QUALITY COLORS.

Case Study

Justice Center, Bochum, Germany

BAYFERROX® Color for Life.

COLORED CONCRETE WORKS®
An initiative of LANXESS

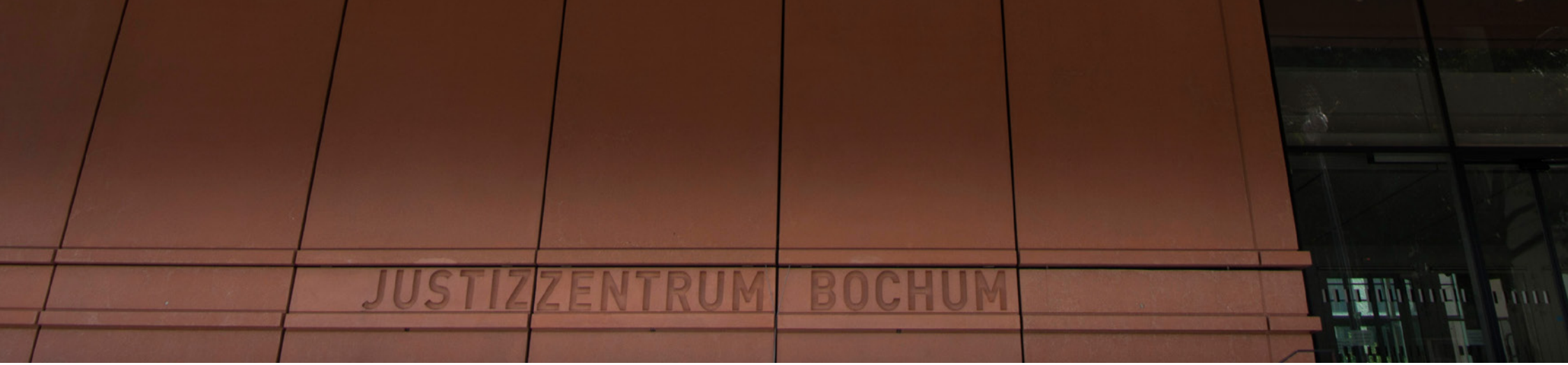
QUALITY WORKS.

LANXESS
Energizing Chemistry

MERGING OF THE COURTS AT ONE LOCATION

Following the departure of Bochum's oldest high school, construction of a new justice center began in 2012 on the former school campus according to plans by the Berlin architects Hascher-Jehle Architektur. A total of six new interconnected buildings were erected to accommodate the various legal authorities, such as the Labor Court, District Court, Public Prosecutor's Office and Social Services.

Their appearance is characterized by a red construction from architectural concrete that houses the courtrooms. A staircase cut out from the red cube serves as the central public access, directing visitors and staff into a 28-meter-high atrium, filled with natural light through a glazed saw-tooth roof. At its rear, the atrium opens with a fully glazed facade onto the garden. The administrative complex with 750 offices adjoins, enclosing two further courtyards in addition to the atrium. The traditional Wilhelmine facade of the old school building was preserved and incorporated into the new ensemble.



SIGNAL COLOR RED FOR THE CENTRAL BUILDING

The hall wing, the place where justice is administered, was kept in red and deliberately marked as the center of the building complex. The dual-layer outer skin consists of architectural concrete elements colored in red with Bayferrox® iron oxide pigments. The elements were mounted and precisely suspended in a three-dimensionally adjustable design either on the ceiling front faces or on the raw concrete walls made of in-situ concrete.

It is striking that the intense red of the hall wing has no perceptible color variations in the colored precast concrete components. These components were manufactured to the highest quality standards by the German company Hemmerlein Ingenieurbau GmbH.

Besides the precisely specified addition of Bayferrox® iron oxide pigments, any variations in color were avoided thanks to the use of state-of-the-art mixing technology in the daily mixing of the concrete. In the production process at the factory, special attention was paid to the observance of an equal rest period between the individual production steps for all precast concrete components. Extensive indoor storage of the precast concrete components also played a significant and not to be underestimated, role in ensuring the correct tone by safely protecting them from uneven penetration of moisture and UV radiation.

LIVELY DESIGN WITH CLARITY AND STRUCTURE

The red hall wing is the central element of the building complex of the Bochum Justice Center. The hall wing houses a total of 39 rooms – the largest of which is located on the ground floor, right next to the 28 m high foyer. It has a large glass front facing the park-like inner courtyard.

Alongside its unique red color, another striking feature of the silhouette of the hall wing building is the modern, sophisticated design language of the facade. The seemingly irregular sequence of narrow vertical window slots, large glass screens and closed wall surfaces represent the individuality of the different proceedings with their respective jurisdictions.

The unilaterally protruding soffits of the narrow window slots serve as passive sun protection. The continuous friezes of the red building create a connection to bookshelves in active use: these shelves contain rules and regulations that are often used and regularly applied, but not always with the same outcome.

The height of the friezes is guided by the sandstone cornices of the neighboring neoclassical school building. That old building in need of renovation formed the starting point for the plans to build the new Justice Center.

PROJECT FIGURES

LOCATION
Bochum Justice Center, Germany

ARCHITECT
Architekturbüro Hascher Jehle, Berlin

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
December 2012 – September 2017

BUILDER-OWNER
Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb BLB
North Rhine-Westphalia

CONCRETE ELEMENTS
Hemmerlein Ingenieurbau GmbH

AMOUNT OF CONCRETE
707 m³

AMOUNT OF PIGMENT
9,000 kg

DELIVERY FORM
Slurry

PIGMENTS
Liquid with 45% solid content

BAYFERROX®
Color for Life.

BAYFERROX® 110
BAYFERROX® 920
in white cement

WHAT IS
COLORED CONCRETE WORKS®?

More publicity for colored concrete.
Colored Concrete Works® is a LANXESS initiative for more color in architecture which aims to present the versatility and aesthetic properties of concrete colored with Bayferrox® pigments to an interested professional audience.

Colored Concrete Works® is designed as a series of case studies documenting the use of colored concrete in international construction projects. It is accompanied by forums and workshops that provide a platform for architects, construction managers and building companies to exchange ideas and discuss the possibilities of coloring concrete with pigments.

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Color for Life.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOUR BUSINESS?

Get in contact with us.

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