



MOEDING

Moeding Keramikfassaden GmbH
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84163 Marklkofen

A butterfly with an iridescent skin

Ceramic elements on the new Landshut District Office

A shortage of space and the wish to bring together several satellite offices led to the construction of a new building for the Landshut District Office. The location, however, is unusual: on the edge of Essenbach, a four-storey building has been created on land formerly used for agriculture – an irregular polygon offering long views, abundant daylight, and a wealth of visual variety. Continuous façade bands clad with dark, silk-gloss ceramic elements from MOEDING complement the building’s dynamic appearance.

A district office that can be understood as a bridge to its rural surroundings: with the new administrative building in Landshut, the Lower Bavarian district is breaking new ground, creating forward-looking architecture that is visible from afar. The volume, designed by dasch zürn + partner, follows no conventional pattern. Instead of a classic rectangular block, it takes shape as two angled wings joined by a central atrium. The result is a broad, low-slung form set within the open landscape at the southern edge of the market town of Essenbach. With a music school and an events hall in the immediate vicinity, the solitary building does not stand on unknown ground and helps define the growing district.

Synergies in use and function

Following a design competition, the Stuttgart-based office emerged as the winner in 2019. The brief called for a new building that would not only meet modern construction standards but also accommodate the increasing need for space and allow several locations to be combined.

The wish to create a modern, service- and citizen-oriented administration building is reflected in both the architecture and the spatial concept. Public-facing departments are located on the ground floor, ensuring easy access and dedicated entrances. The geometry of the four wings also ensures short routes and good orientation throughout. Workplaces and service areas distributed over up to four storeys benefit from generous daylight and ever-present views of the surrounding countryside. The undulating terrain flows around the elongated volume, which rises above the ground to its full four storeys only along one axis.

Coherent composition of materials inside and out

The building, with a gross floor area of around 24,000 square metres, is constructed as a reinforced-concrete frame with stiffening cores and partial timber structure. Inside, a bright, well-balanced mix of glass, exposed concrete, and a generous use of timber defines the interior surfaces, from the staircases in the spacious atrium to the council chamber on the top floor.

Externally, continuous bands of glass and ceramic alternate, emphasising the building's horizontal extension. The dark profiles are continued in vertically layered ceramic elements. The opaque wall sections project distinctly forward, creating depth and texture across the façades. This effect is further enhanced by the relief-like ceramic bands, composed of three panel types with differing widths and stepped surfaces, arranged in irregular sequence to produce a lively, folded appearance.

Project-specific ceramic elements

Over a period of two years, the rear-ventilated façade specialist MOEDING, together with the architects and client, developed bespoke ceramic elements that give the building its distinctive, sculptural appearance. Depending on the time of day and the incidence of light, the façade produces an iridescent surface that highlights the building's high design ambitions. Special corner units were developed to allow the relief to continue seamlessly across adjoining façades.

The colour and texture of the ceramics are the result of extensive sampling. The chosen clay body has a volcanic tone and was finished with a semi-transparent glaze, allowing the base colour to shimmer through and creating ever-changing

visual effects. The black-blue-green glaze with its subtle sheen gives the building a shimmering outer skin whose interplay of colour and folded geometry generates striking effects of light and shadow. The result is an image of a stylised butterfly that seems to lift gracefully from its green surroundings.

(4.209 characters incl. spaces)

Project information

Project name:	New Landshut District Office Building
Client:	District of Landshut, represented by the municipal company Lakubau
Architecture:	dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart Munich architekten Partnerschaft mbB
Façade lining:	MOEDING ALPHATON® ceramic panels, special format
Colour:	Black glazed
Photos:	Henrik Schipper Photography



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Figures:



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The new Landshut District Office brings together around 600 workplaces of the municipal administration at a single site. A generous forecourt leads to the main entrance and the connecting atrium, giving the new building a prestigious public presence.

Architecture: dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart | Munich
architekten Partnerschaft mbB

Photo: Henrik Schipper Photography



A butterfly with an iridescent skin

The building nestles within the natural landscape on the outskirts of Essenbach. From above, its shape reveals a butterfly form with wings recessed towards the centre.

Architecture: dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart | Munich
architekten Partnerschaft mbB

Photo: Henrik Schipper Photography



A butterfly with an iridescent skin

The building's irregular geometry creates numerous courtyards, squares, and niches, allowing inside and outside spaces to interlock in diverse ways. A total of 7,100 ceramic panels clad a façade area of around 3,500 square metres.

Architecture: dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart | Munich
architekten Partnerschaft mbB

Photo: Henrik Schipper Photography



A butterfly with an iridescent skin

A black clay body with a semi-transparent glaze, together with the folded arrangement of the ceramic elements, produces a lively, sculptural façade.

Architecture: dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart | Munich
architekten Partnerschaft mbB

Photo: Henrik Schipper Photography



A butterfly with an iridescent skin

Thanks to MOEDING's special production process, each ceramic element is a one-off.

Architecture: dasch zürn + partner Stuttgart | Munich
architekten Partnerschaft mbB

Photo: Henrik Schipper Photography