic when I first saw the new idea of simply drawing off unpleasant odors into the bowl. In the technical department, we all discussed the form this function needed. We already had the right design for it with the floating plate, as it had the functional requirements and the form that also expressed lightness and airiness. With this as a basis, we developed the Sigma40 with the integrated odor extraction unit, which was launched in 2011.

What part did you play in the development of the floating plate?

It was my task to create the Sigma40 on the basis of the floating design, in other words, to make the visible invisible.

Very subtle, very fine, but with a very high quality standard. The skill of the plate design is in ensuring its invisibility. It is every architect’s and interior designer’s dream to have a plate that is as invisible and as light as possible. This is particularly important in the bathroom, where there are a number of interior design features, that the plate merge into the background. It will be available in 2012 with a glass surface as well. Why?

Well, the plate is also available with a glass surface in white, umber and black. Ten years ago, the products were all made of plastic. Today, glass has replaced plastic, because glass is available today in much higher qualities than before. It no longer scratches and is increasingly popular with architects. Glass is becoming more dominant as a design element. This is already evident in facades and interior fittings. Glass stands for dematerialization. It is light and floating and blends easily into different decors. It is therefore ideal for a plate such as the Sigma40.

Did you design the Sigma50 and Sigma60 actuator plates on this basis as well?

Yes, and the Sigma60 actuator plate best exemplifies that “floating” effect. It is reduced to the absolute minimum. The little that is left is marked by clarity and understatement. Its design is not loud but restrained. It doesn’t encroach on our living environment. It is a product with a long service life. Being a Geberit designer also means not following short-lived trends. The plate is an object that has to be discovered and wants to be discovered. Achieving simplicity is generally the most difficult task, as it can quickly steer towards banality. This is the high art of design, and that is exactly in keeping with Geberit. After all, people today no longer want shrill, cheap, trendy solutions.

![Design study of the “floating plate”: As the result of a non-visible fastening, it appears to float a few centimeters in front of the wall.](image)

1. The Sigma40 with integrated odor extraction has also been available with a glass plate since 2012.
2. Actuator plate Sigma50.
3. The actuator plate Sigma60 is reduced to a minimum.
For some time, Esch-sur-Alzette, the second-largest town in Luxembourg, has been redefining its economic and urban future. As part of this development, a school complex has been created for 270 preschool and elementary school children in the district of Nonnewisen, which is home to around 1,500 inhabitants. The new school facility was designed by the architecture firm Auer+Weber in Stuttgart in collaboration with the Atelier d’Architecture BENG in Esch-sur-Alzette. The schoolyard, which is open to the public outside school hours, forms the “green hub” between the school and the sports facilities and opens onto the Parc de Centenaire opposite it on the south side. Despite the building’s relatively large size, the architects managed to create a scale and proportion that is appropriate for the preschool and elementary school children, thus making it easier for them to find their way around. The individual buildings are combined to create an artistic ensemble by means of the structure of the generously dimensioned glass elements and closed facade sections made of concrete blocks.

Certified fire protection system from Geberit
Fire protection is naturally also required by today’s standards for school buildings. In addition to standard solutions, Geberit also supplies solutions customized to individual situations for special architectural challenges. This is also true of the school in Esch-sur-Alzette, in which Geberit products that ensure all-round fire protection were used. The best way to ensure comprehensive fire protection is with a system solution, i.e. by using individual components coordinated to optimize fire protection characteristics. All components relevant to fire protection are included in the system. The installed Mapress drinking water pipes were protected by special pipe jacketing. The Silent-db20 drainage pipes are protected by fire protection sleeves that prevent fire from spreading to other rooms. The cavities in the walls containing the GIS installation system are filled with mineral wool, lending them insulating and fire-protecting properties. Even the Pluvia roof outlet was equipped with a fire protection sleeve.

Situational solutions
Fire protection is the top priority

Ecole Nonnewisen, Esch-sur-Alzette (LU)  
Building owner: Ville d’Esch-sur-Alzette (LU)  
Completed: 4/2012  
Sanitary engineers: Goblet Lavandier & Associés, Luxembourg (LU)  
Plumber: MBW Technique du Bâtiment SA, Luxembourg (LU)  
Geberit know-how  
Pluvia roof drainage system  
Silent-db20 drainage system  
Mapress stainless steel piping system  
GIS installation system  
Duofix installation system

Comprehensive fire protection
The fire behavior of Geberit products and systems is tested in collaboration with external testing institutes. Geberit’s Building Physics division holds seminars on the principles of fire protection and demonstrates for its own development engineers and designers the effectiveness of the fire protection measures. It tests and evaluates prototypes and mass-produced products. In addition, it carries out fire tests appropriate to building material classes and fire resistance, taking into consideration the different fire protection requirements in various countries. All Geberit products have been subjected to fire testing.
A red-and-white giant
Geberit drinking water competence in the Warsaw national stadium

The new national stadium is a striking feature on the urban landscape of Warsaw that can be seen for miles. The venue of the opening game of the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship is around two kilometers away from the banks of the Vistula River in a park with large open spaces, sports facilities and trees. The stadium is at the center of a new, large-scale “sport park” that was created to revitalize the entire area. The state-of-the-art, multifunctional arena was built on the foundations of the Dziesięciolecia Stadium that was built in 1955 from the rubble left after World War II.

An international architecture competition was advertised for the new construction in 2007 that was won by the global architecture group GMP (von Gerkan, Marg and Partners) in collaboration with J.S.K. Architekci Sp. Z.o.o., Warsaw (PL); Schlaich Bergermann und Partner, Stuttgart (DE). Opened: 1/2012

Geberit know-how
Duofix installation system
Electronic urinal flush control and lavatory tap
Sanitary flushing

For perfect drinking water
Geberit regards keeping drinking water in hygienically perfect condition by providing suitable, certified products as an ongoing challenge and task. To achieve this goal, the company uses only high-quality materials. Another risk for drinking water contamination is the transport and storage of pipes and fittings without protective caps, which can result in contamination of the insides of the pipes. During the production of pipes and fittings, Geberit ensures that they are in hygienically perfect condition when they leave the plant. The Geberit Mapress and Mepla piping systems, which are suitable for drinking water pipes, are equipped with protection plugs to prevent the ingress of dirt and foreign bodies. The plant also places protective caps, which can be reused for closing off installed system components, on fittings. When the drinking water installation is filled with water for the first time, Geberit hygiene filters retain any microorganisms. This ensures that only microbiologically perfect drinking water is used to fill the system for the first time.
Schloss Schauenstein in Fürstenau long ago lost its secret status as the best dining experience in Switzerland. The exquisite hotel/restaurant is under the direction of 3-star chef Andreas Caminada. Of central importance to the top chef from the Swiss canton of Graubünden are his guests and their well-being, and not just in his culinary art. The harmonious furnishings and atmosphere of the hotel also play a part. A very special wellness oasis to which Geberit AquaClean also contribute.

The Schloss Schauenstein restaurant in Fürstenau figures among the top 30 entries on the “World’s 50 Best Restaurants” list. Since 2003, it has been run by top chef Andreas Caminada, a native of the Swiss canton of Graubünden, who only two years after the opening was touted as the discovery of the year. In 2008, “Gault Millau” crowned Caminada as Switzerland’s Chef of the Year, and again in 2010, also awarding him a nearly perfect score of 19 out of 20 points. The same year, “Guide Michelin” honored Caminada as the first German-speaking Swiss chef to earn three stars. The 34-year-old is considered one of the top talents among Swiss chefs. And his restaurant in the castellated Domleschg Valley is known far and wide. Meanwhile, the wait time for one of the coveted tables is many months.

Focus on guests’ well-being
When Andreas Caminada and his then-partner Sieglinde Zottmaier saw Schloss Schauenstein for the first time in March 2003, they knew immediately that they could achieve their dream here. “We wanted to use all the rooms in the castle,” says Andreas Caminada. They used a sensitive touch to transform the historic building into a hotel/restaurant with a special flair. In the beginning, they had only four employees and did everything themselves, recalls the master chef. Today, Caminada has 27 employees who attend to the needs of the hotel and restaurant guests, who meanwhile travel from as far as Tokyo and New York to experience Caminada’s culinary craft. “It is very important to us that our establishment not appear snobbish or elitist, but rather very personal. The guests and their well-being are the center of our focus. They should feel at home and let themselves be completely pampered,” explains Caminada.

This includes the charming interior design of the six hotel rooms, each of which has a different layout, window size and ceiling height and accordingly is appointed in its own individual style. “We didn’t want to reduce the rooms to a standard. Moreover, it was important to me to find a good symbiosis between old and new,” says Cami-
In accordance with its own vision, Geberit wants to use innovative solutions in sanitary technology to improve people’s quality of life for the long term and in a sustainable manner. Geberit has launched a new generation of toilets on the market under the name AquaClean. With the Geberit AquaClean shower toilet, available in models 4000, 5000plus, 8000 and 8000plus, paper is no longer needed to clean. Rather a warm jet of water cleans, touch-free and hygienically. The AquaClean 8000plus model, installed in Schloss Schauenstein’s guest rooms and restaurant restrooms, also spoils you with a special treatment. All functions can be individually regulated, from the position of the spray arm to the water temperature and intensity to the dryer. Thanks to a storable user profile, each user need set all functions only once and can retrieve them with the remote control. AquaClean 8000plus is available as a wall-hung or floor-standing model, with or without visible cistern. Together with the Monolith sanitary module, it offers the ideal combination for a harmonious fit with every ambiance.

→ www.schauenstein.ch
An ellipse that is something else
Mauritius Commercial Bank, Mauritius

The new headquarters of the Mauritius Commercial Bank has attracted a great deal of interest. On the one hand, this is because of its unusual architecture. On the other hand, the building meets high sustainability standards and has been awarded the GREEN STAR and the BREEAM label.

Five hours by plane from Johannesburg in South Africa, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, lies the island of Mauritius: tropical climate with an average temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius, dry winters and wet summers. The heating of buildings is of no interest in this region. The question is far more, how one can provide resource-saving cooling. One answer to this is provided by a new building that already stands out in its surroundings simply by its unusual architecture: the new headquarters of the Mauritius Commercial Bank. The project, which was implemented in 2011, was conceived by the architect Jean François Koenig.

Energy thanks to its own solar park
The unique Green Building takes into account all aspects of sustainable building and meets high social and economic standards. "In addition to saving energy and water, these also involve acoustic insulation and fire protection, safety, waste disposal and quality of life," explains Jean François Koenig, who studied architecture in London and who has had an office of his own on Mauritius since 1987.

The building is conceived in such a way that it uses around one third less energy than conventional buildings. The elliptical shell...
Interview with the architect Jean François Koenig on the importance of Geberit products for the water supply in the Mauritius Commercial Bank

Geberit also supported us with its vast know-how

Is there a shortage of drinking water in Mauritius?

In the last few years, rainfalls have not been sufficient to refill the public reserves. The situation is currently so tense that the government is rationing the water supply for several hours per day. However, we made sure during the construction that the building could cover its own water needs to a great extent.

What contribution did Geberit make?

The toilet and urinal flush systems, which work entirely with rainwater, and the garden water system, building and floor cleaning systems and car wash, which are supplied with grey water, allow for a self-supply system that is hardly dependent on the state supply of drinking water.

Geberit not only provided us with products and top technology, but also supported us with its vast know-how in the realization of our complex water supply system.

What impressed you most of all?

We have placed very large water tanks in the four building bases, which allow us to store the required amounts of rainwater. In my opinion, we would not have been able to direct the water so efficiently from the complex and curved roof construction into the tanks without the Pluvia system.
The invisible bridge

Architecture, submerged

The West Brabant Water Line in the south of the Netherlands is a series of fortifications dating from the 17th century that served as a barrier in wars against the Spanish and the French. In the event of an attack, the land in front of the dikes could be flooded. Over the last 200 years, however, the landscape, which has been named a Unesco World Heritage Site, has deteriorated visibly, until recently one of the defense structures, the star-shaped “Fort de Roovere” fortress, was reconstructed as a cultural heritage and local recreation area. To make the facility accessible to visitors, a conventional bridge over the moat would have been sufficient. But, for the Dutch and Belgian project architects Ro Koster and Ad Kil, such a solution would have been a literal paradox: A bridge over the defensive dikes, not to mention in the direction from which the enemy once came, seemed to them to be in absolute contradiction with the spirit of the place. So Koster and Kil simply hid the bridge from sight. As Moses led his people through the parted Red Sea, so too, visitors now cross from one shore to the other directly through the moat, their feet still dry.

Almost level with the surface, the narrow, 1.10-meter-deep “Moses Bridge” cuts through the water and the embankment of the dike. Seen from a distance, the walkway appears to be nothing more than a line on the surface of the water. Only see the upper bodies of the people crossing the bridge can be seen. The construction is made possible by waterproof liners that cover the wooden structure. A concrete foundation also safeguards against buoyancy. Overflows removed by some distance in the moat ensure that the water level near the bridge always remains constant, a precautionary architectural measure that is also a true experience.

→ www.ro-ad.org
→ www.westbrabantsewaterlinie.nl