



# AR Products



1. Sauerbruch Hutton's BSU Office for Urban Development and the Environment in Hamburg displays a bold use of colour  
2. DSDHA's 28 South Molton Street, London store for Bosideng is a striking bespoke terracotta building



Sauerbruch Hutton's new BSU offices can be described as colourful, bold and optimistic. The ensemble is enveloped in a distinctive polychromatic facade supplied by NBK.

On each floor, continuous aprons with a total length of around 900 metres, made from ceramic cladding glazed in bright colours, encircle the building, giving it an uplifting character. With five different shades of blue, red, yellow and green, the cladding features a total of 20 different hues. The facade is uniform, easy-to-understand, and breaks down into a myriad of colourful elements representing the diversity of nationalities, languages, personalities and religions that come together here.

Colour distribution is based on a carefully planned conceptual proposition devised by Sauerbruch Hutton and reinforces the architectural impact: 'peaks' of colour, each in one of the primary colours of red, blue and yellow, accentuate the ends of the low-rise building (blues) as well as the front (reds) and rear (yellows) of the high-rise building.

Between these strong colour accents, gradual colour gradients

blend varying degrees of different, individual colour shades.

Along the wavy south-facing facade, the colours revert to blue in the hollow (concavo) sections, while the intensity of the red in the cusped (convex) sections increases the closer you get to the high-rise. This pattern is followed on the west facade, which blends blues and yellows. Greens are also added to the colour mix.

Along the northern facade where the wave-like form is less pronounced, the colour gradient is linear – from blues to greens to yellows. Likewise, along the eastern facade, the colour gradient moves from blues to reds.

Colour is an important aspect of these spectacular new buildings and plays a key role in many of NBK's innovative projects.

For example, the design of the Civic Centre in Doncaster is deliberately based on strong contrasts – not only in terms of the surfaces, but also the accompanying colours. The metallic appearance of the sinter-fired exterior of the main building is already unusual in itself, but set against the brightly coloured glazing of the 'bagnette'

facade in the entrance area, it blends into the background.

By contrast, the designers of Student Castle in Manchester opted to clad the exterior with engobed terracotta in different shades of blue and grey, redolent of the skies above Manchester.

A new office and retail building at 28 South Molton Street in London by DSDHA also features dark-red glazing specially developed for the project. Here, however, the unique appearance of the facade is achieved largely through the use of very different, specially-shaped vertical elements that lend the building its distinctive character and ensure that it is successfully integrated into the existing London townscape.

Ultimately, though, it is the architects' bold use of colour that lends these buildings their spectacular character and ensures that the architecture and visual appeal of the facades synergise and complement each other. The materials used – glazed or engobed terracotta – are the perfect choice to enhance such cutting-edge designs.

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