

The first one-off project

For the first time, SKIA, the publishing company for shadows from Cologne has developed a shadow sculpture according to customer specification. In the future, various picnic areas which are planned on the waterfront at the Emscher will be adorned with the massive stainless steel shade providers. Individual developments such as this will in the future become an enhanced part of SKIA's service portfolio.

___ The Emscher used to be a sewer in the Ruhr area – a small river, which in the course of rapid growth increasingly became an industrial rubbish bin. Nowadays however, the Emscher is a symbol of change for an industrial based to a service based society. Nowhere in Germany has altered so radically as the Ruhr area. These days the Emscher is a local recreation area which is hugely popular among cyclists. And

this, already attractive excursion destination will now become even more appealing.

___ Art creates places

___ "The Emscher in the Ruhr area will develop into a green oasis", raves Dr. Jochen Stemplewski, the chairman of the Emscher Association. "The 34 kilometre long Emscher -island between Castrop-Rauxel and Oberhausen is already an attraction for people seeking leisure and recreation." Only a few locals know about the area and even less tourists. This untapped potential needs boosting and this should become successful with the newly designed picnic areas, lead by the artist Beate Matkey. The sites distinctive feature is the shadow provider CAMERARIUS_365 from SKIA. The massive stainless steel shadow sail, encased in concrete, remains largely visible in both summer and wintertime and is planned to remain for a period of more than 20 years.

___ From series product...

___ SKIA normally developed shadow providers together with designers with series production in mind. The production conditions already being sounded out in the initial phase and then step by step moving towards serial manufacture. Over a period of years relationships shaped by a good deal of trust have evolved with suppliers.

___ ... from one of a kind to a special solution

___ Deviation from this method occurred for the first time primarily through the Emscher Association bringing attention to the introduction of clear and extensively detailed concepts. SKIA developed constructive details on this basis. It was necessary, in the first instance to find a method for bending the sail surface area – after all, the heavy 2 mm thick stainless steel sheets weigh 20 kilograms. Although SKIA





SKIA

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can rely on an experienced network of suppliers, this bending work presented itself as a great challenge. “None of the common metalworking machines provide this kind of three dimensional forming”, said the designer Bernd Oette, who supervised the development at SKIA. Therefore, a device had to be specially constructed.

“Substantially cheaper than a stamping machine” – the designer however, doesn’t want to divulge anything more. For several weeks the designer and metalworking professionals worked meticulously until a financial and aesthetic solution was found. “Our strength in this project,” said Knuth Hornbogen, “was the tenacious drilling, pushing and pressing, with the unwavering belief of reaching a solution. All metalworkers would have avoided the order and all

conventional sunshade suppliers in any case.” With some pride, stressed Hornbogen: “No one has set out so stolidly to achieve the realisation of ambitious shadow solutions like we have.”

___ ... and back? | **Future benefits**

___The experience gathered during this project encourages the publishing company for shadows from Cologne to develop further and to be of use for other companies. “We are very familiar with this particular subject, therefore planners could also benefit”, says the designer Bernd Oette. If in the process this results in new products for the series this would naturally be warmly welcomed. The CAMERARIUS_365 remains however, for the time being, one of a kind, as yet, unavailable on the market.

