

# Unique facade design with brush-finish powder coating

The cantonal pharmacy in Aarau is setting new standards of design with its unique brush-finish facade. A great deal of expertise has gone into creating this new powder coating, which is the only one of its kind in the industry.



KARL BUBENHOFER AG

For the redesign of the Aarau cantonal pharmacy, the architectural firm Steiger Concept AG in Zurich developed a monolithic metal façade with “plaster and broom finish”. This is a method that has never before been considered, let alone implemented, in architecture. The architects at Steiger Concept AG see themselves as a digital workshop and are always on the lookout for new ways to design architecture. This philosophy was also applied to the façade design of the pharmacy in Aarau.

When the architects from Steiger Concept approached KARL BUBENHOFER AG with the request to create a powder coating with a brush finish, even the experienced project key account manager Mario Füglistaler was surprised. The only information was an idea painted on a piece of card with a few basic details of the required gloss level and intended visual effects.

The task was passed over to the development laboratory at KARL BUBENHOFER AG. Although the specialists there have extensive experience of meeting special requirements and have acquired a reputation for making everything possible, they were at first disconcerted by this request. But their curiosity and the unique nature of the task inspired them to take on the challenge. The word “can’t” is not in the vocabulary of the powder coating company from Gossau!

## Achieving miracles in the lab

In the lab and the newly installed test facility, the specialist team spent a long time mixing, trying out, discarding and recreating powder coatings, until they finally transformed the unusual request into reality. They had created the first metallic powder coating with a brush finish. They produced A4-sized samples for the architects, followed by a 1 x 1 metre panel which was coated in the test facility. Even at this early stage, the team came up with useful processing guidelines and tips for the powder coaters to enable them to reproduce the innovative brush finish on a large number of components. Only two months after the original request, the powder coating with the unique brush finish was ready for large-scale use.





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The joints are overcome with the rebate construction.

## Render breaks up the monolithic effect

Metal facades have joints and, in the case of the cantonal pharmacy in Aarau, these take the form of a folded structure. This has a metal attachment which fits over the fold. As a result, the metal facade has a monolithic concrete-like effect, which is broken up by the metallic surface and the render finish of the powder coating.

Five layers of coating with a textured surface were applied to the facade elements to produce the delicate brush finish. This gives each element its own unique character. The result is a coating which meets all the requirements of external facade use. It is lightfast and weather-resistant, in just the same way as “normal” facade coatings, but has an unusual and appealing design and form.

### Consultation and sale

KARL BUBENHOFER AG, Tel. +41 71 387 43 73, pulver@kabe-farben.ch, 9201 Gossau (SG)  
KABE Pulverlack Deutschland GmbH, Tel. +49 (0) 7255 99 161, info@kabe-pulverlack.de, D-76676 Graben-Neudorf

### Architecture

Steiger Concept AG, info@steigerconcept.ch, +41 44 384 83 83, www.steigerconcept.ch

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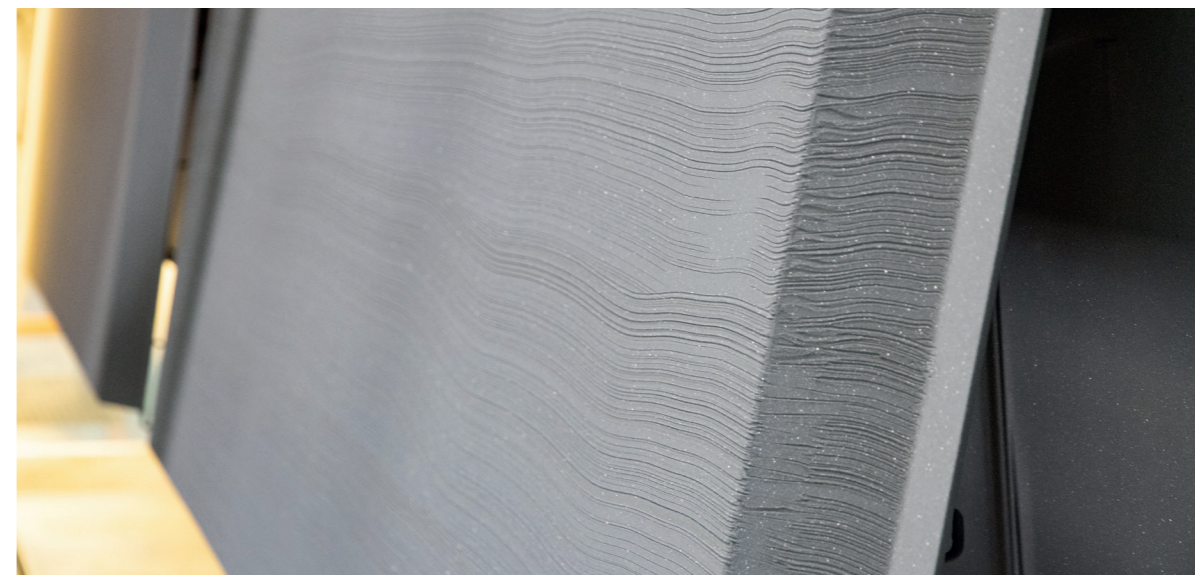
## The courage to innovate is rewarded with success

As the architects from Steiger Concept explained, the cooperation with KARL BUBENHOFER AG and the implementation of their idea were a complete success. “Not only the colours but also the objects were mixed. This is just what we wanted to convey with the facade of the cantonal pharmacy. Our idea of a powder coated facade with a brush finish certainly pushed the production technology to its limits, but thanks to KARL BUBENHOFER AG we have a textured powder coating that really stands out from the run-of-the-mill, large-scale industrial solutions. The result is exactly as we imagined it.”

The courage to venture into unknown territory, try out new approaches and achieve what seems at first to be impossible has proved to be rewarding for everyone involved. The facade of the cantonal pharmacy in Aarau has secured the building a special place in Swiss architectural history.



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Distinctive structure of the broom finish in powder form.