

OKACOLOR - REFERENCES

Germany | Leipzig | Lutheran Redeemer Parish Church



Project:
Lutheran Redeemer Parish Church
Location:
Leipzig, Germany
Product:
OKACOLOR
Square metres:
135 m²
Special Features:
Coloured glass of church windows
Architect:
Architektengemeinschaft
Zimmermann, Dresden
Execution:
Haga GmbH & Co. KG, Lichtenau
Completion:
2006

After more than 50 years, the congregation of the Lutheran Redeemer Parish Church in Leipzig can again attend services within its own four walls. Almost completely financed by money from donations, the new church building with community centre in Leipzig-Thonberg was finally completed in December 2006. According to the wishes of the parish, the new community centre should be light and inviting, a meeting place that not only encourages communication, but also offers oases of tranquillity. These were the criteria that constituted the basis for the implementation competition, which was won by Architektengemeinschaft Zimmermann, an architect partnership in Dresden, in September 2003. The architects' design is based on a concept comprising several structural

elements which are combined to produce a building ensemble with a square floor plan. Each stage of the construction is founded on the folding principle: recesses and upturns outline a continuous room structure, whereby the church hall is embedded in the centre of the complex as a solitaire. All of the structural elements surrounding the hall, including the immediately adjacent campanile, pursue the folding concept and therefore relate to one another in an unequivocal manner. Another special feature: a differentiated structural design is evident on each of the four aspects of the building. Furthermore, the overall appearance is marked by inter-changing open and closed surfaces and apertures of varying sizes in the façade. The importance of the body of the church



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is not only reflected by its central positioning and architectural dominance within the complex as a whole, but also in the design of its façade. The severity of the architectural form is broken up by a band of printed glass running round three sides of the façade, which also sets points of contrast inside the building. The colour scheme has been borrowed from Nature's annual spectrum, imbuing the room with a warm and friendly atmosphere, while the mood and intensity of the light varies according to the angle of the sun. The colour was printed onto the inside surface of an insulating glass panel fitted in front of the façade by means of the OKACOLOR process developed by insulating glass specialist OKALUX of Marktheidenfeld. A screen-printing process was used to print

vertical stripes onto the other side of the glass panel. The effect produced by these stripes is such that the colour is hardly visible from the outside during the daytime, but glows gently through the stripes during the hours of darkness when the body of the church is illuminated. Although the architecture of the church hall picks up the traditional 'stained glass' church window theme with this concept, the interpretation is completely new and adopts modern industrial techniques. This environment not only offers church-goers the sheltered space needed for meditation; secular aspects also pervade the hall as a result of the cheerful interchange of light and colour with the accompanying gentle lighting mood and a link is established to the world outside.



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