



Hörmann KG Verkaufsgesellschaft
Doors for Home and Industry

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Image 1: The “Gesundheitshaus” in Dortmund was renovated and revitalised: The building from the 1950s now has a variety of uses, including a hotel. Hörmann supplied customised steel frames for the renovation.

Prizeotel in Dortmund by pinkarchitekten and HLK + Partner Positive outlook

The Dortmund “Prizeotel” in the “Gesundheitshaus”, the former health authority, revives the optimism of the 1950s. It offers cheerful architecture full of positivity. The aim of the renovation was to preserve as much of the past as possible, including the existing construction components. Instead of replacing the original door leaves, they were fitted with new door frames. Hörmann custom-made around 150 individual door frames, tailoring them perfectly to each door leaf.

When the Gelsenkirchen architect Will Schwarz drew up the new Dortmund health authority, much of the city was still covered in rubble from the Second World War. Uprisings were crushed in the GDR and Hungary – while the architect sketched a symbol of new beginnings on his drawing board. During the construction work from 1958 to 1961, wars raged in Korea, Vietnam and Algeria, in the Middle East and in Sudan – and a friendly authority emerged on Dortmund's Wallring. The nuclear powers were just beginning to threaten each other with the complete destruction of the world – and the new health authority was to be a cheerful building. From today's vantage point, well versed in apocalyptic perspectives, there was no real reason for such carefree confidence. But this didn't stop Will Schwarz from designing a building in the optimistic style of the 1950s.

Uncovering the past

The structure still radiates this exact optimism – or should we say, it radiates it again. Originally housing a health authority, the building has recently been converted into a hotel and other facilities. pinkarchitekten took on the preliminary and concept design, while Heyen Lippross Kiefer were responsible for planning and construction management. Heritage conservationist Michael Holtkötter managed to uncover its original state under numerous layers of reutilisation. The original colour palette of browns, pinks and oranges is now visible again, and many of the beautiful details have been rescued. Handrails, terrazzo floors, paintings and tiled walls – almost everything has returned and has been updated with new functions where necessary.

Orientation old and new

Anyone entering the building, which has been converted into a budget design hotel, is initially baffled by an empty, glass box in the lobby with the historic “Information” sign above it. For decades, it offered guidance through the jungle of officialdom. Today, the hotel reception is exactly opposite the entrance – but still not really in the guests' path. As the former paternoster has become obsolete, an inconspicuous white lift now transports travellers upstairs to their well-deserved rest. The glass doors between the staircase and the guest rooms open almost submissively as you approach, while the corridors to the rooms, perfectly decorated in 1950s style, continue to exude the charm of a friendly authority.

The door leaves with their striped, black HPL coatings also contribute to this atmosphere. They have all been refurbished and reinstalled using 150 individual new steel frames custom-made by Hörmann. These customised solutions were necessary because all door leaves have a double rebate and are not right-angled, resulting in different dimensions for each door frame. While they only vary by a few millimetres, this had to be taken into account to ensure perfect door function.

Contemporary design

The rooms themselves were designed by US American Karim Rashid and alternate between the 1950s and the present day. The radiator cover, the cupboard, the mirror and the graphics on the walls imitate the typical kidney-shaped table design of the 1950s. Rashid's colour palette is based on that of Will Schwarz, but rather than purely retrospective, the effect feels more contemporary. Although the plastic cantilever chairs reference the world-famous Panton Chair, the angular version of the Voxel Chair (also designed by Rashid) avoids an overly museum-like look.

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Will Schwarz already saw the top floor as the highlight. Thanks to extra high windows, visitors eating their breakfast there can enjoy the view over the neighbouring Schauspielhaus theatre to the "Dortmunder U" centre for arts and creativity and further over the Ruhrpott region. Stepping out onto the roof terrace, all you can see above is the impressive flying roof with its round openings and behind it the sky over the Ruhr region. And suddenly everything feels a bit more optimistic.

(4397 characters incl. spaces)

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Construction panel:

Location: Hövelstraße 8, Dortmund, Germany

Building owner: Das neue 50er Jahre Gesundheitshaus Vermögensverwaltung GmbH & Co. KG; implemented by Landmarken AG, Aachen, Germany

Users: "Prizeotel" economy design hotel / "Villa Luna" nursery / office spaces / apartments

Architects: pinkarchitekten (work phases 1–2), HLK + Partner (work phases 3–8)

Utilised space: 13778 m²

Construction costs: €23 million

Completion: 2023

Processor: BOSE Tischlerdesign, Drensteinfurt, Germany

Hörmann products: double-shell steel frames with double rebate, double-shell steel profile frames

Schörghuber products: hotel room entrance doors, T30 fire-rated and smoke-tight doors with acoustic insulation Rw 32 dB and Rw 37 dB

Images and captions:

Image 2: The courtyard of the former health authority is used by the “Villa Luna” nursery, which is housed in another part of the building.

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Image 3: The former information desk is now obsolete as it wasn't big enough for the reception area of the “Prizeotel”.



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Image 4: The original colour palette of browns, pinks and oranges is now visible again in the lobby. However, today's reception no longer includes the rather small-scale design elements from the 1950s.



Image 5: The roof terrace offers a wide view over the city of Dortmund.



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Image 6: The hotel corridors have kept the atmospheric “public authority” charm after the renovation.



Image 7: The hotel rooms were designed by Karim Rashid and combine 1950s design with contemporary style.



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Image 8: The aim was to keep the existing doors as far as possible. New door frames had to be custom-made by Hörmann and fitted individually for this purpose.



Image 9: As the dimensions of the existing doors all varied by a few millimetres, Hörmann had to make each of the new steel frames as a one-off.



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Image 10: With the existing doors featuring a double rebate, the Hörmann steel frames also had to be made with a double rebate.

Photos: Hörmann/Laura Thiesbrummel