

RAMPF FORUM

*We build the mould
you fill the concrete in*

Issue 2/2008

Innovations | Developments | Trends | the World of RAMPF FORMEN

RAMPF | Regional Garden Show in Neu-Ulm 2008

A 3.000 SQUARE METRE PAVING EXHIBITION



NEU-ULM | ‚Very Flowery‘ – the Regional Garden Show in Neu-Ulm opened its gates under this slogan on 25 April 2008. Visitors were welcomed to the show by three elaborately designed and landscaped garden areas and a comprehensive supporting cultural programme. Prior to the opening, garden and landscape architects and their staff worked for several months preparing the site for the show. Regional manufacturers played a decisive role in the design and construction of the paved and landscaped areas of the showground with the provision of 3,000 square metres of concrete paving stones of all kinds.

The Regional Garden Show in Neu-Ulm on the banks of the Danube played many roles – an ideal place for a day out, a playground, a sea of flowers or a cultural encounter. For the regional landscape architects working hand-in-hand with manufacturers of concrete elements, it was a perfect advertisement of their skills and products that inspired visitors with new ideas for garden design.

The Regional Garden Show presented the latest in the world of gardening on a three-part site in Neu-Ulm. Each of the three distinct areas, situated in the ‚Wiley‘, ‚Vorfeld‘ and ‚Glacis‘ districts of the city, had its own thematic focus and, in turn, its own unique attraction.

The show inspired its visitors with a multitude of concepts from concrete to raised banks, from water to dunes and orchards to lawns and provided them with fascinating new ideas for

their gardens, patios, courtyards or pathways and drives at home. Alongside lifestyle concepts, visitors were met with exciting garden visions and fascinating solutions in concrete paving for ways, drives and spaces. In addition to the decorative concrete paving of the ‚Triangolo‘ feature of the ‚Wiley‘ district the ‚City Green‘ of the ‚Glacis‘ district was also constructed with precast concrete elements supplied by manufacturers from the Neu-Ulm region. The concrete elements used in these features were, in some cases, special designs manufactured by Albrecht Braun GmbH and Lithonplus GmbH & Co. KG. In fact, the blocks provided for the Regional Garden Show were not only produced in various special colours and forms, but also in special, custom-manufactured versions to meet the requirements of the site. ‚We laid around 3,000 square metres



www.lgs-neu-ulm.de

of paving and special blocks, some even fluted and in red and white tones.‘, reported Berthold Stückle, the official garden show landscape architect.

According to statistical surveys, the average German private garden has an eight to twelve square metre patio paved with concrete blocks, a sandpit, a slide, fruit trees and a paved drive with a carport. In the opinion of the landscape architects in Neu-Ulm, a picture that is due for a change. The garden planners showed a wide range of examples and ideas for re-designing private gardens and provided one or another visitor with new impulses for transforming their gardens at home. A stroll through the individual displays at the show revealed new insights and proved just how well precast concrete elements can harmonise with nature and the environment and how the shapes and colours of the paving stones can create a harmonious whole in combination with flower beds and water features. Paths and patios were paved in contrasting designs and proved to be not only ideal for strolling, but also emi-

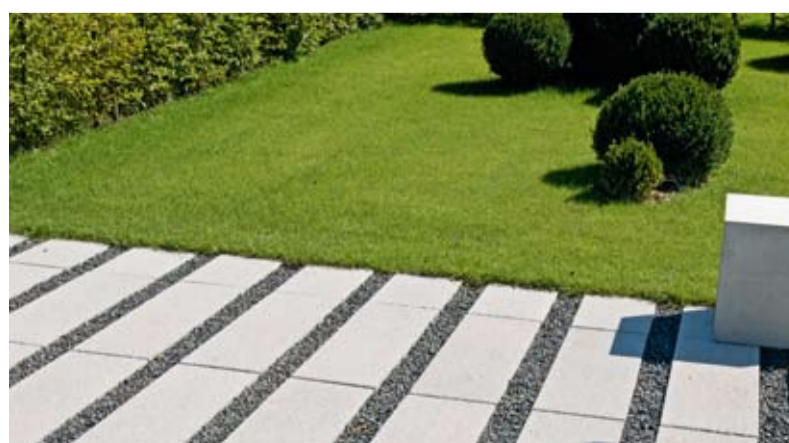


nently suitable for access with pushchairs and wheelchairs.

The garden show on the Bavarian side of the Danube was a resounding success and welcomed 730,000 visitors in all. The Regional Garden Show in Neu-Ulm closed its gates to the public on 5 October, but the three sites will continue to be an attraction in the future in

their new role as recreational areas located in the heart of the city. So, you still have an opportunity to see this further attractive reason to visit the city of Ulm/Neu-Ulm.

The organisers are certain that the ideas and concepts presented at the show will live on in the gardens of homeowners across the country and beyond.



European Football Cup 2008

AND THE WINNERS ARE... RAMPF CUSTOMERS!

The European Cup 2008 was an absolute highlight of the sporting year. Hundreds of thousands of fans watched the games in public viewing areas, waved their national flags and celebrated the performance of winners and losers alike.

The breathtaking excitement of the European Cup 2008, staged this year in Switzerland and Austria, kept the whole of Europe in suspense and, once again, the German national team rewarded their fans with another great cup final.



Russia



Ireland



Switzerland

But team spirit is not only essential for the success of football teams. Our customers certainly benefit from the team spirit, skilled training, expertise and knowledge of all our employees here at Rampf. Because, precisely this guarantees the longer life of Rampf moulds and puts us at the top of the premier league of manufacturers in Europe and abroad.

The special bonus presented by Rampf – an original ADIDAS European Cup football – is obviously very popular with our customers around the globe – as you can see in the following pictures.



Switzerland



Germany

RAMPF SERVICE | Original RAMPF FORMEN Care and Repair Manual



CORRECT CARE AND MAINTENANCE PRESERVES VALUE: SERVICE FOR PERFECTLY DESIGNED RAMPF PRODUCTS

Although original Rampf Formen are characterised by extreme resistance to wear and optimised endurance, correct care and maintenance can further increase their productive efficiency. Our Service Guidelines for Care and Repair provide useful tips and experts' tricks for the correct care, cleaning and maintenance of Rampf Moulds.

Do you have any questions concerning the optimisation of your production process? Get in touch with us. We can get together to find the ideal solution.

- The Rampf Formen Service Manual provides:
- Instructions for mould handling in the form of checklists
 - Notes on correct storage and useful information on the recognition of wear and fracture
 - Detailed information on uncomplicated mould installation and pressure plate replacement and appropriate safety measures

We recommend the use of Rampf Original tools and replacement parts for repairs and maintenance.

Simply fill in and send us the order form and get an offer from Rampf Formen GmbH. The Rampf Formen Care and Repair Manual is available in German, English, Spanish and Russian and is free of charge for our customers. The French-language version is currently in preparation. Just fill in and send off the coupon.

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Development and optimisation of concrete mixes for Gotika /Moscow

BEC-BETON EXPERTEN CENTER GMBH, DR. SÖREN LOTTNER

In 2005, several series of formulae for mixing high-quality facing concrete for paving stones and slabs were developed for the Russian concrete product manufacturer Gotika. Thanks to the utilisation of coloured pigments and refined granulates, as well as the ideal adaptation of the w/c value and fine matter, it was possible to manufacture not only smooth surfaced products, but also washed and polished looks with outstanding quality.



In addition, the mixing proportions for the core concrete were optimised with regard to quality and cost-reduction. Thanks to adjustments in the granular structure of the aggregate, it was possible to reduce the cement content of the paving stones by 17.5% (from 400 to 330 kg/m³) and simultaneously significantly increase the compressibility of the blocks. The increased gross density of the blocks, from seven to nine percent, led to increased stability of the blocks despite the reduced proportion of cement (before optimisation: 30 MPa after 60 days; after optimisation: 29 to 35 MPa after 14 days). The savings resulting from optimised mixing pro-

portions and based on the cost of raw materials at the time (approx. 40 Roubles per cubic metre) lay by 3%.

Rampf Formen GmbH arranged the contacts between Dr. Sören Lottner and the Gotika Concrete Works.



RAMPF | Training

LATHE SETS NEW TRAINING STANDARDS

ALLMENDINGEN | RAMPF invests in Germany as a manufacturing location

Lathes and milling machines, as well as workshop centres fitted with the latest CNC control systems, are the heart of every high-performance and efficient production and manufacturing process. The programming, operation and monitoring of these machines, and the production processes they serve, are all a part of the tasks of skilled metalworkers. The basic essentials of working with CNC technologies are a part of the courses offered at technical colleges. However, in practice, this knowledge is not sufficient for the tooling and programming of industrial CNC machines', reported Uwe Lanzinger, Training Manager at Rampf Formen.

This is why we have recently acquired a CNC-assisted training lathe for state-of-the-art training of our apprentice metalworkers in their third and fourth years of apprenticeship. This machine enables the manufacture of production components within the training context.

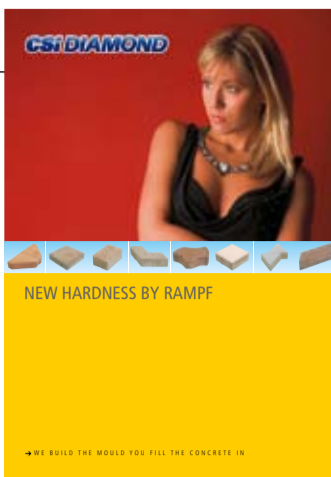


A computer assisted programming system with a CNC training programme enables simple programme creation and lathe programming with direct transfer of the programmed data to the work piece.

We see this not only as the ideal way to learn CNC technology from the ground up and experience its uses in a practical context, but also as a guarantee for the quality engineering of future Rampf Products - Made in Germany.

A. TSCHÜMPELİN AG / BUILDING MATERIALS

Allmendingen / Baar | A. Tschümperlin AG is a family-run company with its headquarters in Baar, Switzerland that has evolved throughout several generations. Today, the company is led by Carla Tschümperlin. The company manufactures building materials for the construction, civil engineering, and road building segments, as well as for landscape gardening and site landscaping at two main manufacturing locations in Switzerland. Rampf Forum visited Hans Lüthold, member of the management team and head of Production & Technology at A. Tschümperlin AG.



Hans Lüthold – Head of Production & Technology at A. Tschümperlin AG

RAMPF FORUM:

Mr Lüthold, Tschümperlin AG Baustoffe manufactures building materials at several sites in Switzerland. Where are your manufacturing facilities located and how many people are employed in manufacturing?

Hans Lüthold:

That is correct; Tschümperlin AG operates several factories in various locations throughout Switzerland. We have three sites with various production lines in Meierskappel/Küssnacht am Rigi manufacturing the complete spectrum of products for the construction, civil engineering, tunnel construction, road building, landscape gardening and site landscaping segments. We currently employ a workforce of 60 in these production facilities. In our factory in Lüsslingen/Solothurn our key activities are focussed on the production of concrete piping with diameters of 10 to 100 centimetres and materials for railway construction. In addition, the 25 employees at this location are responsible for contract-oriented prefabrication of concrete construction modules with weights of up to 18 tonnes. Altogether, A. Tschümperlin AG has a current workforce of 170 employees. Further regional sales locations are situated in Horw/Luzern, Adliswil/Zürich and at our headquarters in Baar/Zug.

RAMPF FORUM:

Has Tschümperlin supplied products for any particularly prominent construction projects?



The current leading product from A. Tschümperlin – made-to-measure ATIPlan paving slabs

Hans Lüthold:

The list of special projects is long. In the run-up to this year's European Cup, we supplied products from our range for the 'Stade de Suisse' construction project, the football stadium in Berne-Wankdorf and the Horw Stadium in Lucerne. We also supplied a landmark in premium quality site landscaping for the Grandhotel Dolder in Zurich, which is now a dazzling example of classical urban architecture following its extensive renovation. We are also justifiably proud of the use of our products in large-scale projects such as the San Bernardino road tunnel, Golfpark Risch and the COBI container handling facilities in Birsfelden.

RAMPF FORUM:

What is currently your top-of-the-range product?

Hans Lüthold:

Above all the drainage versions of our ATIFlex, ILATAN and Carré paving stones ranges are currently in great demand. We can also consider our made-to-measure ATIPlan paving slabs to be one of our leading products.

RAMPF FORUM:

What particularly characterises your enduring collaboration with Rampf Formen?

Hans Lüthold:

We constantly experience their excellent customer relations and service in the form of outstanding support and new product innovations. The superb quality of the Rampf steel moulds used in the production of our ATIFlex, ILATAN and Carré paving stones is instrumental in creating and maintaining our considerable competitive advantage. Thanks to the utilisation of CSI DIAMOND-moulds, we can also enjoy the benefits of distinctively higher production lifecycles.

RAMPF FORUM:

How many CSI DIAMOND-moulds are currently in operation?

Hans Lüthold:

At present, our stone production lines employ around 130 moulds, and 90 percent of these are from Allmendingen. Tschümperlin AG manufactures paving stones with a total of five CSI DIAMOND-moulds. These moulds guarantee us up to twice the usual production lifecycle.

RAMPF FORUM:

What does your experience with these moulds look like in the cold light of day-to-day production? Have your CSI DIAMOND-moulds fulfilled your expectations?

Hans Lüthold:

Our production with very hard crushed limestones from the Gotthard Massif demand extreme moulding quality and minimised wear. Rampf CSI DIAMOND-moulds perfectly satisfy these demands. The quality and lifecycle, in other words, the cycle-times, of CSI DIAMOND-moulds are absolutely outstanding.

RAMPF FORUM:

What benefits do you see in the use of CSI DIAMOND-moulds?

Hans Lüthold:

As I already mentioned earlier, the considerably higher production lifecycle clearly offsets the higher investment costs. The intervals for mould revision are much longer and mould availability is much more favourable, thanks to fewer revisions. On the whole, we have also found that wear on the moulds is considerably less.



Frank Schunack of RAMPF FORMEN views the mould-storage at Tschümperlin together with Mr. Lüthold.

RAMPF FORUM:

For which of your products do you use CSI DIAMOND-moulds?

Hans Lüthold:

At Tschümperlin AG, we predominantly use our CSI DIAMOND-moulds for the production of high sales-volume paving stones.

Hans Lüthold, member of the management team and Head of production & Technology at A. Tschümperlin AG, was interviewed for Rampf Forum by Jürgen Reiser, Rampf Marketing Division.

RAMPF | Editorial



Achim Rampf, Managing Director of RAMPF FORMEN

Dear business partners,
dear readers,

The International Monetary Fund has predicted a grim outlook for global economic growth, and has lowered its forecast figures accordingly. According to the experts, the financial crisis in the USA has a considerable slowing effect on economic development at home and abroad. The dependence of the entire business world on the financial sector as a provider of capital is a unique factor seldom experienced in other segments. However, in contrast to the financial sector, every other enterprise is responsible for its own fate. In addition, it is an economic fact in such periods of economic uncertainty, that consumers and investors exercise a certain reticence. Pulling together is now the order of the day. Similar to the situation in the automotive segment, the time has now come for us to press forward with the expansion and consolidation of our cooperative structures.

Essentially, this means that the future demands that we collaborate even more closely with our customers on the solution of any problems we encounter. An excellent example of this is our Product Development Division and its consistent development of market-relevant and market-ready products. Because, in addition to our collaboration with prominent universities and institutions, it is particularly the relationship based on mutual trust that we maintain with our customers that ensures our ability to develop these products to optimum maturity. At Rampf Formen GmbH, we have been actively pursuing research and development into forward-looking mould construction technologies for many years. New technologies developed at Rampf are not only laboratory tested; we test them realistically under the most rigorous and demanding day-to-day factory conditions. A recent example of this is our CSI-Diamond hardening process. We are therefore convinced that the consequent and consistent further development of our products and processes will contribute significantly to consolidation and further expansion of our common market positioning.

Best regards, your,

Achim Rampf



'Stade de Suisse' stadium at Berne



Meierskappel/Küssnacht plant at the Rigi

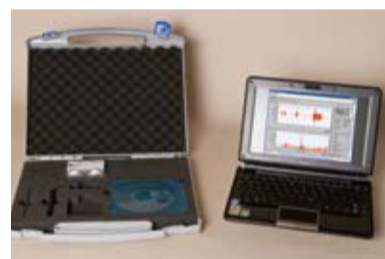
THE MIGHTY MIDGET!

Many advances in modern concrete block manufacturing processes have taken place in recent years. Rampf Formen GmbH can already look back on decades of successful process and product improvements. Led by Andreas Wörz, our head of development, our Technology Division team consistently applies its extensive expertise and competencies to the design and construction of innovative solutions dedicated to the entire spectrum of the concrete block manufacturing process. One of the tools specially developed for the optimisation of mould filling and compaction is our Rampf Mold Controller. A tool that enables reproducibility of production processes for concrete block production lines.

MoldController

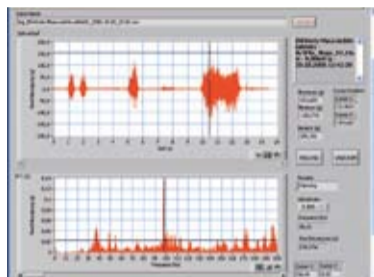
It is only 75 millimetres long, 50 millimetres high and precisely 40 millimetres wide. The special thing about this midget is that it knows from the very first cycle just how effectively a mould can be utilised in the current production flow, and how efficiently the moulding tool is working in its current working location.

We are talking about the so-called Rampf Formen Mold Controller, a very small but very effective tool for the monitoring and direct mea-



surement of vibration dynamics and the physical stresses on concrete mould systems during production. Because, precisely these parameters guarantee qualitative product excellence when using concrete block moulds. Until today, it had always been impossible to directly measure and monitor mould operation due to the extreme stresses involved and the inacces-

sibility of the components in a running block production line. Continuous monitoring and control of the parameters mentioned was simply impossible. Rampf Formen developed the specially designed wireless sensor technology of the Mold Controller in close collaboration with IFF Weimar e.V. and CADWalk. This innovative, new technology now makes it possible to monitor data from previously inaccessible locations. Thanks to Bluetooth wireless data transmission and the software provided, the recorded data can be transmitted directly to a notebook, processed, displayed and stored. In the words of Andreas Wörz, head of development at Rampf Formen, 'The data gathered in this way may be used to determine significant parameters for process control of the respective block production line'. Based on the data determined, it is now possible to take immediate corrective action to adjust and optimise the production process. The potentials of this new and innovative technology can simultaneously increase the efficiency of the production process and make a significant contribution to the assurance of product quality. The Rampf Mold Controller has already been successfully employed by plant engineers, con-



crete product manufacturers and the RAMPF Service team. We would be pleased to provide further details of our small but efficient vibration monitor with Bluetooth technology. Please contact us if you have any further questions or require information. We will be publishing various case studies describing practical experience with the Rampf Mold Controller in subsequent issues of Rampf Forum.

RAMPF | Industry show in Germany

GALABAU 2008 SHOW REGISTERS NEW VISITOR RECORD

This year's GaLaBau show, held in the Nuremberg Trade Fair Centre (17-20 September), registered an impressive new attendance record with a total count of 61,929 trade and industry visitors. Never before had so many people visited Europe's largest industry show for the planning and construction of gardens and landscaping, sports and playgrounds.



The GaLaBau is the biggest event for Europe's urban green and open space segment, and this year's show presented even more: a considerably greater number of exhibitors, much larger exhibition spaces and an historical increase in the number of visitors. The GaLaBau 2008 also opened its doors to another new record - 983 exhibitors. The bi-annual show is also the meeting place for the leading representatives of the concrete manufacturing industry. German visitors to the show originated predominantly from the states of Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse.

The excellent mood in Germany was obviously infectious and attracted numerous representatives of the industry from our neighbouring countries. International guests from Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain made up for eight percent of the visitors. The exhibition area of the green industry show also grew, this year occupying 11 halls for the first time, all of which were filled with visitors throughout the 4-day show. Our sales representatives found plenty of opportunities to welcome numerous international customers.

RAMPF | Industry show

ANKOMAK 2008 ISTANBUL



The 17th Construction Machinery and Building Elements and Construction Technologies Exhibition was held in Ankara, Turkey from 27-29 April of this year. Our Marketing Director Werner Maier, our sales representative Murat Güngör and Hatice Aksoy, a member of our administrative staff, impressively represented our company at our exhibition stand. 'Ankomak' enabled us to make numerous new contacts on our first appearance at the show', reported Murat Güngör, whose sales region covers the whole of Turkey.

Congratulations

CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD FOR GABI BREUNIG

Our colleague Gabi Breunig took the World Masters Marathon Championship title at this year's world championship speed skating event held in the Italian city of Pescara. Gabi Breunig clinched her victory in the last few metres of the 41.8 kilometre race and took the world championship title with a time of 1:27:42. Although the rainy and windy weather conditions were anything but optimum for the race, they were a decisive advantage for the DP-programmer from Rampf. According to press reports, Gabi Breunig was immensely happy to have been able to take a place on the winners' rostrum for the first time and hear her own national anthem. Together with Achim and Berthold Rampf,



Congratulations for world championship success: Manfred Schuster, Achim Rampf, Gabi Breunig and Berthold Rampf (l to r)

Manfred Schuster presented Gabi with a bouquet and congratulated the new world champion on her success and wished her all the best for the coming Mediterranean Games to be held in Pescara in 2009.

RAMPF FORUM

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RAMPF | Readers' Gallery – construction projects

SHOW YOUR REFERENCE PROJECT IN RAMPF FORUM

What do the new trade fair grounds in Stuttgart, the Burj in Dubai and the football stadium 'Arena auf Schalke' all have in common? Correct, all these projects were constructed with concrete blocks manufactured with RAMPF FORMEN GmbH moulds.

You can send us information on your own personal reference projects for which you supplied cast concrete products manufactured with RAMPF moulds. We would be pleased to publish a report in RAMPF FORUM.

THE WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION IN ISSUE 1/2008



Rolf Gesell receiving his digital camera prize from Bert Rühle from RAMPF FORMEN

Lesley Holgate from Co. Londonderry (IRL), Hanspeter Zwahlen from Lyss (CH), Rolf Gesell from Oschatz, Christoph Müller from Kalbach, Wolfgang Schmid from Untermarchtal

Congratulations to all!

COMPETITION

WIN ONE OF 10 MAG-LITE TORCHES

Our prize question:
How many square metres of paving were laid at the Regional Garden Show in Neu-Ulm?

My answer: (Please mark) 1.000 2.000 3.000

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Phone

Final date for entries: 27.02.2009 The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries, the names of the winning entrants will be published in the next issue of 'RAMPF FORUM'. The judges' decision is final. Employees of Uli Rau Werbeagentur and dpr dörner public relations are excluded from participating.

