

# Contemporary and classical

## The prototype of an archetype

**Möbius Research and Consulting was on the search for a building with a commercial position and ample car parking in Sint-Martens-Latem. To accommodate the required functions, a villa was demolished and replaced with a new build. As an expression of a clear personal identity in harmony with building regulations, the company has now found its new home in a “prototype of an archetype” – as architect Thierry De Vos calls it.**

On a dynamic business street with office buildings and exhibition spaces, the municipality is trying to retain the traditional villa character. Therefore, the “office building had to retain a roof angled at 45 degrees,” as Thierry De Vos explains, “and the building’s depth and width were also precisely specified.” Bontinck Architecture and Engineering started from an archetype of two floors and pitched roof and chose Aléonard clay plain tiles in three different colours for the roofing. “This created a building with traditional contours in just those materials,” explains the project manager.

**Past and present in dialogue.** “Ultimately, the weathered character also determined the choice of colour.” The use of plain tiles was originally intended to be somewhat fanciful, as a type of eye-catcher in contrast to the local housing, for which such plain tiles are often used on villas in the country-house style. “This classic building material is also extremely

suitable for projects with a contemporary and timeless character, such as this office building.” In this way, it was also possible to almost invisibly integrate the eaves.

Contemporary accents are provided by the openings in the façade and ground floor as well as the roof, with its deeply recessed window façades. The fact that these recesses are angled in an easterly and westerly direction is not only for aesthetic purposes. “The natural incidence of light is reinforced, without causing shadows.” The dialogue between past and present and their different textures determined the choice of clay and aluminium as materials: the verge shingles with their scaly effect are raw, the aluminium of the window frames smooth and cool. According to the architect, this also stands for the contrast between introverted and extroverted.”





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**Client**  
**Architect**  
**Roofer**  
**Clay roof tiles**

A-concept – Sint-Martens-Latem  
Bontinck Architecture and Engineering – Ghent  
Devabo nv – Waregem  
Aléonard Patrimoine 16/27, colour combination: 33% each of Rouge de Mars, Noir de Vigne, Vert de Lichen