



**Fibre
cement**



Picture: Eternit AG/David Franck, Stuttgart

Material for façades, furnitures and facilities

The headquarters have been provided with façade cladding of grey fibre cement boards. The deep embrasures resulting from this were used as a distinctive design feature, utilising perspective.

The architect Astrid Bornheim sees the showroom and training centre at Eternit AG's headquarter in Heidelberg as "a laboratory for ideas, as a workshop for inventions and as architecture for areas of activity". Her design is shaped by the theme of using fibre cement as a spatial element.

The showroom and training centre are located in a culturally significant building. It was built in 1964 by the architect Ernst Neufert and is now the company's headquarters. The design for the newly constructed spaces preserves the clarity of Neufert's architectural structure. The structure and the proportions of the original space have been uncovered again. The filigree ribbed concrete floor of the building shell provides the rhythm for the various new levels and elements. A room-high glass façade extends freely over the existing structure. The inner relief wall provides a contrasting second motif. The spaces in between are characterised by various large pieces of fibre-cement furniture.

With respect for the architectural heritage

While always maintaining respect for Neufert's heritage, the architect demonstrates a new poetic dimension to the material and visualizes the corporate identity of the company. This also

applies to the façade: the original uninsulated façade was replaced by a new ventilated façade with 80 millimetres thermal insulation and façade cladding consisting of grey fibre-cement boards. The deep embrasures

resulting from this were used by the architect as a distinctive design feature, utilising perspective. Like a wave, differently inclined red and green pilaster strips move across the façade, bringing new dynamism to the straight-line building. The 12 millimetres thick fibre-cement boards are fastened to an aluminium substructure using undercut anchors and agraffes.

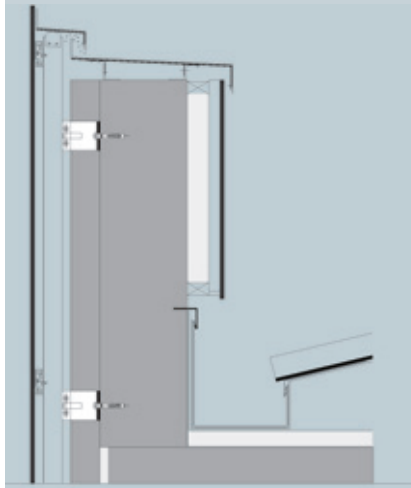
The architects also paid particular attention here to the details: The fascia sheeting lies behind the façade board and even the drainage in the parapet area cannot be seen behind the façade. In this way, the outline of Ernst Neufert's original design has been sustained and given a contemporary interpretation.

Inside the building, the architect, Astrid Bornheim, has developed a compact and multifunctional sculptural space of fibre cement, that defines activity zones for sales meetings and, at

Construction sign

Building-owner:	Eternit Aktiengesellschaft, Im Breitspiel 20, D-69126 Heidelberg, www.eternit.de
Design:	Astrid Bornheim Architektur, Berlin
Cooperation in implementation planning façade:	DKO Architekten, Berlin
Cooperation in construction supervision façade:	Ingenieurbüro Fisch
Cooperation in implementation planning /construction management:	von Klitzing Architekten, Braunschweig
Cooperation implementation planning/graphics:	Alex Butz, Jan Pingel, Nico Schwarzer, Jakob Pzybylo, Kornelius Kohlmeyer, Markus Willecke
Art concept:	Astrid Bornheim with Folke Hanfeld, Berlin
Façade:	Henke AG
Glass:	Prevalight from Saint Gobain
Lights:	Tubus and Opto from Wortmeyer Licht, Evio from Zumtobel Staff
Wall and furniture claddings, door leaves, tabletops:	Eternit Natura, 8 mm, bonded
Façade:	Eternit Natura, 12 mm, fastened with undercut anchors and agraffes
Completion:	February 2007

Picture: Eternit AG



Vertical section through the façade

Picture: Eternit AG/David Franck, Stuttgart



Inside the building, the architect, Astrid Bornheim, has developed a compact and multifunctional space from fibre cement. This space can be flexibly configured.

the same time, also allows flexible reconfiguration. Different sized blocks from fibre cement are placed around the space as free-standing objects. They are simultaneously exhibits and partitions as well as reception counter, show-cases and espresso bar. These items of fibre-cement furniture create different functional zones and yet again release one's glance for the overall impression. They separate and combine. A series of rectangular showcases offers a view relationship from the entrance to the bar.

Everything of one material

The building-owner followed the recommendation of the architect that the company's products should not be presented as at a conventional trade fair stand in the showroom but instead that visitors should be invited on a voyage of discovery. Consequently, the exhibits – corrugated sheets, façade boards, roofing slates – are located in material containers made from fibre cement, which are naturally integrated into the architecture of the showroom. The design promotes the haptic experience of the material and, in the truest sense of the word, creates points of contact and multi-layered identification opportunities.

The only visible material that is shown here is the raw material from which all the other products are manufactured: 8 millimetres thick, natural grey fibre-cement boards. The architect uses them in an unusual complexity and universality: as a wall covering, as a door leaf and as a tabletop in the seminar room. The boards which are up to 3,100 millimetres tall and 1,250 millimetres wide are bonded to a substructure. They were cut using a water-jet process on the basis of CAD drawings, enabling free shapes and incisions to be cut into the boards. The fine lines thickness from narrow joints required extreme precision in the manufacturing process.

In 1964, Ernst Neufert demonstrated what applies again today for the new headquarters: fibre cement can notably be used in an elegant and prestigious way and can be combined with new contexts.

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