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RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDING RENOVATION

Dannien Roller Architekten + Partner's conversion of a neoclassic residential and commercial building with a single-storey extension in *Tübingen's* historic centre has earned the practice another *Architecture Masterprize* win.



Dannien Roller Architekten + Partner decided to transform this residential and commercial Building into a new workspace for their practice, which had become too small to house the company's 22 employees. Dannien Roller Architekten + Partner decided to reference the work which the company does within the design.

This project is a successful example of architecture integrating into historical context while retaining an autonomy of style. A transparent windowed façade leads into the architecture practice's reception area, with interlaced apertures through open timber frames offering glimpses of different levels in the open office landscape. Created by lowering the old building's floor slab, the new mezzanine houses technical installations and bathrooms. Wall surfaces in the old building also feature unfinished,

solid-coloured plaster, juxtaposed with colour accents such as the brass railings, silver curtains and the neon yellow kitchen counter for a powerful effect.

The new building, where the library and offices are located, was built on a previously unused brownfield site. For the extension, Dannien Roller Architekten + Partner have chosen a bare masonry aesthetic, with KS-Original sand-lime bricks. The choice of this sustainable building material is due to its resource-saving production and complete recyclability, as well as its excellent fire protection properties. The angles of the new building contrast with the rear of the old building, its modern architecture language, forms a natural yet integral part of the existing topography. The open inner courtyard emulates a typical element of the Tübingen urban structure and the green roofscape and tiers contrast with the sculptural building

structure, respectfully embedded into the terraced slope along the Schulberg.

On this project, the old and new buildings are clearly distinguishable, despite the flowing transitions between them. This represents the different fields of activity of those who work within the space: On the one hand, fine lines, wood and a chandelier made of archetypal 'architect lamps'. On the other hand, deliberately raw surfaces, which are inspired by the idea of coming off the construction site with dirty shoes, showcasing the less glamorous, more hands on side of the profession. This interplay of pronounced straight lines and rough surfaces gives the design a 'workshop character' which is also reflected in the unsanded, merely wing-smoothed through-coloured screed. ■