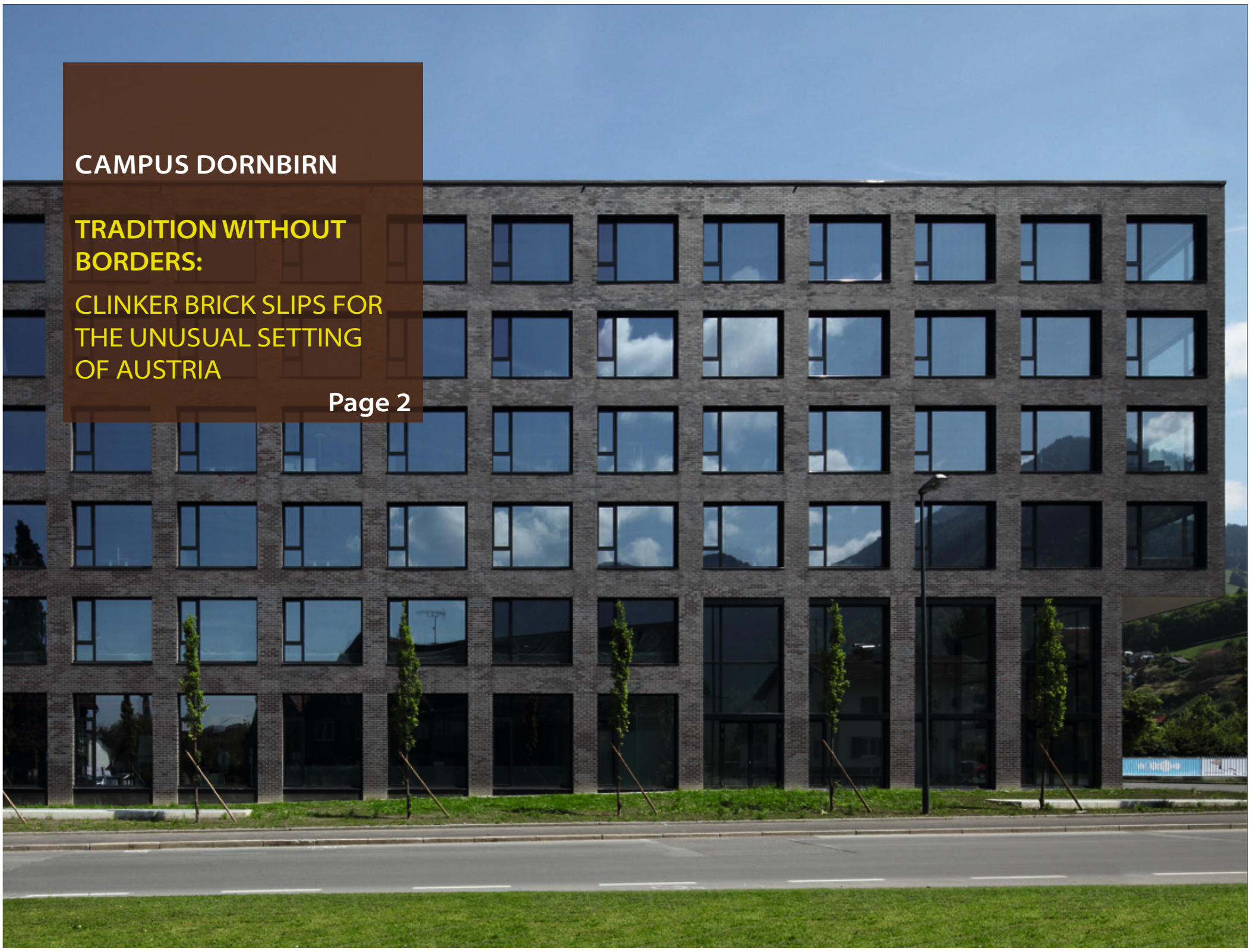
CLINKER BRICK SLIPS & EXTRUDED TILES UP TO DATE

OBJECTFACT 1.12



CAMPUS DORNBIRN

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AN UNUSUAL PROJECT FOR AN UNUSUAL FACADE CERAMICS ARE BREAKING THE MOULD ON THE SHORES OF LAKE CONSTANCE

The architects commissioned with the major project, Aicher Architekten in Lustenau, actually had an initial vision of a curtain wall with large-format elements in dark grey, but then opted for a brick slip facade on a normal thermal insulation composite system to optimise costs.

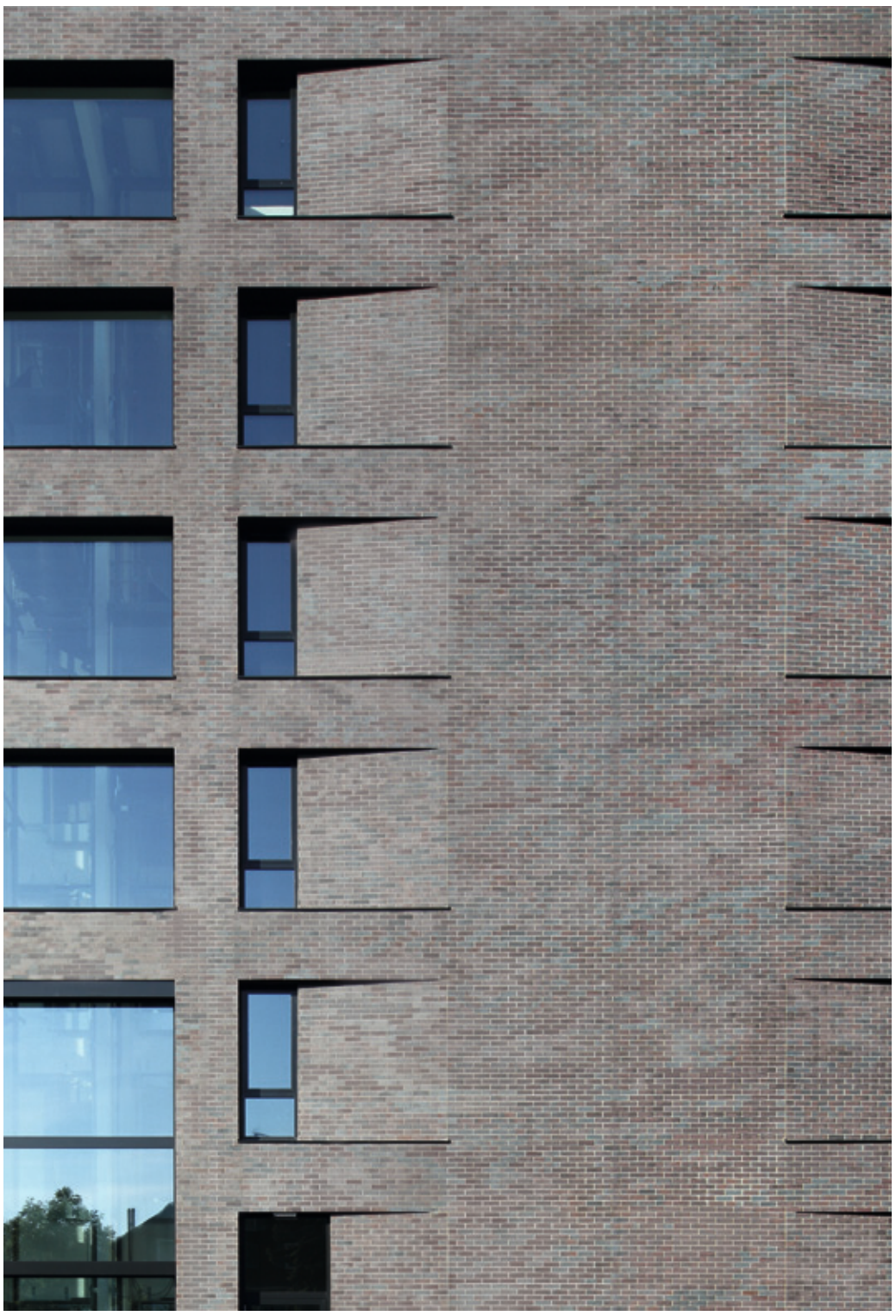
TRADITION WITHOUT BORDERS:
CLINKER BRICK SLIPS FOR THE UNUSUAL SETTING OF AUSTRIA

Stumbling across a large office complex clad in clinker brick slips in the midst of an Austrian chocolate box setting of timber and plaster facades will be sure to make you do a double take – and not just because of the unusual cladding.

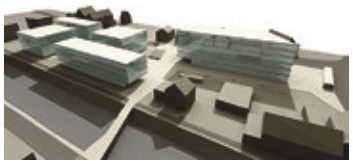
The rule book is also being torn up behind the scenes, where an internationally inspiring business location has been set up with a focus on one important aspect: rapid output for a minimal initial outlay – the ideal solution for young entrepreneurs, spin-offs and freelancers.

With the aid of investors, the town of Dornbirn in the Austrian federal state of Vorarlberg has transformed the site of a former post depot into a campus aimed at a very special target group. It offers fully equipped office solutions with individual post boxes, which offers users the choice of operating totally independently, or alternatively, making use of common infrastructures, networking opportunities and potential synergies. From the shared areas and bar with kitchenette, reception, meeting room and bakery service, through to office cleaning, child care and car sharing – all the tenants' needs are taken care of. What's more, advice on starting up a business is included.

The concept has proved successful as the second phase of construction has been launched according to plan. It is not just the campus backers that are inspired by the 17,000 m^2 campus with its total interior space of 22,500 m^3 – a survey has found that even former critics of the facade's new look and feel have been won over after their initial reservations.



Campus Dornbirn is taking shape in several construction phases on the site of a former post depot in Dornbirn. The site is located very close to the University of Applied Sciences in Dornbirn and acts as a platform for stimulating commerce, research, science and the creative sector.



As a special commercial commission, 2,600 m² worth of brick slips and 5,000 corner pieces from the „Keravette® metallic black" colour range were modified by changing the black and brown colour ratios in order to achieve the top priority of having a facade that appears original and high-quality, with a slightly archaic character.

130 MILLION TO COMBAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS – AND FOR URBAN CONSTRUCTION

The modern take on reconstruction of a former highlight of the port city, with 43,000 m² of commercial, cultural and culinary delights – perfectly integrated into the eclectic, historic buildings around it and the newly built infrastructure. It is the result of meticulous collaboration between the architects of the investors, ECE, and Prof. Zbigniew Paszkowski, Head of the Conservation Strategies Working Group, alongside the renowned Polish architects office, Urbicon.

KASKADA – A MAJOR PROJECT IN POLAND, STEEPED IN HISTORY: A PERFECT BALANCING ACT FOR THE FACADE OF SZCZECIN'S SHOPPING TEMPLE

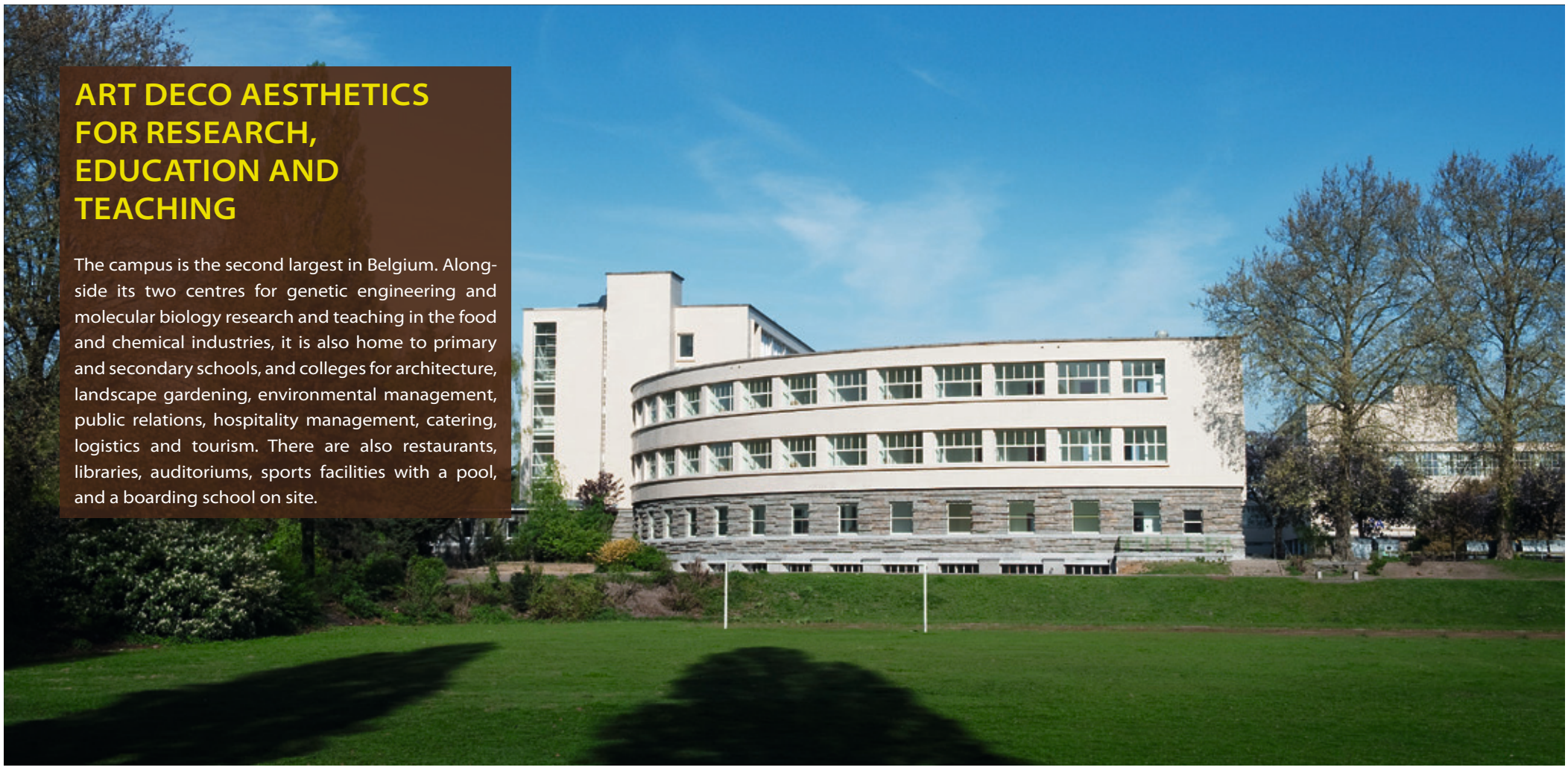
Patina brick slips: the harmonious keystone for a facade with an important legacy; stylistic architectural device and fusion of building conservation and cosmopolitan chic.

The complex built in 1889 at the crossing between what is now Niepodległości Avenue and Obrońców Stalingradu Street had always been a show-stopper – until it fell victim to a catastrophic fire in 1981. Not a straightforward history for architects and planners to take on! The major Kaskada project in the heart of the city was to draw on elements of the big city in times gone by, in a conservation area that had been derelict for 30 years.

Even though the name originates from its time as a restaurant complex and legendary socialist shrine to entertainment, the claim on pioneering architecture stems from the golden age of the 1920s. Owner Otto Ponath wanted to open a high-class club in the building and organised a befitting major restoration in 1929: his club, and also the building itself gained fame that would spread far beyond the city boundaries. It was the height of modernity for buildings of its type, with gas heating and mechanical ventilation – but the facade was one of the main attractions. This was not just down to the circular construction of the rotunda, but also due to the masterful use of the most modern and expensive neon technology in the world at that time. It was this that drew the attention.

The past is now represented first and foremost with colours: the yellow of the champagne that once flowed here and the red of the curtains of the famous Pleciuga puppet theatre, which has once again found a home here. The blue represents the clothing firm Odra, which once produced denim clothes here. And last but not least, the brick slips: harmonious keystone, stylistic architectural device and fusion of building conservation and cosmopolitan chic. 3,500 m² of Zeitlos brick slips in „eisenrost" and 15,000 corner pieces, in the special dimensions of 240 x 71 x 14 mm with deep dovetailing for production in PU thermal panels. And what's more: fired in a high-tech process, with a patinated surface.

Winner of the „Industry Award 2012“:
In April, Kaskada came top in the category for „Retail Development of the Year 2011“ for the Central and Eastern European Real Estate Quality Awards (CEEQA) of „Emerging Europe“ real estate magazine.



ART DECO AESTHETICS FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TEACHING

The campus is the second largest in Belgium. Alongside its two centres for genetic engineering and molecular biology research and teaching in the food and chemical industries, it is also home to primary and secondary schools, and colleges for architecture, landscape gardening, environmental management, public relations, hospitality management, catering, logistics and tourism. There are also restaurants, libraries, auditoriums, sports facilities with a pool, and a boarding school on site.

COOVI ELISHOUT CAMPUS, BRUSSELS: EXEMPLARY FROST-RESISTANT RESTORATION PROJECT

A historic building that stands out from the crowd – some things never change.
The Polak brothers weren‘t the only ones to come here to make history – living up to the art deco legacy.

The Second World War brought about an abrupt end to art deco in Europe as the mood in the immediate post-war period was not well suited to pomp and shows of luxury. So, commissioning the sons of one of the art deco architects to the wealthy aristocracy who had gained fame after the First World War to plan the new Elishout campus was a brave step, even if the public authorities were financially compelled to set Andre and Jean Polak rather different boundaries as the client for this major project in 1946.

Just as their father Michel Polak before them succeeded in creating timeless masterpieces with his interpretation of aesthetic architecture and art deco, such as the Villa Empain in Brussels, the Elishout campus, with its unmistakable Polak signature from the second generation, is still counted as an architectural highlight in Brussels – with all the challenges presented by building conservation for renovation or restoration.

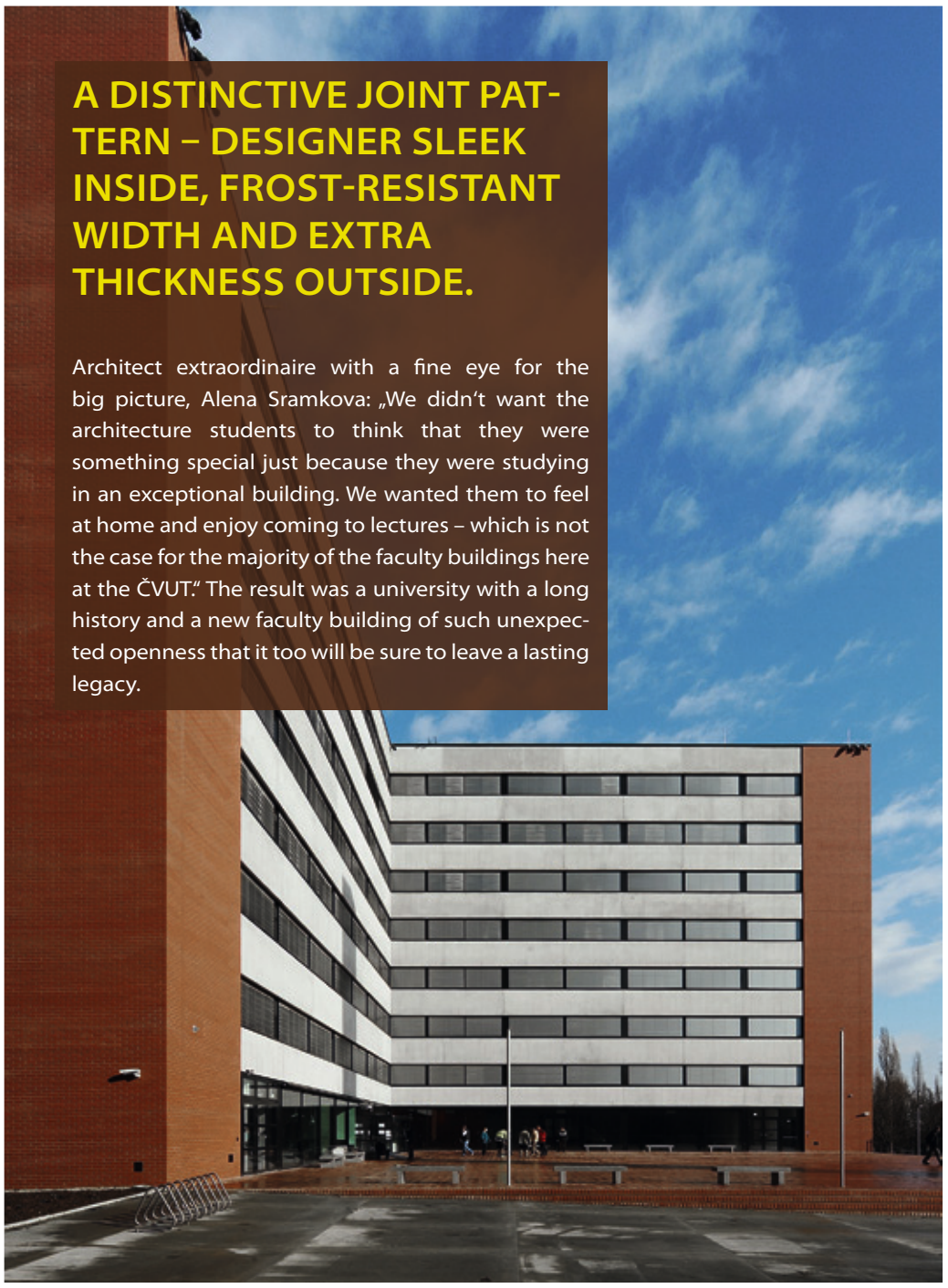
In 2008, the renowned architects office, Xaveer de Geyter were commissioned with the painstaking restoration of the Polak building, which had only been finalised a few months previously. An army of specialists had to be called in. In particular, the task of restoring the facade – which is crucial for the special art deco quality – required art deco expert and Master of Science in restoration, Prof. Barbara Van der Wee, and a sophisticated concept for the brick slips. For STRÖHER, this resulted in a commercial commission using the special dimensions of 300 x 52 x 15 mm, glazed with a double firing process in order to achieve the exact original colour demanded by the conservation authorities for the brick slips.

The work was governed by the special request from the Flemish Community in Belgium that the buildings in their care on the campus be given a distinct identity. In the recent past, the Coovi campus was divided into a Dutch-speaking part and a French-speaking part, managed by the French Community of Belgium. This is not unusual for Belgium, where even a German Community still operates as a provider in the education system. It is however, a little out of the ordinary in terms of the appearance of the campus, which was once very consistent and had been designed to be very uniform. The Flemish Community definitely took a step in a new direction with this restoration and set another piece of campus history in stone.

The „curved wing“ built in 1948 gives the campus its architectural identity and is now also home to the campus boarding school.

The Atomium in Brussels – emblem of the 1958 World Fair which was the first to be held after the Second World War – was also built under the direction of architects André und Jean Polak and in 2006 it was even featured on a Belgian two euro commemorative coin.

Architectural details weren‘t the only important thing – after some bad experiences with concrete aggressiveness, the quality requirement set for frost-resistance of the facade cladding was a top priority. This posed no problem for STRÖHER clinker brick slips and was even guaranteed.



A DISTINCTIVE JOINT PATTERN – DESIGNER SLEEK INSIDE, FROST-RESISTANT WIDTH AND EXTRA THICKNESS OUTSIDE.

Architect extraordinaire with a fine eye for the big picture, Alena Sramkova: „We didn't want the architecture students to think that they were something special just because they were studying in an exceptional building. We wanted them to feel at home and enjoy coming to lectures – which is not the case for the majority of the faculty buildings here at the ČVUT." The result was a university with a long history and a new faculty building of such unexpected openness that it too will be sure to leave a lasting legacy.

PRAGUE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY – A ONE-OFF PRODUCTION OF A CLASSIC: SPLIT TILES – A WARMING CONTRAST TO COOL CONTEMPORARY DESIGN

Could it be too much to expect a building to be a melting pot for architects, a creative peak and yet still be equipped for the humble everyday working life? Certainly not! Alena Sramkova, the grande dame of the Czech architects scene has a very clear vision of just this.

„You can't tip-toe around when it comes to grandeur." When it came to flooring materials, the requirements were tight: it was to have a soul, yet also be hard-wearing. Guaranteed frost-resistance was an absolute must for the outdoor areas. The final choice was for just under 4,000 m^2 of classic red, plus angle tiles for the stairs – both outdoors and in, but with narrow joints for the indoor areas. These were also to correspond with the wide joint lines of the ceramic laid outdoors, so as to create a lavish overall picture throughout. The 245 x 245 mm size was therefore produced for laying with a 5 mm joint and the stair angle tiles were adjusted to the length of 245 mm. Outdoors, the ceramic was laid in the 240 x 240 mm format, with a normal 10 mm joint, but with a greater thickness of 20 mm due to the safety requirements for public areas. This means that the joints running between the indoor and outdoor areas are aligned in all directions and result in a particularly lavish surface effect for onlookers.

The 83 years old architect extraordinaire with a fine eye for the big picture, Alena Sramkova:

OBJECTFACT 1.12

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