

# Case study



21/10/15

**For immediate release**

## **Schöck solution combines architecture with horticulture**

The striking façade of this building in Berlin is the concept of Sergej Dott, a locally-based pop art painter who chose medicinal herbs to represent the building's use as a major medical centre. The Treptow Medical Centre, named after the district in which it is located, is a 19th century listed building and recent refurbishment work has seen the interior transformed into twelve surgeries and a pharmacy. The final flourish of the restoration activity is the addition of the pop art herbs, each one metre in diameter, up to twelve metres high and 600kgs in weight, all grouped around three sides of the building.

To incorporate them into the structural design, additional steel beams had to be installed inside the building at varying floor levels and Lorenz Linnhoff, whose engineering firm carried out the structural planning for the building comments: "The optimum solution for fastening the giant flowers to the building envelope was the Isokorb KST, which made it possible to transfer the load of the flower installation via the steel beams to the load-bearing building".

The KST has been developed to create thermal breaks in steel structures, where the modules are used to transfer tensile forces and pressure/shear forces. With this application the product is used only for the latter purpose, as on this occasion it has to perform a structural function rather than ensure thermal partition. Each flower is connected by two KST modules at the top of the stalk and their modular capability meant that off-site pre-fabrication was possible, helping to reduce on-site costs. Two head plates were welded to the stalks off site and another two head plates attached to the main steel structure

with the KST modules bolted to them. Then flower stalk was then lifted into position and the two plates simply bolted to the exterior connections of the KST units. The community arts and culture scene in Treptow will benefit too, as each of the herbs is to be sponsored, with the proceeds donated to various art institutions.

***For your free copy of the new Schöck 'Thermal Bridging Guide' and / or the comprehensive 236 page 'Technical Guide' contact the company on: 01865 290 890 go to [www.schoeck.co.uk](http://www.schoeck.co.uk); or email: [design@schoeck.co.uk](mailto:design@schoeck.co.uk)***

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#### **Notes to the editor**

#### **A leading European supplier**

Schöck has grown to become Europe's leading supplier of innovative structural load bearing insulation products. The main product is the Schöck Isokorb – a thermal break for various types of cantilever constructions in new buildings and for renovation. Its headquarters are at Baden-Baden in southern Germany and there are subsidiary companies in Great Britain, France, Austria, Switzerland, Italy the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Japan, Canada and the USA. Sales teams and partners operate in many other European countries and also Australia and South Korea. Schöck is committed to providing the highest level of technical back up and comprehensive customer service to the construction industry.

## Pics and captions



The KST makes it possible to secure the flowers directly to the medical centre's steel structure



Huge medicinal herbs on the façade of the Berlin medical centre

Photos: Spark::ling AG/ Christian Kunzendorf



The KST load-bearing thermal insulation element is used to fasten free cantilevered steel beams to steel structures

Photo: Schöck Ltd