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Beacon of sustainability

Artstudio Hannah Rabl

AUSTRIA

Where art finds a natural home



Photos: Hannah Rabl und Matthias Matzer
Text: Anne Gemeinhardt



Hannah Rabl, self-employed artist in Ebersdorf, Austria, has fulfilled her dream of owning her own studio. esb -PLUS wooden construction panels from elka -Holzwerke play a key role in this.



Hannah Rabl clearly feels comfortable in her studio house

The young woman welcomes me happily in front of her own studio. The small wooden house on the sunlit meadow in the shade of large old trees is reminiscent of a well-known local film with its cosiness.

And yet it seems fresher and airier, with its modern industrial style, young and contemporary. The entire building exudes a certain creativity and so I am not surprised by the diverse mix of drawings, paintings and sculptures in the spacious exhibition space inside the studio.

The artist lived and studied in Rome and Venice for several years, and since graduating from the master class for ceramic design at the Ortweinschule Graz in 2021, she has been working full-time as a freelance artist. In her work, it is important to her that the technology follows the subject, not the other way around.

She proceeded in the same way when planning her studio: The 70 m² are divided into 5 rooms: exhibition room, workshop, office, warehouse and a bathroom. Thanks to the special wooden brick construction method, it would be very easy to add rooms at any time and adapt the building to the respective work or living situation with relatively little effort. Because it would also be ideal for use as a residential building.

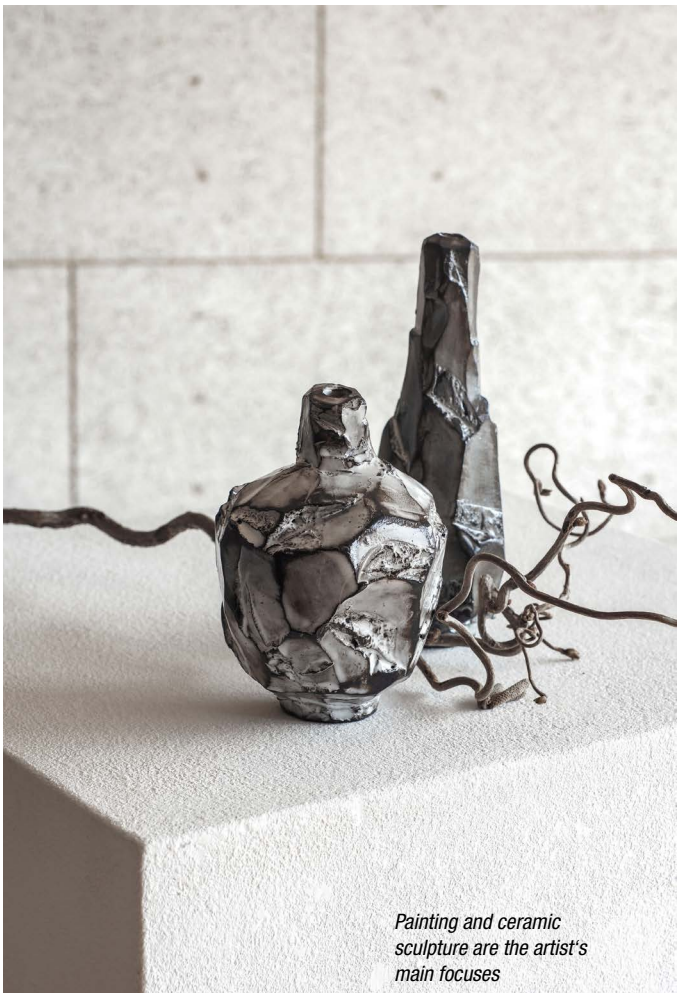
"This building system with wooden building blocks is something like Lego for adults", laughs Hannah Rabl. This is also how "Luxhome", the manufacturer of the so-called Homebricks, explains the simple plug-in system.

The artist was happy to have discovered it very close to her current studio. The substructure made of wooden beams was placed on screw foundations. This meant that it was not necessary to seal the floor with a classic floor plate.

Sustainability and protecting the environment are very important to the young woman. So these were of course also important criteria for processes and materials in their building project. It's good that the Homebricks are largely made from esb -Plus panels from elka Holzwerke, which are harmless to health and have been recognized for their sustainability. The special wooden brick construction made of esb -Plus panels and wood fiber insulation allows the walls to breathe and ensures an extremely pleasant indoor climate. Hannah Rabl deliberately wanted to maintain this and not completely seal the walls:

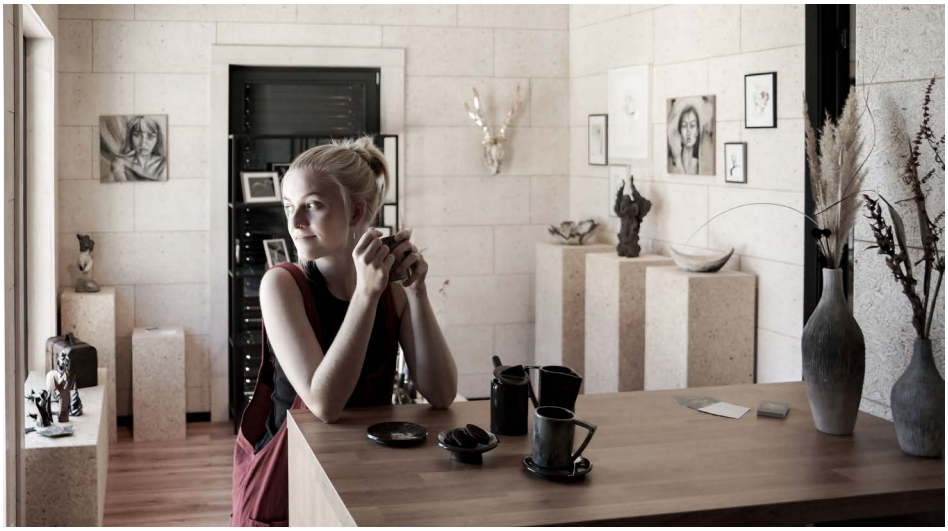
When you enter the studio, you notice that the esb-Plus panels have been left visible everywhere. The wall and ceiling surfaces are simply treated with a breathable, transparent white





Painting and ceramic sculpture are the artist's main focuses

glaze to make the rooms appear brighter. This also has another advantage for the artist: rehanging pictures is the order of the day in her everyday work. On the esb -Plus panels, even heavy frames are held on a simple nail; they do not require any screws or dowels. And she doesn‘t have to fill any holes afterwards because they are so small that they simply disappear into the wall structure.



Not only the walls, but also the exhibition steles are made of esb panels

Steles for the exhibition room were made from the remaining pieces of the esb panels. They fit in perfectly visually and once again reflect the style of the building. The reduced and reserved interior design fits with one of the a rtist‘s guiding principles: “As vague as possible, as concrete as necessary.” In her works, she wants to offer the viewer the opportunity to fill in the blank spaces with their own personal experiences and interpretations.

And what experiences has she had with the studio herself, for example in her first cold winter there? “To be honest, the winter months were very problem-free,” reflects Ms. Rabl. The insulation value of the building corresponds to that of a low-energy house. Although the walls must remain free as presentation areas and the studio is therefore mainly heated with infrared panels mounted on the ceiling, these are completely sufficient in the transition period. During the really cold periods, she heats a Swedish stove with wood in the morning and within a short time the entire building is pleasantly warm for the rest of the day. This means heating costs remain relatively low.

„This building system with wooden building blocks is something like Lego for adults“

The studio is also used for courses in various artistic techniques in the areas of ceramics, drawing and painting. Hannah Rabl is grateful for the pleasant acoustics of the rooms. The structured surface of the walls and ceilings means there are no unpleasant echoes. It sounds more like a cozy living room there, although because of her clay work there are no carpets or curtains to be found. The workshop must be easy to clean.

Your course participants also enjoy the homely and relaxed atmosphere in the studio. They are happy when they can escape from everyday life for a few hours. In the small wooden house on the sunlit meadow in the shade of large old trees…

The artist

Hannah Rabl is an independent artist in Ebersdorf near Hartberg. She grew up in Eastern Styria, and after graduating from high school, Rabl lived and studied for several years in Rome and Venice. She then continued her training in the master class for ceramic shaping at the Ortweinschule Graz. After graduating in 2021, she founded her own studio and has since worked full-time as a freelance artist in the areas of painting and ceramic sculpture.

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The insulation value of the building corresponds to that of a low-energy house, and thanks to a Swedish stove it is comfortably warm even in winter.



The substructure made of wooden beams was placed on screw foundations. This meant that it was not necessary to seal the floor with a classic floor plate.



No crane or heavy equipment is required to build the house. This also makes it possible to set up houses in impassable places with the Homebrick system.



Setting up the walls is very quick thanks to the plug-in system. Hannah Rabl later left the surface of the esb panels visible in the interior.



Esb plates from elka



The esb building board is a healthy alternative to conventional chipboard P5 or OSB 3 boards for structural timber construction. It consists mainly of local, low-VOC spruce wood and ensures a very good, odorless living environment.

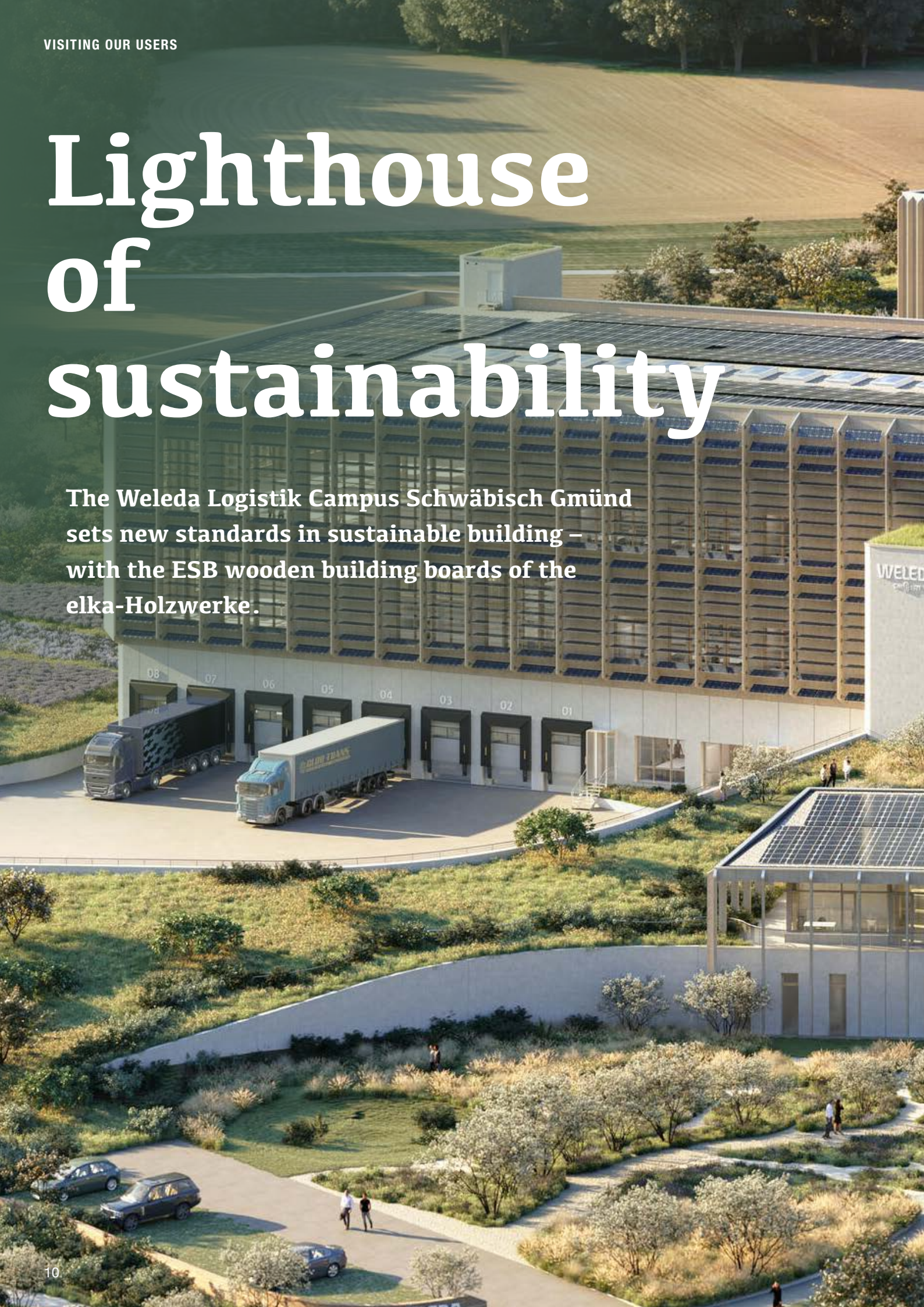
The unique production process in the elka company with an upstream sawmill keeps CO_2 emissions low and only regional wood from a maximum of 150 km away is used.

The building board impresses with its excellent technical properties; compared to OSB boards, it has 40% higher transverse tensile values and less swelling. Its building physics properties make it very suitable for loft conversions.

Further information: www.esb-platte.de

Lighthouse of sustainability

The Weleda Logistik Campus Schwäbisch Gmünd sets new standards in sustainable building – with the ESB wooden building boards of the elka-Holzwerke.





Instead of a single, massive box, several buildings are being built on the new logistics campus, which harmoniously fit into the landscape of the Swabian Alb. A bridge combines functional buildings and high -bay warehouse

Photo animation: MICHELGROUP

With the kind permission of Weleda, architecture firm Michelgroup and wooden building Amann



Aerial photo recording of the overall project. With a hearing lace bearing (right), the connecting bridge, the functional building (middle) and the administration building on the left. (Photo Alber & Schulze)

The new Weleda Logistics Campus in Schwäbisch Gmünd marks a significant step into the future of the company, which, as the world market leader, produces certified natural cosmetics and anthroposophical medicines with active substances from nature. The construction project emphasizes sustainability in an economic, ecological and social point of view. Special emphasis is placed on a gentle handling of nature by using natural materials such as wood and rampant. The industrial site is intended to serve as a model for future -proof building and promote biodiversity with near -natural outdoor facilities.

The logistics campus enables Weleda a flexible and modular structure in order to meet future market requirements. The company is aiming for a climate-neutral company and a minimized CO_2 footprint. The use of sustainable building materials and renewable energy technologies, such as photovoltaic systems and geothermal energy, are based on ecological responsibility. The aim will be to distinguish the building with the DGNB platinum certificate, the highest evaluation level of the Society for Sustainable Building.

The renowned architecture firm Michelgroup from Ulm took over the planning of the unique construction project in all performance phases. The Holzbau Amann team was able to play its expertise to implement the woodwork. The range of services included the wooden structure and the wooden frame walls, as well as the facade of the functional building, the connecting bridge and the administration building. The connecting bridge consists of two half -timbered carriers, which is designed for dynamic loads from the conveyor belts. The wooden facade of the functional building is around 18 m high and was completely prefabricated in individual elements including formwork at AMANN.

Holzbau Amann used almost 2,000 m^2 ESB panels from elka-Holzwerke from Rhineland-Palatinate to plan the interior walls. The panels were not only used for the logistics area, but also as a visible cladding of the office space. The ESB plate can play its advantages of the sanded surface, fresh spruce wood and open to diffusion very well and contribute to a healthy indoor climate. The high measure of the construction boards proved itself even with 5 meter high window loans, they could be carried out exactly with ESB. Thanks to the record formats of up to 5.20 x 2.06 meters, large areas with little staff could also be used in a short time.

The completion of the lighthouse project is imminent, all buildings should be obtained in spring 2024.



In the logistics center, the elka ESB plate with a total of almost 2000 m² was used as interior cladding. (Photo: Holzbau Amann)



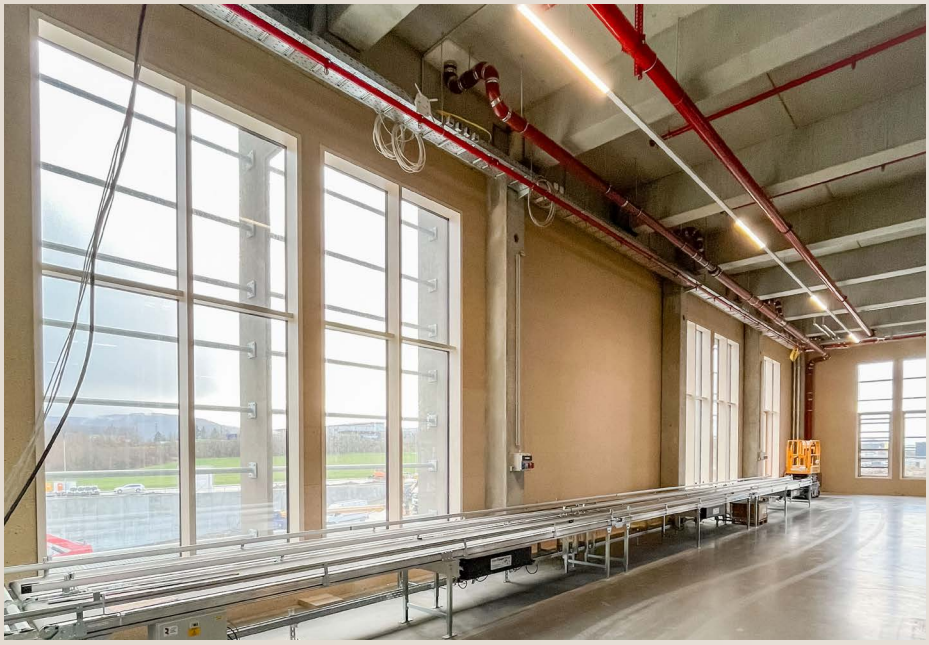
With the ESB laying plate, large areas with little staff could be planned in a quick time.

(Photo: Holzbau Amann)



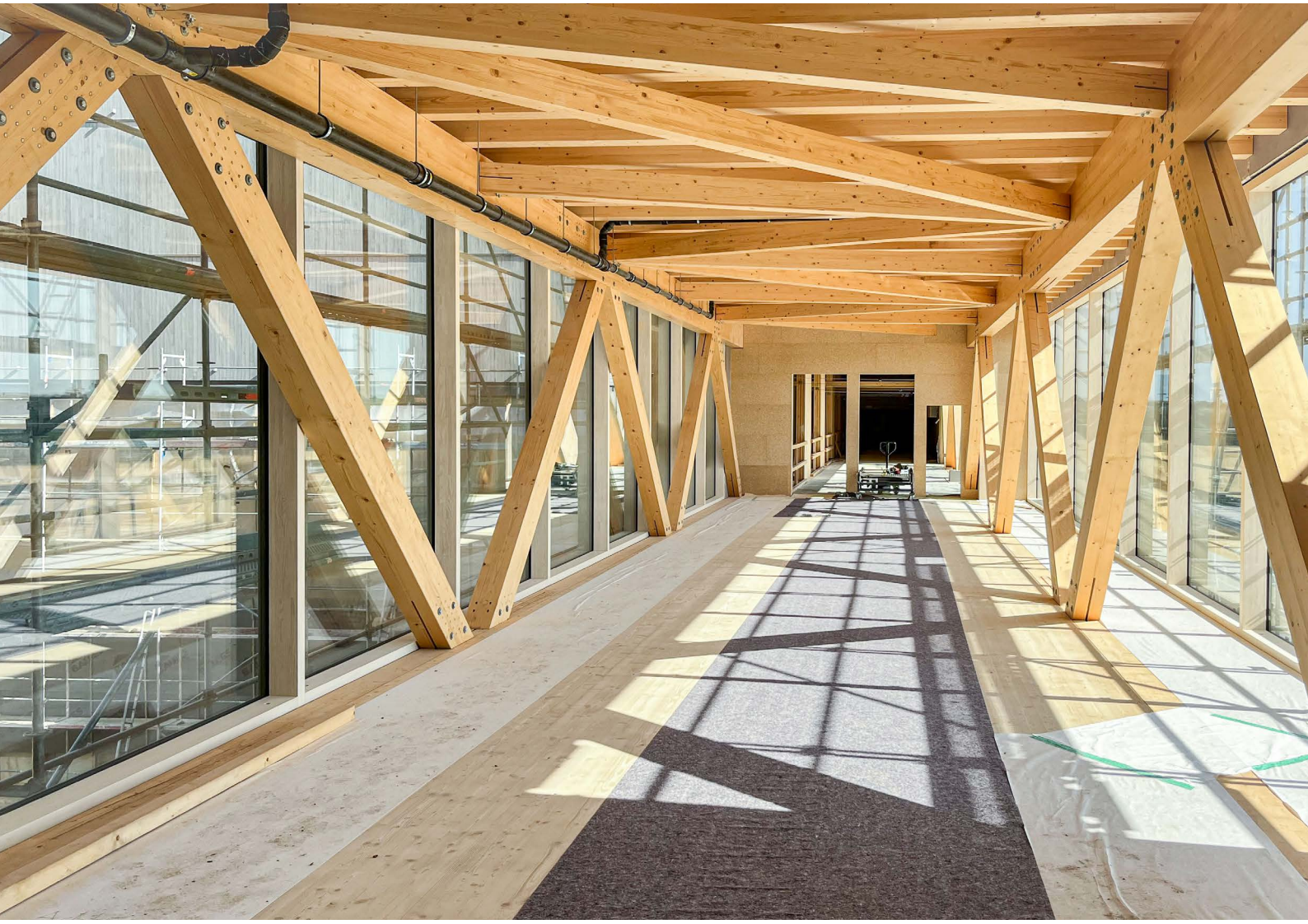
In all three floors of the functional building, office boxes were carried out with elka ESB panels. Due to the high surface quality, the plate was able to fit as a visual interface in the industrial building.

(Photo: Holzbau Amann)



The windows up to almost 5 m high could be carried out exactly due to the high measure of the ESB plate.

(Photo: Holzbau Amann)



ESB plate as a planking of the partition connection bridge and high-bay warehouse. (Photo: Holzbau Amann)

esb plates from elka



The esb building board is a healthy alternative to conventional chipboard P5 or OSB 3 plates for constructive timber construction. It mainly consists of home, voc-poor spruce wood and ensures a very good, odorless living space climate.

The unique production process in the company elka with upstream sawmill keeps the CO_2 emissions low and only regional wood is used from a maximum of 150 km away.

The building board convinces with excellent technical properties, it has 40% higher transverse values compared to OSB panels and a lower source. Due to its building physics properties, it is very suitable for loft expansion.

Further information: www.esb-platte.de

elka-holzwerke.de · 12/2023

elka®

Sawn timber and wood materials to perfection - since 1906

elka-Holzwerke was founded in 1906 and is located in Morbach, Rhineland-Palatinate, in the middle of the extensive woodlands of the Hunsrück region. The fourth-generation family business has been committed to healthy living, emission reduction and sustainability for many years. Elka is a member of the DGNB e.V. (German Sustainable Building Council) and its products are listed in the DGNB Navigator.

The modern sawmill produces sawn timber and construction timber, some of the sawn timber is processed into three-layer natural wood panels, known under the brand name „elka vita“, and the fresh sawdust and wood chips produced in the sawmill are pressed into other wood-based materials such as chipboard and esb wood construction panels with minimised CO_2-transport. esb and esb Plus are brands of elka-Holzwerke and have received multiple awards from independent institutes.

The exemplary value chain of unique cascade production means that almost all parts of the round timber used are processed. With spruce wood from regional forests, the company optimises its supply chains in a CO_2-saving manner and has been a member of the „WOOD FROM HERE“ initiative since March 2023. Raw wood is sourced exclusively from suppliers who have committed to the sustainability principles of PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes).



HOLZ RETTET KLIMA

Mission Holz 2030

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