

Bötzow brewery, Berlin:

Attractive working environment in a historic ambience

Who would still want to work from home with an alternative like this? With creative working environments in a historic setting, the Ottobock Future Labs position themselves as an attractive employer. The top priority of the refurbishment of the Bötzw brewery was to preserve the architectural character of the complex as a whole. Windows, doors and fixed glazing from Jansen steel profile systems contribute to this.

The former Bötzw brewery is centrally located in Berlin, just a few minutes' walk from Alexanderplatz. It was built in 1864 by Julius Bötzw – at just twenty-five years old, he was the offspring of a dynasty of schnapps distillers. Bötzw not only had the ambition to produce original Bavarian beer using state-of-the-art production facilities – he also wanted his brewery buildings to meet high design standards. This same pioneering spirit is also reflected in the current owner of the 24,000-square-metre site, Professor Hans Georg Näder, owner of the orthopaedic technology company Ottobock. The family-run company, a global market leader in technical orthopaedics, develops high-tech products that enable people with disabilities to enjoy the greatest possible mobility. Näder is demonstrating his high aesthetic standards when it comes to the renovation of the listed brewery buildings by working with David Chipperfield Architects. Together, they want to transform the extensive area into a typical Berlin neighbourhood with a mixed use of commercial, gastronomy and cultural facilities.

The master plan by David Chipperfield Architects is based on the previous structure and design of the brewery grounds. At the corner of Prenzlauer Allee and Saarbrücker Straße, where the largest beer garden in Berlin was located in around 1900 with space for 6,000 people, a beer garden is to be built again. A few technical installations have been preserved inside the buildings, reminiscent of their previous use. Care was taken to preserve the architectural character of the brewery buildings with their yellow and red brick facades and many different window types. Since the single-

glazed steel windows do not meet today's energy requirements, some of them were restored, some were upgraded in combination with new elements and some were completely replaced by new elements reconstructed following historical models, depending on their position in the building and the associated energy requirements.

Hage Metallbau GmbH from Duderstadt, the company commissioned to carry out the metal construction work, manufactured the required elements predominantly from Janisol Arte 2.0. The steel profile system makes it possible to construct windows that open either inwards or outwards. These are optionally available as side-hung, French casement, bottom-hung or top-hung windows, as well as fixed glazing in element sizes up to 1000 mm wide x 2400 mm high, along with special opening types such as projected top-hung windows, pivot windows and sliding windows. Thanks to this wide range of construction options, Janisol Arte 2.0 was ideally suited to the project with its many different windows and opening types. For five of the seven brewery buildings, Hage Metallbau manufactured, among other things, pivot windows (some with SHEVS drive), round arch windows and fixed glazing as well as a number of property-specific special constructions such as small round windows with an openable sash, a folding system with a top light and oversized patio doors with a round arch. The new elements are partly located on the outer level of the building envelope and partly on the inner level (always when the historic window on the outside has been retained).

With all the curved elements, the challenge was to fit the new constructions precisely into the existing curves. For this purpose, each sheet was measured individually and a template was made. The steel profiles were bent in the bending workshop of the steel system manufacturer, the Swiss company Jansen AG. The new windows on the outer level were fitted with SHEVS drives as pivot windows, among other things. "We manufactured the outer frames ourselves because they had to be relatively wide to fit into the existing openings," says project manager Stefan Gassmann, explaining the construction. "While the outer frame for the historic windows protruded around 25 mm out of the brick walls, the casement frame of the new pivot windows widens the look." Nevertheless, Janisol Arte 2.0 was the profile of choice here too. A profile width of 80 mm was created from two individual shells and a sheet metal cladding – a difference that is visually perceptible, but in no way disturbs the overall look.

Fixed fire-resistant glazing manufactured by Hage using the Janisol 2 steel profile system proved to be challenging in terms of production technology. At the request of the architects, steel tubes were to be applied in order to visually narrow their appearance. In the end, the decision was made for a two-part construction: The desired applications were manufactured as a separate element and bolted to the fire protection fixed glazing invisibly from the outside. The metalworkers recreated the upper crossbar, which looks two-part, with a plate.

With a folding wall made from the Janisol steel profile system, the challenge was to absorb the deflection over the element width of four metres and to reduce the weight of the folding system upwards – despite the top light sitting above the moving elements. The folding wall is now de facto attached to the top light: this is a construction that is only possible with steel profiles. At the architect's request, the sheet metal in the parapet area was applied flush to the profile inside and outside with a shadow gap of five millimetres.

The constructions described give only a small insight into the many possibilities of designing with thermally separated steel profile systems. In view of the climate protection debate and demands to comply with low-energy standards, even in the case of historic buildings, we cannot point out often enough the exceptional durability of steel profile windows, doors and fixed glazing. Their associated sustainability and the comparatively good insulation values serve to protect our climate and are therefore future-proof. The Bötzw brewery is now also fit for the future: The Ottobock Future Labs moved into buildings 1 – 4 back in August 2018. Despite ongoing construction work, other start-ups have moved to the site since then. The renovation of buildings 5 – 7 is expected to also be completed by the end of 2022. The three new buildings, on the other hand, are still being planned.

Project details:

Client: Bötzw Berlin GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin

Architects: David Chipperfield Architects Berlin

Metalwork: Hage Metallbau GmbH, Duderstadt

Profile systems used: Janisol Arte 2.0, Janisol Primo, Janisol 2, Janisol HI and Janisol folding wall

System supplier: Jansen AG, Oberriet, Switzerland

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About Jansen AG

Jansen AG was founded in 1923 and is based in Oberriet, Switzerland. The Group develops, produces and distributes steel profile systems and plastic products for various segments of the building industry. Since 1978, Jansen has been the exclusive Swiss sales partner of the German company Schüco International KG and distributes its aluminium profile systems within the construction sector. In January 2021, Jansen AG acquired the subsidiary RP Technik GmbH, which is also a provider of steel solution systems for facades, windows and doors, from the Welser Profile Group of Companies. Jansen handed over its automotive supply business to Mubea on 1 April 2021. To this day, the Jansen Group remains a wholly family-owned company and employs around 600 people worldwide.

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