

STONE LINK

Today

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German Natural Stone Awards 2001

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- Stone+tec 2001 in Nürnberg, Germany
- CARRARAMARMOtec 2001 in Carrara, Italy

Country review:

Europe stone industry review

Elevated railway platforms of D-Süd line

Highly Commended

Architects:
Despang
Architekten,
Günther Despang
and Martin Despang

Natural stone used:
Basaltic lava



For the new D-Süd urban railway line from the Hanover city centre to the EXPO site, architects Günther and Martin Despang developed a modular concept of 13 elevated railway platforms and waiting cabins suspended on a filigree steel base construction. The platforms at the 'Pressehaus' station and the cubic waiting blocks with their numerous integrated functions are clad in basaltic lava.

For the architects, natural stone as the original building material has retained its monolithic appearance of solidity over thousands of years. In spite of the minimisation of working thickness motivated by building economy, stone is still rated by the eye in terms of its surface. The stations in Hanover therefore present an appearance of stone cubes and at the same time represent today's usual stone panel construction. Even the veneer-like natural stone cladding openly and self-assuredly suggests the strength of stone. The plank-like stone cladding of the waiting cabins is mounted on an inner steel construction and inlaid with opalescent laminated safety glass inserts without frames, which are arranged irregularly and flush with the surface. They are rear-illuminated at night and bear the letters of a poem by the famous Dadaist Kurt Schwitters of Hanover.

The jury's comments

For the elevated railway platforms, the theme of 'waiting cabins' has been tackled in a new way. Various individual cubes have been created of natural stone combined with well thought-out details in wood, glass and stone. The reduced and precise use of the natural stone has created an elegant and unobtrusive style of architecture.