

WELL-BEING

For your life · your home · your happiness



Inspiring stories from creative people at work
local and international projects

Strictly speaking this is a special advertisement publication – but see for yourself 😊

Architectural Office Dipl. Ing. Gabriele Podzun

Freelance Architect Feng Shui Master



My Feng Shui consultancy delivers well-being, vitality and lust for life for happy living and working

I've been independent since 1990 and an established freelance architect since 1993. I've delivered over 140 projects. I specialise in the principles of Feng Shui, which I've applied successfully to many buildings, homes and offices. Whether it's a new build, a renovation or an interior design, I've always got your interests in mind and will work out complete and holistic solutions for you.

I have a range of services that I can offer you:

Feng Shui architecture and analysis and advice for domestic and business clients

- Property surveys
- New build planning
- Renovations
- Bathroom renovation for senior citizens
- Living space advice
- Design of sleep areas and children's rooms for more restful sleep
- Furniture, furnishings and lighting design
- Colour scheme advice
- Garden design
- Business advice for office, medical practice, law firm, trade



I'd be pleased to offer you an initial conversation at no cost, so that we can discuss the potential work and the project process.

Tel.: +49 177 196 3124

podzun-architektin@t-online.de

www.podzun-architektin.de

WELL-BEING For your life · your home · your happiness



Hans-Jürgen Podzun and Gabriele Podzun

My dear reader,

My great-grandfather had a lovely saying, “Enjoy the small and beautiful things, especially during mad times”. This approach to life served him well through those times.

I’ve taken great-grandfather’s attitude and translated it in this brochure into a focus on “well-being”. I’ve done this by giving practical case studies from very different parts of life.

When we talk about literally “feeling happy in our own skin”, then we’ve put ourselves in a place where we can more easily overcome even the most varied of life’s challenges. I’ll explain well-being by looking at it from three perspectives: for your life, for your home and for your happiness.

In these pages you’ll read inspiring stories of creative people at work, both locally and internationally.

Examples will include the conversion of an existing workspace into a modern office

building with an innovative office concept, as well as the redesign of a residential house and garden in South Africa. Good listening skills and healthy construction techniques are just as much part of well-being as is the careful use of resources.

One more skill that I use in my projects comes from applying the ancient knowledge of Feng Shui. I call this “Acupuncture for the Room”. And I make sure that I explain everything to my clients in very clear and simple language.

All participants in this booklet have given me permission to describe their projects. I thank them all very much for that.

And now, dear reader, I do hope that you enjoy reading the inspiring stories and that they give you an increased sense of your own well-being.

Gabriele Maria Podzun
Architect and Feng Shui Master

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Text:

Gabriele Maria Podzun
Dipl. Ing Architektin + Feng Shui Meisterin
Helene-Rothländer-Straße 9, 56077 Koblenz
podzun-architektin@t-online.de
www.podzun-architektin.de

Editor:

Hans-Jürgen Podzun
podzun-wein@t-online.de
www.podzun-wein.de

3D-CAD-Visualiser and Interior Designer:

Mike Podzun-Timmermann
mike-podzun-timmermann@web.de

Layout:

info@pp-grafikdesign.de
www.pp-grafikdesign.de

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WWW adaptations & hyperlinks:

Joe Cashmore
dhproductions.co.uk
info@dhproductions.co.uk

Translations into English:

Stuart Newstead, Oxford
stuartn@ellare.net

Translations into Ukrainian:

Viktoriiia Vashchenko
vaschenko.viktoriiia@gmail.com

Translations into Polish:

Anna Sikora
ann.sikoraa@gmail.com

Photo & picture credits:

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Creativity with wood by Markus Monczka

Even if you've known Markus Monczka for a long time, it needs a chat to discover properly how many sides there are to him and the massive range of projects he's completed successfully. He's normally an all-rounder with wood at the construction site and so he can be trusted with any kind of building work. Here, in conversation with Gabriele Podzun, he takes us on a tour of his wide-ranging projects and tells us how it all began.

Gabriele Podzun: How did it all begin with you and your career as a carpenter?

Markus Monczka: Well, it was my grandfather who taught me the most important things. He let me mess around with wood and other materials even when I was a child and he passed on to me a load of tips and tricks with tools. He'd be amazed to see just what we can do with today's tools and materials.



Private house in Winningen. Markus Monczka did all the carpentry for the complete new build of the conservatory and the shelving. This turned a previously dark corner into a light-flooded oasis.

Gabriele Podzun: How did you come to land up here in this area and then build up your business in Winningen?

Markus Monczka: It was a complete accident, though I feel really happy and at home here in Winningen. We're a small family business that loves to pay close attention to detail and to work using traditional craftsmanship. We started in

2005 and have since built up a large customer base across Mayen-Koblenz and in the nearby Hunsrück and Westerwald. Commercial and private clients trust in our reliable service.



Privathaus in Winningen – Neue Fenster mit modernen Energiestandards im alten Stil und außergewöhnlichen Formen inklusive Bleiverglasung als Maßanfertigungen

Gabriele Podzun: And you also take on small carpentry jobs, don't you?

Markus Monczka: Yes, that brings variety and I always love taking on new types of job. A good example is the bathroom cabinet for my wife.



Private house in Winningen. Small, but delicate, handmade bathroom cabinet with wash basin.

Monczka Carpentry services

Gabriele Podzun: You and your colleagues are active across a lot of trades in new builds. We both have really enjoyed working together for a number of years on both new builds and redesigns.

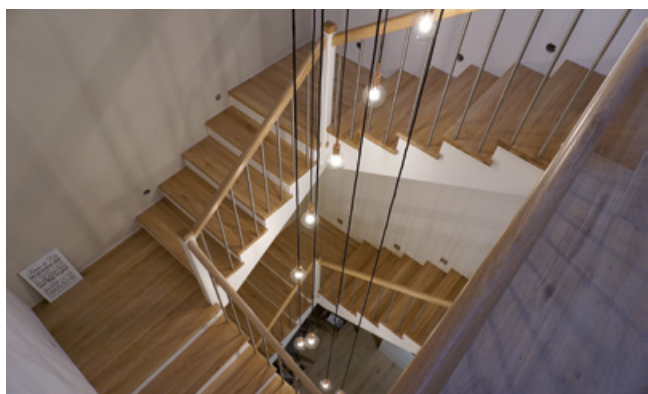
Markus Monczka: Exactly right. These are tasks that go far beyond the usual carpentry work. We also do interior drywall and loft conversions and install complete windows with shutters and blinds. And our portfolio includes not only modern front doors, but also massive traditional-style wooden doors – as well as interior, glass and sliding doors.

And I often take care of the infamous “little things at the interfaces between different trades.



Markus Monczka and architect Gabriele Podzun discuss the construction details for a newbuild Koblenz well-being bungalow with Feng Shui.

Gabriele Podzun: If I have a creative idea, we often chew it around together and come up with good solutions.



Stairwell of solar house in Koblenz, planning by architect Gabriele Podzun and installation of the staircase by Markus Monczka.

Markus Monczka: Indeed. A good example is the staircase in the solar house. During the build a different technique altered the height of the

floor. We had to use the staircase build to align them and we sorted it out well.

Gabriele Podzun: What other kinds of work do you do?

Markus Monczka: I'm also called upon to convert existing pieces of furniture and I really like creating happy clients and lovely results, like the wine bar in Wunningen.

Gabriele Podzun: And you do small pieces of repair too?

Markus Monczka: I think of that as good customer service. I'm more than happy to do that.



Markus Monczka with the husband-and-wife gastronomy team in Wunningen, in front of the newly built winebar, all made from converted pieces of furniture.



M. MONCZKA

SCHREINEREIDIENSTE

An der Steinkaul 9, 56333 Wunningen
Tel. 0 26 06 / 96 48 58, Mobil: 01 79 / 500 25 31
E-Mail: info@monczka.de
www.schreinereidienste.de

Healthy living with MERZ HOLZBAU



Joiner on the roof frame of the well-being bungalow with Feng Shui

If you travel past live construction sites in the region, you often will spot the MERZ HOLZBAU sign with its distinctive yellow arrow on a blue background. They are well known for working on roofs, but less well-known however for their beautiful timber frames for buildings. Here the architect Gabriele Podzun gets some insights from Managing Director Stefan Merz and Michael Merz, who is responsible for Finance and internal operations.

Gabriele Podzun: How did your business start up?
Stefan Merz: I worked for over 20 years for the well-established joinery firm Holzbau Pfeil, which could look back on over 160 unbroken years of craftsmanship. On 1st January 2005 I was able to take over the business. My great-uncle Franz-Josef Pfeil is very pleased with how the two of us have developed the business further. We were also able to use the famous yellow arrow in our own logo, as a reminder of the founding Pfeil family.

Gabriele Podzun: That's a nice nod of appreciation to the tradition and life's work of the Pfeil family. And now tell us about the steps you've taken for the future of the MERZ HOLZBAU business.

Stefan Merz: Sure thing. In 2016 we moved to our new building in Bannberscheid with its large, technically modern joinery workshop and attached office complex.

We work with modern CNC machines, that is computer-supported production. This takes strain off our employees, helps them conserve their energy and strength and helps us all to work more efficiently.

Gabriele Podzun: We've worked together as architects on residential roof structures on my own construction sites. However, you also manufacture complete buildings – both commercial buildings, such as your own joinery hall – and residential buildings.



Michael Merz (left) and Stefan Merz (right) in front of the gable of a timber-frame house in their spacious assembly hall



Multi-storey wood-centric residential building in Montabaur

Michael Merz: That's right. We construct buildings with high thermal insulation and therefore low heating costs. We can also construct zero-energy houses on request. Building with wood is ecological construction because wood is a renewable building material. With proper construction, wooden houses will last for years and years. These are important points for our builders these days.

Gabriele Podzun: In Finland I've seen 800 year-old well-maintained wood buildings. That really is fascinating. Wood also feels warm and so helps a sense of well-being.

Michael Merz: Wood has a thermal conductivity of 0.13 watts per metre-kelvin. This, together with the thermal insulation that is incorporated into the wooden structure, is really valuable.

Stefan Merz: Big plus points for this construction method are the short build time and above all no absorption of moisture during the build phase.

Michael Merz: With our approach, in a few days we have the outer walls up, including the windows, and the house is sealed. Depending on the client's preferences, the builders can then either bring in their own resources, or we can take care of it.

Gabriele Podzun: The well-being factor is very important, isn't it?

Michael Merz: The whole construction method is for a healthy home, because we don't use any artificial wood protection. We build completely individual houses, nothing is "off the shelf".

Gabriele Podzun: You've built unusual but especially beautiful roofs for not only the well-being bungalow but also the solar house. Both buildings have an even higher well-being level because of the application of Feng Shui. That's a project that comes from deep within my heart and is also my special sauce for builders.



Solar house with Feng Shui

MERZ
HOLZBAU

GmbH

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56424 Bannberscheid
56077 Koblenz
www.holzbau-merz.de



SCAN ME

Feng Shui: WATER flows and everything is in motion

Humans are made mainly from water – water is life.

It's therefore logical that water is given a significant meaning in Feng Shui too. We see it in the very name **FENG SHUI**, which translates as **WIND** and **WATER**.

WIND represents moving water here, because standing water quickly can become brackish and unpleasant. So water needs motion in order to stay fresh.

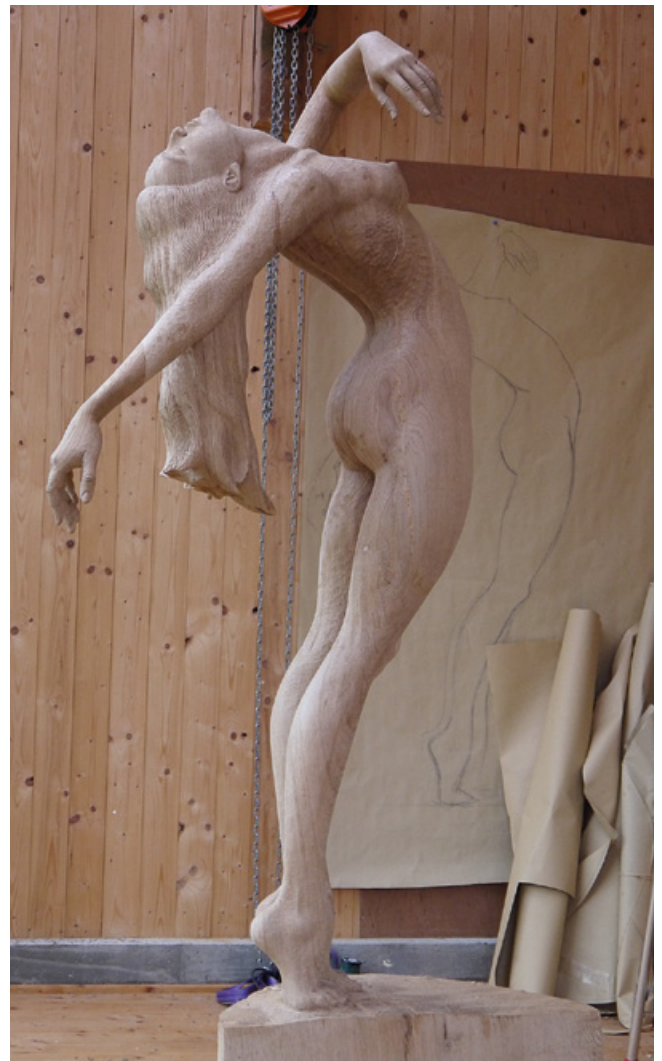
WATER has unbelievable power and this power should be used. In classical Feng Shui, streams and water runs are harnessed into specifically selected directions. This power is special and should be channelled in purposeful ways.



Our culture too is deeply anchored in the use of water for design and practical use. Examples are refreshing water features in village and city piazzas.

Springs and wells were sources of water for humans and for animals. That's why these "water holes" then also became meeting points for business. You could stay for a time and have a bit of a chat while you drew up your water from the well.

There is even a Feng Shui symbol that comes from this: **DUI**, which is the **LAKE** for, at the same time, joy and communication.



"The Dancer" by Malgorzata Chodakowska, sculptor from Dresden

Flowing movements, like water, also do our bodies good. It's not a question of personal bests and records, it's about regular and "flowing" movements.

Swimming is a beautiful combination of water and movement. It's one of the healthy sports, because the water carries the body and so is especially protective of our joints.

Schwimmbad
Whirlpool
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Tel.: 0261 - 88905 - 0

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www.massar.de



Building with bricks and Feng Shui



Foto: superjoseph / iStock Photo

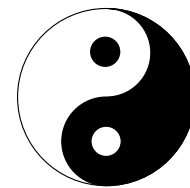
It's one of the most impressive manmade structures in history: the Great Wall of China. Constructed around the 7th century BCE, it was built out of fired bricks – filled with clay and sand for stability.

The Chinese refer to its most famous structure as the „10,000 li long wall“. However, the number „10,000“ is not meant literally as an exact measure, but colloquially stands for „really very, very long“.

Various numbers about the exact length swirl around and are continually corrected – upwards – by more recent archaeological finds.

In a straight line it would pretty much go from Beijing to Lisbon. Near Beijing, it is about 10 metres thick at the base and four to eight metres at the crown.

In reality “the Wall” is a complex system of different walls. It was built as protection against nomadic horsemen from the north, though this protective aspect is disputed among experts, as the walls were often overwhelmed.



When talking about Feng Shui, I am repeatedly told that „you shouldn't build a front door facing north, as that would be considered bad in Feng Shui“. This cliché about north-facing doors can perhaps be explained by the story in which the Chinese were afraid of horsemen from the north.

The statement is nonsense of course, because such thinking has nothing to do with down-to-earth practical Feng Shui, which I use to create the balance needed for better well-being.

For me, the Great Wall of China is a valuable example of the enormous durability of fired brick walls.

Nowadays, you can erect buildings from monolithic brick walls that do not need additional thermal insulation. The indoor climate of these houses is pleasant, contributes to saving energy and a relaxed sense of well-being.

Ein Ziegelhaus macht glücklich.

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MZ
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ThermoPlan® MZ

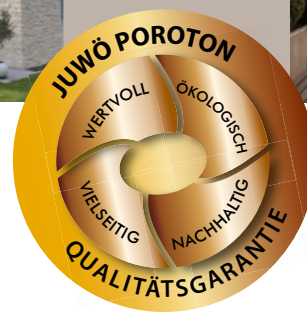
- Der bewährte Klassiker beim Bau von hocheffizienten Gebäuden aller Klassen
- Maximale Wärmedämmung bis λ_R 0,065 W/(mK) und hohe Wärmespeicherung von Anfang an
- Vom Erfinder des mit Mineralwolle gefüllten Ziegels



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www.facebook.com/JuwoePoroton



Redesign of a residential property in South Africa



The view from the lounge and dining room is breathtakingly beautiful. Each day you can make yourself completely chilled by sitting on the balcony or in the conservatory and watching the sun rise or set.. Foto: © Eben Snyman, construction lawyer, South Africa

The result of a combination of modern furniture with warm colours, as per Feng Shui rules: a house with a sense of well-being for all those who live there.



Design of a quiet place with colour choice by Interior Designer Mike Podzun-Timmermann

The objective was to have a clear and modern design. The new colour choice brightened up the previously dark rooms by being colourful and bringing the best out of each particular room.



A house to feel good in – done with Feng Shui.

Architecture and Feng Shui belong together



View of Table Mountain in Cape Town. Edited in Photoshop by Interior Designer Mike Podzun-Timmermann

During my architecture studies, **Prof. Ulrich Beck** was particularly influential on me. As an experienced, very creative stonemason, he was very strict in his teachings on structure; at the same time he left a lot of room for artistic creativity. His view was, *“architecture and Feng Shui belong together!”*

The Foundation Text for Feng Shui is the I Ging. It is several thousand years old. Diving into the depths of its knowledge is comparable in effort to doing a high school diploma.

Its basis is observation, factual analysis and experience in finding balancing measures. Feng Shui is a very profound theory of harmony. It serves a single purpose – **to enhance humanity’s well-being.**

Today many findings of Feng Shui have been confirmed by modern scientific research methods, especially in quantum physics. Indeed our European master builders of the past used the same design rules, they just had different names.

And I apply Feng Shui by making sure that I explain everything to my clients in very clear and simple language.

My main mentor in Feng Shui was **Grandmaster Prof. Yap Cheng Hai** from Malaysia.



Grandmaster Prof. Yap Cheng Hai in Kuala Lumpur with architect and Feng Shui Master Gabriele Maria Podzun.

New design for a garden in South Africa



BEFORE:
Laying out the Garden terrasses

The main idea behind the new garden design was to generate clear, creative forms that took in the slope of the ground and at the same time minimised the risk of slipping on the incline when gardening. The goal was a low-maintenance and at the same time beautiful garden.

To achieve this, we chose a conversion approach that turned the steep slope into individual step-



... the garden after just one year



AFTER:
The garden is almost complete

ped terraces. This looks nicer and has the side benefit that it also prevents the newly introduced good topsoil from being washed away by the seasonal rains. In winter it can rain very heavily in the Cape Town region.

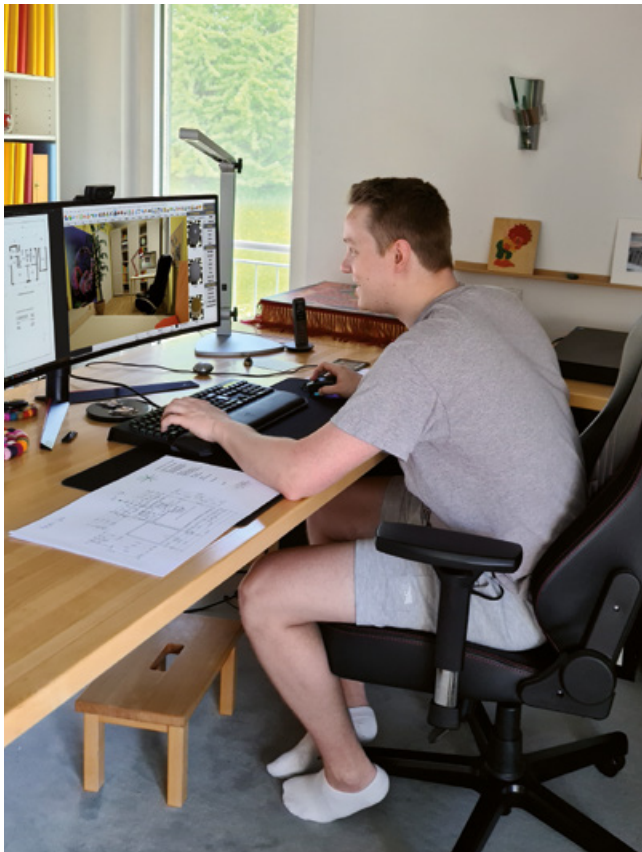
We have used lots of species of plants that, once established, require almost no watering. Put even a small cutting into good soil and it will quickly grow into a beautiful plant.

Water scarcity is also a major issue in South Africa. A few years ago, the winter rains were far too low and the drinking water reservoirs were almost empty.

Since then, we have paid even more attention to possible water savings.

We have incorporated large amounts of good topsoil and this will retain soil moisture better in the future. This topsoil helps provide the nourishment that enables the plants to thrive.

Designs with 3D-CAD-Visualisations



3D-CAD-visualiser and interior designer
Mike Podzun-Timmermann

TOP MAGAZIN: How did you come to settle on this job?

Mike Podzun-Timmermann: It's actually a mix of several jobs. After finishing school I studied Computer Game Design. Then Covid came. Luckily I'd been working for a long time with my mother in her office, helping put together the architectural drawings. We are both similarly creative and can work well together because we are on the same wavelength. I then became independent on 1st January 2021.

TOP MAGAZIN: Aren't your mother's and your jobs completely different?

Mike Podzun-Timmermann: No, not at all. Our jobs are, in fact, closely related. I've created fantasy worlds for video games, and these have to include realistic-looking houses and towns with surrounding countryside – naturally all virtual. I design in the virtual world, whilst my mother plans buildings for the real world. Both worlds need good ideas and plans.

TOP Magazin: How did it continue, once you'd started the job?

Mike Podzun-Timmermann: I made my own design and colour suggestions for a particular client. She implemented my ideas 100% and was excited by the results. I'd noticed that I really enjoyed this kind of work – especially selecting colours – and so I went on to become an interior designer.

TOP Magazin: Can you show us an example of a visualisation?

Mike Podzun-Timmermann: I'd be delighted to. Here's an idea for a teenager's room, designed with my 3D-CAD. With this software I can work up realistic-looking visualisations for my clients and at the same time measured-up plans for the craftspeople who will do the work. This helps everyone involved.

The client can get a really clear understanding and virtual view of everything, whether it's interior rooms, a bathroom, a pool in the garden, or even a complete house. It's all possible.



Visualisation of a teenager's room

TOP Magazin: What do you see yourself doing next?

Mike Podzun-Timmermann: I'd like to build up my visualisation business more. That really is my thing and the knowledge I've gained from my different studies and experiences are now all flowing nicely together. It's always better to correct something while it's still on the computer screen. Once it's under construction and has to be changed, then it costs a lot of money. My motto is: „Visualisations save money and nerves.“

Blauweg: a new life for your favourite jeans



Christina Neubauer, Owner BLAUWEG

Gabi Podzun and I ... we know each other through Feng Shui. At a super-interesting lunch together, this led on to us talking about everything under the sun, including career paths. This led me to begin to talk about myself and what my brand is all about and how what the basic idea is behind it.

Gabi: How did you get the idea for your business?

Christina: I can explain that really quickly. I've always wanted to do something with clothes and fashion, but I hadn't thought I'd end up in the jeans industry. First of all I got a solid qualification in tailoring. Then I was able to stay longer in the company and so built up my knowledge in the different parts of the business: quality, jeans washing, development and production of the materials. As well as that I was active as a buyer and was on site a lot. After a job change, I then broadened my knowledge by training in the technicalities of cutting.

Gabi: When did you have the brilliant idea for BLAUWEG?

Christina: For ages I've thought how cool it would be if you could take "old pairs of jeans" and turn them into new products. However, it first became a concrete idea for me when I had time at home during my maternity leave.

Gabi: What happened next?

Christina: I first went back to my original job. Then two seamstresses quit their repair workshop. Plain and simple I was therefore asked to repair jeans. This laid the foundation stone for my studio and my workshop.



Gabi: Exactly how's it meant to be? You have to tell me more, my friend.



Christina: The main idea is the Recycling Principle. Recycling is an important theme. My idea is not to destroy the old jeans completely, but instead to build them up from new again. In this way the "favourite piece" can be used again in a new form, as described exactly by the word "reuse". One-time use has had its day. The time is right for reuse. For jeans that means BLAUWEG.



Gabi: Why this particular material?

Christina: Of course it would work with practically any material. However, denim (as we call jeans material in the industry) is always individual and changeable. What also takes us to denim is that jeans lovers buy their jeans raw – that is untreated and unwashed – and look forward to the time that the first creases become visible. It's the rubbing and sheen that make jeans unmistakable. This all gives washed and well-worn jeans their own special colour pattern. Turning all this into a new product makes the whole thing so exciting and at the same time unique.

Gabi: What kinds of reused products do you have?

Christina: I start off with handbags and shopping bags, but also covers for favourite chairs. All parts are unique; no product is like any other, because each time it's a different bit of denim used. Of course you can always choose to have a product made out of your favourite jeans. However, not every pair of trousers can be used, and I only use those that I can make things from. For that I have standard products, by which I mean that the form for a handbag stays the same – the uniqueness comes from the way we work with what we're given and its associated extras. That also requires us to schedule in enough time. If you'd prefer not to do this, then you can buy finished products straight from our shop.



Mäppchen für Stifte



Tasche



Husse für Stuhl

Gabi: So it's not mass-produced products; instead each piece is individual?

Christina: I tend to think of us as more of a manufacturer. I'm always keen to take on new ideas and new products. It's all very exciting!

Gabi: And how do you get hold of the jeans?

Christina: They get dropped off with me or sent in the post once we've got details via mail or phone.

Gabi: And have you used Feng Shui in setting up your studio?

Christina: Yes of course. That's why I feel so comfortable there and can be so creative at work.



www.blauweg-denim.de | 0173 7092806

One Builder End-to-end



Sonnenhaus in Koblenz

Gabriele Podzun: How did you come to be a builder and what is your particular motivation?

Rickmer Hewicker: Since my youth I've always had a love for building and like it when I can build up something new just from simple bricks. I just love building. That's why I've gone through all the hoops in my training: from being an intern on construction sites, then a trainee bricklayer, all the way to my own building firm, Schlosser-Bau. It runs through my veins. My team and I put all our energy and skills into our customer engagements. Customer satisfaction is our objective.

Gabriele Podzun: I can confirm that, based on our work together on the solar house. You're often personally out there on site.

Rickmer Hewicker: Building is a trust thing. The client can rely on our complete focus and attention. This also includes all the coordination needed across the many individual trades. It's because we often do a build end-to-end; proper turnkey projects.

Gabriele Podzun: You do indeed cover the whole spectrum of construction capabilities. You build everything from residential buildings to larger premises for businesses.

Rickmer Hewicker: That's right. From building the shell all the way to turnkey construction. We also have renovation work in our armoury. A good example of our capabilities is the office building with a very innovative workplace concept, which we are currently building in Bahnhofstrasse in Mogendorf. But you'll need to ask my wife, Jessica Hewicker, to get more details about that.



Architect Gabriele Podzun in conversation on site with building contractor and managing director of Schlosser-Bau, Rickmer Hewicker.

SCHLOSSER
Bauunternehmung GmbH



Bahnhofstraße 3 - 56424 Mogendorf
Tel.: 0 26 23 / 96 10-0 - info@schlosser-bau.de
www.schlosser-bau.de

Office building with an innovative workplace concept



Office building

Gabriele Podzun: You're the client for this office building and are bringing to life ideas for the modern workplace. How did you come up with this idea?

Jessica Hewicker: A local business has offered the old building and site up for sale. We've jumped at the opportunity. We wanted to take on the modern world of work's desire for flexibility and to offer a good place to work.

Gabriele Podzun: Can you explain that in more detail?

Jessica Hewicker: We offer for rent fully furnished office rooms using the most modern technology. A client can choose short-term and flexible 24/7 rentals by using a simple QR code. All they need to do is bring their notebook or tablet. Everything else is at their disposal. We've got individual and group rooms available. As our own speciality we offer two creative rooms as well as a digital room and the option of a virtual office.

Gabriele Podzun: A modern setting isn't everything though?

Jessica Hewicker: We've got meeting areas with comfortable lounge furniture and a table football setup for relaxation. It goes without saying that we've also got a small kitchen with a coffee machine and a water dispenser.

Gabriele Podzun: I'm imagining a specific practical situation. A young family starts a family and so the

home office becomes a child's bedroom. But the office work still needs a quiet place to get done.

Jessica Hewicker: Exactly. Or the tenant simply needs a quiet office. Our rooms can be rented by the day (!) if the client wants. Our offer is aimed at freelancers, entrepreneurs, startups, project teams, medium-sized companies, organisations with temporary office requirements and company HQs.

Gabriele Podzun: That's a whole attractive mix of possibilities. The transport links are also very good.

Jessica Hewicker: Yes, that's right. Despite that, it's a quiet setting. Anyone interested can find out lots more information on our website.

Gabriele Podzun: My work on this office complex is the optimisation of the colour design and the interior design, using Feng Shui. That offers a sense of well-being and therefore helps people at their work.

Jessica Hewicker: I'm already really pleased with the results. Well-being is an important theme, as it makes being at work easier and more fun.

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If you can hear well, then you can enjoy summer all the more!

We're finally there. The warm summer days are calling us into the open air, out for walks, into pub gardens and ice-cream parlours – and best of all - time together with family and friends.

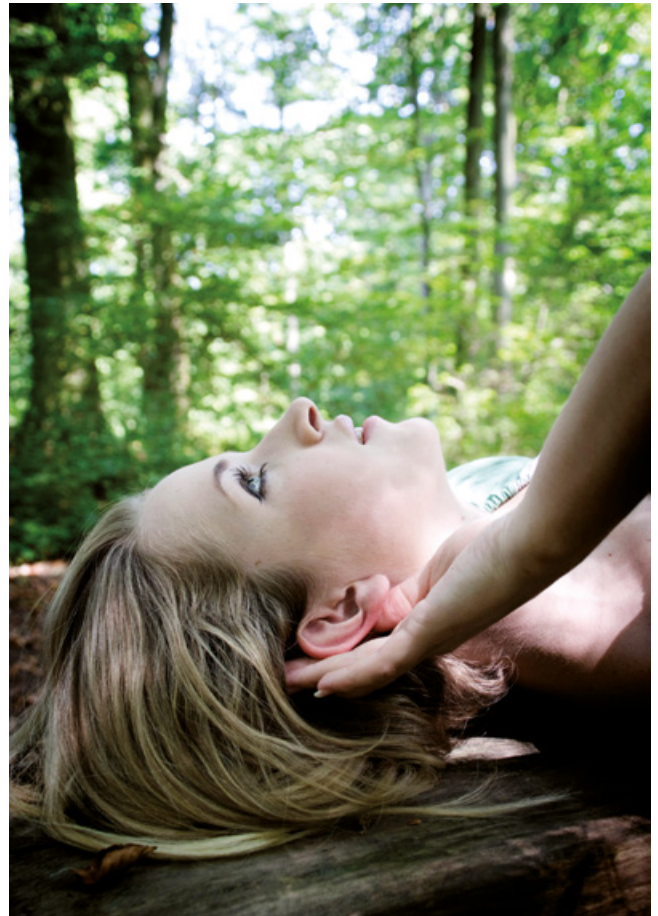
"It's simply about quality of life", says a delighted Hans Wissman. He explains enthusiastically that he has started to enjoy going out in his free time again, because, thanks to his new super-tiny in-ear hearing aid system, he can communicate without any limitations. And he loves that. "It's now not just my dog that I can communicate with properly, it's also my fellow human beings", he adds with a wink and a smile.

Hans Wissman is convinced that everybody can do something about their hearing. For him this means a regular annual hearing test, so that any hearing loss can be quickly spotted and taken care of. Otherwise, anyone who over a long period of time starts to not hear well also loses the ability to understand what is being said. "And you lose your mental fitness, as well as your active participation in a social life", says Hans.

Once he'd established that his hearing was getting worse, Hans sought advice from his local acoustic specialist – BECKER. Since then, Yvonne Fiand, a BECKER expert practitioner has led him on the best way back to good hearing.

"I'm really happy", says Hans, "above all it's because my own individual hearing needs are taken seriously. I can take my questions at any time to a hearing care professional, I can join interesting information presentations about hearing and I can make online appointments."

Soon this will also be possible via an app. This app will give patients access to their own personal data about their hearing profile and hearing system. The improvement in his hearing, his satisfaction with the BECKER service and the improvement in his quality of life have persuaded Hans Wissman to become a better-hearing ambassador for BECKER. His hope is that he can give courage to people who have limited hearing and that he can show, through his own personal experience,



that it's possible to regain good hearing and good understanding. When he came to his most recent visit to the BECKER-specialist centre, he was delighted to be awarded with the ambassador's badge – "the golden little ear".

BECKER Hörakustik, the owner-run family business with more than 100 staff in 22 specialist centres across northern Rheinland-Pfalz and Bonn-Bad Godesberg, has international standards' certification, not just for hearing acoustics, but also for cochlear-implant (CI) service, audio therapy and paediatric acoustics.



BECKER
HÖR AKUSTIK

**Werden Sie in diesem Jahr
zum Besser-Hörer!
Die BECKER Hörakustiker
zeigen Ihnen wie!**







*Hans Wissmann,
BECKER Kunde und
Botschafter des guten
Hörens mit Max*

**„Ich genieße wieder die Kommunikation mit den
Menschen – nicht nur mit meinem Hund!“**

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koblenz@beckerhoerakustik.de · Mo bis Fr 9 – 18 Uhr, Sa 9 – 13 Uhr · beckerhoerakustik.de    

Wine country South Africa



Top Magazin: You're a wine connoisseur and South Africa expert. Where do your experiences originate from?

Podzun: I've been involved with the subject of wine for 50 years. I visited countless countries across the world in my role as Founder and President of the German Wine and Sommelier School. And I looked after the Mittelrhein section of the Gault Millau wine guide for 18 years.

Top Magazin: What do you find so fascinating about South Africa?

Podzun: Its nature, climate and friendly people. And of course the wine.

Top Magazin: The overall size of the wine growing area in South Africa is similar to that of Germany. Where does the difference between the two of them lie?

Podzun: South Africa is about 50/50 white wine and red wine, and the vineyards are on average a lot bigger. It's therefore quite common that grapes are bought and sold by farmers. Almost every vineyard offers professional wine tasting for a fee, sometimes with cheese or sausage on the side; in Germany that is a lot rarer. Lots of the larger vineyards also offer their own restaurant and even overnight accommodation. And another thing I've noticed is how professional



the website designs are, with all their facts about each wine. Germany can still learn something there.

Top Magazin: And what about the wine quality?

Podzun: For each of the last five years I've visited 17 vineyards across five months to do professional tasting and so I've got a good overview. I'm impressed by the variety and the quality of wines. The Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Shiraz can hold their own internationally. And the main grape variety here, Pinotage, is improving year on year.

Top Magazin: You're a fan of Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) and, as initiator of the "chamber wine of the year", you've tasted lots of Spätburgunder and Frühburgunder along the Ahr river in Germany. What is the state of Pinot Noir in South Africa?

Podzun: Pinot Noir is very rare there. For the most part the climate is too hot. Exceptions are the Heemel en Aarde Valley with exceptional Pinot Noir and Chardonnay; as well as Elgin Valley and Robertson Valley with their cooler climates. They are about an hour and a half drive from Cape Town.

Top Magazin: What role does South Africa's wine play in Germany?

Podzun: Germany is the second-most important export country, after the UK. However, it's mostly ever-

yday wine. It's called "bulk wine" because it's shipped in large containers and then bottled and labelled in Europe. At discounters it's always less than €5. The renowned vineyards have experienced importers and a different customer base.



Podzun mit einer Riesling Raritäten Probe in Südafrika

Top Magazin: Does South Africa grow Riesling?

Podzun: Riesling is very rare indeed. Neither climate nor soil are suitable. Each year I invite the winemakers to a Riesling rarity wine tasting. I present the latest champion wines from the Vinum Wine Guide and top-ranking sweet rarities and auction wines from the last four decades. Each time it's a real highlight.

Top Magazin: Where can we learn more?

Podzun: www.podzun-wein.de, www.suedafrika-wein.de