

Passe Kälber Architekten

Berlin, Germany, EU

www.passe-kaelber-architekten.com

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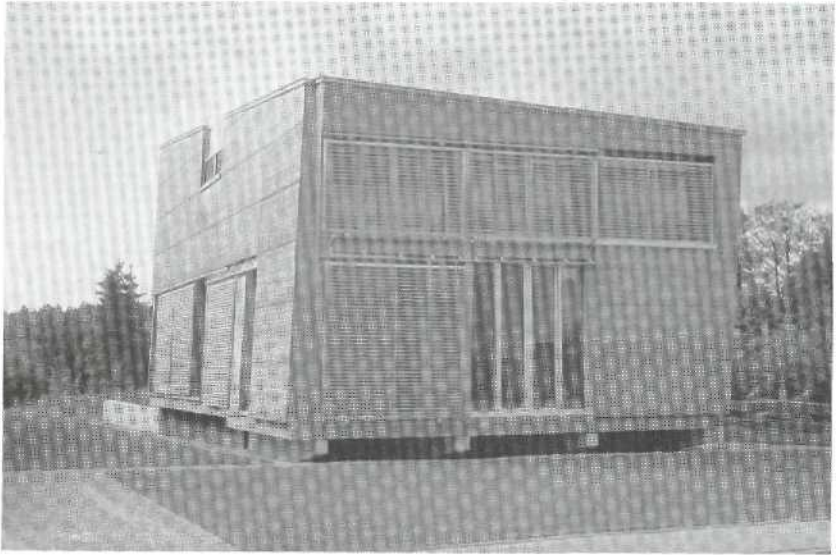


Figure 10.8

Passe Kälber Architekten, House Marxen, Niedersachsen, Germany, 2003. Photograph by Thomas Kälber. © Passe Kalber Architekten

Passe Kälber Architekten was founded in 1992 by Ulrike Passe and Thomas Kälber. The office started its career with speculative and critical statements on emerging planning debates by curating exhibitions and producing alternative urban proposals. Both architects taught at the Technical University of Berlin and are part-time lecturers in the University of Kentucky Berlin programme. The firm's aim is to bring the engineer and the artist in the profession closer together by intertwining ecological debates on sustainability and active, passive use of solar energy with theoretical and artistic debates on form and perception, resulting a holistic spatial approach to sustainable detail. Building concepts use integrative technical planning and a three-dimensional composition of space, airflow and thermal mass for climate control, as in *House Marxen*,

designed and built for a private client near Hamburg. Durable materials, such as larch, aluminium, glass, and concrete additionally interact as membranes, moderating the external climate to formulate a well-tempered internal environment.

Similar concepts are used in the design of larger-scale public and commercial building concepts. The office uses traditional and computer-aided tools and methods to mould ideas into space, construction, and material. Students interested in working for the firm should be prepared to think independently in different scales, materials and methods, and also be prepared to assist with the making of three-dimensional model by hand as well as on the computer.

Iceland

Iceland, with a population of only 288,000 people, is the smallest and most sparsely populated nation in Europe, yet has one of the highest standards of living. Its economy centres on fish and fish products, and this, together with industrial expansion, has recently brought significant wealth to the country. The lack, until recently, of an Icelandic architecture school has meant that the current generation of Icelandic architects has been educated abroad. Such a small country does not have too many opportunities for architectural employment for foreigners, and this makes seeking work, work permits, and accommodation difficult, as mentioned below.

Resources

- Icelandic Architectural Organizations (Arkitektafélag Íslands): www.ai.is
- Arkitektadeild og hönnun, Listaháskóli Íslands: www.lhi.is

Yrki Architects

Reykjavik, Iceland
www.yrki.is

Asdfs Ágústsdóttir, Diploma, Bartlett, UCL
Sólveig Berg Björnsdóttir, AA Dipl.

The name *Yrki* has specific meanings in Icelandic - to cultivate and to write verse. This gives a hint of the office's philosophy, to unite the earthly and the lyrical, to show sensitivity in intertwining different inspirations for the project, from the urban to the natural, taking a coherent position