



3D planning and visualisation of the entrance hall.
Photo: © DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG

Why do we need architects?

A variation of this question could also be: Is architecture a luxury? While some people may argue that it is, the DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG stands as a testament to the necessity of intelligent architecture in our modern world. For the team of 60 architects and engineers working at the Regensburg office, architecture is indeed far more than a luxurious extravagance. It is rather an essential means to stimulating every human's innate desire for beauty and aesthetic feeling.

a turn to increased quality. Work and quality of life are evermore fusing.

Architectural quality

The quality of architecture has nothing to do with individual taste, but is managed by

TEXT: THOMAS SCHROERS, JUDITH FALTERMEIER

The DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN believe that every human being has a longing for beauty and a conscious or unconscious aesthetic feeling, and that spaces or urban spaces as well as landscapes with high aesthetic quality have a positive influence on human perception and the development of their own aesthetic standards. Nowadays, people spend most of their time in constructed spaces. That is why these living spaces are worth the architect's topmost attention. Our working environment, especially in office buildings, is experiencing



Executive board from the left: Eric Frisch, Robert Fischer, Thomas Eckert. Photo: © Florian Hammerich

examining certain criteria. The atmosphere of interiors, the material quality and proportions, the integration in its urban surroundings and the identity of a building, all define its value and quality. Naturally, ticking off all the criteria during a project requires a thorough analysis of a building's place and surroundings, its history and its potential future use. This process guarantees a tailored solution.

Cost and time

Next to the difficult measurements of architectural quality, the inherent project quality is always looked at with the same clear factors, namely cost and time. As clear guidelines, these two variables are touchstones of success. But these two aspects are not enough to complete a project successfully.

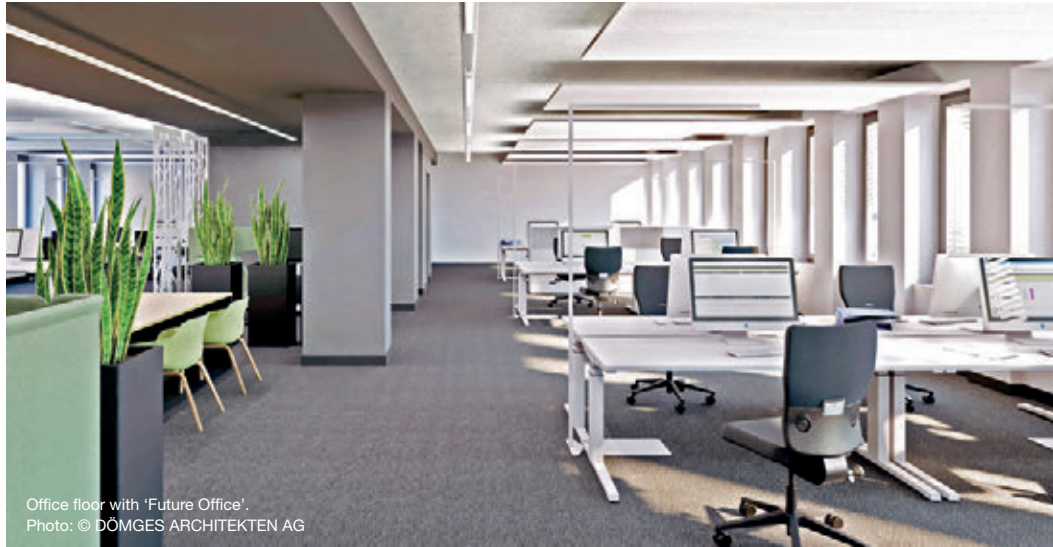
Functionality

The third and integral ingredient for success is the functionality of the building. Here, the architect can display great skill in navigating the, often abstract, requirements of builder and user and developing his concept accordingly. In this phase, the architect can be seen as a critical consultant, who is able to listen, but also insert his own experience and skill while working together with the different parties. These parties include not only the core planning team, but also the many craftsmen, who without their craft no innovative and sustainable building would be possible. Only in the interaction of all is an innovative and value-based architecture developed.

Innovating without recklessness

In their work, the architects at the DÖMGES AG are very aware of their responsibility towards builder, environment and society. Always searching for the exceptional and the added benefits of a solution, DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN are collaborating closely with their clients, thus making the project process intimate and efficient. For more than 70 years, the architectural office has continuously taken up new challenges and a large variety of projects. Currently, the 60

New build eight-storey office building (net 40 million euros certified LEED Gold). The whole building was assembled as a 3D BIM model, to determine mass and cost, while also integrating the specialist engineers in the process.



Office floor with 'Future Office'.
Photo: © DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG



Western façade with exterior surroundings.
Photo: © DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG



Inner yard with restaurant terrace.
Photo: © DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG



Photo: © DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG



Lighted galleries of the inner city, competition winning residential quartier IQ. Photo: © Erich Spahn

employees fulfil a performance spectrum ranging from architecture and urban planning to general planning and competitions.

BIM

Currently a new challenge is Building Information Modelling (BIM). The architects plan the entire building three-dimensionally, thus creating a 3D model. Into that model, the various planning sections, including technology, statics, landscaping and more are integrated by the technical planners. At the moment, the DÖMGES AG is developing a 50-million-

euro project with this digital process, which the builder will later incorporate in his facility management.

Building for the good of citizens

One of the fields in which the DÖMGES AG specialises is building for the public sector. More than 85 per cent of the company's projects are taking place in the public sector realm and are most often a result of successful participations in competitions. For the builders, competitions are a way of finding out whether the potential architects possess the necessary special knowledge to

lead a project to success. In the public sector, such special abilities must include legal certainty, coordination and presentation with and for political councils and the secure handling of the building site.

Being aware of one's responsibility is the key here. In the end, the planning team is using finances that have their origins in the citi-

New built correctional facility with coloured guidance system and a comfortable atmosphere, especially for the employees, who will spend their whole working life here.



Photo: © Martin Duckek



Photo: © Martin Duckek



Main entrance of the school.
Photo: © Erich Spahn

Energy efficient sanitation of the Jean-Paul School, built in around 1920, with gym and swimming bath, both built in the 1960 and 1970 years.

zen's daily work to create buildings, which will give back to these citizens. Schools, kindergartens or public administration offices are all part of this equation. Therefore, DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN aim to be a strong partner for the building authorities.

Of course, public sector architecture is under much more scrutiny than a private sector venture. The stakes are higher and the involvement of press and public opinion is not to be underestimated. During the projects, transparency is highly important and the architect himself is an integral part in the communication of building progress, cost and design.

Qualitative architecture

Finding new paths without being reckless, meeting the requirements of the builder and working responsibly in relation to the environment and the society at large. These are the core themes, which the DÖMGES ARCHITEKTEN AG is constantly keeping in view.

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Backside of the school and photovoltaic façade of the gym. Photo: © Erich Spahn



New build factory and office facility.
Photo: © Oliver Heissner