

# COPPER INSPIRATION

Exploring the latest techniques including press modelling, perforation and surface treatments

Throughout history copper has always fascinated people with its naturally changing surface, malleability and unique visual characteristics. Architects and artists continue to find inspiration and seek new possibilities with this most adaptable material and the copper industry is keen to work closely with them in realising new concepts.

Elsewhere in this issue of Copper Forum there are numerous examples of the diversity that copper offers architects, ranging from the new golden alloys to the development of variable pre-patinated finishes. In this and in previous issues we have also seen the many different cladding and roofing techniques available, as well as the individual work of artists and interior designers using copper.

But innovation in response to the imaginative demands of today's designers continues. Here, we explore just some of the latest copper techniques available now.



## SHAPING THE FUTURE

A completely new kind of press modelling technology for copper offers a new design freedom by introducing three-dimensional shapes and decorative elements into façade design. It also provides endless opportunities in interior design and decoration, cladding and mouldings. Digital press

modelling is a highly automated system for sheet copper which takes three-dimensional design straight from the designer's desk to the finished product.



## TRANSPARENCY AND OPACITY

The use of copper mesh and perforated copper sheets offers a fresh design dimension for buildings. They can be used externally as rain-screens, solar shading and opaque cladding - or internally as partitions, screens and other interior design elements. Transparency can be generated by stretching or piercing copper sheet, or weaving copper wire into a mesh. Copper sheet is easy to water-cut and perforate in various ways and the different shades of colour and surface treatments widen the design possibilities even further. An impressive example of perforated copper technology is the Parventa Library building in Latvia (featured in the last issue of Copper Forum CF27/2009). Here, the sizes of perforations were varied to generate text graphics quoting the lyrics of Latvian folk songs!



## RICH AND VARIED SURFACES

The surface of copper is vibrant, multi-faceted and ever changing: the glowing, lively surfaces and individual colours are a source of inspiration for creative minds. But advanced technology provides scope for a rich diversity of colour shades enable applications beyond architecture. Copper is a versatile and durable natural material the surface of which is easy to vary by patinating, moulding or dyeing. Individual surfaces can be produced for either custom-made bulk products or one-off projects. Copper withstands different treatments extremely well and moulding, shaping or patination does not weaken the quality of the material. It is certainly worth experimenting with these new types of products.

## INTERIOR INSPIRATION

Copper is ideal for interior design instead of conventional materials or in combination with them. The surface of copper can be varnished or waxed to preserve its distinctive colour and shine indoors. The applications for copper internally are endless - on ceilings, kitchen cupboards and surfaces (where the material's anti-microbial properties are important), corner mouldings and detailing (to provide continuity throughout an entire building), and feature elements such as fireplaces and light fittings.

