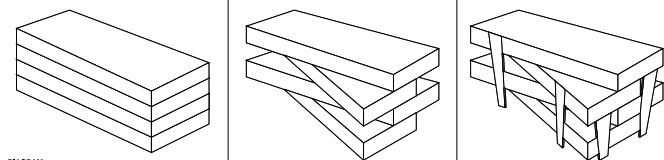


# wurm + wurm



DIAGRAM



Text: David Keuning  
Photos: Ester Hudova

## adheres to the theory of relativity



An office building for a manufacturer of measuring equipment on an industrial estate in the German city of Jena: it doesn't sound like the most exciting commission. But as far as Christoph Froberg at Wurm + Wurm architects is concerned, the opposite is true. 'The client is Göpel Electronic, a young and successful firm from eastern Germany (the former GDR), which specializes in innovative architecture', according to the architect. 'The firm symbolizes the "New East". The teamwork with our office was creative and they engaged intensively in the design process.'

'The result of the collaboration is a striking office building, where the levels are stacked crisscross on top of each other. Broad columns raise the whole

thing off the ground. There were several reasons for choosing this structure, according to Froberg: the trees present on the building location, the position of the site at a crossroads and the requirement to leave the street level undeveloped, because the terrain lies in a flood area of the Saale River.

Although the design is not entirely free of will to form, the architects have implemented their concept in such a way that they've still achieved an impressive result. The building has two faces: the longitudinal elevations are an expressive stack of boxes and overhangs, in accordance with the latest fashion, but the end elevations have been cut off straight and are completely closed. This contrast

was exactly what we had in mind,' says Froberg: 'From the side, the building looks like a silhouette without any windows. The perspective effect appears only when one turns the corner.'

As a result, the character of the building changes depending on the observer's viewpoint. So it operates as a lesson in relativity for the objective observers at Göpel.

[www.wurm-wurm.de](http://www.wurm-wurm.de)