

Center of Excellence, Sindelfingen



The overview plan shows that the new Center of Excellence is located in a water landscape and is only accessible via a bridge over the water.

Mobility, functionality and dependability are not the only appeal of a luxury car. DaimlerChrysler wanted to create an atmosphere of distinct elegance in the architecture and ambience of their new Center of Excellence in Sindelfingen, reflecting that something extra which defines their new line of Maybach cars.

Water is the medium which connects the new Center of Excellence to the existing Client Center. The water has a mirroring effect, the Center of Excellence appears to glide over the water. To approach the main reception area, visitors cross a narrow bridge which brings them across into the inner area. This crossing of water has always been a movement away from the routine of everyday life.

Thanks to our well-documented and positive experiences at the Potsdamer Platz in Berlin, the client was confident in trusting us to implement a natural and sustainable water system. The waterbody is fed by rainwater collected from the roofs. Without chemicals, in a system which is both ecologically and economically sound, water is circulated in two separate cycles, one for cleansing and the other to reduce stagnant zones in the water body. The cleansing biotope is composed of a sand-gravel substrate planted with wetland type plants. The

plants assist in the bonding of phosphates and nutrients and help oxygenate the water. A surface skimmer and trash trap ensure that the water is kept free of larger debris.

Wall elements and window openings give articulated views from the water into the building and vice versa. The soft natural shoreline with attractive planting contrasts with the simple formality of the building, a pleasing juxtaposition which gives the Center a special character.

In counterpoint to the main reception terrace, a water cascade descends to the main water area, the reflections of light and movement imbuing the building walls with the silent vitality of water.

A low-stepped cascade beneath the Maybach Showroom functionally serves as the collection outlet for the water circulation and frames an attractive view from inside.



The water is circulated through a biotope which cleanses the water with natural effectiveness.



View through the cutout of the wall: the steps of the cleansing biotope are like a cascade and are planted with flowering plants. The wall builds a tension which makes the crossing of the bridge and the view from the terrace even more attractive.



The inner space of the building seems to extend out onto the water; the floor level and water level are the same. Views from within the building are greatly enhanced by the water landscape setting.