

The kult is a new cultural hub for the town of Vreden and a vibrant focal point on its cultural route. It combines a 1.400 sqm artistic-historical museum with the cultural administration of the district, the local archives, an educational space, a tourist information point and spaces for events and temporary exhibitions.

The centre aims to walk the delicate line between sensitively integrating itself in the medieval heritage and establishing a contemporary landmark that actively contributes to Vreden's cultural and social life. Its sculpturality is directly developed from the context, extending the small-scale structure of the housing along Vreden's medieval wall and defining the town's edge.

A new urban cultural route begins in the town surroundings and enters Vreden over a moat and through the kult: it is in its atrium that the route intersects with the building's central and vertical axes, the latter leading up through a sculptural staircase into the museum areas. From this point the visitors have a clear overview of a complex ensemble and functions. The staircase itself is not only a distribution space for the different exhibition areas but is also the representative backdrop of the atrium, which is also used for conferences, festivals and concerts.

In total, two new bodies have been added to the four existing ones, shaping a complex that covers a time span from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. In particular, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings constitute a rare example of pre-war architecture in the area. The two buildings from the 70s and 80s, formerly the old Hamaland Museum, are bound together with educational areas and with the continuation of the roofscape. To preserve the legibility of the historical layers the facades are subtly shifted and detailed to recall the original styles, while the different blocks are clad with local bricks that gently change in colour shade. The result is a coherent ensemble that nevertheless frankly declares the juxtaposition of the diverse identities, which harmoniously coexist without challenging each other. If the outer cladding naturally blends into the almost rural surroundings, this is peeled away on the inside to reveal the concrete structure in raw timber texture. A fresh and contrasting character is also added by vivid yellow accents, like shop fronts, along the central backbone axis, binding the museum's ancillary spaces, the two reception areas and the archive.

Central openings in the atrium and the courtyard provide a well-balanced natural illumination besides identifying the different museum areas and facilitating the orientation within the centre. On the first floor the central staircase leads to the secular part of the exhibition where corner windows open on to the view of the medieval port, the source of Vreden's economic importance of the time. On the second floor, the clerical part of the museum, the stair points to two windows on the north side, displaying the town's two churches, which still dominate the Vreden skyline.

## INFORMATION

Project name: Kult - Kulturhistorisches Zentrum Westmünsterland

Design architects: POOL LEBER ARCHITEKTEN  
Leading architects design: Isabella Leber , Martin Pool  
Collaborators design: Javier Bressel, Valéria Polakovičová  
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Architectural partners (site): Bleckmann Krys Architekten  
Leading architects site: Eva Bleckmann, Andreas Krys  
Collaborators site: Peter Hesse, Alexander Lehne, James Bonk  
Structural engineers: Spangemacher Ingenieure, Raesfeld  
Landscape design: Pesch Partner Architekten Stadtplaner, Dortmund  
Exhibition design: Thöner von Wolffersdorf, Augsburg  
Electrical engineers: Kipp & Knuhr Ingenieure, Borken  
Heating, sanitary engineers: RTS Ingenieure, Stadtlohn  
Ventilation engineers: K & L Energie, Hamminkeln  
Building physics: Hansen Ingenieure, Wuppertal  
Fire safety: Kempen Krause Ingenieure, Aachen  
Geological surveyors: Roxeler Ingenieurgesellschaft, Münster  
Project management: agn Niederberghaus und Partner, Ibbenbüren

Completion year: 2018

Built area: 5.950 m<sup>2</sup>

Project location: Kirchplatz 14, 48691 Vreden (<https://goo.gl/maps/RNQgXmkxJT82>)

Photographer: Brigida González ([www.brigidagonzalez.de](http://www.brigidagonzalez.de))

Clients: County of Borken, Municipality of Vreden

Budget: 10,3 Mio €

Manufacturers:

Brick Facade: Schüring Ziegelwerke, Gescher

Timber-Aluminium Window : Gutmann, Weißenburg

Acoustic ceiling: Heradesign , Knauf AMF, Grafenau

Carpet: Object Carpet, Denkendorf

Roof and Paneling: Rheinzink, Datteln

Metal fittings: FSB, Brakel

## ISABELLA LEBER

Architect (Bavarian Chamber of Architects No. 182271)

Urban Designer (Bavarian List of Urban Designers No. 41689)

- 1967 Born Munich
- 1987 Abitur in Munich
- 1988 Musical Studies, National Conservatory of Music Grenoble, France; Certificate: Médaille de Bronze en Violoncelle
- 1990 Intermediate Diploma: Biology and Chemistry, University of Freiburg
- 1990 Architectural Studies, University of Karlsruhe
- 1994 Schinkel Prize, Urban Design, 2nd Prize
- 1994 Work in the office of Behnisch, Stuttgart/Lübeck
- 1996 Diploma in Architecture, University of North London (UK), DAAD Scholarship
- 1996 Freelance Architect in London
- 1998 Diploma in Architecture and Urban Design, University of Karlsruhe
- 1999 Conversion of Private Houses in London, Odense (DK), Munich
- 2002 Own Office in Munich
- 2011 Pool Leber Architects, Munich

Languages: German, English, French, Danish

## MARTIN POOL

Architect (Bavarian Chamber of Architects No. 177064)

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Architects Registration Board UK No. 072936A

- 1969 Born Guildford (UK)
- 1976 European School, Brussels (B)
- 1987 BSc (Hons) in Architectural Studies, University of Cardiff (UK)
- 1989 Work Experience, Cardiff
- 1993 Diploma in Architectural Studies, University of Sheffield (UK)
- 1993 Work in Berlin
- 1997 Team Leader, Büro Topos, Darmstadt
- 1998 Partner in Fritsch, Ruby, Pool, in Darmstadt
- 2000 Own office in Munich
- 2000 BDA Prize Rheinland-Pfalz
- 2005 Building Physics Prize
- 2006 Bavarian Energy Prize
- 2009 dena Energy Efficiency Prize
- 2011 Pool Leber Architects, Munich
- 2011 Member of the BDA

Languages: English, German, French