The number of projects proposed to our editorial team of FOCUS ON ZINC has risen sharply. Far more than a sign of the success of the magazine, we take this as a success for our overall commercial offer.

Today we have to take this offer far beyond the standards of quality and proximity that we have been used to providing. Market demands change fast and we have to adapt our offer to new applications, whether for local conditions in a specific geographical area, or for building applications where zinc is relatively new, such as those in the area of facades, or for the increasing constraints related to environmental issues. These considerations have far-reaching implications for our production and we are investing in modernizing and upgrading our facilities in all our main plants.

Other implications are on the jobs that are expected from us. Over the years, the services we provide have extended progressively and our commercial teams are becoming increasingly specialized and highly qualified. Our teams are at your service, whenever and wherever in the world you may need them. We are convinced we have made the right choice in putting a complete palette of services at your disposal and we hope to continue to surprise and delight you, not only through the quality and diversity of our offer, but also through the values associated with our brand, which we strive to demonstrate whenever we meet you.

Jim de Santiago
Commercial Director Europe

A new format for FOCUS ON ZINC

Your reactions to our special issue concerning the ARCHIZINC trophy have been extremely positive, in terms of both content and form. For the editorial team, this edition was a turning point as the magazine reaches a level of maturity where editorial choices can be made with outside partners, and where architectural interest takes pride of place within our selected information.

We have decided to mark this turning point with a redesigned layout for the magazine, bringing it right up to date and more in line with your preferences, emphasizing photographs and graphics, supported by low-key textual contribution.

We hope that this issue will validate these choices, with a traditional editorial choice of projects. At the same time, it is also intended to serve as a springboard for our next ARCHIZINC trophy. Enclosed with the magazine, you will find the entry form for the next edition of the trophy, and we hope to receive a selection of projects that will be at least as enriching as the last one. As before, projects will be submitted to an independent jury, and the trophy winners will be presented in a special issue of FOCUS ON ZINC issued in September 2006.

Both ourselves as editors, and you as readers, were delighted with the first ARCHIZINC trophy, so we hope we can count on you for another truly enriching experience.

The editorial committee
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**Transalpine Triptych**

Turin to the west and Udine to the east, two northern Italian cities which face the mountains on one side and overlook the plain on the other. Built in the centre or on the edge of these cities, three zinc clad buildings, one housing flats, the others offices - speak to us, each in their own way, of transition and contrast. In Turin, the initial impression is of the continuity of a block of flats built on the edge of an industrial zone, while the Collegno 2000 office building, bordering on a predominantly rural area, plays on opacity and transparency. In Udine the tone is radically different, the daytime dark aspect of the ANTHRA-ZINC clad Astra tower only becomes luminous when night falls.

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**Commercial Buildings**

Tour Astra office building, Udine

**Architect(s):** Architetto Franzolini

**Company:** Eu-co S.r.l.

**Technique(s):** Horizontal Interlocking panel

**Aspect(s):** ANTHRA-ZINC

**Surface:** 1,500 sq. m (15,000 sq. ft)
**Collective Housing**

Block of flats, Turin

*Architect(s):* Architetto Ubaldo Bossolono

*Company:* I-Bandai s.a.s

*Technique(s):* Horizontal Interlocking panel

*Aspect(s):* QUARTZ-ZINC®

*Surface:* 6,000 sq. m (60,000 sq. ft)

Photos: Daniele Regis & I-Bandai, Italy.

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**Commercial Buildings**

Collegno 2000 office building, Turin

*Architect(s):* Filan & Jansen Architects

*Company:* I-Bandai s.a.s

*Technique(s):* Horizontal Interlocking panel

*Aspect(s):* QUARTZ-ZINC®

*Surface:* 1,000 sq. m (10,000 sq. ft)

Photos: Umicore Marketing Services Italia S.r.l., Italy.
FASCINATING RHYTHM

In Washington, the head offices of the Kayser Family Foundation, which provides grants to support the fight against AIDS, are situated in an urban landscape more reminiscent of New York than the open spaces around the nearby White House. Although the building is no skyscraper, the architect emphasises its height drawing the eye upward by means of a soaring glass facade surmounted by an elegantly curved balcony. Horizontal laid zinc aprons echo the balcony at each level of the facade and on one side of the building. These zinc panels, manufactured in the USA by the POHL company, are installed using a pin fixed to a rail – a fast, practical system which makes on-site transforming unnecessary.
Drawing: POHL Europanel®, Germany.
A FRESH START

1,000 km from Brasilia, the capital built ex nihilo at the end of the 1950s, São Paulo, as its many monuments attest, is a historic city. Built in 1901, in a style that would do justice to Paris or London, its central station is part of an urban heritage which the Sao Paolians wanted to preserve and rehabilitate. In its choice of the most appropriate roofing material for a coherent renovation, the Roberto Marinho foundation turned to Umicore’s technical support team. Now the old administrative building, clad in 4,000 sq. m of pre-weathered rolled zinc, is off to a fresh start, remaining true to its vocation of communication as it is now dedicated to the preservation of the Portuguese language.

Public Buildings

Estação da Luz da Nossa Língua/Estação da Língua Portuguesa, São Paulo

Architect(s): Helena Saia & Arquitetos Associados

Company: N Didini Engenharia e Construção Ltda

Technique(s): Roll cap

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC®

Surface: 4,000 sq. m (40,000 sq. ft)
Photos: N. Didini Engenharia e Construção Ltda, Brazil.
Drawing: PLANSERVICE, Brazil.
NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

The Poles go to Sopot, on the Baltic not far from Gdansk, for relaxation and for a change of scene in a European tradition of seaside resorts close to large conurbations. The first constraint in building the Water Park – with its bathing facilities, bowling alley, restaurants and even offices – was to respect the surrounding beech forest which extends right up to the shore. To do this, the designers limited the height of the building and clad it in materials – particularly zinc – which harmonise with the seasons and the colours of the forest and are suited to the rigorous climate.

Public Buildings

Water Park leisure centre, Sopot

Architect(s): Zbigniew Kowalewski & Andrzej Kwieciński/A-Plan bis Sp. z o.o.

Company: FHU Budownictwa «Krest» s.c.

Technique(s): Standing seam

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC PLUS

Surface: 2,500 sq. m (25,000 sq. ft) (roof and facade)

1. QUARTZ-ZINC PLUS standing seam roofing
2. Plywood
3. Geotextile
4. Rafter creating 60 mm air gap
5. 2 layers of rigid insulation 200 mm as per architect's recommendations
6. Complementary waterproofing membrane
7. Rafter's fixing plates
8. Bituminous membrane
9. Corrugated steel panel
Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.
Drawing: VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office, France.
Barcelona, a city on the move, has recently boasted a new development on its north-east shore, the Forum de las Culturas, a major attraction which has established it as the most European of Spain’s big cities. Covering 200 ha, the Forum is organized around an esplanade and three peninsulas. This new seafront facing both the sea and the city exemplifies the most innovative architectural and urban trends by associating a recreational harbour, a bathing area, an aquarium, etc. with distinctly public facilities – apartments, university buildings, offices... In the heart of this complex rises the Centro de Convenciones Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB); built around a 3,200 seat auditorium, finally allowing the ancient Catalan city to compete in organizing conventions with the big northern capitals such as London, Berlin, Amsterdam and Vienna.

**Public Buildings**

Barcelona International Convention Centre

**Architect(s):** MAP Arquitectos S.L.

**Company:** Cubiertas Muñoz S.A.

**Technique(s):** Standing seam

**Aspect(s):** QUARTZ-ZINC®

**Surface:** 2,200 sq. m (22,000 sq. ft)

**1. Ventilated eaves strip**
**2. VM ZINC standing seam roofing**
**3. Stiffener**
**4. Securing clip**
**5. Decking**
**6. Securing strip**
**7. Box gutter**
**8. Timber fillet**
**9. Purlin**
**10. Supporting rafter**
**11. Gutter support plant**
Photos: Paul Kazlowski, France.
Drawing: VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office, France.
A NEW LOOK

“What is a school? – a collection of classrooms!”

Strictly translated into three dimensions this definition has given rise to hundreds of interchangeable buildings throughout France. By contrast, the architect Jean-Luc Gueho seems to have asked, “What can I do?” when he thought about the extension to the Beaumanoir middle school in Ploërmel (Morbihan). Lines, materials, colours... he has played in every register so that his project fits the spirit and climate of its surroundings. Inside, the curved roof adds volume to the space dedicated to the documentation and information (CDI) centre and to the multimedia rooms. And on the outside, the zinc cladding makes light of the vagaries of the weather.

“The slightly sloping roof, which allowed us to work with the volume and improve the quality of the interior spaces, led us to choose zinc roofing. The watertightness of this solution meets the expectations of owners, for it reduces maintenance work. Moreover, it provides better soundproofing than concrete roof terraces.”

Jean-Luc Gueho
Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.
REBIRTH

Beirut has turned its face towards the future without turning its back on its past. This message is clear in the approach taken by architect Youssef Haidar to the restoration of the city’s oldest monument: the Al Omari Great Mosque. Painstakingly preserved, the walls of the XIIth Century edifice, on which the mosque was built, shelter a thousand-year history of memories. To bring this heritage into the present, the architect has created a museum and auditorium in the basement. New additions, – a courtyard, a gallery with twelve cupolas and a minaret – extend the monument and communicate physically and spiritually with the revived city and the heavens.
“In addition to the restoration work required, we undertook to create a living monument using the language and methods of our time. Reflecting the city, nourished by centuries of history but resolutely turned towards the future, this renovated heritage time capsule represents a primary element, a new beginning...”

Youssef Haidar
PROTECTIVE WING

An extension is always a delicate project, particularly when it concerns a symbolic building like this internationally renowned museum. The primary consideration of the Jean Nouvel architectural team (AJN) in enlarging the Queen Sofia museum in Madrid, was to respect the imposing Sabatini building, home of Guernica and many other masterpieces, and express the allegiance of the new buildings. A library, an auditorium and temporary exhibition rooms surround a treed courtyard and are united beneath an immense wing which both attaches and subjugates them to the main building. “In order to expand, the museum has spread a delicate wing in the same colour as the roofs, a friendly, protective wing, to show visitors it is watching over them,” says Jean Nouvel.

“This is the first time that the VM ZINC PLUS compact roofing system has been used in Spain. The system is characterised by its complete watertightness and the elimination of the risks of thermal bridges. The VM ZINC PLUS process is a key element of the system as the zinc is protected on the underside by a 60 micrometer polymerised resin based lacquer, and has been patented by Umicore.”

Juan Cortes, Umicore Building Products Ibérica - Spain
FREE STYLE

Respect for the independence of the parts and integration into a whole. These two key requirements of the specifications for the extension of the České Budějovice skating rink, in Bohemia, are expressed architecturally by a roof whose underside inevitably reflects the icy surface on which the skaters practise their skills. Joining the existing building and the new ones, this roof will have to stand up to wind, rain, snow and ice. It combines a wood and steel structure with a QUARTZ-ZINC® covering - the ideal material to hug the elliptical profile smoothly.

Public Buildings

Vícenáčková multifunctional hall - Budvar
Aréna Skating rink, České Budějovice

Architect(s):
Atelier EIS s.r.o., Ing. Hraba, Ing. Arch. Feterle

Company: Sláma s.r.o

Technique(s):
Double lock seam standing seam

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC®

Surface: 9,600 sq. m (96,000 sq. ft)
Photos: Paul Kozłowski, France.
Drawing: VM ZINC Design Assistance Office, France.
Built on a terrace opening on to a view of the city, the new conference and exhibition centre in Merida tunes into the spirit of its surroundings and offers visitors an auditorium, conference and exhibition halls. The building suggests interconnection between outside and inside spaces by giving priority to movement and flow, emphasizing connecting passages more than enclosed spaces. With a stage open at the back, the 1,000-seat auditorium is connected to the small meeting room to invite us to new explorations. This message is discreetly echoed by the zinc, which is more in evidence on the inside, cladding walls and covering panels and doors, than on the outside where the architect has given the leading role to highly textured concrete – whose motifs present a mosaic plan of the city.
Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.
Drawing: Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos S.L., Spain.
**Public Buildings**

Chevetogne estate visitor centre, Chevetogne

**Architect(s):** Bernard Chambon

**Company:** Toitex S.A.

**Technique(s):**
Locally transformed flat lock panels and Standing seam

**Aspect(s):**
VM ZINC® Copper green bilacquered

**Surface:** 280 sq. m (2,800 sq. ft) (roof), 420 sq. m (4,200 sq. ft) (facade)

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**NATURE TRAIL**

To the south of Namur, the Chevetogne estate is an immense “green” leisure park known and appreciated by Walloons of all ages. Discovering the flora and fauna, exploring gardens, horse-riding, mountain bike, games, music, good food, etc.; there is an abundance of choice. But how indeed can anyone choose? Visitors are channelled through the visitor reception, built at the edge of the park, before they can walk out along its paths. Inspired by the spiralling movement of beech leaves falling to the ground, the architect’s design and the colours used were a natural development—and visitors now refer to it as the “feuille d’information”– a leaf from the guidebook!
DEDICATED TO BUSINESS

With its curved facade, which echoes the adjacent motorway, and with signs advertising the leading brands that are the signature of today’s capitals, Prague’s BB Centrum has a family resemblance with the business centres that flourish in all major modern metropolises. It holds its own with its public areas, company restaurants, car parks, etc., and through services and prestige. In addition to aesthetic considerations, the architects wanted to protect the building from the urban atmosphere, hence their choice of zinc, which convinced both by its technical performance and by its aesthetics.

Commercial Buildings

BB Centrum - Administrativní objekt Alpha, Prague

Architect(s): Jan Aulík, Jakub Fišer, Veronika Müllerová

Company: MetalProgres

Technique(s): Locally manufactured Profiles

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC PLUS

Surface: 2,000 sq. m (20,000 sq. ft)

Photos: Paul Kozłowski, France.

Drawing: VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office, France.
TIMELESS

Watching a river flow past invites us to meditate on time. Perhaps because it overlooks the Brisbane River, or perhaps because the activities it houses – cinema, television – fix the images of passing time, the new head office of the Cutting Edge group seems to inspire this kind of reflection.

By choosing sculptural lines and a very contemporary profile for the project and combining materials such as zinc that bear the patina of time, with those such as cement and glass which age without changing, the architect, Richard Kirk wanted to express his vision of a timeless creation.

He has succeeded: the work has just been immortalised by receiving the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) prize for best commercial project.
Photos: John Linkins, www.jonlinkins.com
Drawing: Richard Kirk Architects, Australia.
SUSTAINABLE VALUES

In Switzerland, everyone knows the saga of Migros, the distribution company created in 1925 by Gottlieb Duttweiler, a visionary and forerunner of what today we would call social responsibility. Its delivery trucks supplied villages until the 1980s. The group became very powerful without abandoning the quality of life values which made it famous, and opened shops, then built shopping centres. The one it has just built in the north of Switzerland in Herzogenbuchsee is both a return to its roots and a confirmation of its avant-garde spirit. A return to its roots because Herzogenbuchsee also makes quality of life its motto and credo. Avant-garde through its choice of resolutely contemporary architecture and cladding with locally manufactured cassettes. The horizontally lines of the cassettes emphasise the elongated profile the architect envisaged for the building. The meticulous, very flat treatment of the window frames and surrounds gives the building a very smooth appearance.

Commercial Buildings

Migros shopping centre, Herzogenbuchsee

Architect(s): Architekturbüro Jordi & Partner AG

Company: Bernhard Polybau AG

Technique(s): Locally manufactured Cassettes

Aspect(s): QUARTZ-ZINC®

Surface: 2,500 sq. m (25,000 sq. ft)
Photos: Paul Kozlowski, France.
Drawing: VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office, Switzerland.
TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Austrians do not wait for the snow to melt their buildings into their surroundings. They have always played with shapes and chosen natural materials that blend their buildings into the surrounding rock and tree landscape. Architect Ekkehard Stummvoll has remained true to this tradition in designing the building that houses the Fügen M-Preis “Mini-market” in the Tyrol. The building, with its long lines, blends into the horizon. The colour of the zinc roof closely reflects soft wood hues and at the least ray of sunshine the entire building glows thanks to its natural wood facade.

Commercial Buildings

M-Preis Fügen supermarket, Fügen

Architect(s):
DI Ekkehard Stummvoll

Company: Spenglerei Opbacher

Technique(s):
Double lock standing seam

Aspect(s): ANTHRA-ZINC

Surface: 2,700 sq. m (27,000 sq. ft)

1. Sill flashing strip
2. Anti-insect grid
3. Folded flashing
4. 20 mm air gap
5. VM ZINC® standing seam cladding
6. Boarding
7. Rafter
8. Ventilated strip
9. Insulation
10. Non ventilated strip
Photos: Günther Kresser & Joerg Radler, Austria.
Drawing: VM ZINC® Design Assistance Office, France.
OUT OF THE EARTH...

Water is an increasingly rare resource, and ever more sophisticated technologies are being used to distribute drinking water. On the edge of Århus, the second biggest city in Denmark, the Østerby waterworks draw water from an artesian well and treat it before storing and distributing it. Hidden underground, to protect them from light, manmade processes and installations substitute for Nature’s work of filtering and purifying. The only evidence of these hidden operations and the technology involved are the administration buildings and public areas of the waterworks, completely clad in ANTHRA-ZINC, which figuratively rise out of the earth.
Photos: Lars Horn - Baghuset, Denmark
Drawing: Ervin Nielsen, Denmark.
While decidedly original, *Presspoint* blends perfectly with the private houses that surround it in the suburbs of Gand. It is a stylistic composition, extemporizing on the theme of versatility and differentiation. Versatility of function, since the building, used as an office at present, will become a private house one day. Differentiation, because the architect has renounced traditional design in favour of fluidity of movement. He sees this as necessary to achieve the “expected versatility and the requisite smooth transition between the two concepts”. A study in contrasts, *Presspoint* emphasizes the light and transparency of the interior spaces and the closed and monolithic character of its facades — magnificently enhanced by cladding in ANTHRA-ZINC.