

# ASSpects

THE ASSMANN PROJECT REPORT 2019



## RECIPES FOR SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE

From London, down through the Ruhr valley, all the way to Vienna – a culinary tour of inspiring projects from the ASSMANN portfolio, taking a behind-the-scenes look at today's working environments

## TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

Milestone events over the 80-year success story "Made in Melle":  
Travelling back in time, discovering what's possible today and looking to the future

**ASSMANN**

# THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The specifications for modern working environments have never been so diverse: Traditional office work has transformed a great deal in the last few years with the arrival of the Office 4.0 concept. Workplace layouts and processes are evolving, and they need to be agile so they can quickly adapt to specific requirements. Beyond the usual practice of dividing up spaces, flexible and modular furnishing solutions play a key role in designing open-plan offices and in bringing innovative layouts to life. When planning these office spaces, there are other principles that are equally important and should be taken into account, such as optimising room acoustics and creating private spaces and secluded areas so people can work in peace or hold constructive meetings. At ASSMANN, we rise to these challenges by taking an active role in designing the working environments of tomorrow. Together with our specialist partners, we want to continue giving clients across Europe first-class support in their day-to-day work with our consultation and planning services, as well as our "Made in Melle" innovative office furniture systems and furnishing solutions. We do this by drawing on our comprehensive expertise in the office furnishing sector

**80**  
YEARS

and our know-how that we have built up over eight decades. ASSMANN has been successfully forging its own path since 1939 by continually innovating to meet developments in the world of work and by responding to various market demands and trends early on. We think ASSMANN's 80th anniversary is not only a cause for celebration but proof that we have always fulfilled our "Good Work" principle over those years. We owe this success to having a collaborative relationship with our clients, enthusiastic and highly qualified employees, state-of-the-art automated furniture production processes, and extensive marketing efforts, which have been steadily increased over the last few years.

## FARAWAY COUNTRIES AND TIMES GONE BY

The ASSMANN van has been filled up and is all set for a new tour of inspiring projects from our portfolio. This year's journey makes a stop in the UK before travelling through the Ruhr valley and Switzerland, all the way to Hungary. But this anniversary year trip not only takes us to faraway countries but also takes us back in time. In a detailed interview with



Dieter Ahsmann and Dirk Aßmann, the two influential figures take a look back at the 80-year success story of our family business, reviewing the decades gone by, thinking back to key events or unusual experiences and making their predictions for the future.

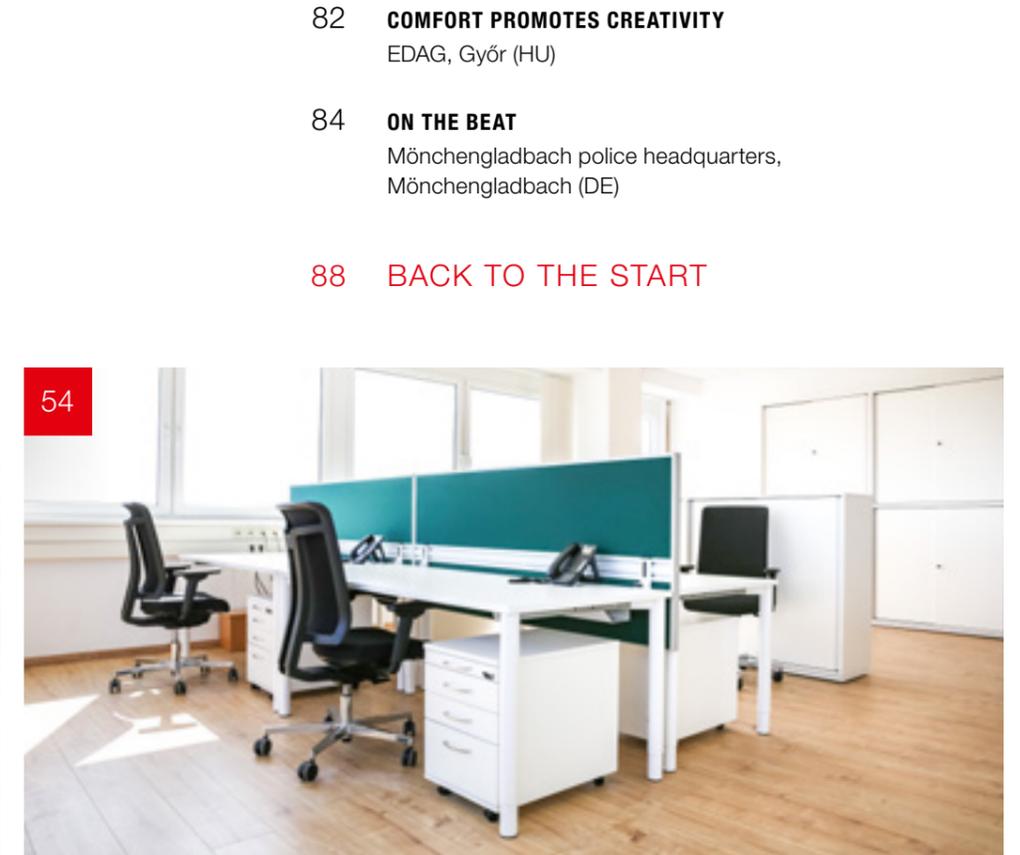
## BON APPETIT!

It's not a celebration if there isn't delicious food to be had, which is why this ASSpects project report is centred around cuisine and food culture. There's a whole host of local delicacies to discover on our tour of projects with the ASSMANN van through Europe. From tangy quark dishes and hearty fast food to mouth-watering cakes, all tastes are catered for. ■

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*Let's go: And the new ASSMANN project tour is off, stopping at plenty of exciting places along the way!*

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# AN ORDER ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

Location: Bochum, Germany Client: Ruhr-Universität Bochum



**As one of the largest universities in Germany, Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) has asserted itself as a major institution within the education sector. The campus expanded in autumn 2018 with several new buildings, increasing the total area to 49,000 square metres. Furnishing the buildings with new office furniture was an unusual project for both ASSMANN and its business partner Lapp GmbH.**

For 43,000 students and almost 6,000 employees, RUB is a place for education and socialising. They all need space to live, learn and teach, but this space was increasingly in short supply due growing numbers of enrolments, so the university expanded in 2018. The psychology and economics faculties, for example, found new homes in two new buildings. In addition to state-of-the-art seminar rooms and lecture theatres, there was space to rest, learn and work in the new canteens, multi-level specialist libraries and the offices accommodating the majority of university staff. Around 1,600 new rooms were built in total, and all came equipped with practical furniture systems. Furnishing rooms from scratch on this scale required an experienced partner, that's why the pro-

ject managers decided to collaborate with ASSMANN and Lapp GmbH. "This is the largest order in the history of ASSMANN," reveals Axel Ellermann, Key Account Manager at the company. His job is to work with industrial and service companies. He took care of the project on behalf of ASSMANN together with his colleague Tobias Kirtz from the project management department. Whether it was shelving, desks or lounge

pieces, a great deal of furniture for the new buildings came from Melle.

**HIGHLY INVOLVED**

The team in charge of the project got the university staff involved in planning their offices to ensure that the new spaces were adequately furnished. This created a concept whereby every room was unique, but they were all furnished exactly how the staff wanted. Lecturers



**An undisputed classic:**  
The long-standing Bratwursthaus in Bochum is renowned for serving up delicious currywurst. Anyone who is a fan of this German fast food classic should definitely pay a visit to the food bar in Bochum. The song "Currywurst" by Herbert Grönemeyer is the ideal backing track to your visit as he penned the song after stopping by the traditional sausage stand.

*If you want to make one at home, here's the original recipe in German:*  
[www.bratwursthaus.com/rezepte/currywurst](http://www.bratwursthaus.com/rezepte/currywurst)



from the faculty of law, for example, required plenty of cabinets and shelves to store their books and files, while other employees preferred to work on larger desks as they used two monitors, or because their work was more hands on. This approach did involve an increased workload for the project team, but their efforts paid off in the end. It meant that every university employee received an office tailored to them and how they work. Rondana was the system of choice when it came to deciding on the right desks as these cus-

tomisable systems allow the available space in the room to be used to its full potential. To neatly sort the large mountains of files and extensive book collections, customised Allvia shelves and cabinets were used and complemented by Pontis mobile pedestal, Offering adequate storage space tailored to staff needs. Syneo lounge furniture in the break and meeting rooms created a comfortable space for staff to sit and exchange ideas: With their cutting-edge design and fabric surfaces, they're not just visually arresting, they also create

- 1 Almost 1,600 rooms requiring an elaborate furnishing plan – a logistical challenge that ASSMANN gladly accepted
- 2 Tables from the Solos range are firm fixtures in daily life at the university; the bright and colourful furniture in the canteen entice people to come have a sit down



It took a total of 202 lorry loads to deliver office furniture systems from ASSMANN to Bochum to furnish the new university buildings.

If the lorries had travelled nose to tail from Melle to Bochum, they would have created a convoy over three kilometres in length.

**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Furnishing two new buildings on the university campus

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Lapp GmbH, Hagen

**Client:**  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB)

**Client details:**  
With 43,000 students and 20 different faculties, RUB is one of the largest universities in Germany.

**Brief:**  
Together with Lapp GmbH, ASSMANN was tasked with furnishing 1,600 rooms with furniture systems, which were to be customised to suit the individual needs of staff and students at RUB.

**Challenge:**  
There was a strict schedule for delivering and assembling the furniture, and all needed to be completed by the start of the semester.



3



4

spaces for users to communicate and work in peace. Both staff and students at RUB benefit from the new furnishings. As many of the ASSMANN furniture solutions were also installed in the seminar rooms. Eager learners can tuck themselves away in the libraries to work on one of the Solos desks shielded by a Viteco partition wall. These walls create some privacy and feature sound-absorbing properties. When students meet for a coffee, there's functional furniture for them to gather around, such as high tables in the canteen. ASSMANN furnishing concepts specific to the different spaces allowed for the creation of places to rest and relax with attractive modern designs.

**COMMUNICATION AS A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS**

Due to the sheer number of pieces of furniture, the order information was checked not once, not twice, but three times to ensure it was executed flawlessly. Furniture systems were delivered over the course of two months, with every delivery right on schedule. Once on site, they were sorted by floor and were assembled in a set room order. The rooms were furnished in no time, and RUB staff could continue to work without being disturbed by the assembly of furniture happening simultaneously. ASSMANN and Lapp also worked well together: "We always kept each

- 3 The new buildings shine with their clean lines, generous use of windows and cutting-edge design
- 4 Most RUB students will now sit exams and give presentations using ASSMANN furniture systems
- 5 Viteco partition walls ensure total peace and quiet at the desks in the library, boosting students' concentration



5

other up to date about the progress of the project, meaning everyone was always aware of what was to be done and when. It made the planning super easy for us," says Lapp Managing Director, Wolfgang Kuhlmann. The premises were completed and made ready for use to coincide with the start of the winter semester, allowing teaching to start as scheduled on 8 October 2018. "We stuck to the schedule precisely. It was a great way for everyone to start the new semester," smiles Tobias Kirtz from ASSMANN. ■

# A BRIGHT IDEA

**Wooden swings and games consoles in an office? What might seem absurd at first has actually been part of daily life at Heliotron Deutschland GmbH, based in Freiburg, since autumn 2018. An innovative furnishing concept lies behind the office design, complemented by furniture systems from Melle, and Heliotron's partners, clients and employees absolutely love it.**

Location: Freiburg, Germany Client: Heliotron

When you step into the new offices of the Baden-based family business, you're immediately struck by the elegant arrangement of Heliotron candle lanterns and the warmly lit reception desk, complemented by a white Allvia storage unit featuring dark, mirror-shine glass laminate. The cabinet's style fits perfectly with the wider contemporary office design; it's from the ASSMANN range like so many of the other furnishings. "We worked on the interior design with Offenburg-based architects Partner AG," explains Oliver Schneeberger, Managing Director of the Freiburg-based company. "They recommended that we use office furniture supplier

Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG, and it was through them that we then got to know ASSMANN". The "Made in Melle" furniture wowed both the Managing Director of the liquid wax product business and his team in charge of the interior design project: "They're not just practical and attractive, they're also good value for money when compared with the competitors," says Oliver Schneeberger, explaining how the furnishing solutions from ASSMANN enhance the new open-plan office.

## TRADITION'S A THING OF THE PAST

The company needed to relocate to give employees more space as well as boost its attractiveness as an employer both internally and externally. Initial ideas about the design of the space were being

discussed by October 2017, and six months later, work started to renovate the former warehouse space. "We basically stripped everything out and started afresh: insulation, roof, walls, windows, heating and plumbing, all of the electrics and the foyer," recalls Schneeberger. "We had plasterers and painters in here all the time". In September 2018, the space was ready for Heliotron to move in. "The concept needs to work as a whole," says Schneeberger. He knew his

plan to introduce an innovative working model at the same time as moving might have posed challenges, but he was sure that he was taking the right approach: "We looked at different progressive models for working and realised that it's vital to give employees greater responsibility," he says. Summing up the benefits of these models, he continues, "It boosts employee job satisfaction, leading to lower levels of staff turnover and less absenteeism". The new working environment at

Heliotron is anything but traditional. The open-plan office is home to around 40 single occupancy workstations kitted out with ASSMANN furniture, plus several meeting areas. And in the middle of all that are games consoles hooked up to a flatscreen display, three swings and a small library complete with comfortable seating. This unusual furnishing set-up reflects the fresh new working structure that has been in place at the family-run business since the move. →



1 Work and play coexist at Heliotron in Freiburg



**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Creating a modern working environment in a former warehouse

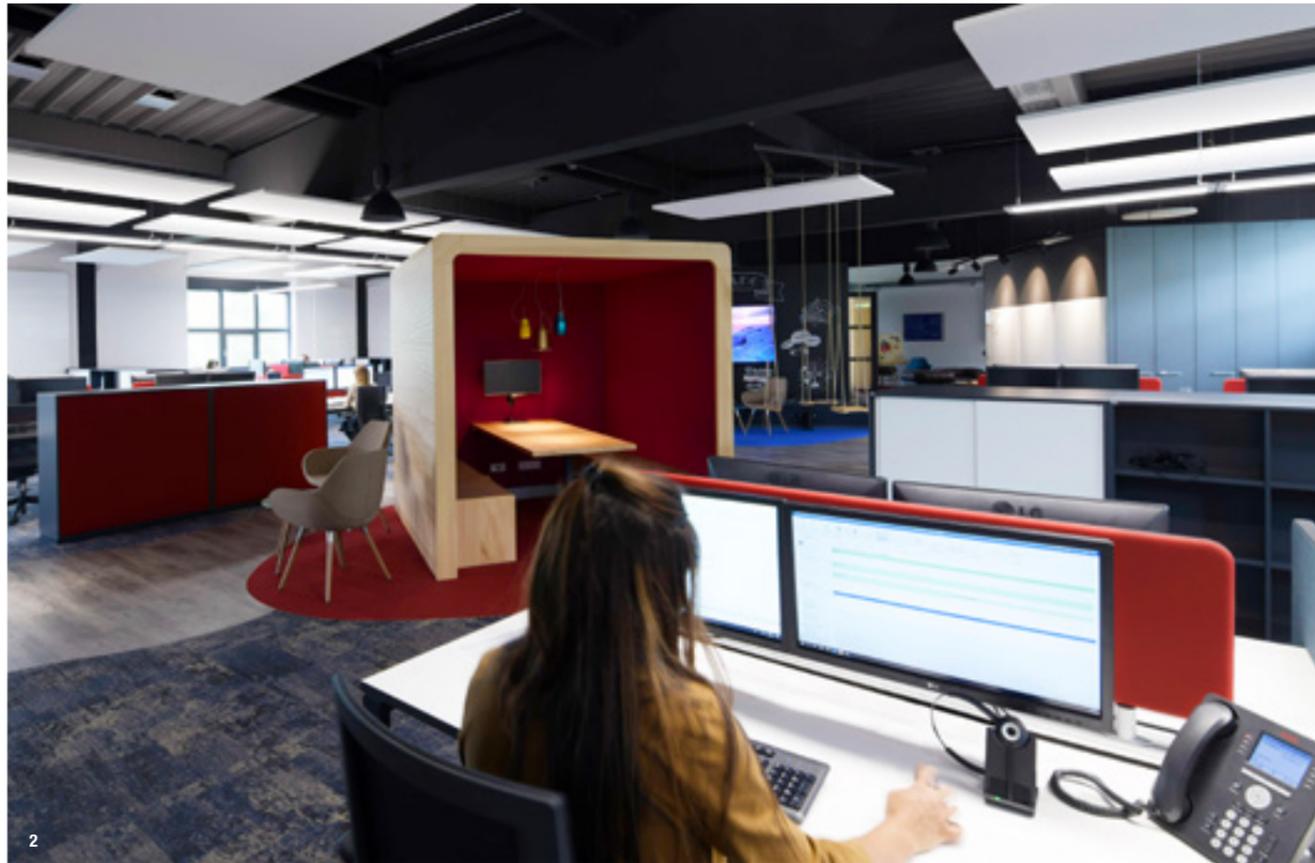
**Specialist retail partner:**  
Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG, Hausach, Germany

**Client:**  
Heliotron Deutschland GmbH

**Client details:**  
Heliotron Deutschland GmbH manufactures innovative liquid wax products for customers around the world. Founded in 1976, the Freiburg-based company predominantly supplies its products to the gastronomy and hotel industries, ecclesiastical institutions and funeral homes.

**Brief:**  
The aim was to create a peaceful atmosphere in which staff could concentrate when working as well as relax when taking a break.

**Challenge:**  
As the company had a clean desk policy, the project required storage and desk solutions that were practical and blended in with the overall office design.



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This innovative concept includes flexible working hours and unlimited holiday time and gives employees the chance to break the mould of their usual working processes. The staff's new-found freedom comes with the responsibility to structure work in a way that ensures tasks and projects are still completed on schedule. As long as they keep to this rule, Heliotron employees are then free to take small breaks playing video games or reading in the library to recharge their batteries. You can usually find these sorts of working models in the US, such as the famous Silicon Valley

in the heart of California. „Despite all the scepticism from outsiders, we can definitively say that: it works here in Germany too,” assures Oliver Schneeberger. adding, “There has been a very noticeable increase in how much the staff identify with the company since moving”.

**CONTEMPORARY WAYS OF WORKING**

Heliotron looked to furniture solutions from Melle for the office's workstations to ensure that employees not only felt at ease on their breaks, but when working too. All of the desks came from the Solos range. “We just loved the visual design of the products, that's why

we chose ASSMANN desks,” reveals Schneeberger. With their white desktops and elegant anthracite grey frames, the desks were a subtle counterweight to the bright and busy design on parts of the flooring and the red back panels on the ASSMANN Allvia sliding door cabinets dotted about the room. These cabinets help add structure to the open-plan office and support the clean desk policy in place at Heliotron with their spacious compartments. Each employee does have an assigned desk space, but they can easily change if they want to, provided that all desks are left clear of any personal belongings when it's time to go home. They can instead be stored and even locked in the Allvia cabinets. Rails and LiftTec monitor arms from ASSMANN ensure that monitors and cables are kept neat and tidy when working at the desks. Printed papers and files that usually make for a messy desk are almost nowhere to be seen. That's because work at

Heliotron is predominately done paperlessly. There are no waste paper baskets under desks to encourage employees to think green automatically. “Of course, we sometimes need to print something out or note something down on paper, that can't be avoided,” acknowledges the head of the Freiburg company. That's why there's one central waste paper bin next to the printers. “That means the staff at least have to get up and move to throw their print outs away,” Schneeberger says with a wink, although his reasoning is sincere. He cares deeply about the health and welfare of his employees. →

**2** The **Allvia** storage systems divide the open-plan office into different working areas

**3** All 40 of the single occupancy workstations are furnished with **Solos** desks

**4** Rails and LiftTec monitor arms ensure the desktops are kept neat and tidy



3



4



Our staff welcomed the new Heliotron working environment on the proviso that they could be involved in the planning and kept well informed.



Oliver Schneeberger  
Managing Director of Heliotron Deutschland GmbH

After all, good well-being boosts productivity and makes the working atmosphere more pleasant. In addition to the unlimited holiday time and state-of-the-art, well-structured workstations, the Aviator Lounge also helps promote better well-being in the workplace. The office's cosy foyer, which Oliver Schneeberger and his team furnished with great attention to detail, is set out like a small café. It's where colleagues gather to eat lunch or have a coffee break together. The whole space is not only stylishly decorated with candles from the company's own product lines, a myriad of aviator-related accessories adorn the area too. →

5 A go on the swing will help keep your motivation and creative levels up





6



**A tasty tongue-twister**

Bibbeliskäs is a speciality from Baden. There are numerous ways to spell it, just as there are to make it, depending on the region. Usually the herb quark cheese is garnished with sour cream and chives and served with bread or potatoes.

*You can find a traditional recipe in German here:*  
[www.gekonntgekocht.de/rezept/bibbeliskaes](http://www.gekonntgekocht.de/rezept/bibbeliskaes)

This is where Schneeberger leaves his own fingerprint on the company: He is an amateur pilot in his spare time and brings his love of flying to the fore with this extraordinary and stylish space. With its model aeroplanes and playful details, the Aviator Lounge mirrors the “office play area” with the games consoles and swings. Both are manifestations of an innovative concept which the Freiburg-based company impressively demonstrates, showing how to achieve the perfect mix of relaxing break space and creative working environment with the help of ASSMANN products. ■

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6 The reception area furnished with a sleek **Allvia** cabinet

7 Employees can spend their lunch breaks in the chilled-out atmosphere of the Aviator Lounge

8 The entire open-plan office is fitted with furniture systems from ASSMANN



7



8

# SPACE FOR IDEAS

**Coworking spaces have become an established part of the modern work environment. Short-let offices offer appealing surroundings that stimulate creativity. That's why Landmark Space relies on ASSMANN office systems.**

**Location:** London, United Kingdom **Client:** Landmark

Renting office space is a huge expense for new start-ups, especially in cities like London. But where can you go if you occasionally need a space for focused work or to meet a customer? The Landmark Space company provides the answer to this question in the form of its coworking spaces. These are office complexes in which workspaces can be rented – from individual desks to whole meeting rooms and halls. The concept not only represents a

solution for flexible working schedules, but also offers space for events that would exceed the capacity of your own office space. However, renters are often also looking for unusual ideas or simply a new perspective with which to pursue their projects. Since users of coworking spaces come from all industries, they form a good basis for creative exchange.

### MUCH MORE THAN AN OFFICE

One thing becomes clear very quickly: Landmark is not simply providing a lo-

cation. Good service takes centre stage here. This means providing users with amenities such as drinks, stationery and multimedia systems. A menu service and a security service are also part of the package at the office complex, which is open day and night for renters. No wonder business is booming. Landmark Space has over 20 years of experience to draw on, so it knows exactly what customers look for in a space. That begins with the selection of the location: Chancery Lane is at the heart of



2

London's famous legal district, The offices are therefore ideal for lawyers and anyone attending a court date in the area. The workspaces in the office have been designed to make an inviting yet sophisticated impression. Those working here feel comfortable and are inspired by the stimulating interior design. And for those working long hours, it's important that the coworking space also provides optimum comfort and ergonomics. These criteria are among Landmark's priorities during the refurbishment in 2018. The search for an office systems manufacturer that meets these requirements is quickly over because Landmark has been cultivating a trusting relationship with ASSMANN staff for many years. So turning to the family company from Melle was an obvious choice. No sooner said than done! Landmark soon got in contact and placed the order with ASSMANN UK directly in April 2018, requiring office furniture systems to furnish 45 workspaces. After around two months, the eagerly anticipated products are delivered, including desks from the Solos range and Allvia storage systems.

### AMAZING SOLOS VARIETY

A total of 154 Solos desks are delivered to the office complex: some of →



### PROJECT DATA

**Project:**  
Furnishing the new Chancery Lane coworking spaces in London

**Client:**  
Landmark Space

**Client details:**  
Landmark Space offers desks, offices and meeting rooms for rent.

**Brief:**  
The new Landmark Space branch required 30 one-person workstations and 15 group workspaces to be furnished.

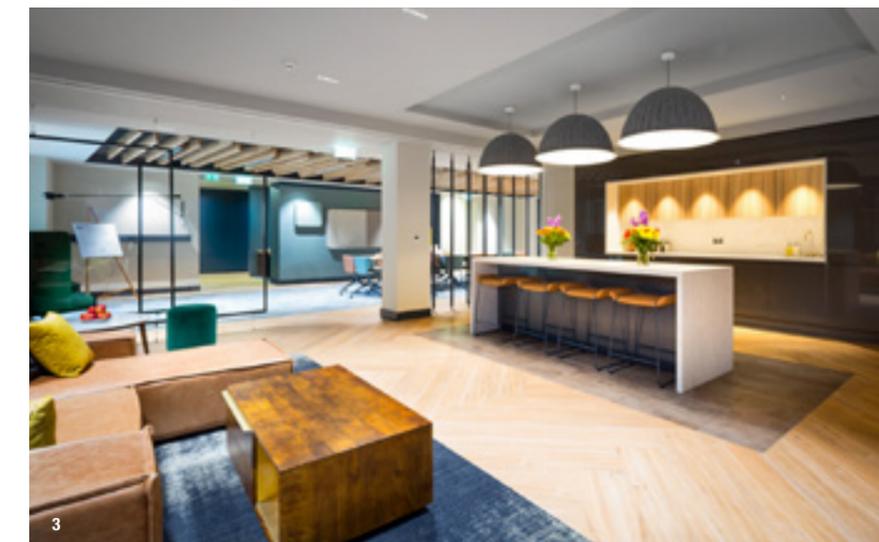
**Challenge:**  
An open-plan office needed to be furnished to suit a frequent turnover of clientele. The furniture should be correspondingly versatile.



20

1

- 1 The new branch of Landmark Space is located in the much-sought-after Chancery Lane, right in the heart of London's legal district
- 2 The **Solos** desks and **Allvia** storage units provide everything you need for work
- 3 Atmosphere is just as important as functionality: Users of the coworking space should feel comfortable



3



4 Solos desks with maple desktops blend in nicely with the welcoming interior design of the office

5 A variety of furnishings in the coworking space provides the right environment whatever the work situation

these are used as workplaces for single individuals, but most are combined to provide spaces for two to eight people. 30 individual workplaces and 15 areas for partners and groups are set up. No one can complain about a lack of variety: the Solos series offers plenty of possible combinations of desk tops and legs. As a result, a different version of the desks is used in every room. In the combination of a white desktop with anthracite-colour frame, the tables in the open-space office have a classical, elegant look, while also being extremely functional. The built-in sockets and USB ports make it easy to

plug in laptops and smartphones. Time, as we know, is money, and you lose none of that since you can quickly set up your temporary personal workspace. Additional workspaces can be found in the next room – fewer of them mean more privacy and a chance to retreat. This room is characterised by a different style: lots of wood and furniture in a modern design. The Solos desktops come in a maple finish to match the rest of the décor, blending in perfectly with the furnishings and encouraging creative types to sit back and let their minds wander. And who knows, It might help inspire someone for their next business idea. ■



**Very British!**

Fish and chips is the British answer to Germany's favourite fast food meal of currywurst with chips. Fried battered fish has been sold with chips since the 1860s when it was traditionally served wrapped in old newspaper. Instead of mayonnaise, the fish-potato combination is usually served with malt vinegar, warm curry sauce or cold tartar sauce.

*British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver reveals how to make this fast-food classic here:* [www.jamieoliver.com/de/recipes/fish-recipes/fish-chips-and-mushy-peas](http://www.jamieoliver.com/de/recipes/fish-recipes/fish-chips-and-mushy-peas)

**Expert interview**



**The possibilities created by coworking spaces**

**As Head of ASSMANN Forum, Günter Osterhaus has brought a variety of cutting-edge workspaces to life, so he knows the key to furnishing coworking spaces.**

**Why do you think coworking spaces are becoming increasingly popular?**

**Günter Osterhaus** When teams work together in what we call a coworking setup, it provides fertile ground for good ideas. In coworking spaces, different departments or interest groups can quickly gather to discuss certain topics whenever and however they like. These could be departments from one particular company or from several different ones. Coworking temporarily brings together the know-how of various experts in one place, leading to new discoveries. Working in this way often allows new technological developments or start-up ideas to flourish, for example.

**What are the benefits of coworking spaces?**

They're essentially versatile office spaces equipped with state-of-the-art furnishings. Their usual open-plan layout and the equipment's cutting-edge technology in particular helps information to flow quickly and promptly, ensuring that users can work efficiently anywhere within the space. Users have equal access to a coworking space, and it is

only charged according to how you use it. Coworkers, i.e. the people that work there, rent the office space for a limited period. This gives coworking spaces an extra financial advantage as they are usually more affordable than traditional office spaces, plus you aren't required to sign a long-term rental agreement.

**How is this kind of workspace set up?**

It's set up using the open-plan office concept and comprises different work areas – from desks for single users and flexible group working spaces to comfy seating areas. Bench systems like Canvaro Compact from ASSMANN are preferred for brainstorming meetings in

larger groups. These systems are arranged in a group of four or six, and the height of the desks can usually be adjusted to support an ergonomic workstation set-up. Experience has also shown that stand-up meetings are often more efficient. It's common for there to be lounge furniture so that users can relax or have constructive discussions in a more chilled-out atmosphere. What we're talking about here is a hybrid of working and living space. It's vital that coworkers feel at home and that the layout of the space helps promote creativity.

**Who are the main users of coworking spaces?**

Coworking spaces are only rented for a short period so they're perfect for start-ups, freelancers and students especially, but even companies can benefit if they want to take some time out to encourage creative brainstorming on a particular topic. I've noticed that groups often meet deliberately, but it's not uncommon for people who work in office environments to work on their own only meet others by chance. The open-plan and creative surroundings help users to socialise with new contacts without even thinking about it. As a result, projects frequently take great inspiration from other people, or the environment creates new unexpected and fruitful collaborations. ■





# A SUCCESS STORY "MADE IN MELLE"

1939 –  
2019

Over the last 80 years, ASSMANN has gone from a rural village carpenter's shop to one of the most cutting-edge office furniture manufacturers in Europe. Three men who have successfully overseen and shaped the company's journey through these decades are former Managing Director Dieter Ahsmann, his son and the current Managing Director Dirk Aßmann, as well as long-standing employee Bruno Wienecke, who was Head of In-House Sales and an authorised signatory at the Melle-based company before his retirement. Together they take a look back over the years and share their thoughts on the future of ASSMANN.



1 A successful father and son duo: Dieter Ahsmann (left) and Dirk Aßmann share a passion for good work



# 80

## Happy 80th birthday, ASSMANN! What does the company's anniversary mean to you?

**Dieter Ahsmann** It goes without saying that the anniversary is particularly special for me! So much has changed over the years. When I first started as Managing Director, there were no set departments that any one person was responsible for. We all pitched in, especially lending a hand in manufacturing. I was the only member of staff working in sales at the start so I travelled a great deal throughout Germany on behalf of the company.

**Bruno Wienecke** For me personally, the anniversary is a chance to look back on the biggest part of my working life. I worked at ASSMANN for 37 years. I cherish my memories more and more with each year that passes since my last working day there.

## Mr Ahsmann, you presided over enormous growth for the company in your time as Managing Director. Is there anything you're particularly proud of?

**Dieter Ahsmann** When I first started working here in 1968, I took over from my father Heinrich Ahsmann

and with it responsibility for 13 employees. By 1992, ASSMANN was employing 420 members of staff. We have been debt free since 1983, which I'm particularly happy about, not just because I helped achieved it, but because my son Dirk is continuing to keep it that way despite expanding the business.

**Dirk Aßmann** We currently employ 390 staff in Germany and internationally. Employee numbers are just one side of the story though. On the other we have revenue figures, i.e. the bottom line, and productivity per employee has risen dramatically.

**Dieter Ahsmann** I'm still blown away by this growth. Dirk and I aren't really sales people. We're more into technology and manufacturing –

I think they've been the core of the business so far.

## Have you ever worked on assembling the furniture during your time at ASSMANN?

**Dirk Aßmann** When I was 12, my first summer job was working on the company's production line.

”  
I took my father's carpentry workshop and made an industrial office furniture company out of it – or should I say mass production company.

Dieter Ahsmann  
Former Managing Director

**Dieter Ahsmann** When I started at ASSMANN, I had come from working in a 600-employee company. That was considered a huge business in those days. I became head of the department when I was 24, moving to head of manufacturing at 26. But my training meant I could only become the technical director, so I quit and took over my father's carpentry workshop. My boss at the time came to me and said: "Ahsmann, you must be joking, right? You're such a young guy to be where you are, and you're throwing it all away to become self-employed?"

## So you knew early on what you wanted. Has this attitude influenced how you have run the company?

**Dieter Ahsmann** Yes, you could say so. Incidentally, my father made office furniture so I decided to make that our core business. And that's how I took my father's carpenter's workshop and made an industrial office furniture company out of it – or should I say mass production company. We never manufactured individual pieces after that point. I still remember, it was the middle of the 1970s, and I came up with a whole furniture range whilst on the car phone to our technical director as I made my way from Nuremberg to Munich.

**Bruno Wienecke** Our competitors had just started producing steel-frame desks with supports, and our field sales reps wanted the same.

When Dieter returned to Melle that evening, he said: "I think it's going to be a successful product range." And he was right. That's when things really started to get going. ASSMANN produced office furniture at such a reasonable price that we



attracted new customer in no time. That was the start of series, or – more specifically – order-based production.

## Mr Ahsmann, thinking about your time as Managing Director, What are your fondest memories?

**Dieter Ahsmann** The head of loans at Kreissparkasse (a German savings bank) always approved my loans without hesitation. Of course, it didn't stay a secret as I barely had any collateral, but if anyone brought it up with him, he'd always say: "Dieter Ahsmann has paid back every loan instalment right on time. If he needs money, then he'll get it." Having someone to help me financially played a key role in advancing our company. →



2 Heinrich Ahsmann laid the foundations for ASSMANN in 1939 with the acquisition of the village carpenter's shop

3 Dieter Ahsmann was the second generation of the family to join the management board in 1968

4 The first truck for the ASSMANN office furniture factory in Westerhausen being admired by staff in 1960

5 Multifunctional and optimally configured to accommodate the technology of the time: Office furniture in the 1970s still provided space to use a slide projector



**Mr Aßmann, your father spent 25 years as Managing Director at ASSMANN. When did you take over the business?**

**Dirk Aßmann** I officially became Managing Director at the start of 2000, but I had worked at the company since mid-1995. At the time, I was in the operational planning department, which today is called Industrial Engineering.



Since retiring I've been visiting the company regularly and chatting with old colleagues. Our strong bonds still exist.

**Bruno Wienecke**  
Long-standing employee

**Do you remember much about your first few years as Managing Director?**

**Dirk Aßmann** I was working as a consultant in the beginning, but I was already involved in making certain decisions. In the five years up to taking over the management of the company, I was already forming an idea of how I wanted to change and structure it. When I then got the chance to become the Managing Director, I started expanding and engineering a

process of restructuring the company based on the Kaizen concept, which to put it another way means optimising our processes step by step.

**Do you talk about the business every now and then as father and son?**

**Dirk Aßmann** I always tell my father what I'm up to. Not always in great detail, but just generally how we aim to develop the company and what our plans are for the future. Sometimes he even calls in for a quick visit.

**Dieter Ahsmann** There are still a lot of employees that I know from my time working here. If they pass me on the forklift truck, they'll call out: "How's it going, Dieter?" I can't recall their name most of the time, but they know exactly who I am.

**Dirk Aßmann** Our employees are with us for a very long time. Once you've gotten used to our company culture, you usually stay until retirement.

**How would you describe the mindset at ASSMANN?**

**Dirk Aßmann** I treat people how I would want them to treat me. We're all on first-name terms, and I have the employees' birthdays in my calendar so I go up to them and wish them a happy birthday in person.

**Bringing working environments to life**

In 1972 ASSMANN made its debut appearance at ORGATEC, the leading international trade fair for modern working environments. The company only exhibited four pieces of furniture on that occasion. Their fair appearances became more slick over the years, but everything remained down to earth behind the scenes. At one trade fair exhibition in 1978, Dieter Ahsmann's wife made sandwiches for both the staff manning the stand and the visitors too. There was a real boom in sales for ASSMANN in 1984, as Bruno Wienecke recalls: "One day during the fair, my colleagues wrote on the back of a notepad: 'No more orders please!' We could barely keep up."

Appearances at trade fairs are still some of most important dates in the company's calendar. At ORGATEC 2018 in Cologne, ASSMANN had an exhibition space of over 700 square metres where they not only presented the latest in product developments and modern working environment concepts, they also revealed their new brand identity.



**Is this friendly attitude one reason why former employees like yourself, Mr Wienecke, stay connected with the company after retiring?**

**Bruno Wienecke** Absolutely! Sometimes I come by with my dog and chat with the staff. We still have a strong bond. The same goes for my former colleagues in field sales. We still have a great relationship, which is wonderful.

**Is it true that your daughter now works for ASSMANN?**

**Bruno Wienecke** Yes she does, she's a team leader and works in the planning department as a trained interior designer. When Tamara was looking for a new challenge in her career, she asked me if she could do an internship at the company. She got a three-month contract straight away, and now she's been working at ASSMANN for 20 years.

**Would you work at ASSMANN again if you were applying today?**

**Bruno Wienecke** There's only one answer to that: Yes! Usually when you're caught up in all the action, you become overly critical. Yet I only have good

memories of my time working at ASSMANN. Of course, there were highs and lows like there are in all careers, but I found those years very enjoyable. I was able to witness the boom at the beginning and even helped to shape it.

**Mr Aßmann, is there a particular achievement or award that you would consider your greatest success to date?**

**Dirk Aßmann** To be honest, I can't attach success to one single thing. We've won plenty of awards, which I'm really proud of. But I think the overall teamwork that makes us what we are as a company is more important as it's something quite special! →

6 Celebrating the company's anniversary: (left to right) Bruno Wienecke, Dieter Ahsmann and Dirk Aßmann

7 ASSMANN exhibiting for the first time at the ORGATEC trade fair in 1972

8 Classic yet modern and bold – the new ASSMANN brand identity is revealed for the first time at ORGATEC in 2018

We didn't win the awards because we desperately wanted to, actually we just documented what we do day in day out and won on that basis. Sometimes I've competed for awards just to see how we stack up against other medium-sized German businesses. And it seems we're doing something right. Sustainability is a topic very close my heart, for example. We've been nominated for the German Sustainability Award in addition to others, and we have won other accolades and awards too. That tells me that we're also on the right track when it comes to sustainability.

**Bruno Wienecke** I think one of Dirk Aßmann's biggest successes is having established cutting-edge manufacturing processes. You just have to see them for yourself! Even after being retired for three years now, I still visit the company every now and again to visit colleagues in the manufacturing department. I can't quite believe how much it has changed in such a short amount of time. It's constantly transforming, which is down to the Kaizen concept that Dirk introduced.



**Mr Ahsmann, would you enjoy swapping places with your son for a day and slipping back into the role as head of the company?**

**Dieter Ahsmann** You have to do what you can in the time that you live in. I couldn't manage to do what Dirk does today. I wouldn't be able to come up with a lot of the ideas because I don't have the necessary expertise, whether that's in IT or today's control system capabilities. I think Dirk is doing what possible in his time, but I also think that I did what was feasible at the time when I was running the business.



In the future, our clients will expect us to offer impressive office furnishing solutions, and we'll have to win them over with what we come up with.

Dirk Aßmann  
Managing Director

**What are the challenges that ASSMANN needs to address in the future?**

**Dirk Aßmann** We've already started working on future challenges. We will, of course, continue to manufacture office furniture, but we will sell something different too. Office furniture is increasingly becoming a secondary product. Instead, our clients expect us to provide conceptual solutions first and foremost, and we have to win them over with what we come up with. Having a good product alone won't be enough in the future. Instead you need to win customers with impressive service offerings as well as excellent customer service.

**Do you think you might start working on transitioning to concept sales over the next few years?**

**Dirk Aßmann** Of course! Our clients, the industry and the market are changing, and we need

**Excellent work**

ASSMANN has received numerous awards and commendations for its "Good Work" over the last 80 years. Founder Heinrich Ahsmann was awarded the Order of Merit in 1975, a special decoration bestowed by the Federal Republic of Germany. The company has also been delighted to receive smaller honours in addition to the big prestigious awards. In the middle of the 1980s, ASSMANN was praised for avoiding the use of Anglicisms in its business as much as possible.

The company now has a whole host of awards to be proud of: Examples include winning the Red Dot Design Award for the Applica docking system and being awarded TOP JOB labels year after year for being an excellent employer. What's more, the company has been commended for its training programme and more recently for its successful branding relaunch. The Melle-based family business has been featured in a list of the top 100 medium-sized German companies since 2018.



**9** ASSMANN relies on optimised and automated processes as part of one of Europe's most cutting-edge office furniture manufacturing facilities

**10** Almost seven years after being commissioned, the fully automated production line for manufacturing furniture fronts produces its millionth door in 2019

to reorient the company to ensure it is well positioned on the market in the long term to be fit for the future.

**Where do you think ASSMANN will be in another 80 years?**

**Dirk Aßmann** It depends on what my children want – the plan is for the next generation to take over the business. If it doesn't work out that way, we'll find another solution. But if my kids do want to take over managing the business and are prepared to run the company then I'll step down as soon as I can. I'm sure they have different ideas, and I don't want to get in the way of them bringing their ideas to life. But of course, I'll always be there for them to give advice if they want it.

**Dieter Ahsmann** I'm still very attached to the company. When I wake up in the morning, the first thing I do is go check if my old colleague has sent me the latest figures for new orders. It's purely out of curiosity, but I still want to know. If the figures are healthy, then I know that the business is doing really well.



**What are your hopes for ASSMANN in the future?**

**Dirk Aßmann** I'd be happy if we at least stay as successful as we are now.

**Bruno Wienecke** I hope it keeps its friendly character. It's something customers and especially employees really appreciate. Many people really care about working with and as part of a family business.

**Dieter Ahsmann** It'd be great if there were no changes to the family business. And the figures that I see every morning need to stay just as good – that's all I ask!

# FORWARD-LOOKING MEDIA COMPANY ROOTED IN HISTORY

**FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE first started thinking about relocating around 15 years ago. Waiting patiently to find the perfect premises paid off: The company's new two-building headquarters located on Jakob-Funke-Platz in Essen have all the passers-by turning their heads with its exterior design, while inside the furniture systems delight the employees.**

Location: Essen, Germany Client: FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE



located right next to Berliner Platz in Essen, just across from the Colosseum Theatre, the two buildings have proved to be real head turners since their construction at the end of 2018: On the left side is Medienhaus 1, a futuristic complex with a black façade that provides a good contrasting backdrop to the red and white FUNKE

MEDIENGRUPPE logo. To the right of that building is the media tower, a round tower structure with a silver façade. It's more dainty than its counterpart with its polar opposite design, but it is by no means any less exciting. The FUNKE NewsWall on the upper half of the exterior has a small but subtle touch of Piccadilly Circus about it, bringing London to the middle of the Ruhr val-

ley. This 180° LED ad space measures 7.5 metres high and is located on the side of the building facing the public. It displays information such as domestic and international news, sports results, celebrity news, upcoming events and the weather.

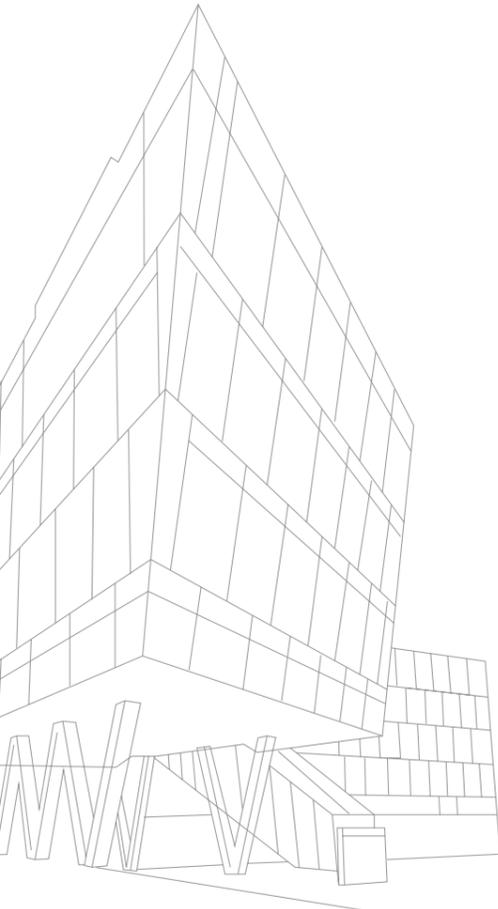
#### **BUILDINGS WITH STRONG SYMBOLISM**

"The two buildings' architecture tells a story," reveals Heiko Hansler. As Head

of Real Estate and Facility Management at FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE, there's no one else who knows more about the new headquarters than him. "The black exterior on Medienhaus 1 represents both black coal beds, showing the link to our region, and black print, alluding to our newspapers," says the head of the relocation project. In contrast, the media tower's bright design is reminiscent of a

printing cylinder, which combined with the state-of-the-art LED billboard, creates a visual representation of the FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE core business: print and digital. As you enter the black building complex, you immediately spot another special feature: Information is displayed using LEDs just like the NewsWall on the outside of the media tower. However it's not a →

1 The FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE headquarters, split over two buildings, are a real eye-catcher



2

wall that's the backdrop, but the stairs in the middle of the foyer. The steps lead up to the first floor, their colours changing constantly as you ascend in response to the video projected onto them. Waiting for you at the top is another highlight, which the Melle-based company ASSMANN played a key role in bringing to life: the NewsDesk.

**TRUE TO STYLE**

The department looks just like the newsrooms you usually see in films: One wall is covered in screens, flickering with the latest news from the region and from across the globe. In front of that lies a close-knit grouping of white desks where editors sit, preparing news reports that have just come in for publication in a variety of print and digital media that FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE produces. Employees call these desks "dragon desks" as they are arranged in such a way that, if you use your imagination, they look like a dragon slithering its way through the room. The desks are from the ASSMANN range and provide workspace for 30 journalists. The NewsDesk isn't the only place where office furni-

re systems from Melle are used. Strictly speaking, all 1,200 employees working in the new two-building headquarters use ASSMANN sit/stand desks with electric height adjustment. The offices where the editor-in-chief of WAZ (Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung) and the sports and local news editors work, as well as the FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE IT, logistics, controlling, marketing and HR departments, are all open plan. The ergonomic workstations add an extra advantage that employees really appreciate. Room-in-room solutions were installed to ensure that employees can hold meetings or make telephone calls in peace despite the open-plan space. Manually adjustable Pontis desks with round desktops are used in these areas, offering ample space for notebooks, laptops or a cup of coffee.

**EXPERIENCE SPEAKS TO QUALITY**

There was also space for Allvia sliding cabinets in the new premises. Featuring generous storage space, they have an extra use as room dividers to create different working areas within the open-plan office. They are completely white just like all of the other ASSMANN desks in the two buildings, which was a conscious choice: "We wanted to create a cheerful, work-positive atmosphere," explains Heiko Hansler. "And since the plan was to make the floors dark,



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meaning they're less likely to show wear and tear, we chose brightly coloured furniture to contrast". This furnishing concept also reflects the exterior designs of the two buildings. It's no accident that ASSMANN systems were the furniture of choice: "We just love the functionality, price and design of the products," explains Heiko Hansler enthusiastically. It wasn't the first project between FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE and the Melle-based experts in modern working environments. They first made contact through Essen-based specialist partner Beck Objekteinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG, but in some cases they got in touch ASSMANN directly. "We came to know the company as a decent and highly qualified partner through our first collaborations together," says the →



**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Furnishing the newly built headquarters

regional media, women's magazines and TV guides, as well as digital publications.

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Beck Objekteinrichtungen GmbH & Co. KG, Essen

**Brief:**  
Open-plan spaces accommodating 1,300 employees from various departments were to be furnished with furniture and decoration in a uniform design.

**Client:**  
FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE GmbH & Co. KGaA

**Challenge:**  
The furniture should create a friendly, work-positive atmosphere and enable employees to work ergonomically.

**Client details:**  
FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE is a media company with sites across Germany. It covers



4

- 2 Eye-catching technology: LED stairs in the foyer are used to display news
- 3 The NewsDesk is furnished with ASSMANN desks featuring electric height adjustment
- 4 Height-adjustable Pontis bistro tables provide useful workspaces in the small meeting areas



project manager. "We had a great time working with them again this time too".

**OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD**

While the offices are furnished to contemporary standards in design and functionality, there is one place in Medienhaus 1 that seems to have been frozen in time: The historic "Founders' Room" on the fourth floor is a faithful reconstruction of the room from the old publishing building, using all original furniture and equipment. The room's location in the building is deliberate: It's on the way to the new FUNKE lounge, a venue used for exclusive events. The design of this events space contrasts sharply with the Founders' Room next door. Positioning the two rooms so close together is another hidden symbol in the design of the building, representing the close connection between vision and tradition at FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE. Spread over a total of 36,000 square metres, the buildings at

Jakob-Funke-Platz 1 host even more facilities: The ground floor of the media tower recently became home to the FUNKE kiosk where visitors can buy tickets for events and flick through the company's range of publications while enjoying a delicious Italian ice cream or coffee. Employees have access to a super stylish restaurant with outdoor

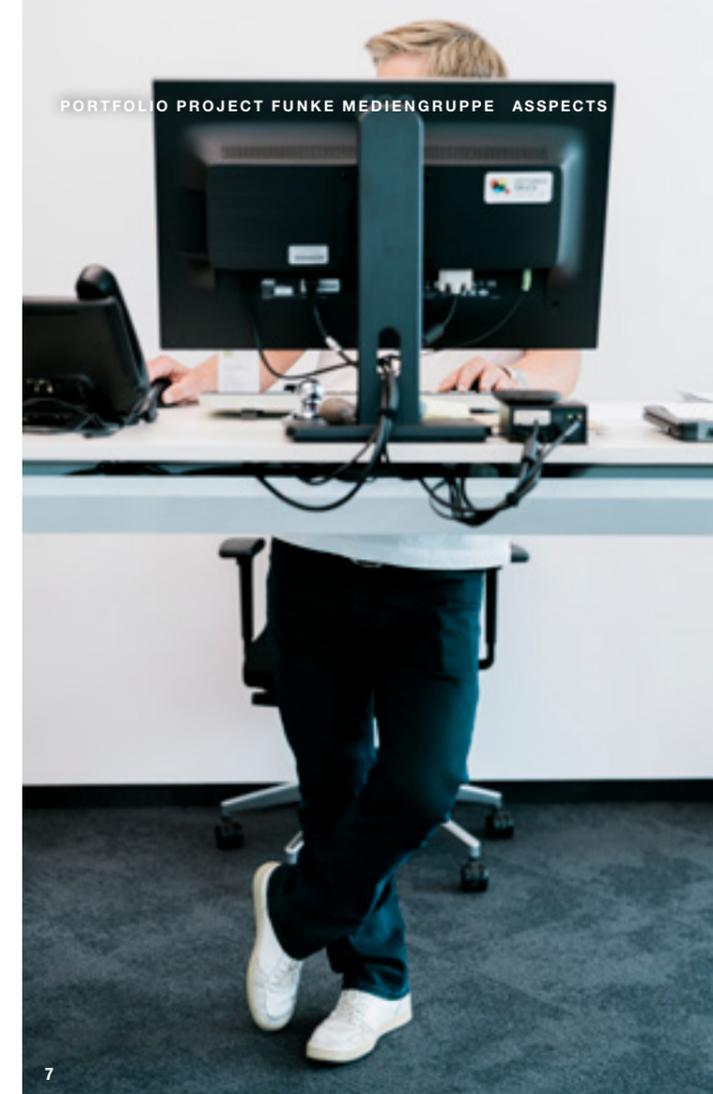


You're always on equal terms when you work with ASSMANN – it's extremely professional.



Heiko Hansler  
Head of Real Estate and Facility Management at  
FUNKE MEDIENGRUPPE

- 5 All of the offices in Medienhaus 1 and the media tower have the same furnishings
- 6 The interior design of the headquarters mainly uses dark and bright colours
- 7 Employees enjoying the ergonomic desks



seating, a gym and massage room in Medienhaus 1. The buildings also include spacious meeting rooms. Other businesses will soon benefit from these huge new headquarters as the company leases floor space to quite literally open the building up to the outside world. A crèche has been the first to take up the offer, and Heiko Hansler expects more organisations, companies or start-ups to follow suit. ■



**Ärpel un Schlaat**

**Potatoes, but not as you know them**

If you mix mashed potato with fresh endive salad and some cubes of bacon or blood sausage, depending on your taste, then you'll get a true Ruhr valley classic: "Ärpel un Schlaat" (meaning potato and salad in the local dialect).

You can find a tasty take on the recipe in German here: [www.bildderfrau.de/diaet-ernaehrung/rezepte/article214388079/Endiviensalat-mit-Kartoffeln-und-Speck.html](http://www.bildderfrau.de/diaet-ernaehrung/rezepte/article214388079/Endiviensalat-mit-Kartoffeln-und-Speck.html)

# GETTING ALONG SWIMMINGLY

**Before 50NRTH GmbH relocated, its two managing directors Christian Maas and Christoph Schmitz asked their team for suggestions on the furnishings. There was one answer from the employees that they heard over and over again: a request for ergonomic workstations.**

**Location:** Wittlich, Germany **Client:** 50NRTH





# 50NRTH

## PROJECT DATA

**Project:**  
Furnishing 800-square-metre office spaces in a newly built logistics centre

**Specialist retail partner:**  
umgesetzt – geplante arbeitswelten GmbH, Trier

**Client:**  
50NRTH GmbH

**Client details:**  
50NRTH GmbH represents big-name brands of innovative outdoor and garden products, such as sheds and gazebos, in Germany and Austria. The company also operates its own online shop.

**Brief:**  
The rooms were to be furnished with ergonomic workstations to support employee well-being.

**Challenge:**  
The four-person offices were to be furnished with systems that were practical and attractive.



- 1 At 50NRTH the focus is on creating a pleasant and open atmosphere
- 2 **Canvaro** desks with electric height adjustment are just the answer to employee requests for ergonomic workstations
- 3 You can easily adjust the motorised **Canvaro** desks with just the touch of a button
- 4 The lockable **Pontis** open space container provides handy storage for office stationery and personal belongings

An 8,000-square-metre logistics centre, featuring 800-square-metre offices, was built in a new Wittlich business park in 2018. The centre was constructed in a possibly record-breaking time of just seven months. Employees at the garden and outdoor product wholesaler had a good reason to be happy: Their request for ergonomic workstations was not only heard but put into action. The company came across ASSMANN when looking for the right office furniture systems. “The electrically adjustable desks, the design and quality – ASSMANN had all of our needs covered,” says Christoph Schmitz enthusiastically. Schmitz and his business partner didn’t need any time to think about it: The new offices were to be fitted with furniture manufactured in the Osnabrück area. ASSMANN then

put the company in touch with specialist partner “umgesetzt – geplante arbeitswelten GmbH” from Trier. There was one thing during the collaboration that the Wittlich-based outdoor and garden experts really loved: Using a 3D model and a VR headset, the two managing directors could take a virtual tour of the office complete with the furnishings before any work had even taken place. In reality, the offices were still completely empty. “That allowed us to get an idea of what to expect in advance if we were to approve the proposed design,” recalls Christian Maas. And because they liked what they saw, they approved the plans. “There was just one quote and one order, which is rare for a project of this size,” says the young entrepreneur, acknowledging how well the move went.



Collaborating with ASSMANN and specialist partner “umgesetzt” was a great success. They just have perfect chemistry.



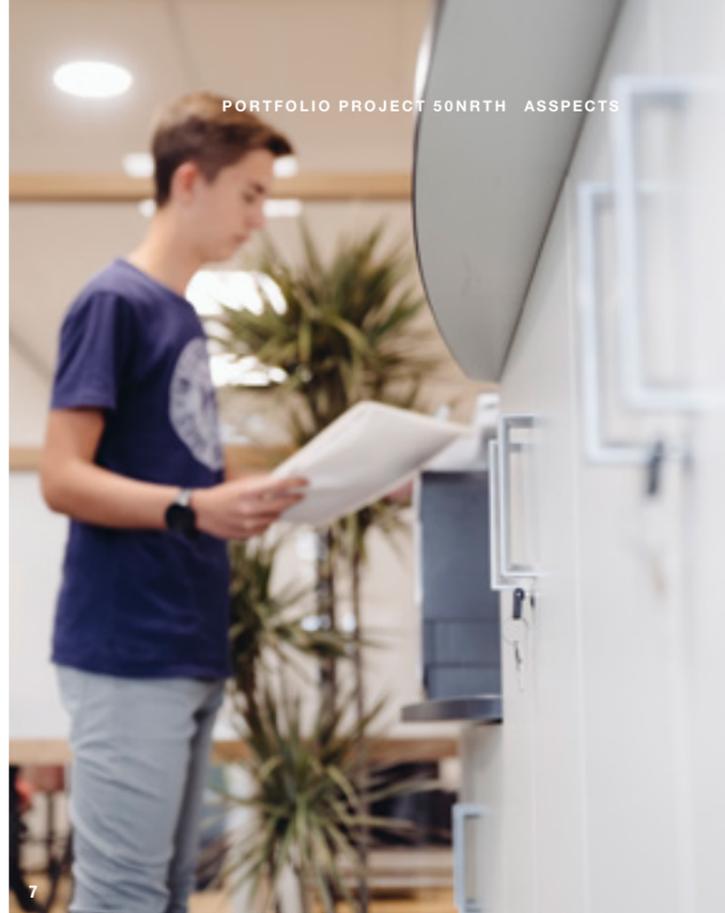
Christoph Schmitz  
Managing Director of 50NRTH GmbH

## FRESH AND BRIGHT FURNITURE FROM MELLE

The concept used light-coloured furnishings to create a pleasant atmosphere, instantly winning over the project managers as soon as they saw it. All offices come with white lockable Allvia cabinets, featuring rounded tabletops with black laser-cut trims in a melamine-slate style. There’s also space for a printer or to store files on top depending on what is needed. Every employee has their own open space container on wheels, ensuring stationery such as staplers or hole punches are always in reach and personal belongings are neatly stowed

away. There are slightly smaller versions for the three trainees currently working at 50NRTH, but their more compact size doesn’t stop them from providing ample storage space. Both of these storage systems are in the Pontis range and come in white like the Allvia cabinets. Carpeted floors and light-grey partition walls dampen the room acoustics. All offices come furnished with white Canvaro desks featuring electric height adjustment. The new office furnishings were a worthwhile investment, demonstrating the benefit of listening to employee requests: Many of them regularly use the handy →





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communal areas have been designed: There's an open lounge on the first floor with kitchen facilities, fruit bowl and bean-to-cup coffee machine, and the employees can help themselves to it all whenever they like free of charge. Christoph Schmitz and Christian Maas looked to ASSMANN once more to furnish this space: Two elegant Solos high desks make staying for longer all too tempting. For example, the desks are perfect for taking short breaks or holding creative meetings, whether standing up or sitting on the height-appropriate seating. A separate room is available on the ground floor for lunch breaks and is also furnished with Solos high desks as well as stylish Pontis tables.

**READY FOR GROWTH**

The fact that 50NRTH had to relocate to bigger premises last year because of space constraints shows that they were successfully managing to retain

adjustable height function to work standing up, relieving the strain on their backs. Ergonomic workstations aren't the only helpful way for the company to keep their employees healthy, There's also a gym with state-of-the-art equipment on the ground floor that staff are free to use.

**SUCCESSFUL INCENTIVES**

With an average age of 34 between them, the 33-person 50NRTH team is very young, meaning most of the employees belong to a generation that expects a lot from its employers. In addition to flexitime, for example, employees also want little extras as part of daily office life. The Wittlich-based company seems to be doing a good job of fulfilling these requirements, as the office mood is relaxed and employees get along swimmingly. And it's not hard to see why – 50NRTH has plenty to offer, especially when it comes to how the



**A classic autumn treat**

In wine-growing regions such as the Mosel, it's not autumn if there's no Zwiebelkuchen, or onion tart. After the occasionally eye-watering task of chopping up the onions, the rest of the preparation is pretty simple. This autumn classic is best enjoyed fresh from the oven accompanied by a glass of Federweisser, a fermented young white wine from the region.

*If you want to make Zwiebelkuchen yourself, here's the recipe (in German):*  
[www.springlane.de/magazin/zwiebelkuchen-selber-machen](http://www.springlane.de/magazin/zwiebelkuchen-selber-machen)

staff. Equally successful was the furnishing design for the new premises. They weren't just spacious enough to cope with more growth as expected, but they were also furnished with practical and attractive furniture from Melle that the employees loved. A Solos high desk was also placed in the reception area, giving new employees a good impression of the company as soon as they enter the building. "We would happily use ASSMANN again for any other projects," assures Christoph Schmitz. "We've actually already placed another order." ASSMANN and 50NRTH – perfect partners. ■

5 Meet and eat: The Solos high desk is a popular spot for short meetings or coffee breaks

6 The floating tabletop is a special feature of the Solos high desk

7 The lockable Alivia cabinets provide ample storage space for important files

8 The 50NRTH team in front of the newly built logistics centre in Wittlich

# TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME WITH THE ASSMANN VAN

As it's the company's 80th anniversary, we're travelling back in time. There are plenty of landmark moments along our journey through the company's history, starting with its founding and the development of a cutting-edge production facility in Melle, all the way through to ASSMANN's present day successes.



## 1960s

### THE JOURNEY STARTS TO GATHER PACE

Dieter Ahsmann is the second generation to join the management board in 1968. With Dieter at the helm, the company starts to specialise in office furniture and grows into an industrial operation.

 Fish fingers start to become a favourite in West Germany in the early 1960s, especially among children. Breaded fish bites (Fischhappen) become available to buy in East Germany in 1970.

## 1980s

### MORE POWER

Acquiring its own fleet of trucks means that ASSMANN can start delivering office furniture in 1980, ensuring customers receive their orders on time. At the same time, new ranges are developed and brought to market.

 Many West German households buy microwaves in the 1980s. It's no surprise that fast food and ready meals become an increasingly common sight at the dinner table around the same time.

## 2010s

### IN THE FAST LANE

Commissioning the new machinery room and automating the production line for the furniture carcasses turn ASSMANN into one of the most cutting-edge furniture manufacturers in Europe. In addition to a whole host of awards, the ASSMANN celebrates its largest sales growth in the company's history in 2018.

 Increasing numbers of people make a conscious decision to give up meat and animal products in the 2010s. Vegetarian and vegan foods are more popular than ever.

## 2019

### HEADING TO THE FUTURE



In 2019, the Melle-based family business celebrates its 80th anniversary. A new production line for furniture carcasses is commissioned in the same year – a pioneering move for ASSMANN. A lot has changed visually too: The company's new brand identity gives it a contemporary yet timeless look.

 New food trends such as super fruits, Asian food bowls and sweet-filled bubble waffles may sound unusual, but they introduce flavours and foods from all over the world into our diets.

## 2000s

### FULL THROTTLE

The mobile pedestal assembly line is fully automated as part of the company's efforts to gradually perfect its processes. ASSMANN grows its international presence with the opening of a showroom in London.

 Conscious living and eating: Whole food meals, salads, vegetables and fish become more popular. Sales of organic products also increase.

## 1990s

### CHANGING DIRECTION

The production facility in Melle is expanded extensively in 1998. Dirk Aßmann is the third generation of the family to take over the company in 1999 and introduces the Kaizen concept to help optimise manufacturing processes.

 A little piece of the Far East in Germany: Asian cuisine, such as sushi and Thai dishes, becomes increasingly popular with German food lovers in the 1990s.

## 1930s

### OFF WE GO

Heinrich Ahsmann acquires the village carpenter's workshop in Melle in 1939. His leadership sees the small operation turn into a successful crafting business employing 15 people.

 In 1933, "Eintopfsonntag" or "Stew Sunday" is introduced in Germany. It is to encourage people to eat one-pot meals, such as stews and soups, every second Sunday of the month.

## 1970s

### TAKING IT UP A GEAR

The company publishes its first catalogue and starts to appear at trade fairs to publicise ASSMANN outside of Melle.

 Eating habits become more international: The hamburger arrives in Germany following the opening of an American fast-food chain in Munich in 1971.



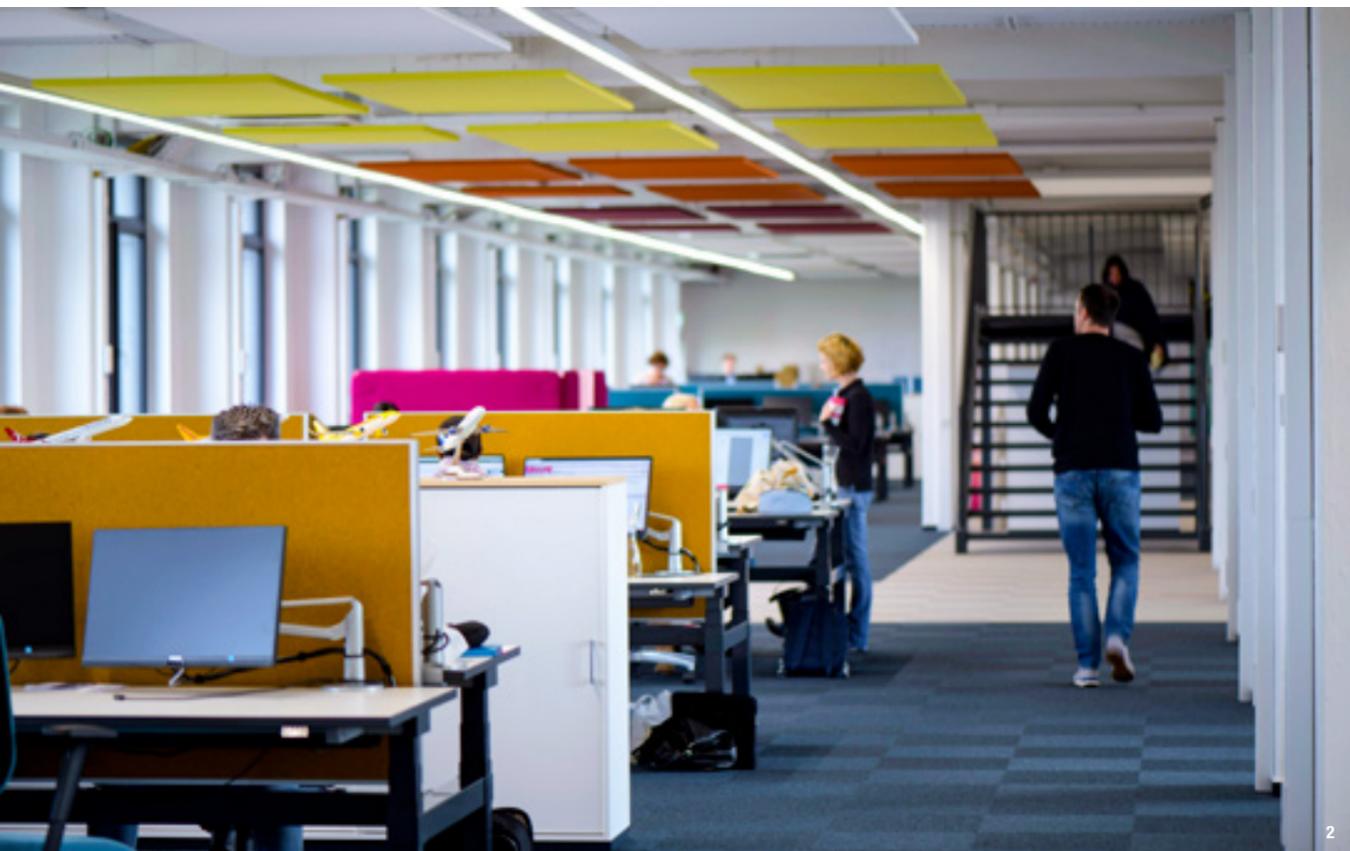
# ALL INCLUSIVE COMFORT

Location: Rastatt, Germany Client: l'tur GmbH



1 **Pontis** desk systems can be placed anywhere in the room using their wheels

2 **Viteco** partition wall systems act as a handy privacy screen in open-plan offices and improve room acoustics



**When company representatives first stepped foot in the former Badisches Tagblatt publishing house, the smell of the printing machines still hung in the air. Interconnected stretches of conveyor chains were the predominant feature. Now, one year on, the travel agency's 200 employees sit at modern, ergonomic workstations furnished with ASSMANN systems.**

Philipp Nutsch, Head of Marketing at l'tur, was delighted with the results: "Bright colours and lights replaced

the black printer's ink, giving the space a completely fresh look and feel." The company's decision to move 12 kilometres down the road to Rastatt from Baden-Baden was a pragmatic one: The travel company, a specialist in last-minute holidays, had called its city-centre premises home since it was founded in 1987, but they were no longer able to ensure the level of comfort required for employees, partners and customers. The company wanted to leave behind the site's poor transport links, lack of parking spots and three floors of tiny separate offices. This meant Philipp Nutsch and his colleagues from the senior project team had a lot of work to do. He can still picture the doubtful looks on the employees' faces on the open day, recalling: "We invited the employees to come discover the new premises in their unfinished state." The scepticism was palpable, especially among those who were used to the charm of the old headquarters located in a beautiful art nouveau building in Baden-Baden. This, a large open office right next to railway line used by noisy freight trains, was to be

the new premises? Philipp Nutsch and his team knew that the end result needed to be impressive.

**NEXT STOP: A MODERN WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

Six l'tur employees from different departments spent over a year alongside their regular jobs creating a basic concept for relocating and furnishing new offices. Together with the works council and Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG, who is also a specialist partner of ASSMANN, they started to define the first key features: For example, there were to be no walls but separate areas instead, such as "meeting places" for constructive discussions and "home-bases" as fixed hubs for the different departments. With these requirements set as the basic criteria, the team then considered requests and suggestions developed in workshops with representatives from each department. It soon became apparent that handy storage spaces and reliable acoustic solutions in particular were required for the prospective open-plan office concept. "We took a look at the ASSMANN portfolio and were really impressed by the huge range of options," recalls Philipp Nutsch. →



**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Creating new workspaces in an old printworks

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG,  
Hausach, Germany

**Client:**  
l'tur GmbH

**Client details:**  
l'tur GmbH is a German travel agency headquartered in Rastatt. l'tur was founded in Baden-Baden in 1987 and devised the idea of the last-minute holiday. The travel company is now a specialist in impromptu holiday bookings.

**Brief:**  
Modern workspaces needed to be created within an open-plan office, providing both areas to work quietly as well as to communicate and share ideas.

**Challenge:**  
The new premises had high ceilings and only a few walls so professional acoustic solutions were required.



We wanted to create a look and a feel that matched what we do in the tourism industry, and we managed to get it spot on.



**Philipp Nutsch**  
Head of Marketing at l'tur GmbH

He and his team were completely won over by the products' design, ergonomics and value for money. "ASSMANN offers exceptional customer service," says the Marketing Director enthusiastically. So it was an obvious choice: The new spaces were to be kitted out with office furniture from Melle. With the concept ready, it was time to get down to business. Just as with the planning, staff were involved in the relocation process: Employees diligently pitched in, painting and decorating. With everyone mucking in, they arrived at their goal for a state-of-the-art office right on schedule. A wave of excitement washed over the workforce once the move was completed. All initial scepticism vanished, and a great weight was lifted from the project team.

**COMFORT AND FLEXIBILITY**

The only traces left of the former print-works were the high ceilings and spacious layout of the premises. The new l'tur office stretches over 3,000 square metres and spans two floors, which are connected by a wide, open staircase. This fitted the company's philosophy perfectly. One of the key tenets of this

philosophy is being free to talk and share ideas with other colleagues. Even though the various departments still sit in their own "working zones" for practical reasons, they are always approachable because there are no walls. Viteco table-top partition wall systems from ASSMANN ensure that acoustics are dampened despite the open-plan design. For them to be fully effective, the fabric-covered, sound-absorbing partition wall systems needed to be professionally fitted to the desks. As a specialist partner of ASSMANN, Streit Service & Solution are experts in how to use partition wall systems correctly, and they helped l'tur set them up professionally. Viteco offers other benefits besides great acoustics: handy privacy screen so you can focus on your work and visually attractive features thanks to fabric coverings in different colours. An attractive working environment is very important at l'tur. If you're in the business of selling relaxation, you should also feel as comfortable as possible too, and the desk systems used – Canvaro Compact and Solos – were made for just that. The two ranges blend into today's office environments perfectly with

their clean designs and desktops in white and wood-style veneers. The office focuses on creating a real holiday vibe with small "meeting places" in the form of beach huts and backdrops made from photo wallpaper depicting blue sea, palm trees and a front-facing view of a giant aeroplane. As well as looking the part, Canvaro Compact desks offer a particular level of comfort and flexibility thanks to their optional height adjustment. The

last-minute holiday experts attach great importance to comfort and flexibility. Examples of this in action include the company's trust-based working time model and the hot-desking concept that gives all employees the freedom to choose a new workstation every day within their department's "homebase". That means desks should be left clear so that another colleague can work on it the next day. The Allvia storage solutions from ASSMANN help support this

clean desk policy. With simple white and wood-veneer tops, the sliding door cabinets not only act as handy little room dividers, they also offer ample space for documents and office stationery. Rails and LiftTec monitor arms from ASSMANN make for a tidy workspace at l'tur. They are used to attach monitors, lamps and other handy components to the desk, allowing the desktops to be kept clear and the full space to be used.

**3 Solos** desk systems fitted with rails and LiftTec monitor arms make the working environment neat and tidy





**A South German favourite**

No matter whether you call the dish Spätzle, Spätzli or Spatzen, it all tastes delicious – especially when it's home made. This pasta dish comes in many different varieties and is served as either a side dish or a main meal. Käsespätzle, a hearty cheese version of the dish, is a particular favourite.

You can find a recipe for the classic version in German here:

[www.emmikochteinfach.de/selbstgemachte-spaetzle](http://www.emmikochteinfach.de/selbstgemachte-spaetzle)

**A QUICK CHAT**

There are several communication areas for constructive meetings on the upper floor of the new l'tur headquarters. The Solos high desk from ASSMANN in the office's open-plan area is one of these. Its tabletop at standing height makes it perfect for short meetings, which can be held sitting down using the high-seated chairs if preferred. Laptops and other mobile devices can be used with ease thanks to the easily concealable plug sockets and USB charge points embedded in the tabletop. l'tur employees can retreat to one of the three conference and meeting rooms for longer or confidential meetings. The managers looked to ASSMANN to furnish these spaces too: Folding tables and seminar desks from the Pontis range offer flexibility and functionality with a stylish design. Folding tables provide workspace for larger meetings where everyone is sat around the table, while seminar desks are for individual use. Both desk types can be easily moved

around the room in any configuration thanks to their high-quality wheels. The tops of the folding tables can be tilted 90 degrees by hand, allowing many tables to be pushed together to save space. The height-adjustable Pontis seminar desks also have moveable tops that can be easily tilted into a position that the user finds most comfortable for them to write upon. A beautiful overall aesthetic has been created in the conference rooms from using ASSMANN furniture combined with different eye-catching interior design features, such as spectacular graffitied wall art and a sky-blue ceiling evoking the sunny skies of future holiday destinations.



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4 Employees look to the **Solos** high desks to use for short team meetings with a few participants

5 **Allvia** sliding door cabinets provide storage and give structure to the open-plan area



5



**ALL INCLUSIVE**

The “Marketplace” plays a big role in the newly established work comfort concept at l'tur. It's a secluded area where employees can discuss confidential topics. All kinds of seating in all sorts of configurations are available in the open-plan area. Employees have a free supply of cappuccinos, espressos and other hot drinks from top-of-the-range coffee machines, as well as unlimited still and sparkling water on tap. They can also fill up the large fridges with their own supplies for the day or the whole week. This is particularly handy for those who like to rustle up a hot meal at lunch time using the four-burner hob in the state-of-the-art kitchen area. “Employees

are reacting really positively to having this cooking option,” smiles project team member Anna Hiesinger. Working in HR, she knows only too well how important these extras are to retaining employees at the company as well as attracting new talent. Employment rates in Baden-Württemberg are extremely high, making it all the more crucial to be seen as an attractive employer on the job market, she explains, adding: “Our goal was to create a really relaxed working environment here”. And they achieved just

that with outstanding success thanks to the tailored advice and strong support they received from Streit Service & Solution and the practical and attractive ASSMANN products they used. Rating for their joint adventure: Five stars!

# THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS CAN'T

**DEKRA works towards greater occupational and personal safety, whether it's through independent vehicle inspections, training for handling lithium batteries safely or issuing certifications. It's not surprising then that the company plays it "safe" when selecting businesses to partner with, like when its new office in the Austrian capital of Vienna needed furnishing.**

Location: Vienna, Austria Client: DEKRA

The spacious rooms and hallways of the DEKRA offices in Vienna still sparkle throughout from their newness, while the smell of natural wood and freshly laid floors fills the air. The company has only been in its new business premises in the Austrian capital for a few weeks. This can be found on Lemböckgasse in the 23rd district of the million-strong city, a location easily accessible by public transport, benefiting employees and customers alike. The premises, spread over 465 square metres, include a reception, meeting rooms, social spaces and a total of 11 offices for one to two people, providing workspaces for two dozen employees.

## THE RIGHT BLEND OF GREEN AND WHITE

The design of the rooms is simple, featuring lots of straight lines and the DEKRA colours green and white throughout, but

the bright colours and attention to detail make them look warm and welcoming. Clear lines and a practical layout create an aesthetic that is underpinned by the range of ASSMANN office furniture. For example, 24 workstations were furnished with modern and sleekly designed Rondana desks that can be used in a variety of different ways thanks to their range of function and configuration options. Allvia cabinets and Pontis mobile pedestals complete the attractive and cost-effective combination of work and storage space. Soundproof partition walls from the Viteco range enable employees in multi-occupancy offices to concentrate on their work in peace. Sleek white Solos tables make the spacious conference rooms welcoming spaces for meetings with business clients or between staff. Anyone wanting to have a coffee or a snack between or during meetings can make good use of the



The fact that ASSMANN had experience of furnishing DEKRA offices in other locations was really beneficial to this project.

Martin Ruß  
Managing Director of  
DEKRA Austria Automotive GmbH

1 Perfect for quick chats: The **Rondana** desks come complete with conference tables

2 In addition to **Pontis** mobile pedestals, all workstations are fitted with **Viteco** partition wall systems



Pontis and Solos bistro tables in the kitchen area. The furnishing concept, which blends functionality neatly with aesthetics, strongly adheres to the DEKRA corporate identity guidelines for the design's technical specifications and colour scheme. Martin Ruß, Managing Director of DEKRA Austria Automotive GmbH and one of the project managers for the move, sees the eye-catching interior design as a success of the long-term collaboration between the two partners: "The fact that ASSMANN has experience of furnishing DEKRA offices in other locations was really beneficial to this project," he says. "It not only saved a great deal of time, it also meant processes could run smoothly."

**GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT** DEKRA and ASSMANN have been developing a great working relationship for years and have already successfully completed a few projects together. The Austrian branch of the

organisation runs several companies within Vienna and the metropolitan area, which were to be brought together under one roof. "We had the idea to join forces in one location for a while to make it easier to work together and →



to boost team spirit,” explains Martin Ruß. “However, each business line has different demands that need to be taken into account when choosing the premises, such as good public transport connections or technical requirements. We were also looking for offices that met our demands without requiring major renovation works,” he says, describing the initial stage of the project. Searching for the right premises took a long time, but they appeared to have found something that ticked all the boxes at the start of 2019. A building matching their requirements was found. They soon came to an agreement with the landlord and started making firm plans. Office planner Bruno Horak from Concept Place 16 e.U. was commissioned to head up the project, while the DEKRA central purchasing department in Stuttgart was instructed to search for a suitable partner to furnish the offices. German colleagues suggested ASSMANN as they’d had good experiences working with the company before. It was a recommendation that Martin Ruß still refers to as “a blessing”. At first everything was running like clockwork, with the planer’s first detailed concept ready by mid-February, but then DEKRA received some bad news in the middle of March: The landlord informed them at short notice that he had decided not to grant them the new lease agreement. It was a major blow to the project team as the preparations for the move, which was scheduled for 1 July, were already in full swing. The team’s chosen partners were also well underway with their own preparations. But then they were saved by pure chance: Employees discovered another empty office space less than 100 metres away that matched their requirements even more



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closely. They managed to get straight down to business within four weeks, especially as templates and planning stages only needed minimal adjustment.

**A HUGE SUCCESS AGAINST THE CLOCK**  
The furniture was ordered from ASSMANN at the beginning of May, and just a few weeks later it was on DEKRA’s doorstep. The perfect execution of the whole process impressed the employees: “ASSMANN was already a cut above the rest when it came to quality and price,” says Martin Ruß. “But what really made an impression on us and won us over was the company’s flexibility and solution-oriented

approach. Despite having such a short time frame, ASSMANN never faltered in their service quality and appreciation for client needs, no matter how pressed for time we were,” he praises. The offices had to be up and running

- 3 The **Pontis** bistro tables make people want to stay and sit a while in the kitchen area
- 4 Meeting rooms in the new DEKRA offices are furnished with **Solos** conference tables

with all the furnishings fitted by 30 June. The fact that the new offices were located on the sixth floor did not make the time pressure any easier. But this challenge was overcome too thanks to a great deal of commitment, great planning and not least a goods lift in the building. The new office opened right on schedule on 1 July 2019. Today, the clients and Martin Ruß in particular are still extremely happy with the results: “Even though there are still one or two small things that we need to adjust, I’m absolutely thrilled with the outcome,” he says. “And I’m not the only one: The fact that our landlord keeps asking us if we can let prospective but unconvinced tenants see the offices as a kind of showroom just goes to show that we must have done something right with this project.” He says

he would always be happy to work with ASSMANN again. The new partner impressed him with its products and prices as well as its professional approach. ■



**PROJECT DATA**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Project:</b><br>Furniture and fittings for offices   | <b>39,000 people in over 50 countries across five continents.</b>   |
| <b>Office planner:</b><br>Bruno Horak – Concept Place 16 e.U.   | <b>Brief:</b><br>The plans were to merge several branches in the Vienna metropolitan area into one location.  |
| <b>Client:</b><br>DEKRA Austria Automotive GmbH   | <b>Challenge:</b><br>The order needed to be completed and the office up and running in a very short time frame. The office’s location on the sixth floor of the building complicated the project. |
| <b>Client details:</b><br>DEKRA is one of the world’s leading expert organisations. It employs around |   |



**A royal treat**  
Sachertorte is a speciality of Viennese cuisine, featuring chocolate icing and an apricot jam filling. Cooking apprentice Franz Sacher was just 16 years old when he invented the cake for Prince Metternich in 1832. Sacher’s son Eduard refined the recipe, creating the cake we know today.

You can find the recipe for this real Viennese treat here: [www.austria.info/de/service-fakten/osterreichische-kuche/rezepte-aus-osterreich/sachertorte](http://www.austria.info/de/service-fakten/osterreichische-kuche/rezepte-aus-osterreich/sachertorte)



4



# COMFORTABLE LEARNING

**Enrolments at Paderborn University have been rising for years. Over 20,000 students are currently enrolled with over 2,000 employees on top of that – and the figures are set to increase in the future. Building I was constructed on the campus in 2018 to cope with increasing demands for more space. The new building’s interior design is impressive with its state-of-the-art furnishing concept from ASSMANN, combining comfort and functionality.**

**Location:** Paderborn, Germany **Client:** Paderborn University

**A**cademia in Germany is changing: New degree courses and learning methods are being developed. Laptops and the internet are now just as much a part of the everyday routine at university as the library and canteen. Places to relax are becoming more popular in open-plan study areas while there is a growing demand for state-of-the-art working environments where employees and students can not only work in peace, but feel at home. Paderborn University also found that this was what their staff and students wanted and accommodated these requests in the newly constructed building. Located right at the main entrance to the university, the new building is seamlessly connected to the main block that was opened in 1972. Its modern architecture with clean lines and generous use of windows makes for a fascinating contrast with the old

building complex. The new building has been home to the university’s library and study centre since 2018. In addition to student workspaces, Building I also houses offices for the International Office and Student Advice Centre. These various areas required sophisticated furnishing concepts tailored to their individual needs. While offices for employees required practical storage solutions, the furniture for the students to work on needed to be easily adjustable or fitted with technical features. ASSMANN had already been working with the university for several years. University project managers working on the new construction were deeply impressed by the Melle-based family business with its 80 years of experience and furniture systems boasting strong track records on quality. This made ASSMANN the first choice for furnishing the new building. →



#### **Beloved bread**

From hearty pumpernickel bread to light and fluffy loaves – in Germany there’s a huge variety of bread to choose from. “Paderborner Landbrot”, or Paderborn farmhouse loaf, is a real classic. It’s a light, rye-wheat bread that’s hugely popular, even outside its homeland of eastern Westphalia, thanks to its rich taste and long shelf life.

*Recipes for budding master bakers:*

[www.kuechenmomente.de/paderborner-landbrot](http://www.kuechenmomente.de/paderborner-landbrot)

**1** Paderborn University’s new Building I is fitted out with furnishing solutions from Melle



2



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### COMFORTABLE LOUNGE FURNITURE

Annette Lukies and her colleagues from the Infrastructure and Commercial Facility Management team at Paderborn University had clear plans for furnishing the new build. “It’s not just the functionality that’s important to us. We want furniture that’s comfortable, aesthetically pleasing and offers our students real value,” she explained. After consultation with ASSMANN, they therefore opted for the Syneo Line, among others. Visitors to the Notebook Café can relax in the waiting area on the modern furnishings. The Notebook Café in the basement of the new building is the central information point for all technical questions. This is where experts from the IT and Media Centre (IMT) offer comprehensive IT support. All the lounge furniture is fitted with plug sockets for charging mobile devices, so there’s no risk of low batteries. There are also RJ45-LAN ports installed in the Rondana meeting tables, to ensure a stable internet connection.

### VARIETY AND FLEXIBILITY

A few rooms away from the Notebook Café is the University Archive. It’s home to all the documents like files, index cards and books which have been collected throughout the history of the university and the institutions that preceded it. →

2 The wheels and fold-down tabletops of the **Pontis** folding tables make them easy to push together and save space

3 The **Rondana** tabletops have embedded plug sockets for constant power supply

4 **Syneo** lounge furniture creates a comfortable corner in various areas



#### PROJECT DATA

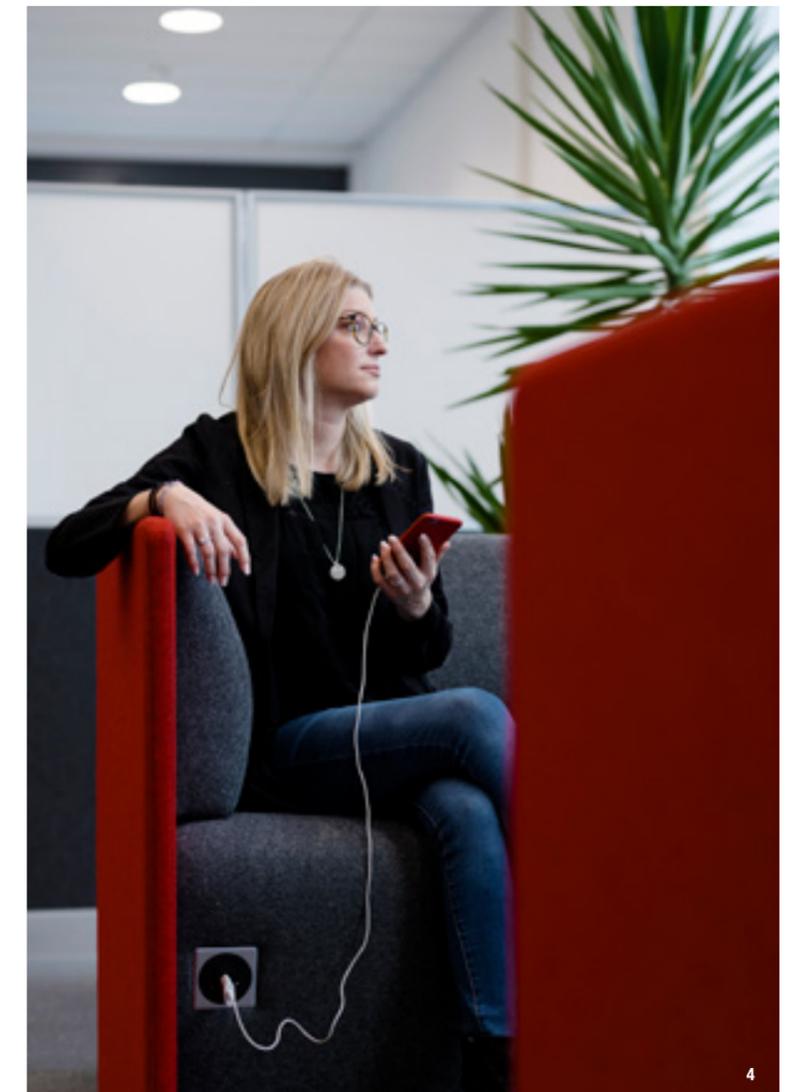
**Project:**  
Furnishing new building I

**Client:**  
Paderborn University

**Client details:**  
Paderborn University was founded in 1972. Now, more than 20,000 students study 67 different courses here.

**Brief:**  
A new university building needed to be completely furnished. Besides furnishing offices, the learning and waiting areas needed brand new lounge furniture too.

**Challenge:**  
The building offers a multitude of learning, working and relaxation spaces, which all have their own demands regarding furniture.



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Since it was first founded back in 1972, a considerable amount of material has been collected, which calls for a manageable and space-saving storage solution. This is where the ASSMANN Allvia shelving systems with their generous storage space come in, meaning all documents have their place and are easy to access if required.



ASSMANN allowed us to tailor the different areas perfectly to suit their various requirements.

Annette Lukies  
Infrastructure and Commercial Facility  
Management team at Paderborn University



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For the private archives of many students, the degree certificate is surely the most important document. For those who are about to sit crucial final exams, or are working on important homework, the study meeting space on the first floor of the new building is an important hub. The interlinked Pontis conference tables offer a spacious surface for reading materials and notebooks, and there are also ports for constant power supply here. The wheels on the Pontis desks mean they can be easily folded away at any time, and they can even be folded and pushed together to save space if necessary, which is particularly useful if the area is being used for large meetings. If students are working in groups, then they can find plenty of space on the high tables from the Solos family. Just like in the Notebook Café, there are also the popular Syneo lounge pieces in the study meeting space, for a comfortable five minutes out from studying. They're perfect for students to sit

and exchange ideas with each other, or read before they head to their next class in the nearby seminar rooms. Incidentally, these are also furnished by ASSMANN, with furniture from the Pontis family offering a clearly structured room so that nothing distracts from the work at hand. It's not just the students here who get to enjoy ASSMANN furnishing solutions, but the colleagues in the International Office and the Student Advice Centre too. Their offices are fitted with desks from the Canvaro range and with Allvia shelving systems. Individually tailored planning and the variety of combinations available, meant that we could create concepts to precisely meet the needs of colleagues here. Height-adjustable desks also aid ergonomic working and mean colleagues are

more satisfied at work. In the Student Advice Centre, it's not just the functionality of ASSMANN furnishing solutions that is important. The furniture should look prestigious too. People seeking advice are greeted here at the stylish reception desk, VisitASS.

5 Annette Lukies guided the furnishing process for the new build from the beginning

6 The friendly reception in Building I is furnished with a VisitASS reception desk

7 Allvia and Canvaro furniture systems create space in the offices and support an ergonomic working environment



6

### ENSURING EVERYONE'S TASTES ARE CATERED TO

Although Building I is a relatively large building with many different work areas inside, the planning and the subsequent furnishing all went according to plan for everyone involved. Long-standing cooperation has meant that ASSMANN and the group responsible at Paderborn University are now an experienced team. After working together for the ideation stage, the company from Melle only had to submit a few suggestions before the project was to everyone's taste. In order to ensure that the concepts met expectations 100%, the family company also delivered a selection of samples to Paderborn before proceeding. Annette Lukies is impressed with this service, "For us it was a great taster of the finished furnished space. It was nice to see how the furniture felt in the new space, and we knew very early on that we had done everything right during planning." It only took a few weeks there until the interior furnishing project was complete. Everything was fi-



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nished in time for the start of teaching in the summer semester of 2018. "The entire project went very well, and the results really speak for themselves," Annette Lukies sums it up. The next big project on campus is already in planning: Furnishing the new Building Y. The research building for the Institute for

Lightweight Design will also be furnished with ASSMANN office furniture systems. Hopefully this won't be the last joint project between the Melle company and Paderborn University. ■

# A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT CONCEPT

**Companies who are constantly striving for maximum performance, like the Swiss building firm AF TOSCANO AG, make no compromises when it comes to furnishing their own workspaces. Thanks to the collaboration between ASSMANN and our specialist trade partners Meubles Kolly, the new premises in Villars-sur-Glâne shows off their best aspects, serving as the new flagship location.**

Location: Villars-sur-Glâne, Switzerland Client: AF TOSCANO



**A**F TOSCANO AG is one of the leading Swiss companies for engineering, planning and consulting in the construction, architecture and electrical engineering sectors. 415 employees work in 20 branches south of the Alps, working under the motto, “local throughout Switzerland”. The newest branch is in a former factory building which has been renovated to an office complex. New workspace has been created here for 55 employees, in a spacious area of 950 square metres. “Here we’re combining several smaller locations from the Freiburg central region,” Guy Chardonens, new Branch Manager, explains. The small town of Villars-sur-Glâne is conveniently close to the motorway and is easily accessible by public transport from the Freiburg region, making it an attractive location. “At the same time, the spacious premises give us plenty of room to be able to grow in the future without running into to space

issues.” The team are also benefiting from the new premises. The modern interior architecture, with a special colour concept and thought-out acoustics, allows efficient working in a comfortable atmosphere.

## A DEMANDING CLIENT

IAF TOSCANO started planning in March 2015. The new branch had to look the part and promote an environment of concentration and good work ethic. “Everyone benefits from this,” Guy Chardonens summarises. “The furniture unifies a modern look with functionality and very good acoustics.” AF TOSCANO set the bar high from the start; the interior furnishing of the building had to do justice to its modern redesign. Guy Chardonens turned to our specialist trade partners Meubles Kolly when looking for a suitable furniture concept. Advisor Damien Aebischer put AF TOSCANO in touch with ASSMANN Swiss AG and the

area sales manager Hans Wermelinger for the first time. “We have only heard positive things about the products and services offered by ASSMANN. When we saw the office furniture in the Meubles Kolly showroom, we were immediately impressed by the quality and functionality,” says Guy Chardonens. The decision to furnish the branch with ASSMANN solutions was made quickly. A total of 600 pieces of furniture from various product families were integrated into the new AF TOSCANO offices. A roomy open-plan space, an executive office and various smaller group offices, were fitted with modern and ergonomic working systems from the ASSMANN Canvaro product family. There was also furniture for the conference rooms, a reception and a waiting room.

AF TOSCANO’s partner company Slalom from Arcore in Italy specialises in acoustic spatial planning. Together, an acoustic test was carried out in the premises before work began. The entire office concept was planned on the basis of the data evaluated from this. Since, as well as the furniture, there was also provision for the configuration of optimised lighting and acoustic solutions. To prevent background noise from becoming a prevalent and irritating feature of the space, the acoustic separation walls from the Viteco product family were high on the list of orders. And time was of the essence. There were only three weeks available for planning, when several months is usual for a project of this scale. This made the whole task a challenge in terms of timing, which Damien Aebischer and Hans Wermelinger mastered flawlessly. Together, they designed workspaces that impressed the client. →

1 The fresh concept with bright colours literally brightens the mood on coffee breaks



## PROJECT DATA

**Project:**  
Converting an old factory building

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Meubles Kolly

**Client:**  
AF TOSCANO AG

**Client details:**  
AF TOSCANO was founded in 1959 and is one of Switzerland’s leading construction firms today.

**Brief:**  
The planned office layout aimed to combine cutting-edge design with high levels of functionality and quality. When creating an open-plan office space, it is vital to make sure the acoustics have been carefully considered.

**Challenge:**  
There was only a short period of three weeks in which to plan the furnishing design. There were several stages to the works.



and oak décor pieces for an open and inviting feel. Acoustic elements in bright red and apple green serve as attractive eye-catchers in the space. This statement colour concept was based on the company's history, as AF TOSCANO's black logo was once red. This tone was chosen for the acoustic elements and the green shade creates a lively contrast. The result is a fresh and atmospheric overall feel. The height-adjustable desks from the Canvaro range provide the basis for an ergonomic working space. They allow employees to adjust their height of the tabletops to their own preference and choose whether they work in a seated or standing

around the stylishly designed and generously proportioned table system from the Antaro product family, with room for everyone. Employees who've just had a long meeting are looking for a bit of variety in their breaks. That's where the Pontis standing desk in the break-out room comes in. Standing, or sitting on high stools, demands a different posture to sitting at a desk or conference table. One more reason to look forward to a coffee or a little snack between meetings. Guy Chardonens is impres-

2 **Viteco** partition wall systems and **Pontis** open space containers give structure to the office space

3 AF TOSCANO also opted for comfortable and functional furnishings in the conference room, with an **Antaro** meeting table

4 From notes to huge blueprints, there's a space for all your documents in the **Allvia** shelving system



### STEP BY STEP

Damien Aebischer's concept was realised in three steps. At the end of 2015 the first stage of the building renovation was complete and a few colleagues were able to occupy their freshly furnished workspaces. The second stage finished in summer 2016 and the final round of renovation began in 2018. As well as the regular staff, 16 new employees moved to the newly renovated office complex. The final delivery of ASSMANN office furniture took place in Spring 2019, completing the project. The new workspaces make it immediately clear that AF TOSCANO takes ergonomic working seriously. Every employee has a generous amount of space. Both the meeting rooms and break-out spaces were designed to be spacious, and not to feel cluttered, incorporating white tones

position. To ensure people's working space doesn't slowly vanish beneath piles of paperwork, every employee has a generously proportioned Pontis open space container to store all their possessions and relevant documents. The storage solutions also help give the open office space a cohesive feel. The Viteco partition walls provide acoustic separation between the workspaces. They create a comfortable environment for intensive concentration and work, and even ensure telephone calls don't disturb other colleagues. Spacious cupboards and shelving solutions from the Allvia and Intavis families make sure there's enough space for document storage. The AF TOSCANO employees can also count on a prestigious design and comfortable functionality for their customer interactions. In the conference room, all the participants gather



sed with the finished furnishing concept, "The variety in ASSMANN's collections allowed us to create individually optimised workspaces that not only look harmonious but also fulfil all our criteria." And Guy Chardonens isn't the only one who's impressed. Feedback from his colleagues was entirely positive. An attractive AF TOSCANO building furnished with ASSMANN office systems – it just seems to fit. ■



#### Fondue "moitié-moitié"

The term fondue is taken from the French word for "melted". Cheese fondue is one of the oldest and best-known uses for the term, and it's a staple of Swiss cuisine. In the Freiburg canton, you use equal parts Gruyère and Swiss Vacherin cheese. Fondue is traditionally eaten by dipping chunks of bread into the hot pot of melted cheese.

You can find a recipe for Freiburg-style fondue here:

[www.vacherin-fribourgeois-aop.ch/de/rezpte/fondurezpte/fondue-moitie-moitie](http://www.vacherin-fribourgeois-aop.ch/de/rezpte/fondurezpte/fondue-moitie-moitie)

# SELF-TEST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Location: Melle, Germany Client: ASSMANN

**Digitalisation is changing our working environment and with it, the demands on office furnishings and equipment. Work 4.0 isn't defined by silo-style workstations or island solutions, but rather by inter-departmental work structures and open-plan spaces. A development which ASSMANN, as a provider of modern and future-proof furnishing solutions, has been on top of for a long time. The company is leading by example, utilising the new formats inside their own offices.**



If you step inside the administration area at the ASSMANN company headquarters in Melle, you'll be greeted with an unusual sight. Instead of the narrow rows of desks commonly found in administrative areas, all grouped by department, a large, bright open space awaits. Each workspace on the four-seater benches is fitted with a height-adjustable ergonomic sit-stand desk from the Canvaro family, and has an innovative lighting system that individually adapts to the needs of the employee and the daylight. Instead of dividing walls and doors, the acoustically effective, Syneo room-in-room systems have been used between the office spaces. The compact and comfortable lounge furniture can be used as a private space for intensive work or for meetings, depending on what's needed at that moment. →

1 Contemporary design, both inside and out:  
The ASSMANN training and exhibition centre  
in Melle



## ASSMANN

### PROJECT DATA

**Project:**  
Partial conversion of headquarters

**Client:**  
ASSMANN Büromöbel GmbH & Co. KG

**Client details:**  
ASSMANN develops and produces office furniture systems and furnishing solutions for contemporary working environments. The company is one of the leading manufacturers of office furniture in Germany.

**Brief:**  
Various workspaces to be converted to an open-plan design in order to optimise internal working structures and processes.

**Challenge:**  
The conversion has to take place without disrupting day-to-day operations. This calls for detailed planning and precise coordination of all contractors.

The picture is one of clear and functional design, without cutting through the room's atmosphere and liveliness.

### OUR IN-HOUSE CASE STUDY

On the first-floor offices belonging to one of the leading manufacturers of office furniture systems in Germany, a unique office landscape has been created in just a few months. It offers high-quality workspace with the most modern furnishings to around 70 employees from the finance, back office, planning, concept sales, product management, sales and marketing departments. The recently completed renovation is a symbol of the family company's transformation into a digital-age company. "Just like our customers, we need to adjust to the changing market conditions and design more efficient workspaces and processes.

We also wanted to set a best practice example here in-house, to show our clients the various options available for conception and implementation of an office space," Dirk Aßmann, CEO of ASSMANN, explains the scope of the project.

### CREATE AN OPEN WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Originally, colleagues from management were going to move to a new building directly opposite the headquarters. But the intention faltered before the building even began, due to administrative difficulties and influences beyond their control. "We searched thoroughly for alternative options and ended up developing a Plan B in-house. After a successful space efficiency analysis, we began with the detailed

planning in September 2018. When I look at the results now, I'm really happy with how it all turned out," Dirk Aßmann explains. The biggest challenge in the concept phase was the low building depth of just 12.5 metres. It was technically too small for the open-plan office space we had in mind, but, as the saying goes, "faith can move mountains," notes Günter Osterhaus, Head of ASSMANN Forum. "In order to meet the requirements of a modern open plan space with a building of this depth, we had to consolidate the areas in the central zone and the communication areas. This naturally meant a risk of increased background noise, which could have increased the noise stress for colleagues. But not at ASSMANN. "We wanted to make sure employees could enjoy a focused and stress-free working environment, so we put a great →



2 The new open-plan ASSMANN office is bright, airy and features a clear-cut design concept

3 The **Syneo Soft** lounge systems are perfect for a quick escape

4 Quiet, please! If you see a golden pug on someone's desk, this means the person does not want to be disturbed



5

deal of thought into the room acoustics. We took a whole host of factors into consideration, from structural measures through to headsets to eliminate the sound of telephones ringing. We also incorporated sound-absorbing Viteco partition wall systems, ceiling canopies, and state-of-the-art acoustic systems to create a low-noise working environment in which employees feel comfortable. And for those who prefer to work in absolute silence, Kerstin Barre has got a top tip

up her sleeve. "In the past, I would just get up and close the door, but that's not really an option any more," laughs the long-standing member of the in-house sales team. Today, she simply places a little golden pug wearing headphones on her desk to signal to others that she does not want to be disturbed. "I haven't actually tried it out for myself yet, but I've seen other colleagues do it and it seems to work. So why not give it a try? The only thing you really need is consideration for

5 Mini retreats within the open-plan environment: The enclosed room-in-room solutions afforded by **Syneo Soft Meeting**

6 A private retreat at the heart of the office is no contradiction thanks to the ASSMANN lounge furniture

”

We wanted to make sure employees could enjoy a focused and stress-free working environment, so we put a great deal of thought into the room acoustics and took a whole host of factors into consideration.

Günter Osterhaus  
Head of ASSMANN Forum

those around you and discipline. If you have those, then even a little step like this can have a huge impact.”

#### CONVERSION BOOSTS TEAM SPIRIT

Consideration and discipline – these are qualities that were absolutely essential during the conversion phase. Simone Natrup, Head of Concept Sales, recalls the period from January to May 2019 very well: "Getting the conversion underway without stopping our day-to-day operations was a real challenge and one that required plenty of flexibility and patience from our entire team. To some extent, the different trades were all pitching in at the same time. While one area was still being taken apart, the first construction work was already taking place just ten metres further along. But, I have to say, we managed exceptionally well as a team." It is this kind of team mentality that was right at the top of the agenda from the outset. Every planning workshop had at least one head of department around the table along with four or five colleagues so that everyone could share their plans and ideas. "So many of these suggestions were actually incorporated into the final design and they have really contributed to what is an exceptional →



6



7



**White bread, but not as you know it**

"Arme Ritter" is a speciality from Lower Saxony that makes for the perfect snack. You may also know it as "French toast" or "eggy bread". All you have to do is soak slices of white bread in milk, coat them in egg, and then fry them off in a pan. The end result, which was once a firm favourite among the destitute nobility, tastes especially delicious served with cinnamon, sugar, compote, or sweet fruits.

*Recipes to try for yourself:*  
[www.essen-und-trinken.de/arme-ritter](http://www.essen-und-trinken.de/arme-ritter)

end product," explains Simone Natrup. And the process hasn't stopped now that the conversion work is complete: "We still encourage our teams to share their ideas and suggestions for improvement so that we can discuss them all together. If something is found to be useful and reasonable then we will put it into action. After all, this is all part of the open-plan principle."

**HOT-DESKING**

The changes at the ASSMANN headquarters didn't stop with the fixtures and fittings, they also extended to the company's working structures and processes. Every employee had always had their "own" workstation in the past, but the atmosphere today has shifted away from this kind of "territorial" mindset. What this means is that, since every employee has a notebook, every workstation has the same setup, and the IT facilities are compatible throughout the entire building, anyone can work at any desk they like. The only exception is in the planning and technology depart-

ments, as these teams require their own special software. It's a forward-thinking model that does call for a cooperative attitude from all employees, explains Tamara Wienecke, Team Leader in the Planning division: "Of course, the hot-desking principle only works if everyone leaves the desk they were working at in the same way they found it that morning – clean, tidy and organised. But it's all been working very well so far, which is probably helped by the fact that we have established clear internal rules that we can all refer each other back to as needed." When it comes to

documents, working materials and personal items, every employee has their own Pontis mobile container, which they can pull over to their workstation in the morning and put back in the designated "garage" at the end of the day. Tamara Wienecke notes that: "this does away with the need for huge storage cupboards and means we can go without massive wall racks and cabinets almost entirely. Within our new space, we have invested in twelve additional workstations, which are available as temporary spots for interns and field sales employees, a breakout area, and two new

7 The height-adjustable **Canvaro** desks allow employees to sit or stand while they work

8 Thanks to their small electric motor, the desks can travel to the perfect height at the touch of a button

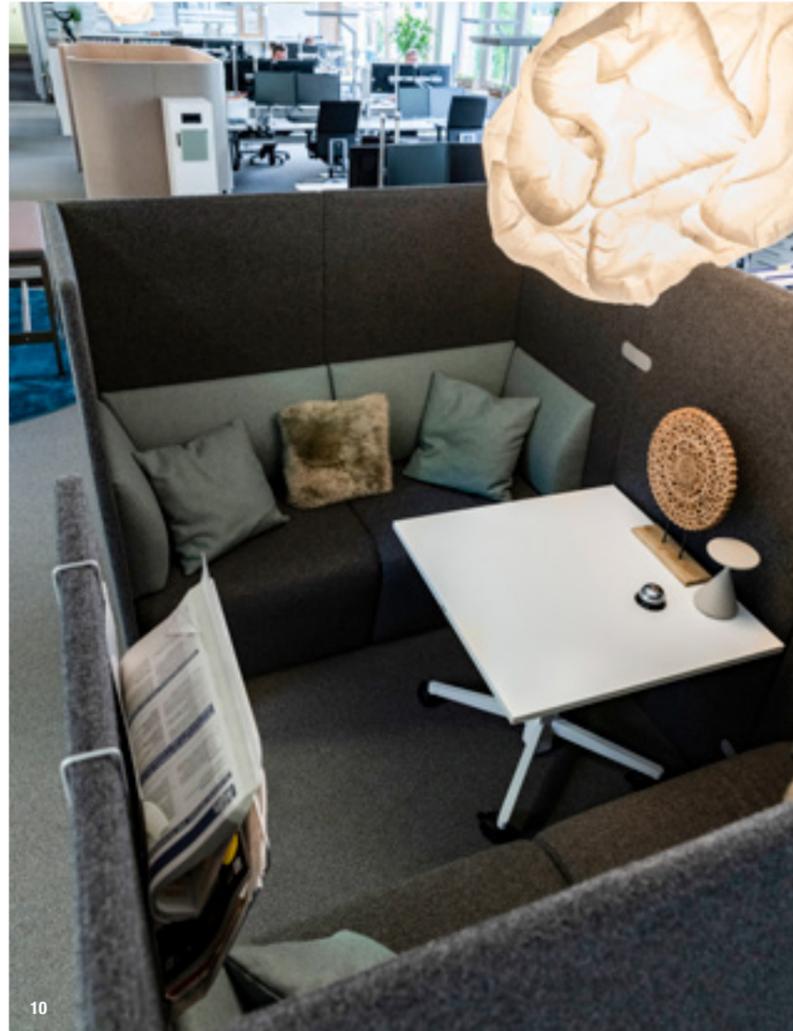
9 The **Syneo** lounge systems come complete with power outlets that can be used for anything from lamps to laptop chargers



8



9



10

project rooms." Both of these rooms are kitted out with state-of-the-art technology and can even be used as a welcome retreat whenever a more focused working environment is needed.

**LEARNING BY DOING**

As stressful as the conversion phase was, it was all worth it to see the end result, explains Managing Director Dirk Aßmann after the first few months in full swing: "Once the work was com-

plete, we then had to turn our hands to preparing our managers for the digital change and everything that went along with it. At the same time, we have created a portfolio project that will certainly be of interest to other companies." You only have to look at the reactions of the people who have had the chance to visit the newspace to see he's absolutely right. "At the end of the day, our clients also have to think about how they can make their office spaces



11

10 Comfort meets functionality: The **Syneo Line** lounge furniture systems create the ideal conditions for a focused and comfortable working atmosphere

11 At the end of the working day, everybody's personal **Pontis** mobile container goes back in a type of "garage" for the night

12 If meetings are scheduled, the enclosed **Syneo Line** lounge furniture offers the ideal retreat

more efficient in view of ever-changing circumstances. We are now in a better position than ever to advise other companies, since we have plenty of experience not just on paper, but also from planning and implementing the open-plan concept within our own headquarters." ■



12



**Green, green, green ...**  
 "Grüne Soße" – the German take on salsa verde – is one of Frankfurt's local specialties. The traditional blend of seven herbs is what gives it its characteristically rich colour. Grüne Soße is traditionally served cold over boiled potatoes and hard-boiled eggs.

*Here's a recipe if you'd like to rustle some of the green sauce up at home:*  
[www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/Entdecken-und-Erleben/Gastronomie/Rezepte/Rezept-der-Frankfurter-Gruenen-Sosse](http://www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/Entdecken-und-Erleben/Gastronomie/Rezepte/Rezept-der-Frankfurter-Gruenen-Sosse)

**R**eliable HR management is an indispensable part of any modern company for organisational, economic, and even legal reasons. This is why more and more companies are choosing to move away from reams of paperwork in favour of digital tools like the HRworks software in a bid to not only simplify the entire Human Resources world but also establish a more standardised system. The program was first developed in 1998 based on an idea coined by IT field sales consultant Thomas Holzer. He originally programmed the browser-based software to try and simplify the way he calculated his travel expenses. Over the years, however, it developed from a mere calculation tool into a fully-fledged HR solution complete with functions for personnel management, time management, and corporate benefits. As the capabilities of the product began to snowball, so too did the company behind it, which is what prompted them to open a new location – on top of Freiburg

and Berlin – in Frankfurt am Main in 2018. It originally started out as a rented coworking space, but after a year, they moved into their own premises in the Frankfurt's central Westend area. "Our coworking space was bursting at the seams and we wanted somewhere with additional space to grow into," explains Marc Enders, project manager for the Frankfurt site. We currently have five people working here, but we want somewhere with space for at least 20. HRworks currently employs 54 people across Germany, most of whom are based at the headquarters in Freiburg.



# ALL SIGNS POINTING UPWARDS

**Digitalisation is coming on in leaps and bounds. Even when it comes to HR, more and more companies are looking towards software solutions. Driven by the growing demand for the HRworks app, the company of the same name is expanding at a rapid pace and moving into spacious new premises in Frankfurt – all fitted out with ergonomic solutions from ASSMANN, of course.**

Location: Frankfurt am Main, Germany Client: HRworks

## MINIMUM EFFORT, MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY

The new empire on Barckhausstraße spans around 700 square metres. More than half of the space is taken up by open-plan environments, think tanks for focused workspaces, →

- 1 HRworks has set up a new office in Frankfurt's prestigious Westend area
- 2 The think tanks offer space for meetings and a focused working environment. Employees have the choice of sitting or standing at the height-adjustable **Pontis** bistro tables

and meeting rooms. HRworks also offers training courses on how to use its software correctly. The spacious reception and lounge area, which transitions seamlessly into the training rooms, is open to employees and visitors alike. With this in mind, HRworks is keen to invest in a furnishing concept that is not only practical, but also aesthetically pleasing. The company also places great value on straightforward processes, which is clear to see in everything it does. "We do everything we can to keep our administrative processes as lean as possible," explains Marc Enders. "After all, this is how we maximise the efficiency of the work we do." It's hardly surprising that HRworks would be interested in a no-frills approach to its furnishing concept. Marc Enders and colleagues from the commercial management team have been involved in the planning process for the new spaces on behalf of the company. Together with

architecture company Partner AG and specialist office retailer Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG, a well-conceived interior design has been put together that is both functional and comfortable. It wasn't long before ASSMANN office furniture systems were mentioned during the planning stage. "We just felt the entire philosophy of the company was perfect for us – the combination of functionality, quality, design and price is what ultimately sealed the deal," reveals Marc Enders.

**FLEXIBILITY ESSENTIAL**

The open-plan area is characterised by desks from the Canvaro Compact and Sympas ranges. "As our consultants are often on the phone, we were keen to find an acoustically efficient solution without compromising on the open-plan concept," notes Marc Enders. Employees can now take advantage of an

ergonomic environment that also makes for a comfortable and pleasant working atmosphere thanks to a combination of electric sit-stand desks from the Canvaro Compact series and Viteco acoustic partition walls. The open-plan space will be able to accommodate 16 employees going forward, with the think tanks offering space for another five. In spite of rising digitalisation, HRworks hasn't yet done away with print media entirely: a total of eleven storage systems from the Allvia range – all in different designs – offer space for training documents, advertising materials and much more besides. What's more, the combination of sliding



**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Setting up a new branch

**Client:**  
HRworks GmbH, Frankfurt am Main

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG

**Client details:**  
The company HRworks along with the software of the same name were established in 1998. The idea originally stemmed from IT consultant Thomas Holzer, who was trying to find a way to simplify the way his travel costs were calculated. Today, HRworks has three branches in Germany, the newest of which can be found in Frankfurt am Main.

**Brief:**  
HRworks is looking for an open-plan space for its employees, complete with ergonomically and acoustically optimised office furniture systems. The company also wants comfortable and aesthetically pleasing solutions for its reception and lounge areas.

**Challenge:**  
The facility should be designed to meet the needs of employees and customers alike.



3



4

- 3 For a more varied day at the office: **Canvaro Compact** is height-adjustable to facilitate working from either a seated or standing position. **Viteco** partition walls improve workplace acoustics
- 4 The **Solos** high desk is the perfect place for HRworks employees to catch up with their customers
- 5 Flexibility is high on the list for the training room: This is where the foldable **Pontis** seminar tables really come into their own

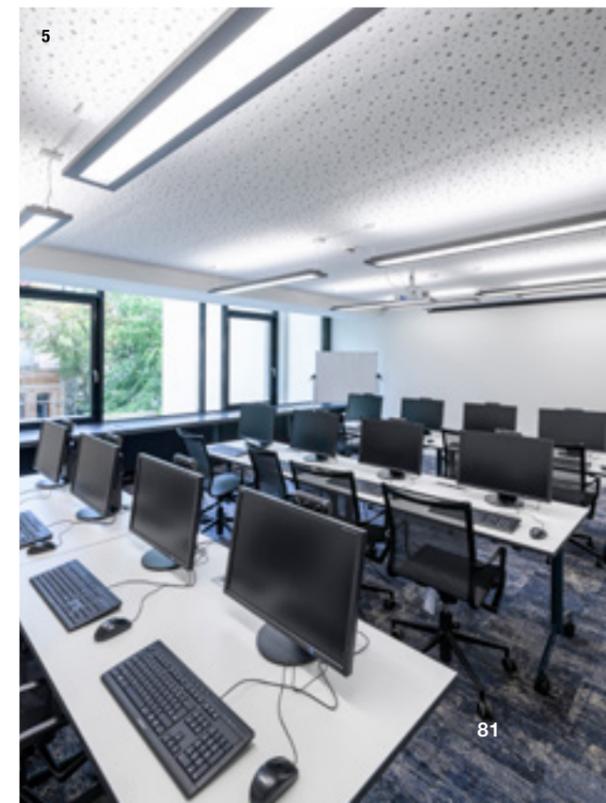
and swing doors found across the various designs creates real diversity in terms of both functionality and aesthetics. As for the meeting rooms, these are home to a Solos high desk and two Pontis bistro tables. These offer ideal ergonomics thanks to the flexible height adjustment options to promote constructive exchange. The opportunities to vary working posture also serve to boost concentration and reduce pressure on the spine. An additional 22 workstations have also been created in the two training rooms. HRworks was looking for a particularly flexible solution for these areas, so the sliding Pontis folding tables were the perfect choice. These allow the training areas to be adapted to suit the number of participants. The desks are also equipped with power sockets and USB ports at each workstation along with a handy cable guide to prevent unsightly tangled wires.

**LAUDABLE COOPERATION**

The entire process – from the moment the rental agreement was signed to the

point of moving into the new space – took around four and a half months. It was during this time that all of the expansion work took place – from the basic shell to laying everything out as requested by HRworks right through to supplying the furniture. Marc Enders was so impressed by the laudable cooperation between everyone involved: "The way everyone came together to help and find solutions was simply exceptional. And that's even without mentioning the overall delivery of the project, which was executed perfectly." The HRworks employees based at the Frankfurt site have been up and running in their new facility since August 2019. And whether they're sitting

down or standing up, they are always as comfortable as can be in an environment they all enjoy. ■



5

# COMFORT PROMOTES CREATIVITY

It is important to have a clean and comfortable working environment for ideas to flow. This is why EDAG Hungary Kft. has opted for modern systems from Melle to furnish its new offices in Győr, Hungary.

Location: Győr, Hungary Client: EDAG



1



### Deep-fried happiness

If you like deep-fried food, you'll love Lángos. This deep-fried yeast-dough flatbread is a Hungarian speciality that found its way into the German Christmas markets long ago. They are usually topped with a garlicky sour cream and cheese. Whether you add anything else is up to you.

From sweet to savoury - Youtuber Sally demonstrates how to prepare Lángos: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssr\\_2XUpiDA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssr_2XUpiDA)



2

1 The EDAG company has moved into completely new office space in Győr, Hungary

2 Bianca Sauer, HR Manager at EDAG, is delighted with the cooperation with ASSMANN

3 White **Allvia** sliding-door cupboards provide storage space and blend in ideally with the overall impression

4 Electrically height-adjustable **Sympas** desks provide special support and convenience



### PROJECT DATA

**Project:**  
Furnishing new office space on an entire floor of a newly-constructed building

**Specialist retail partner:**  
Premium Design Kft., Győr (Hungary)

**Client:**  
EDAG Hungary Kft.

**Client details:**  
EDAG Hungary Kft. belongs to the EDAG Engineering Group AG, one of the biggest engineering service providers for leading automotive brands. For 50 years now, the company has been developing innovative designs and technologies for the automotive industry.

**Brief:**  
75 identical workstations are to be created across a 600 m<sup>2</sup> open-plan office space.

**Challenge:**  
The office furniture should meet the highest standards for an ergonomic work environment.



3

The electrically height-adjustable sit-stand desks from the Sympas range enable ergonomic work and guarantee maximum comfort. "We would like to provide our engineers with a pleasant working environment: greater comfort for increased creativity so to speak", explained Bianca Sauer, HR Manager at EDAG in Győr. While the area is divided up with Viteco system partitions, Pontis mobile pedes-

tals and Allvia sliding door cupboards provide sufficient storage space to give a sense of order to the open-plan office environment. The three small, separate meeting rooms are equipped with Pontis tables with adjustable height and practical rollers that can be flexibly used and arranged. "We have received excellent quality for a reasonable price", explained Bianca Sauer, who is pleased with the successful cooperation with ASSMANN. ■



4

# ON THE BEAT

**Mönchengladbach is home to one of the most contemporary police headquarters in Germany. On account of its size and the fact it houses a number of different departments, this workplace calls for a wide range of furnishing options. This is exactly where the office furniture systems from ASSMANN come into play.**

**Location:** Mönchengladbach, Germany **Client:** Mönchengladbach police headquarters



The most striking feature of the police headquarters building in Mönchengladbach is probably the blue glazed strip that stands out from the shining white facade in more ways than one. In fact, if you look at the glass at the right angle, you will even see the emblem of North Rhine-Westphalia – a real eye-catcher on this new building. The preparation work took a good 14 years before construction could finally begin on the new police headquarters. Following the designs of Oberhausen-based general planner fps, the construction and property development company NRW erected the new building on what was previously a patch of agricultural land. It took four years for the police station to officially open its doors for the first time in summer 2018.

## (ALMOST) EVERYTHING UNDER ONE ROOF

The new building serves several purposes all at once for the police in the Mönchengladbach district. With the ex-

ception of the Hauptwache in Mönchengladbach's Rheydt district, as well as the district offices and the citizens' contact point in the Alter Markt, all organisational units have been brought together at the new location on Krefelder Straße. Furthermore, additional space has been created for the hub's command and location service, the Mönchengladbach police station itself, and a police custody facility. The building now also unites the forensic investigation department, training centre, police medical service, and service dog team. With so many teams under one roof, space is a crucial factor, so it is fortunate that the five-storey new-build extends over a length of 160 metres. Spanning over 23,000 square metres, the new police headquarters employs more than 760 civil servants across various departments. And as different as their jobs are, so too are their requirements for how their workspaces are kitted out. In fact, a total of 550 workspaces are required, split across a whole host of individual and group offices.



### Don't strike a sour note!

Rhenish Sauerbraten was traditionally prepared from horse meat, although beef is now usually the main ingredient. This roast is traditionally served with potato dumplings and apple sauce, and the gravy has a sweet and sour taste.

*Cook up a Sauerbraten of your own in no time with this easy recipe:*  
[www.kleineslaster.com/rezept-sauerbraten](http://www.kleineslaster.com/rezept-sauerbraten)



## AN IMPRESSIVE RESULT

Christian Riepe and Günter Haselier from the Central Tasks Directorate are responsible for planning the furnishings for the new building. From offices fit for hundreds right down to the changing rooms, several hundred items are needed, including storage systems, lockable cupboards, filing cabinets and office desks. The office furniture systems from ASSMANN were already high on the priority list, since the local police stations have been relying on furniture solutions from Melle for years now. This is why Christian Riepe and Günter Haselier paid a visit to the family company at ORGATEC 2016 →

- 1 The police headquarters really stands out in terms of both its size and its visual impact
- 2 Every employee at the police headquarters has their own locker from the Allvia range in the changing rooms

**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**  
Initial setup of the newly built police headquarters in Mönchengladbach

**Specialist retail partner:**  
pro OFFICE – Gesellschaft für Objekt- und Inneneinrichtung mbH, Krefeld

**Client:**  
Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb NRW, Police headquarters in Mönchengladbach

**Client details:**  
The new headquarters brings together various services from the local area. The facility is one of the most state-of-the-art buildings in the region, and its furnishings are no exception.

**Brief:**  
The office furniture systems have to be individually adjustable for different users. Many of the cabinets have to be lockable for security reasons.

**Challenge:**  
The spaces have to be entirely furnished and occupied within just five weeks.



to find out about all the latest innovations in the range. The open-space containers in the Pontis series proved particularly popular, as the design and dimensions of the available storage space were ideal for the day-to-day requirements of the headquarters according to Günter Haselier. The specialist office furniture retail partner, pro OFFICE – Gesellschaft für Objekt- und Inneneinrichtung mbH, was involved throughout the entire furnishing process within the police headquarters: From the planning to the installation of all pieces of furniture, Managing Director Christian Krämer was always on hand with his personal team. The high number of workstations required called for a huge amount of logistical effort from everyone involved, especially since the rooms were occupied on a floor-by-floor basis. As soon as the building work was com-

plete, it was time to start furnishing the offices so that people could move in and start working right after. This meant it was possible to set up and occupy around 550 workstations in just five weeks.

**ALL-ROUNDERS IN USE**

The police headquarters in Mönchengladbach rely on the tried-and-tested sit-stand desks from the ASSMANN Canvaro range to create an ergonomic working environment. This versatile desk system offers the ideal solution – particularly in the on-call rooms where the people working



in them are constantly changing – since the working height can be adjusted to suit each new user in a matter of seconds. And as different as the various users are, so too are the ways in which these



**3** In the office, police officers love the flexible, height-adjustable desks in the **Canvaro** series

**4** When planning the facilities, the main focus was on the functionality and ergonomics of the office furniture systems

**5** Stylish and spacious: The meeting rooms in the Mönchengladbach police headquarters feature desks from the **Pontis** range

**6** The new police headquarters was built on Krefelder Straße in the Neuwerk district and opened its doors in 2018

furniture systems can be used: this is particularly apparent in the individual offices, where the open-space containers can be used either as a room divider or to provide additional seating for spontaneous visitors. In addition to the Canvaro desks and the Pontis storage systems, the police headquarters also relies on Allvia products on a day-to-day basis, since the shelving and cabinet systems offer plenty of space for the mountains of police paperwork. Bespoke Allvia solutions can also be found in the changing rooms for the many employees, too: when it's time to don the blue uniform and store everyday clothes and valuables somewhere safe, ASSMANN products come to the rescue with secure, vented lockers from the Allvia storage system range. ■



# BACK TO THE START

**This year's tour around the project portfolio saw the ASSMANN van visit 13 cities across five countries – including a quick pit-stop back home in Melle. This is where it's back now – ready and waiting for its next trip, which isn't actually too far off. Before long, it will be time for this charming vehicle to hear the magic words: On your marks, get set, go!**

- |                 |                          |                           |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Bochum (DE)   | 6 Rastatt (DE)           | 11 Frankfurt am Main (DE) |
| 2 Freiburg (DE) | 7 Vienna (AT)            | 12 Győr (HU)              |
| 3 London (UK)   | 8 Paderborn (DE)         | 13 Mönchengladbach (DE)   |
| 4 Essen (DE)    | 9 Villars-sur-Glâne (CH) |                           |
| 5 Wittlich (DE) | 10 Melle (DE)            |                           |



# ENJOY SILENCE

Syneo



Communication zones and furniture solutions for modern working environments  
[www.assmann.de](http://www.assmann.de)

## LEGAL NOTES

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