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Case study.

**Expressive architecture for urban lifestyles**

**Reliable support for delicate components at the new Van B design project in Munich, built with Schöck products**

**Baden-Baden, April 2023. - Copper-coloured metal cladding, muted concrete grey and a contemporary geometric composition define the sophisticated appearance of Van B, an exclusive residential building in a prime location in Munich. This seven-storey building, designed by architectural visionary Ben van Berkel, houses 142 residential units. The structure of the sensational façade is defined by a multitude of projecting bay windows in an offset honeycomb pattern, dissolving the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces. The rear of the building is partially terraced and stepped, and the living space is extended by elongated balconies facing a landscaped courtyard. The architectural concept reinforces the open light appearance of this compact building. Schöck Isokorb and Schöck Bole punching shear reinforcement elements are used to provide reliable support and safe load transfer in the delicate balcony and floor slabs.**

This new building at Infanteriestrasse 14 in Schwabing-West was built by Munich-based property developer Bauwerk and proffers a possible solution to the question of how we could live in large cities in the future given the increasing shortage of space. The name Van B says it all. The concept was designed by Ben van Berkel, a visionary mastermind and renowned architect whose Amsterdam-based UNStudio is active across the world. He aims for quality instead of quantity and focuses on flexibility instead of maximising square meterage: "Van B is special and unique because it offers a completely new form of smart living".

**Groundbreaking concept for urban living**

The building reconciles the necessity for minimalism with the exacting design, quality and lifestyle expectations of modern city dwellers. Van B offers this specific target group an unprecedented living experience in addition to striking architecture. The building contains one-bedroom flats starting from 33 square metres and flats with up to three rooms and areas of up to 168 square metres. A variety of different room elements, known as plug-in modules, are available. These can be easily moved on rail systems or folded away and multiply the possible uses of the space many times over. Conventional spatial structures are dissolved, the spaces are used in a multifunctional way and can be changed spontaneously to suit the current situation.

**Individually-designed living space**

For example, a dining room can be combined with a bedroom plus a home office even in the smallest apartment. Any modules not currently in use are moved to the side to make space for other uses or to enlarge the living area. A total of nine high-quality modules are available. They also cover areas such as fitness and home cinema and can be combined to suit an individual’s lifestyle. All of this happens in the space around the kitchen and bathroom – the only fixed elements. This outstanding flexibility and individual use of space makes 40 square metres feel more like 60. The impression is intensified by the projecting bays and balconies with floor-to-ceiling window elements. They blur the transition between inside and outside, giving a more spacious feel.

**More freedom of design with Schöck Isokorb**

Towards the inner courtyard, the building is divided into two parts with terraced steps on one side and a flat vertical façade on the other. Here, 44 projecting balconies connect to the living areas. The slender balcony slabs are barely noticeable which does not detract from the closed appearance of the façade. This ambitious design was achieved using Schöck Isokorb XT type K elements. The load-bearing thermal insulation element for cantilevered structural components minimises thermal bridges and connects balcony slabs to floor slabs in an energy-efficient manner.

Approximately 200 linear metres of Schöck Isokorb were installed during this project.

**Individual and architecturally sophisticated balcony solutions**

Stefan Seifert of BKLS Architekten + Stadtplaner BDA, the executing architects, confirms: "We used Schöck Isokorb to keep the balcony slabs as slender as possible. This allowed us to dispense with thermal insulation of the balcony slabs". Schöck Isokorb was also used on the façade facing the street. The component was adapted for the small balconies between the bay windows.

**Flat slabs safely reinforced using Schöck Bole**

The atmosphere inside the apartment building also benefits from the light open design. Schöck Bole was used to guarantee that the floor slabs have the required load-bearing capacity. The efficient punching shear reinforcement allows floor plans to be freely designed and makes full use of the floor-to-floor height, even if the slabs are thin.

Schöck Bole also makes it easier to factor in the many openings in areas subject to punching shear forces. "A very large number of penetrations were needed due to the 142 residential units of various sizes in Van B", says structural engineer Dogan Göktas from Albrecht und Brettfeld, explaining the unusual structural challenge that was overcome using Schöck Bole.

**Superior quality of life**

Van B aims to be a pioneer for future ways of living and also gives residents an attractive environment outside their own four walls. Communal areas such as a co-living space, a rooftop garden and the courtyard garden invite people to network, socialise, meet informally and relax. The building also comes with many sustainable mobility services, such as a bicycle repair station, e-mobility and car and bike sharing services.

Ben van Berkel's design gives architectural expression to the ideas of the sharing economy, community building and integrative forms of living: "The pandemic has highlighted how vital social connections are for our well-being. But encounters of this kind, especially with our neighbours, are usually spontaneous – and need to be facilitated. Architecture can create a framework for this", he explains.

In Van B, the idea of personal, compact and flexible living space is rigorously combined with communal living for the first time and topped off by unparalleled architectural design. The combination of an impeccable living quality, community and individuality makes it the best place to be for discerning cosmopolitans.

6115 characters (including spaces)

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**Project information**

**Construction period:** 2020/2021–2023

**Principal:** Bauwerk

**Architectural design:** Ben van Berkel, UNStudio, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Executive architect:** BKLS Architekten + Stadtplaner BDA, 80336 Munich, Germany

**Structural engineering:** Ingenieurgesellschaft albrecht + brettfeld mbH, 82067 Schäftlarn / Ebenhausen, Germany

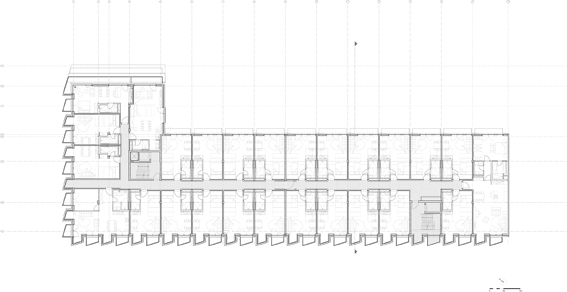
**Products:** Schöck Isokorb, Schöck Bole

**Section – floor plan**

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*Section C of the Van B in Munich.*

*Copyright: UNStudio*

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*Floor plan of the first floor of the Van B in Munich.*

*Copyright: UNStudio*

**Visualisation**

Ein Bild, das Baum, draußen, Straße, Verwaltungsgebäude enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

*Visualisation: Bauwerk*

**Ein Bild, das Möbel enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung**

*Visualisation: Bauwerk*

**Images**

**[Schoeck\_Van-B\_Muenchen\_1]**

*Schöck Isokorb is a load-bearing thermal insulation element for cantilevered structural components. It minimises thermal bridges and connects balcony slabs to floor slabs in an energy-efficient manner.*

*Photo: Schöck Bauteile GmbH*

**[Schoeck\_Van-B\_Muenchen\_2]**



*Approximately 200 linear metres of Schöck Isokorb were installed in the Van B project in Munich.*

*Photo: Schöck Bauteile GmbH*

**[Schoeck\_Van-B\_Muenchen\_3]**



*By using Schöck Isokorb at Van B in Munich, balcony slabs were kept as slim as possible while eliminating the need to thermally insulate the balcony slabs.*

*Photo: Schöck Bauteile GmbH*

**[Schoeck\_Van-B\_Muenchen\_4]**

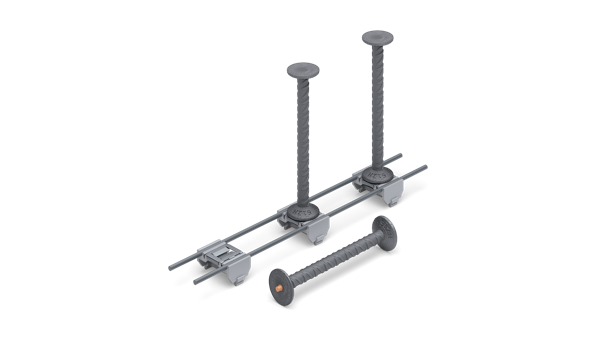
*Ein Bild, das Antenne enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung*

*Schöck Isokorb XT type K is a load-bearing thermal insulation element for cantilevered balconies.*

*Photo: Schöck Bauteile GmbH*

**[Schoeck\_Van-B\_Muenchen\_5]**

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*The efficient punching shear reinforcement Schöck Bole guarantees that the floor slabs of Van B in Munich have the required load-bearing capacity. It allows floor plans to be freely designed and makes full use of the floor-to-floor height.*

*Photo: Schöck Bauteile GmbH*

**About Schöck:**

Schöck Bauteile GmbH is a company of the international Schöck Group that has more than 1100 employees and is active in over 40 markets. It has its headquarters in Baden-Baden at the feet of the Black Forest where the company's success story began in 1962. Company founder Eberhard Schöck used his knowledge and experience of building sites to develop products that simplify the construction process and solve the physical problems of construction work. This mission has remained the foundation of the company’s philosophy to this day, a philosophy that has allowed Schöck to become the leading provider of reliable and innovative solutions to reduce thermal bridges and impact sound, for thermally insulating façade connections and reinforcement technology. Schöck products facilitate a more rational approach to construction and safeguard the construction quality in the long term. Our focus is on the building-physical benefits and energy efficiency. Schöck is driving the digitalisation of the work flow from planning to the building site to support the construction work of tomorrow.

**For any questions, please contact:**

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