

PRESSE-RELEASE

Vitra Schaudepot in hand-broken brick

New gable, forecourt and steps merged into one

The Schaudepot, designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron, provides the Vitra Design Museum with a venue to present its collection of iconic chairs to the public. Over 400 key pieces dating from 1800 to the present day can be seen over an area of 1,600 square metres. Set against this cornucopia of design history, the windowless brick structure appears extremely modest, but the most recent addition to the Vitra Campus is not just a simple shed with a gable roof and a door – the bright red building envelope, made of hand-broken bricks, recalls a textile pattern and leads seamlessly onto the similarly bricked public forecourt.

The Vitra Campus in Weil am Rhein is a unique ensemble of contemporary architecture. Half a dozen of the architects represented here are winners of the Pritzker Prize, often considered the “Nobel Prize of architecture”. Buildings designed by Tadao Ando, Zaha Hadid, Herzog & de Meuron, Frank Gehry, Nicholas Grimshaw, Alvaro Siza, and SANAA draw some 350,000 architectural tourists to the grounds of the Swiss furniture manufacturer in South Baden every year.

Archetypal architecture

The contrast with the VitraHaus at the other end of the campus – an architectural sculpture made up of twelve stacked volumes with pitched roofs also designed by the Basel-based architects Herzog & de Meuron – could not be greater: the new Schaudepot stands on a platform as the purist archetype of a building,

subtly blending into the environment alongside Zaha Hadid's Fire Station. As previously at the Tate Modern and the Musée Unterlinden in Colmar, the architects drew on the immediate surroundings in their choice of materials: Alvaro Siza's 1994 Factory Building and its characteristic brick facing.

Fractured surfaces

While, when seen from afar, the structure appears to be a rather nondescript brick building with a gable roof, a closer look reveals its intricacy, as the architects say. "It has a certain textile quality. Like a fine knit. It appeals to the senses."* This refers to the bright red masonry comprising hand-broken bricks, which have been laid with their rougher, broken edges protruding outwards to form a rough building envelope, and here, too, the architects left nothing to chance: the fracture pattern would eliminate any smooth, unnatural surfaces but at the same time not appear to be indiscriminate. Working together with manufacturer GIMA, a pre-cut clinker brick was developed with a minimum rated break point. The architects specified the dimensions and positions of the coring, and also of the corner stone, which was split off on the header and stretcher sides to retain the visual appearance over the corners.

The unusual, special brickwork was executed as a customised full bond from the 14 cm wide x 6.2 cm tall x 12 cm deep Bena-coloured bricks. All the prefabricated parts were also supplied by GIMA, e.g. special lintel formwork with dovetail joints on the rear and a rough-cut soffit to mechanically connect the brick facing with the concrete wall.

Brickwork piazza

In front of the Schaudépot is a raised public forecourt that recalls an Italian piazza with its side section for an outdoor café. This forecourt and the steps that surround it on two sides are made of bricks in the same colour as the building itself – everything merges into one visual impression.

In order to match the façade bricks to the more stringent requirements for a ground covering, their colour temperature was specially developed at the GIMA laboratory. The paving bricks measuring 13 cm wide x 12 cm tall x 6.2 cm deep

were laid as a stretcher bond. While a certain irregularity was desired in the fractured surfaces of the façade, the contours of the forecourt are characterised by the sharpness of their edges and dimensional accuracy, creating a picture of extremely precise craftsmanship. The hard-burnt paving bricks from GIMA are produced using a special reduction firing process with a salt glaze and feature long-lasting stability and freezing resistance.

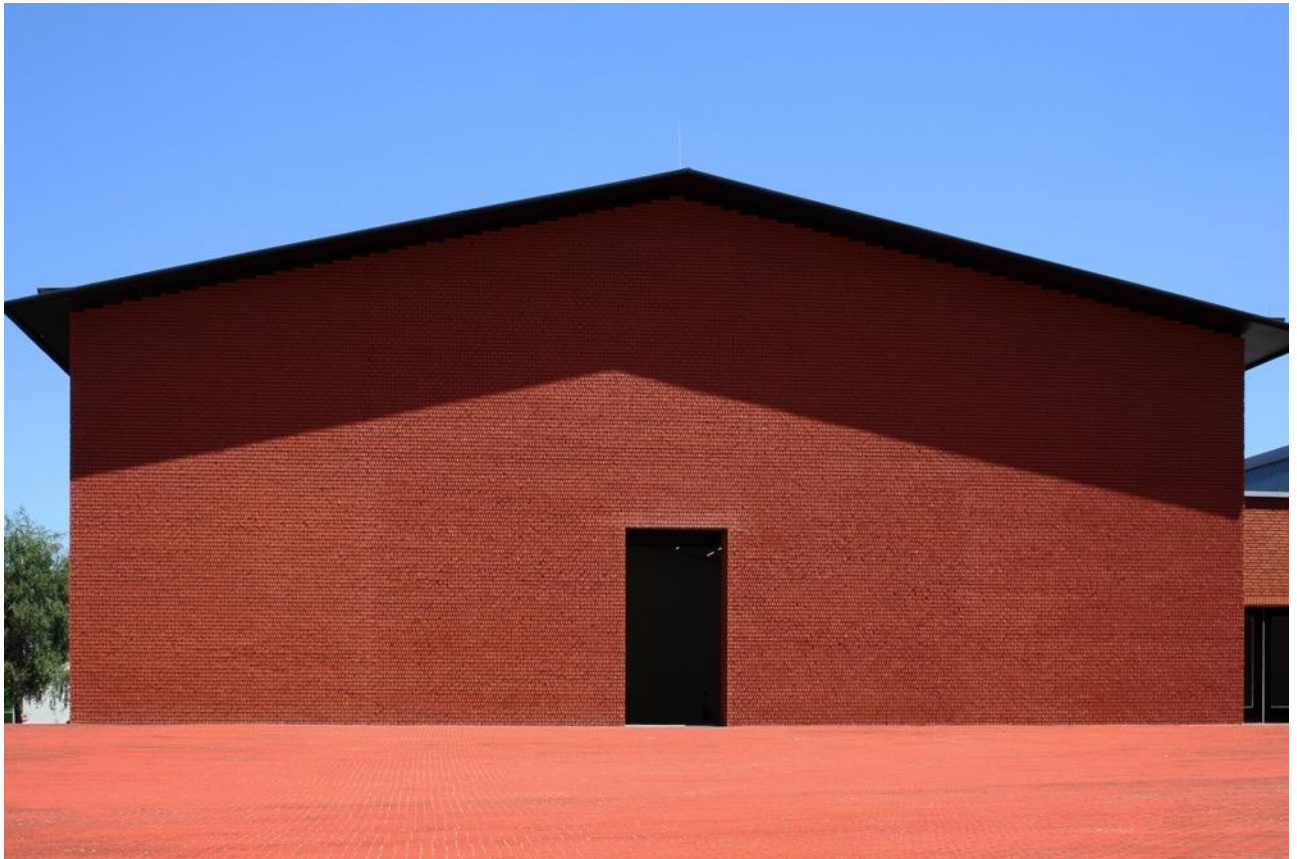
(4.076 Zeichen inkl. Leerzeichen)

* Spiegel Online „Neues Design-Museum: Das Superwohnzimmer“, by Jochen Overbeck, 06/06/2016

Projektdaten

Project name:	Vitra Schaudapot
Client:	Vitra Verwaltungs GmbH, Weil am Rhein
Architects:	Herzog & de Meuron, Basel
Façade product:	GIMA clinker shaped brick (with perforation)
Format:	280/62/120 mm, hand-broken to 140/62/120 mm
Colour:	Bena
Product base:	GIMA paving brick
Format:	130/120/62 mm
Colour:	Bena
Completion:	2016

Images

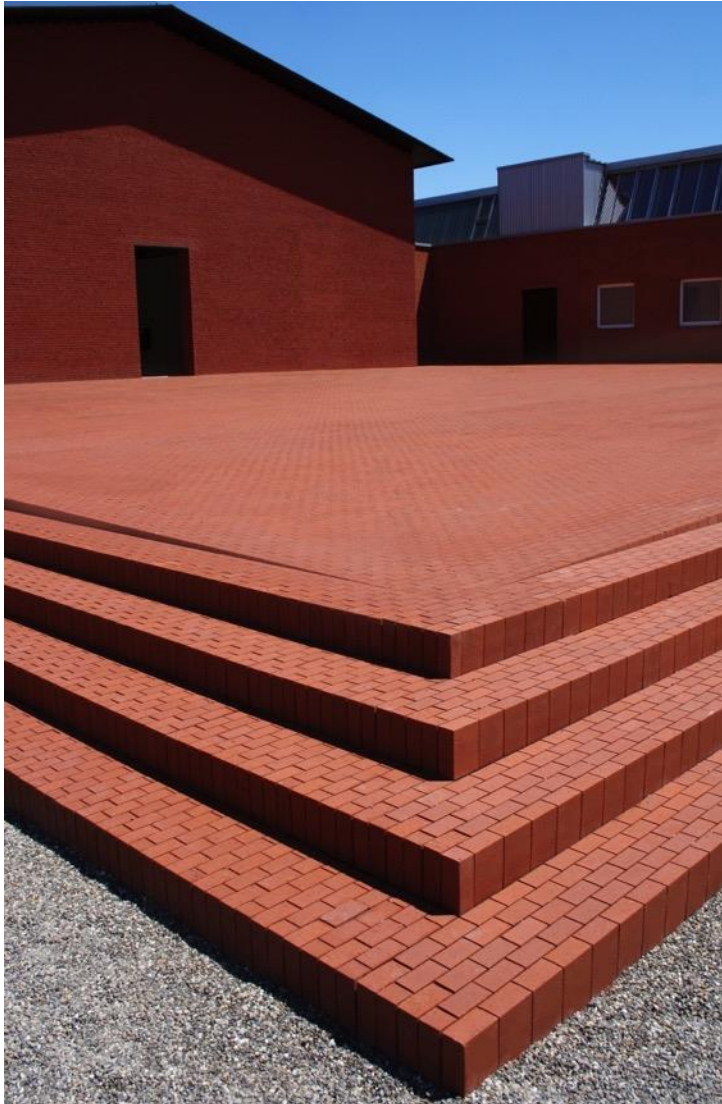


Vitra Schaudepot in hand-broken brick

Basel-based architects Herzog & de Meuron construct an architectural archetype on the Vitra Campus: the windowless Schaudepot for the Vitra collection is a unique space with an open roof truss that visitors enter through a tall door.

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron

Photo: GIMA



Vitra Schaudepot in hand-broken brick

When the sun shines, the brick-red building appears to sparkle. Clinker bricks were not used only in the design of the façade; the forecourt, too, was created using Bena-coloured paving bricks.

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron

Photo: GIMA

GIMA
Qualität aus Ton

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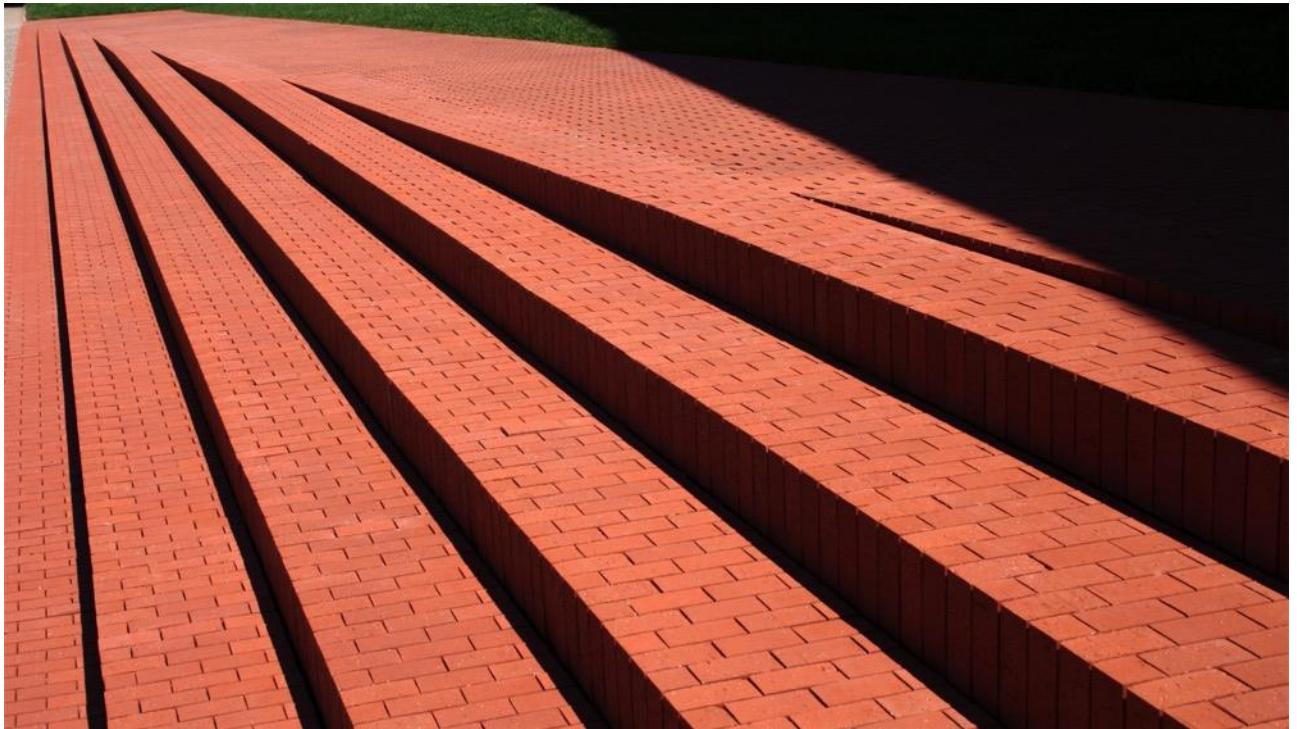


Vitra Schaudepot in hand-broken brick

The homogeneous brick façade is given its structure by cleaving the bricks and laying them with their rough edges protruding outwards.

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron

Photo: GIMA



Vitra Schaudapot in hand-broken brick

Steps that run out to the sides accommodate the topography of the site alongside Zaha Hadid's Fire Station.

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron

Photo: GIMA