



The Magazin of EDUARD KRONENBERG GmbH
Haan | Germany

SERVICE
SPONSORING
PRODUCT
MARKETING
INSIDE
ARCHITECTURE
LIFESTYLE

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Dear Readers,

Right on time for the run-up to the end of the year, the latest EK Connect magazine is on your desk - almost under the Christmas tree even. As always, this issue was a party for us again - and with lots of love, we spiced it up with news and decorated it with some infotainment. The 'Iconic Award' we received for our highly acclaimed trade fair stand is as fitting as our reports on some particularly tough nuts that had to be cracked and still have to be cracked at EK, which you'll find under 'Service' and 'Product'. By the way, anyone who is thinking of spending some time in a gingerbread house between the years will find plenty of inspiration in our architectural article. And as an aperitif to start off the festive feast, we have a selection of classic cocktails ready and waiting for you. Cheers!

Your EK team wishes you a joyful festive season and a sparkling start to the New Year

+++ NEWS IN BRIEF +++



Thomas Sohr is leaving EK

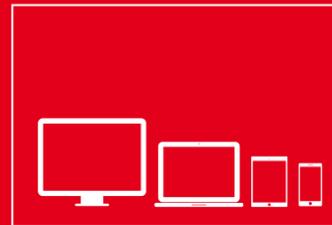
After working with each other successfully for more than 15 years, EK application consultant Thomas Sohr ends his time with us at the end of the year - at his own request and for family reasons. The managing directors and employees are very sorry to see him go and wish Thomas all the best for the future and, above all, good health!



New addition to the EK fleet – the EK Mini

For official use only!
For clients!
For employees!

Is it love? Of course, it is!



Coming soon: EK Website Relaunch

New architecture. New utility.
New layout. Wait for it ...

More details soon under:
www.kronenberg-eduard.de



EK on TV

"EK as a reference to sustainability": Have a look at the WDR report of the "Aktuelle Stunde" in the media library at ...
www.ardmediathek.de



CONTENTS 2|2019

- 4** ————— **SERVICE: 'Navison' at EK – everything's done, everything's OK**
The Navison ERP system stands for maximum business efficiency. And at EK it also stands for sweet chocolate - Ralf M. Kronenberg knows why.

- 5** ————— **SPONSORING: Stay fit. Get fitter.**
An immediate success - the outdoor gym in the Haan Technology Park. Graduate sports scientist Till Hermans explains the background to his outdoor fitness and exercise concept.

- 6-7** ————— **PRODUCT: Covers that cover more than just the cost.**
Sheet metal strips can be transformed cost-effectively into high-quality components for premium SUVs. A look at the EK design shows what it's all about.

- 8-9** ————— **MARKETING: 'Iconic Award' for EK glasstec exhibition stand**
No 'hidden champion'. The innovative design of the EK stand at glasstec 2018 opened windows wide to reveal lots of transparency - and received the recognition it deserved!

- 10-11** ————— **INSIDE: Knowledge transfer instead of knowledge loss**
With their specialist expertise, EK employees are at the top of their field. Our knowledge transfer project helps to ensure that it will remain that way in the future.

- 12-13** ————— **PEOPLE AT EK: In Focus – Bernd Witte, Joachim Fohr und Dominic Vieth**
From 'Bob the Builder' and 'Daniel Gyro Gearloose' to the Mönchengladbach Fan with family subscription: three profiles that also reveal the private side of our employees' lives.

- 14-17** ————— **ARCHITECTURE: Have capsule, will travel**
When it comes to living space, 'smaller is smarter' is the current trend: tiny houses, some of them even mobile, are currently stirring up the property market - and dreams are coming true!

- 18-19** ————— **LIFESTYLE: Everything you need to know about gin**
How did juniper flavoured spirit get this far? Here's the whole story from 'Mother's Ruin' to the Queen Mum - including selected recipes of cocktail classics well worth trying out.

„MICROSOFT DYNAMICS NAV‘ AT EK – EVERYTHING’S DONE, EVERYTHING’S OK

Since 7 October, EK has once again been able to streamline all of its business processes. This has been made possible by the acquisition and implementation of the new Microsoft Dynamics NAV ERP system. But before it was successfully implemented, EK subjected the system to extensive testing for a period of several months. Ralf M. Kronenberg explains why this is a worthwhile investment for EK.

ERP stands for ‘Enterprise Resource Planning’. The system developed by Microsoft Dynamics is designed to integrate the various business areas in the company via a common database. ‘Microsoft Dynamics NAV’ offers a number of fundamental improvements compared with the previous version. Ralf M. Kronenberg explains the benefits: “Navision’ presents the true situation at EK more accurately and makes more automation possible. It is also scalable, in other words future-proof in terms of any future expansion and development at EK. All this confirms that our investment decision was the right one. With the implementation of the new system, we are now one step closer to the level of digitalisation we need.’

Two brief examples illustrate the additional benefits - firstly, batch processing will now be more efficient, since the manual input of data that was previously necessary has been eliminated. Secondly, EK’s back office staff will be able to handle enquiries for product tracking faster and more reliably, since searches will now be carried out on the workstation’s monitor - the system automatically displays the current status of every item going through production or follow-up treatment at EK.

Exhausting – performing tests during day-to-day business

In der Testphase scheute EK weder Kosten noch Mühe, um ein belastbares Ergebnis zu erzielen. Im eigens umgestalteten Projektraum wurden sechs Test-Stationen, ein separater Server und (‘Microsoft Dynamics NAV’ benötigt viel Bildschirmplatz) mehrere Monitore und BDE-Terminals installiert. Eine großzügige Test-Umgebung – bis hin zur Bereitstellung von Nervennahrung, sprich Schokolade. Die allerdings nach Meinung von Ralf M. Kronenberg auch absolut notwendig war: “Veränderung ist immer anstrengend. Gerade das Testen ist neben dem Tagesgeschäft immer aufwendig und eine zusätzliche Belastung für die Mitarbeiter. Mein Dank an alle, die hier so kräftig mitgezogen haben!”

Relaxing – extremely well positioned for the future

As with any complex new system, ‘Microsoft Dynamics NAV’ also includes the occasional error that can only be detected and corrected during operation. It was clear from the outset, therefore, that there would be an optimisation phase. Ralf M. Kronenberg is absolutely confident that this will be completed in the foreseeable future and that most of the features will then be available: “That was of course just the kick-off. Once we have ‘Navision’ up and running, we will be excellently positioned in terms of the technology and the overall concept so that, as of next year, we will be able to make some significant progress in both production and resource planning.”

Using Microsoft Dynamics NAV, the following benefits are expected to be available to EK:

- Automation of processes (Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRP II) run)
- Elimination of media disruptions (Email, telephone, different data sources)
- Digitisation of information (MDA, ODA and in future DMS)
- Increased transparency through confirmation of work steps
- Automatic control of processes (batch changes, material/tool requirements)
- Visualisation of work progress
- Control of tool and mould-making
- Increased use of barcode scanners (troubleshooting)
- Integration of cost control into business processes
- Increased data availability and even better service as a result



STAY FIT. GET FITTER.

Working up a healthy sweat is what it's all about here: at the end of August, the outdoor gym sponsored by EK, Verder and Aperam, together with its high-quality training equipment, was officially opened in the green belt of the Haan Technology Park. In this interview with EK Connect, sports scientist Till Hermans explains the criteria on which he based his fitness concept and the choice of equipment.



Opening ceremony bathed in sunshine: representatives of neighbouring companies Aperam and Verder Scientific, Dr. Bettina Warnecke, Mayoress of Haan and EK Managing Director Ralf M. Kronenberg (from left)

© Photo: Susanne Schaper

The individual pieces of training equipment offer us a variety of different exercises. Every visitor, from the less active user to the training-conscious athlete, will be able to find the right exercise station and exercise instructions to suit his training level. On the opening day, fitness coach Till Hermans demonstrated how each station was to be used and gave first-time users individual advice from a real professional.

The idea was the brain-child of EK. The outdoor gym in the green belt of the Haan Technology Park in NRW was financed by EDUARD KRONENBERG, Verder Scientific and Aperam. For the three local companies, it is both a sustainable investment in the location and an expression of their commitment to neighbourly cooperation - a joint project as a bridge between local businesses and the neighbourhood.

EK Connect: Mr. Hermans, what considerations did you take into account when you designed the outdoor gym?

The main consideration is to ensure that fitness training is fun. The five pieces of outdoor equipment cover the basic physical skills – in other words strength, endurance and mobility. And the use of high-quality materials and excellent workmanship really make it fun to train on them.

EK Connect: What exercises are performed on the equipment precisely?

The focus is on abdominal and back muscles, shoulder and arm muscles, in addition to leg muscles – and exercising on the rowing machine is an effective way of strengthening the cardiovascular system. There is also a back massage station for relaxation purposes and individual well-being.



As a fitness and health expert, he was involved in planning from the very beginning: graduate sports scientist (DSHS Cologne) Till Hermans.

EK Connect: Can I start immediately or do I need an introduction?

Anyone can participate, because each device is provided with a short exercise manual for different levels of difficulty from 'easy' to 'medium' and then 'difficult'. A QR code provides a link to more information on each specific piece of training equipment. Ralf M. Kronenberg and I are also considering repeating the introduction for potential users. This would be more individual and also on a more personal level.

EK Connect: How often do you recommend that users visit the outdoor gym and how long should the individual pieces of equipment be used?

We have nothing against daily practice. The lunch break is also a good time for a little exercise. If a visitor has only a few minutes, then I would recommend exercising on 1-2 stations – if a visitor has 15 minutes or more to spare, then I would suggest performing exercises on all 5 pieces of equipment. The outdoor gym is also intended as a meeting point for people who want to do something for their own personal physical fitness and with others.

COVERS THAT COVER MORE THAN JUST THE COST

The thing itself looks unspectacular at best: a piece of metal strip, 220 mm long x 160 mm wide, provided with two raised sections and three mounting brackets. That is until you learn that one day that it will become the dust and waterproof cover of an electronic control unit for the rear-axle steering system of a premium SUV. Produced at EK from a material specification of high-quality aluminium in a progressive die designed specifically for the purpose consisting of some 800 components.

It is the production enquiry of a major customer in the automotive sector looking for a 'cover' for the control unit of the rear axle steering of SUVs. It has become necessary to enable vehicles with ever wider bodies to enter and leave what would seem to be ever narrower multi-storey car parks easily. This is a typical case for the EK design team, who of course are also aware that the customer demands the highest quality for this component and at the same time wants to have it produced as cheaply as possible. Joachim Fohr assumes responsibility for the technical specifications of the enquiry in addition to the preparation of the so-called strip layout and the design of the prototype die. This is where we take a look over his shoulder.

Cost saving number one

EK expert Joachim Fohr's first recommendation to the customer: go preferably for a different aluminium specification than the one shown in the enquiry drawing. For two cost-saving reasons: firstly, the proposed material would require using a much more complex die for the forming process. Secondly, the alternative material saves valuable base material because it can be stretched much further. In figures, the cost saving amounts to a whopping 30 percent in the manufacture of the die and 20 percent lower production costs. The customer's reaction – indeed every customer's reaction to this recommendation is perfectly obvious.

Cost saving number two

As a genuine creative mind, the next thing Joachim Fohr does is determine how the aluminium strip is to run through the progressive die. He knows how to "nest" the workpiece that will ensure as little scrap material as possible is produced. This will save the customer as much as 13 percent in material. A pleasant side effect is that the feed per piece is 20 millimetres shorter – resulting in the workpiece being even more cost-effective overall. This EK proposal also meets with the customer's approval.

Where metal is machined, swarf is removed. Not so at EK.

A printed circuit board with components of the electronic control unit is to be mounted under the cover later. To prevent swarf from settling on it, which could possibly result in a short circuit and subsequently cause the control system to fail, the EK expert eliminates the possibility of such a disaster happening to the rear-axle steering system in the way he designs the progressive die. He does this by arranging the progressions in such a way that 'overlaps' align perfectly – with the result that no swarf is produced in the first place.



Steering rear axle by ZF
© Photo: ZF



The aluminium cover protects the electronics of the rear-axle steering control unit from environmental influences such as water, snow and salt.
© Photo: D. Schumacher

From Conception and Construction for Production

A week later the preliminary design of the tooling is complete: the material strip is to be fed through 10 stations in a 300-tonne production press, where it will be cut, bent, pierced, stamped and finally pushed off the die – in accordance with Joachim Fohr's plan, the result is a perfect cover tailored to the customer's wishes. And because EK always delivers added value,

product cleaning and the application of a circumferential sealing cord are to follow. To ensure that the automotive customer can safely remove the ready-to-install covers during assembly at a later date, the finished parts are individually stored in trays. But before this can take place, the second phase of the project gets underway - the production of the 1.80 metre long and 75 centimetre wide tool at the toolmaker's production facility. A veritable monster - for such a tiny part. This takes around 20 weeks more, including an optimisation phase. One has to realise, of course, that almost three-quarters of the tool, which consists of lose to 800 components, is a one-off. The 300-tonne press has begun operation at EK - and is now producing covers, covers, covers, covers, covers, covers ... at one second intervals.

For the cost-effective, high volume production of sheet metal components, EK uses complex progressive stamping dies that are required to meet the highest standards in terms of precision and durability. This is because sheet metal strips are transferred from station to station in a tool of this type and are stamped, cut, formed and pierced to the highest degree of accuracy - until they finally leave the progressive die as finished components to the customer's specifications.

ICONIC AWARD' FOR EK'S STAND AT GLASSTEC 2018

Of course, that's what all the companies represented at trade fairs want: an unmistakable exhibition stand that attracts trade visitors like a magnet. With a brilliant idea – one that impresses due to its intelligent concept. One that attracts attention because of its skilful presentation – such as the one EK had at glasstec 2018. EK says "Thank you" to Studio Bachmannkern for what they did - for the great idea and the ingenious implementation of their 'CONNECTED FRAME' – winner of the prestigious 'Iconic Award'.



EK's stand at glasstec 2018 was designed by Studio Bachmannkern taking the theme of a 'CONNECTED FRAME' and had been inspired by city street scenes with large shop window. The window has been reduced to its essentials, namely the shape of its frame - in keeping with EK's focus. The idea: large window frames form the basic structure and encompass the entire EK stand. By swivelling and superimposing the frames, the familiar representation of a window is placed in a surprisingly new context. The playful choreography of the frames provides structure, permits insights and attracts visitors to the EK stand by arousing their curiosity. And that's exactly why it was such a success at glasstec 2018! So good, in fact, that ...

... EK will also surprise visitors at glasstec 2020.

After all, EK registered long ago for the world's leading trade fair for the glass industry coming up next year. And of course we'd very much like to build on the success of the last glasstec - not only in terms of the EK stand architecture, but also in terms of the numerous fruitful discussions with customers and interested visitors to the stand. That's why will start planning for the event very soon - and our goal is set high again!

The international "Iconic Award" is presented each year by the German Design Council. The organisation has been regarded as one of the leading international competence centres for design for more than 65 years. The competition is dedicated to architecture as a whole and evaluates architecture, concept, communications and interior design.

■ www.iconic-world.de

AWARD



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER INSTEAD OF KNOWLEDGE LOSS

The highly specialised knowledge of the workforce is the most important key resource for the success of any company. But all too often this expertise disappears overnight when employees retire. To prevent this happening, EK places a high priority on the hiring of successors at an early stage - and on the timely transfer of knowledge.

The knowledge that is in danger of being lost when elderly employees retire is the experience and expertise that employees have acquired over many decades relating to products and services, processes and workflows, customers and suppliers. Such a brain drain is also a threat that EK will be facing in 2021, because this is when Bernd Witte as head of toolmaking and design and Joachim Fohr as head of technical sales will retire. Because a lack of knowledge transfer before these EK experts leave the company would have meant having to face the risk of delays in the handling of projects in the future, the EK management decided in favour of adopting a so-called 'knowledge relay' approach in cases of this kind, in other words naming successors in good time. With this approach, the mentors as knowledge providers work alongside their successors as knowledge receivers for a certain period of time.

EK is also planning to implement the transfer of knowledge in the long term

Although knowledge providers Bernd Witte and Joachim Fohr will not retire until the year after next, Dominic Vieth has been on board since February of this year as the successor for various areas of their work. In addition to the induction plan, which covers EK's basic expertise and guarantees initial process reliability, Ralf M. and Frank Kronenberg have decided to let him become involved in project management and customer support, in addition to the development of stamped parts and working on assemblies.



Knowledge transfer in practice: Dominic Vieth, Joachim Fohr and Bernd Witte (from left)

Dominic Vieth is enthusiastic about this solution, which had already been offered to him by the management during his first job interviews. "The successor arrangement had already been mentioned and the solution based on knowledge transfer had also been presented. Now I'm working hand in hand every day with two proven experts from sales and project management. I can hardly imagine a better induction process! He and Mr. Fohr even share the same office, which gives Mr. Vieth plenty of opportunity to take a look over the shoulder of an experienced colleague.

'Implicit knowledge' – expertise that not everyone has

What does this look like in practical terms? Maximum transparency is also the magic word in this case, as Mr. Witte explains: "The three of us include each other on our mailing lists. Everything that's discussed with the customers is shared with all the members of this small team. Dominic is involved in each process. There's no question that he has to answer on his own. And no appointment where we don't show up with at least one colleague." Joachim Fohr has the answer to the difficult question of imparting 'implicit knowledge', in other words the practical side of things that can't be stored in project reports and databases: "It's all about experience and ability. When parts are to be formed in the strip line, for example, how does one position the workpiece most effectively in the die? Or when a tool has been built, how thin should the cutting punch be? This all comes down to years of experience that saves material, and you can only learn something like this through practice, through learning by doing!"

The customer takes centre stage – as always at EK

The team always in close consultation with the management, of course, and informs them about the current status of the knowledge transfer. But what the team members find particularly good is the freedom the management has given them to make their own decisions in the knowledge transfer project. For instance, they can coordinate and determine individual focal points of the transfer for themselves. Above all, the focus is on staying in touch with key contacts, and of course, the right contacts outside the company, because such contacts have to be made and set up. And frequently this is also about personal contacts within the company with its specialist departments, from design and purchasing to packaging. Bernd Witte has the last word on this subject: "When it comes to the transition phase, then we will be satisfied that we have passed on to Dominic all the relevant knowledge and experience that we have acquired here at EK ourselves."



Bernd Witte, Joachim Fohr and Dominic Vieth (from left) at one of their regular development meetings.

IN FOCUS:

BERND WITTE, JOACHIM FOHR AND DOMINIC VIETH



ity scale model construction vehicles and trucks - from Wedico, a Peterbilt truck made of metal, on a scale of 1:14, with complete control of all functions by remote control! – down to the maintenance of our house.” Between you and me, the ‘house’ in Solingen regarded by his neighbours as a rather classy “town house” and Mr Witte as ‘Bob, the master builder’ “And in spring my wife and I have to go to Croatia again with our bowling friends. Maybe even our two sons will be there. So there’s plenty for me to do ‘even after I leave!’”

Bernd Witte replies to the question as to whether he made the right personal decisions in his professional life: “I think so, yes! I’ve always loved being a technician and creative mind. That was always my favourite profession!”

He completed his training to become a toolmaker with Robert Krups in Solingen. At the age of 23, he became the youngest master craftsman at the Düsseldorf Chamber of Small Industries and Skilled Trades. After spending three decades at Krups, where he also met Frank Kronenberg, incidentally, at that time still an apprentice, and several other stops on the way, his journey finally led him in 2007 to EK and into development and design. Today, as the head of both EK’s tool and mould making department, he is deeply involved in the increasingly complex project business. One can sense how Bernd Witte looks forward every day to discussing, rejecting, redeveloping or further optimising technical solutions with his colleagues for the design departments of EK customers. Even so, when he leaves EK as planned at the beginning of 2021, he certainly won’t get bored to death. “I have lots of plans for the time after I leave the company: from reactivating my garden railway - LBG G gauge! – to building high-qual-



Joachim Fohr, as the inventor of the Renusol solar clamp and the OnLevel glass clamp, has achieved a certain degree of fame in the tool industry. Colleagues like to call the qualified toolmaker our ‘Daniel Gyro Gearloose’.

At this, Joachim Fohr, whose main tasks since joining EK in 2013 have been technical sales and the project

planning of customer enquiries, is slightly amused. And admits that he doesn’t need to spend a long time thinking about technical problems, but that the solution often simply “comes to him”, just like that. He admits, however, that the development work on the innovative clamps, which has taken up to two years, is also hard work for him: “Will the clamp be able to withstand the loads, even if the material is only allowed to have a certain thickness? Then we produce samples. And perform tests. If it’s not successful, there’s a new sample and new tests. Finally, the CAD program tells us that everything’s OK, but the reality often looks different. So we have new samples and more tests.”

Joachim Fohr finds time to relax after inventing new products and his work at EK at home in Mettmann, but above all hiking with his wife in the Lower Rhine region or at Lake Unterbach. “We are passionate hikers. On a 2-week holiday, it doesn’t take us long to cover around 60 kilometres hiking.” Now they’re off to the Black Forest - one of his two daughters is going along with her little granddaughter: “Grandpa, will there be any snow when we get there? But before we hear the answer to that, we want to know if we can expect more flashes of genius with clamps and such things. Once again Joachim Fohr smiles: “The customer wants more versions and I have plenty of ideas. And there’s still some time until my retirement in mid-2021. Let us surprise you ...”

Dominic Vieth only assumed his future management responsibilities in project management and technical sales at EK at the beginning of 2019. But EK has already been very much a part of his life for three decades.

Because his father, a self-employed toolmaker in Solingen, made tools and spare parts for EK, our company was often a discussion topic at the Vieths’ home. Now that he’s employed at EK himself, Dominic Vieth, a qualified tool mechanic and graduate in technical business

administration, has appreciated the “spirit” that the company radiates and the tasks he has been entrusted with since the very beginning. “When Mr. Kronenberg told me about this challenge and the design possibilities, I realised immediately: Yes, that’s it! And I think it’s great when you’re enthusiastic about something. It’s the only way to be successful.” When Dominic Vieth gets involved in something, he does so wholeheartedly and with staying power. Professionally, as 17 years of service with his last employer JC König in Solingen demonstrate, where he – rising from apprentice to head of department – in his last position with the company was in charge of toolmaking and production.

And likewise with his hobbies. He’s been playing tennis with a passion since he was very young and smashing the balls over the net in the local club league, was an enthusiastic football player, playing centre half with all the energy he could muster, and has been so confident on skis since the age of three that even today he has no problem going down the extremely steep starting slope at the top of the Kitzbühl downhill racing course. But Dominic Vieth also sets crystal clear priorities for his family: “The Vieths are Borussia Mönchengladbach fans in the third generation now. But I handed in my season ticket for the stadium after 13 years - when my daughter was born.”



HAVE CAPSULE, WILL TRAVEL

They are tiny, self-sufficient and mobile, and are currently conquering the property market: mobile mini houses, so-called living capsules or tiny houses, will make your wish for a life in freedom and close to nature come true. What is really fascinating about them is their tiny, ecological footprint - and this is precisely how the architects and designers of the trendy living capsules are coming to terms with the spirit of our times.

Living more sustainably also means taking up less living space. More and more architects and companies are taking up this idea, which was already being propagated in the USA at the start of the new millennium, and are opting for houses in miniature format. Tiny houses are as innovative as the technology they conceal. Not only do they offer comfort in the smallest of spaces, but they are also mobile - because location and function can be changed at will. They can be used as holiday homes or as homes for modern nomads, they can be used as home offices in the garden and, for companies that lack available office space, external conference or creative rooms. May we present four particularly attractive living capsule models ...

'Ecocapsule' living capsule.

The 'Ecocapsule' living capsule from the Slovakian nice&wise design office is the latest energy self-sufficient version of the egg-shaped camper vans from the 1950s. This modern residential egg is made of glass fibre materials covering an aluminium frame. The oval shape of the mini house is the basis for a self-sufficient system that uses wind, solar energy and rainwater: solar cells on the roof and a quiet wind turbine that can be extended and retracted supply electric power to the egg 24 hours a day. In addition, the surface membrane

collects rainwater, filters it and stores it in an underground water tank.

Occupying a space of 4.48 x 2.40 x 2.48 metres, it can accommodate two beds, a hot water bath, a waterless toilet, a small kitchen unit and storage space. The mini house can also be towed by car on a trailer. The US business magazine Forbes makes the price tag attached to the capsule very cool and attractive as follows: "Ecocapsule is the

\$98,000 mobile egg you'll want to live inside".



Modern, efficient space concept - outside and inside

© Photo: Ecocapsule Holding

Lumipod living capsule

Nature itself becomes part of the living room in the compact Lumipod living capsule developed by Lumicene from Lyon, France. The curved glass front surrounding almost the entire living capsule can be opened - and the interior and exterior areas merge directly into one another. Since the underside of the building is supported on four foundation points only, the impact on the ground is minimised - pressure points on a meadow, for example, are thus virtually eliminated.

The ground plan of the living capsule is circular with a diameter of only 5.45 metres. With a usable floor area of 17 m² and a height of 3.25 metres, including bedroom, toilet and shower, the residents have all the basics for a short and comfortable stay. The entire capsule can be assembled within two days and delivered to the desired location within six months.



Designed as a "circular habitat": the living capsule

© Photo: Lumipod





'Heva' living cube

The architects from the French studio A6A in Bordeaux combine modern comfort with traditional materials in their prefabricated living capsule h-eva. Only local types of wood were used in the construction. To protect the wood from insects and weather, it is charred using a torch - the result is a dark and robust outer skin. The wide window front, which can be fully opened, links everyday life inside with the outside.

With a total area of 20 m², the pavilion can be used both as a minimalist living space and as a holiday home. There is space for a dining and living room, a kitchen, a bathroom and two beds. The rectangular floor area takes up very little space and can be quickly and easily erected by means of a crane even on small plots of land.



Space in the smallest space with loft character: The Heva

© Photos: HEVA / A6A

Coodo prefabricated house

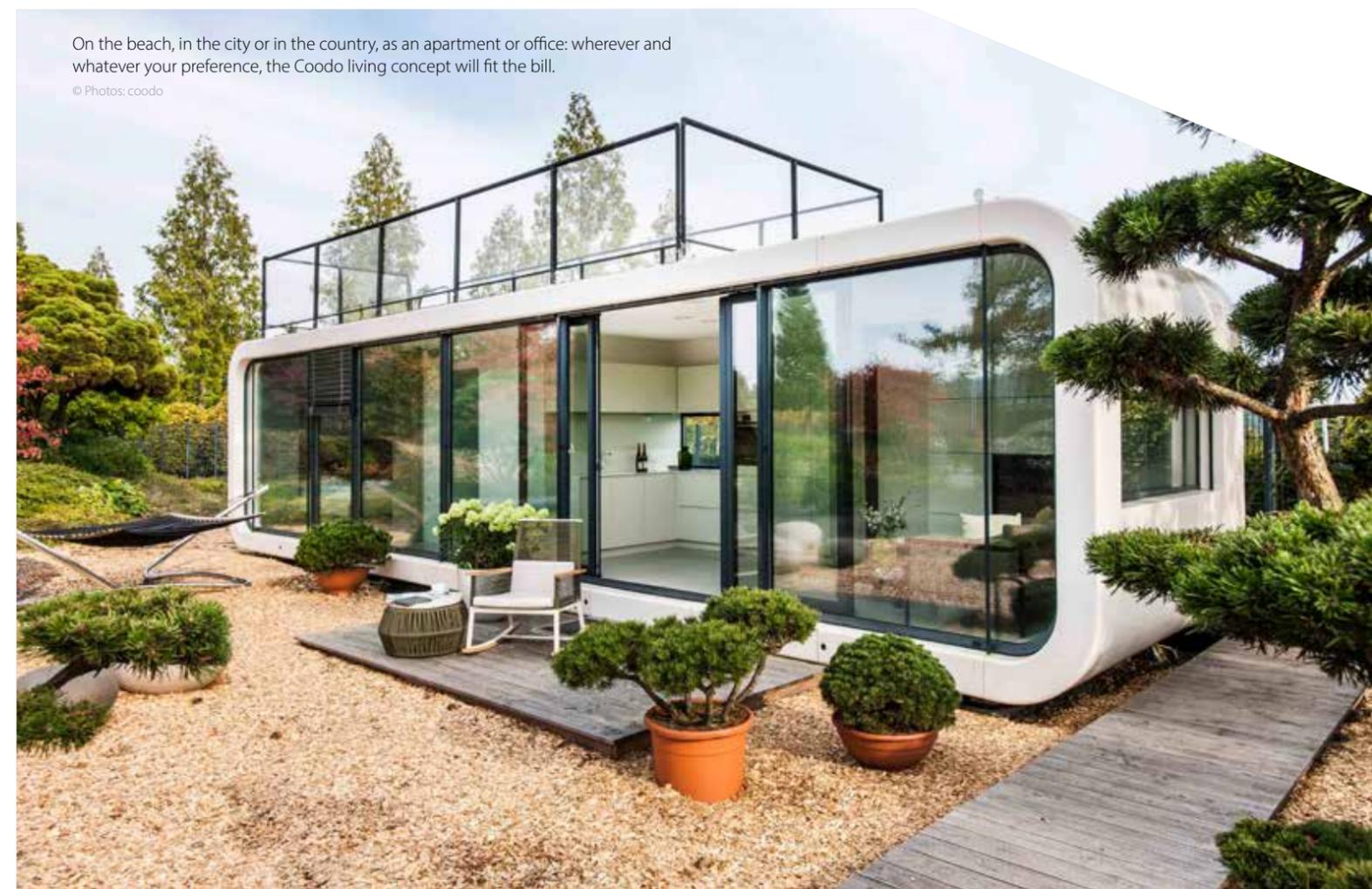
The 'Coodo' prefabricated housing unit marketed by the German firm LTG Lofts to go offers floor-to-ceiling windows and a gently curved frame construction for a limitless spatial experience. The 'Coodo', planned as a weekend or holiday home, is designed to conserve ecological resources as much as possible as a result of the carefully selected materials and its technical construction, which is comparable with a passive house standard. The mini house is also completely recyclable.

In addition to six different models of the mobile capsule, there is also a houseboat version for a furnished home on water. On request, the mobile living units can be equipped with a basic set of furnishings. The cheapest 'Coodo' living unit is almost eight metres long, three metres wide and three metres high and is delivered without furnishings at a cost of around 65,800 euros.



On the beach, in the city or in the country, as an apartment or office: wherever and whatever your preference, the Coodo living concept will fit the bill.

© Photos: coodo



EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GIN



You like gin? Then you are in the best of company, because celebrities like the Queen Mum, Winston Churchill and Humphrey Bogart were also fond of the mood enhancer that is as popular now as it was then. Want to know more about what you like? Then stay dry while reading - and enjoy the best at the end: 3 gin recipes of the finest quality.

Was ist Gin?

Taking a sober view of things, then gin is a colourless, juniper flavoured spirit. It is based on high-proof alcohol of agricultural origin, such as grain or molasses. It becomes gin only after the addition of so-called botanicals - natural flavours, such as spices, herbs, fruits, flowers and above all juniper. Manufacturers add as many as 10 botanicals, sometimes significantly more. The mixture and origin of the flavours added is an essential distinguishing and quality feature of the individual gins, which must have a minimum alcoholic content of 37.5 percent.

Why gin is called gin

Gin is named after a direct ancestor, the Dutch juniper spirit, known as genever. The Dutch and Belgians have been distilling it since the late 16th century and call it 'jeneverbes' in the Netherlands and 'genévrier' in France. To give them the courage to do battle, the Dutch used to take plenty of genever with them to the battlefields of the Spanish-Dutch war. The English soldiers allied with them brought the genever back to the islands as 'Dutch courage' under the name 'Tschineiver', in short: 'Gin'.



From 'Dutch courage' to 'Mother's Ruin'

In 1689, William III of Orange-Nassau, the Stadtholder of Holland, ascends the English throne. He imposes high taxes on French and Spanish wines and spirits and makes gin tax-free. In addition, gin is only to be produced from English grain. This makes gin the cheapest alcohol and even the poorest can now afford more than one sip. In the early 1700s, this resulted in about 6 million people in England drinking something like 5 million gallons of gin a year. Because of the general drunkenness, gin is now known as 'Mother's Ruin'.

The upper classes join in – and never leave again

The government opposes this with high taxes and stricter quality controls - cheap booze is gradually turned into a highly refined distillate. Gin now becomes of interest to the upper classes. In addition to the traditional dry gin, other gin varieties are gradually emerging, such as London dry gin, which is still one of the classics today and sets high standards, Old Tom gin and Plymouth gin. But drinking culture is also subject to the fluctuating whims of fashion: for decades, gin was regarded as a popular mood enhancer, especially by older gentlemen, with the Queen Mum as the gin tonic expert at the very top. Since its rediscovery around 15 years ago in England and the USA, the gin trend has become something of a cult – at the same time as the recent trend towards professionally mixed cocktails in trendy bars.

How famous gins differ

London Dry Gin is not an indication of local origin or a particular brand, but the name defines the production process with at least triple distillation, a minimum alcohol content of 37.5% and natural plant materials, such as cereals or molasses, as well as a dominant juniper flavour. The addition of sugar or colouring agents is not permitted. All additives must be added during the second distillation.

Dry Gin allows the addition of botanicals at any time into the mash or into the finished, cooled alcohol. Natural flavours and colourings may also be added. The addition of sugar to dry gin is not permitted either.

Old Tom Gin is not subject to any specific manufacturing regulations, but is a sweetened gin enriched with sugar that does not require time-consuming flavouring.

Plymouth Gin is a protected indication of origin - the gin must have been distilled in the English port of Plymouth. The sweeter Plymouth Gin does without bitter botanicals and is also distilled at least three times. The juniper flavour is less pronounced.

Gin, it is said, strokes your head from the inside.

Is that true? Please check this statement to determine the truth of it using the following recipes of top cocktail classics - perhaps with a Rhineland gin from 'Rhineland Distillers'.

www.siegfriedgin.com.



Negroni

Ingredients

- 30 ml Dry Gin
- 30 ml red wormwood
- 30 ml Campari



Preparation

- Place the ingredients in a glass, fill with ice cubes and stir thoroughly.
- Add orange zest for extra flavour.

Gin Basil Smash

Ingredients

- 60 ml Dry Gin
- 30 ml fresh lemon juice
- 20 ml simple syrup
- 6-8 basil leaves



Preparation

- Pour the ingredients into a shaker and crush the basil vigorously with a muddler (pestle).
- Fill with ice cubes and shake vigorously.
- Double-strain (coarse/fine) into a pre-cooled glass with ice.

Gin Gin Mule

Ingredients

- 50 ml Gin
- 25 ml fresh lime juice
- 30 ml simple syrup
- 30 ml ginger beer
- 6-8 mint leaves

Preparation

- Put the mint, lime juice and syrup in a shaker and crush vigorously.
- Add ice cubes and gin and shake vigorously. Double-strain (coarse/fine) and pour into a highball glass.
- Top up with ginger beer and decorate with a sprig of mint.



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