



Main image:
 Single family home Spindler, Kreuzlingen (CH).
 Design: esa-zurich.com. Photo: Inka Reiter, Constance

Below: "Minergiehaus" Lauber, Lengwil (CH).
 Photos: Inka Reiter, Constance

"Plusenergiehaus" Trinkner, Wahlwies (D).
 Photo: Peter Allgaier, Constance (right)

Opposite top: Single family home Weber, Tägerwilen (CH). Photo: Inka Reiter, Constance

Opposite middle: "Plusenergiehaus" Trinkner, Wahlwies (D). Photo: Peter Allgaier, Constance

Opposite page bottom: Single family home Nidbaur, Constance (D). Photos: Inka Reiter, Constance

A house for the soul – architecture which is liveable

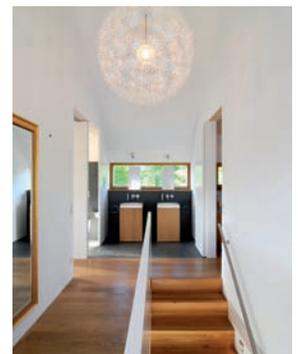
Ruff Weber Architekten in Constance uses its thorough background in woodworking, craftsmanship and years of expert knowledge as architects, to plan and create award-winning contemporary family homes.

TEXT: DORINA REICHHOLD | PHOTOS: RUFF WEBER ARCHITEKTEN

"We always look at new projects from a bird's eye view before getting into detail, which ultimately even includes checking the smallest screw," explains Tilmann Weber. He is one of the two architects that

make up the architectural firm Ruff Weber Architekten which is situated in Constance in the south-western corner of Germany, at the famous Lake Constance on the border with Switzerland.

Weber and his colleague Stefan Ruff founded Ruff Weber Architekten in 2002, with a focal point on housing construction for families. They have successfully developed their company profile in the last twelve years which has included the completion of several award-winning projects. For the first ten years, Ruff Weber Architekten were mainly planning single-family homes, focussing on direct contact with the client and a productive exchange





of ideas. "We work price-conscious, target-orientated and always with high creative standards," explains Weber. "All wishes and requirements are discussed and developed with the people who later live in the house and are accompanied by us all the way during their realisation." Both architects have a great passion for their work and, due to their educational background, have a thorough knowledge of all the steps of the planning and construction process. Both completed vocational woodwork training, with Ruff qualifying as a joiner and Weber as a carpenter before moving on to study architecture. This practical knowledge gives them a valuable understanding about the necessities for the execution process, while planning and working on different projects. At the same time their passion for using wood as a building material is obvious throughout their work. Clear structures, space and light character-

ize the design of Ruff Weber Architekten. They aim to create spaces that accomplish an atmosphere that is grounded and comforting as well as distinctly contemporary. "We always try to deliver the complete package," says Weber. The reason behind their success is tight-knit teamwork between client and architect. "It is important that the client sees that we are working with them, as well as for them," explains Weber. This concept has led to Ruff Weber Architekten successfully taking part in different urban planning competitions, resulting in the company winning several awards for their work right from the start. The second project they ever worked on together earned great praise. It is a single-family home which combines the concepts of Far Eastern notions and Western modernity. The underlying idea was to build a home based on the Chinese Feng Shui philosophy of harmony with the surrounding environment. At the same time the house was meant to be modern. Ruff and Weber's concept earned great approval from the client and the builders involved and was realised down to the smallest detail. The finished home was awarded a prize from the Chamber of Architects of the German state Baden-Württemberg for "exemplary building" and was also chosen as "House of the year 2005" by a building-society journal which is read by millions of German homeowners and people who plan on building their own house in the future. Another project, the Haus am Hang also won an award for "exemplary building" due to its perfect incorporation into the urban plan.

One example of the remarkable achievements of Ruff and Weber is the planning



and creation of an energy-plus-house which produces more energy, due to renewable energy sources, than it uses to sustain itself over the course of one year. During this project Ruff and Weber achieved perfectly incorporating a contemporary wooden structure into the complex building technology at a low cost.

Another project the two architects are very proud of is a multi-family house in Konstanz, which earned lots of approval and praise by the families who moved into their new homes. Achieving the utmost client satisfaction is the greatest reward for Ruff and Weber. "The most outstanding attribute of our work is that the architecture is liveable," explains Weber. "It has to be perfectly structured, yet the design must not be overbearing."

A dream project for Ruff Weber Architekten would be to plan and construct a hotel with separate areas to hold seminars and a wellness and spa area for unwinding, relaxation and resting. "Using warm and natural materials which create a pure and calm atmosphere," states Weber. "We love to build a house for the soul."

www.ruffweber.de

