

PRESS RELEASE

GlassWin System: Modern Aesthetics combined with Optimum Thermal Insulation in Renovated Industrial Monument

Once, the „Rheinberger“ building in Pirmasens, in the South Western part of Palatinate, was the biggest shoe manufacturing plant in Germany. The building is still considered as an outstanding example of industrial architecture of the beginning 20th century. The challenge during the renovation of the impressive complex of buildings, was to comply with the regulations for historic monuments conservation and with the requirements for modern thermal insulation properties at the same time. In this context, it was particularly difficult to replace the existing 1,000 steel frame windows without affecting the overall appearance.

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The occupancy of the place where, in former times, about 2,500 workers used to manufacture 5,000 pairs of shoes a day, is now marked by service providers and medical care utilities. Besides that, the attractive, newly refurbished premises accommodate the city's tourist information, two newspaper offices, lawyers, a school, a gym as well as a hotel and a restaurant. Furthermore, the concept of the technological hands-on museum „Dynamikum“ which is run there by the city of Pirmasens on a surface of about 4,000 square metres has become a full success.

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Until 2001, a change of use of the deserted building had been generally deemed impossible. In 2002, when the city acquired the property, together with a donation of the Rheinberger family of one million Euros and funds from the Federal urban development scheme, the renovation project got an unexpected stimulus.

Based on a concept established in 2004, tendering had started in the summer of 2005 on a European level, and the tender of „Bunkerhill Entwicklungsgesellschaft“ operated by two architects from Pirmasens, Emil and Peter Schweitzer, was accepted. The cooperation with the local authorities was determined in a comprehensive agreement. The municipality and the Land contributed 11 Million Euros for renovation and refurbishment to the total amount of 22 Million Euros, and the architects, Schweitzer bros., bear the interior works and assume the management of the building, i.e. by renting the different premises.

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In spring 2006, the fundamental reconstruction of the 16,500 square metres area started. In this context, the old steel windows were replaced by a modern window system. When evaluating the different samples made of plastic and aluminium, the GlassWin system of profine GmbH, world-wide market leader for plastic window systems with its brands KBE, Kömmerling and Trocal, was the most convincing option.

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„With the GlassWin system, we have managed to reproduce the original impression of the monument to the best extent possible“ says the architect and investor, Emil Schweitzer.

The system excels by a structural glazing solution with plastic profiles. Bonded Georgian bars simulate the filigree segmentation of the original steel windows. Thus, the GlassWin system gets nearest to the historical aspect.

The principle of the GlassWin system is based on an elastic adhesive bond with load bearing properties between the insulating glass pane and the GlassWin sash profile which allows to manufacture an inimitably slim window sash with very high stability. Together with the adhesive supplier Dow Corning, profine developed a special two component adhesive which guarantees the excellent physical properties of the patented windows system with a constructional depth of 70 mm.

GlassWin fulfils all functional and artistic requirements of a modern window system. The sash profile is covered completely by the glass pane and is indiscernible from the outside, only frame and mullion remain visible. In addition, the inner glazing bead is no longer necessary so that the windows can be designed in an attractive aspect of an elegant overall glazing, which enables a high light yield. Further creative options are allowed for by the use of profiles foiled in uni colours or wood-grain design. In summary: a solution which complies with highest aesthetic requirements, however by far less expensive than aluminium, and at the same time, convincing in energy efficiency, as the material PVC has considerably better insulation properties because of its low thermal conductivity. The additional energetic benefit is even increased by the fact that the usual steel reinforcement can be omitted.

Compared to the original steel windows with single glazing, fuel oil consumption is reduced by 78,600 litres per year by using the high insulation GlassWin system of the profine brand Kömmerling with an u-value of 1.3 (W/M²K) which corresponds to a reduction of CO₂ emissions of 244.5 tonnes per year. And the greenline profiles from profine GmbH which are stabilized exclusively on a calcium/zinc basis have an additional ecological benefit: The use of 625 kg of lead could be avoided. This is the quantity which would have had to be used with traditional systems.

A comprehensive documentation of the project and the advantages of the GlassWin system in old buildings renovation is available and can be ordered by e-Mail: stefanie.schmitt@langindustriedienst.de

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Rear side of the „Rheinberger“. Whilst originally entered by the northern main entrances, today, the impressive complex of buildings is accessible via the Southern patio.



Hans-Sachs building: The GlassWin system from profine GmbH for the more than 1,000 new windows in the block allows an exact reproduction of the historical façade appearance.

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Bonded Georgian bars simulate the filigree segmentation of the ancient steel windows. The tilt and turn sash cannot be seen from the outside.



The principal of the GlassWin system is a structural glazing solution with plastic profiles for the Kömmerling brand which complies with all artistic and functional requirements to a modern window system.

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About profine:

profine GmbH - International Profile Group - is the world-wide leading manufacturer of plastic profiles for windows and doors as well as a notable supplier of shutter solutions and PVC sheets. The company was established in 2003, when HT TROPLAST consolidated its profile business activities (KBE, KÖMMERLING, TROCAL) under one roof.

profine has a total of 3,350 employees at 28 locations in 21 countries. Around 2,000 of these employees work in Germany. The company has a current production capacity of about 450,000 tons.

The production sites are located in Germany (3), France, Italy, Spain, Russia (2), Ukraine, the United States and China. The company headquarters is in Troisdorf (North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany).

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