

# Making a concrete impression

with graphic concrete

About GC

About US

Application

Design  
& Price

Benefits &  
Need to  
know

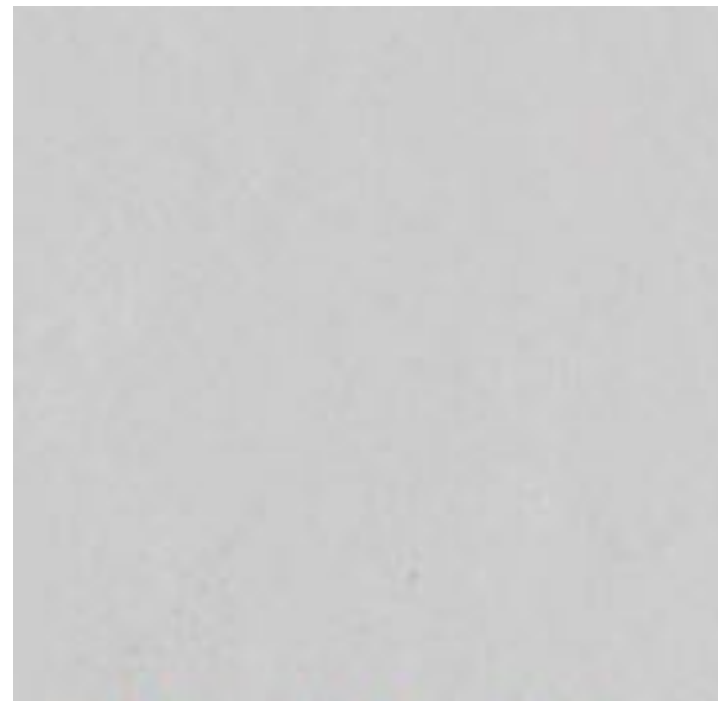
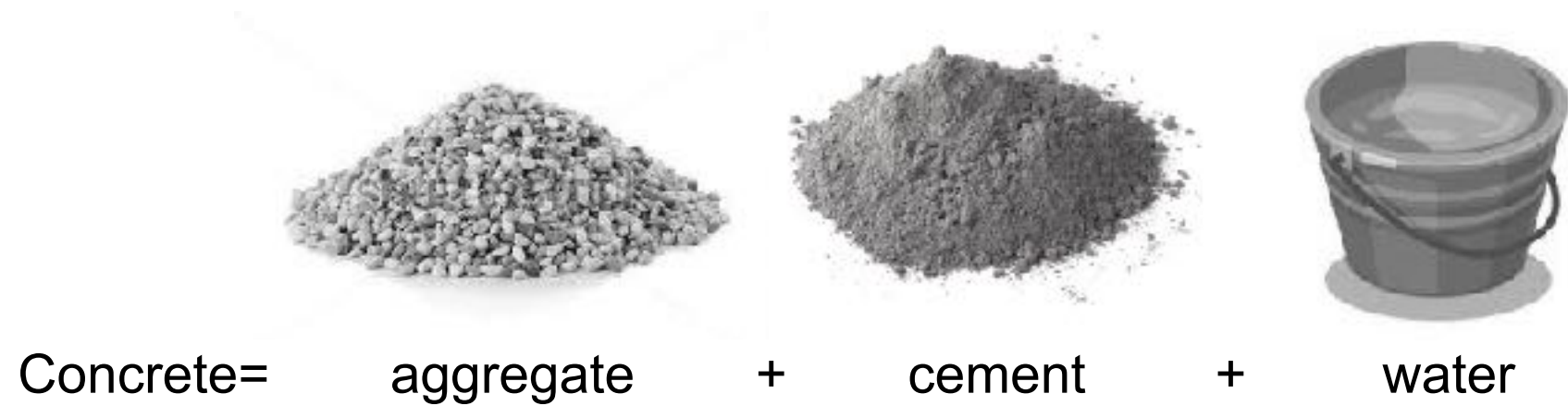
Reference



# **1. About Graphic Concrete**



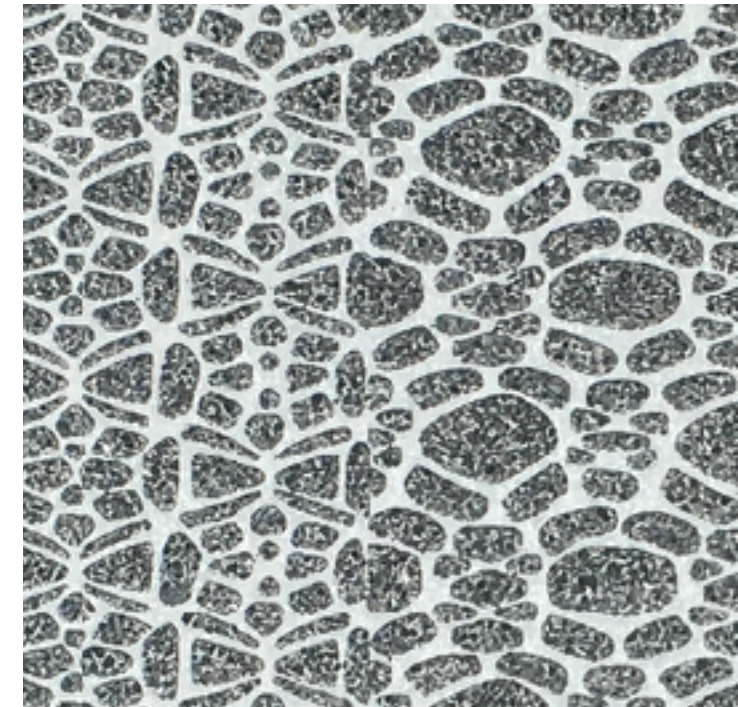
# What is Graphic Concrete?



smooth cement surface  
(cement glue hardens on the  
surface covering the aggregates)



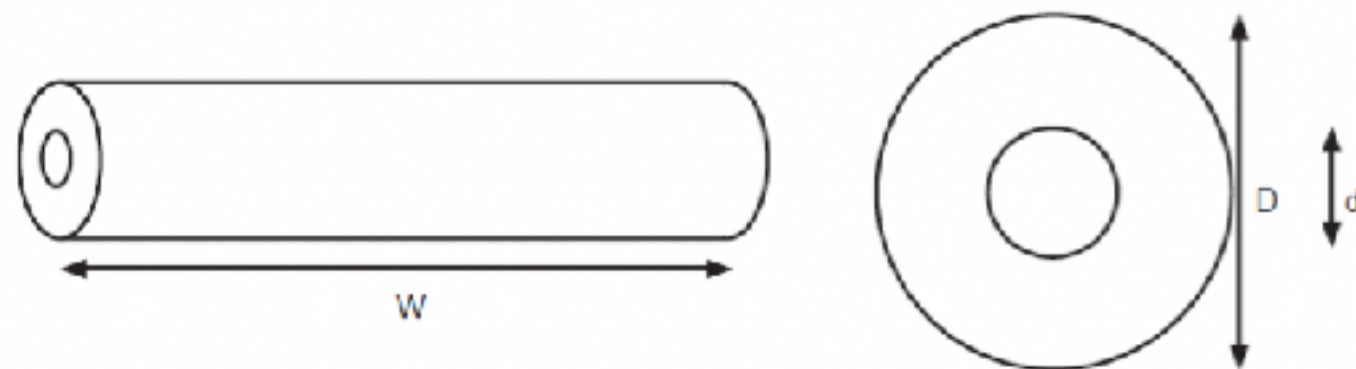
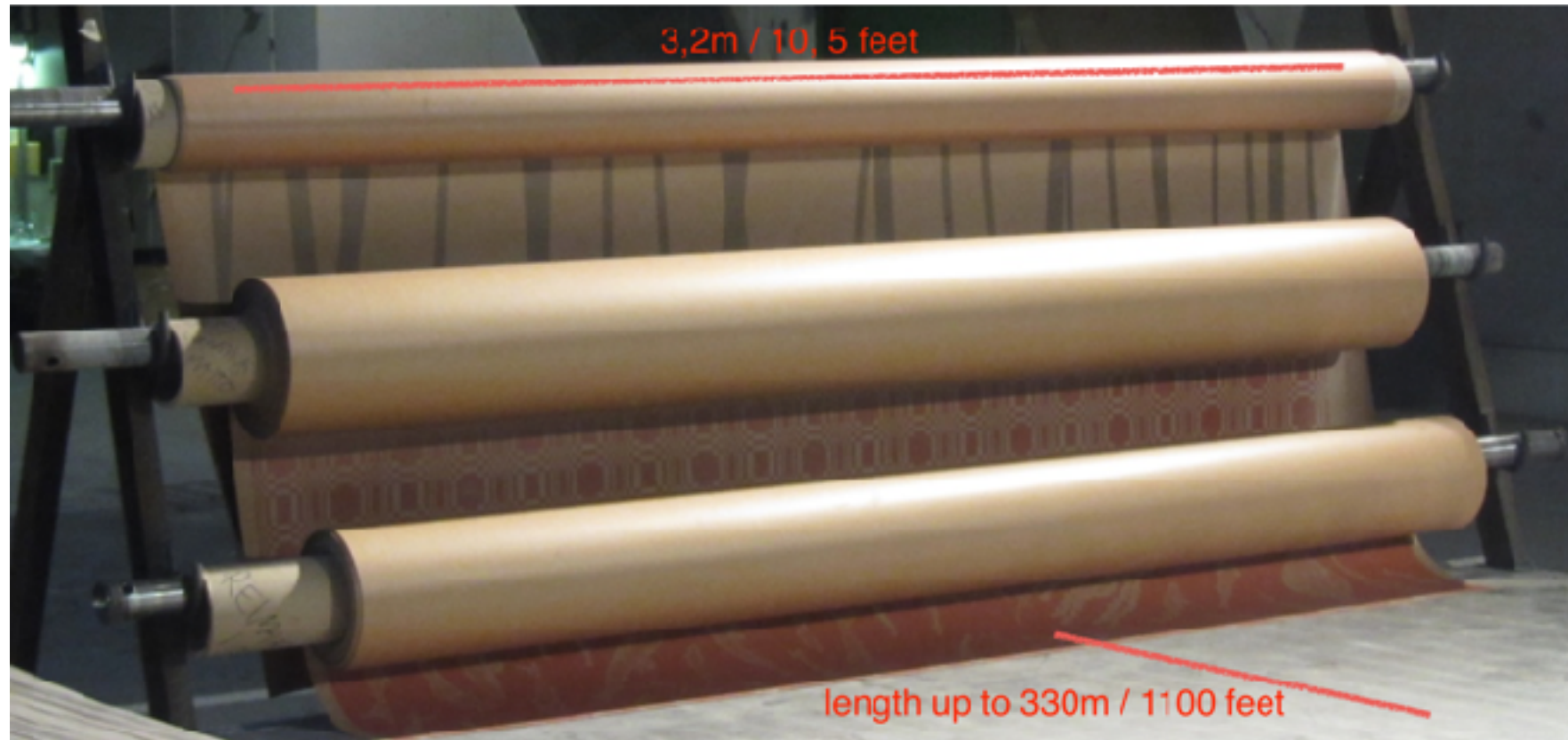
exposed surface  
(the cement glue is washed off)



graphic concrete surface  
(partly smooth, partly exposed)



# How does GC work?



- Graphic concrete is made using a special membrane in the mould when casting the concrete.
- The desired pattern or image is printed on the membrane with a surface retarder.
- The image results from the retarder exposing the aggregate on the concrete surface.

- Length of a full roll: approx. 330 m
- W: 3300mm(= image width max 3200 mm + margins)
- D: 410 mm
- d: 153 mm
- Weight: 340 kg





- The membrane is delivered on a roll to the concrete precast factory.



- The membrane is spread on the bottom of the mould.



- Mouldings are built on the top of the membrane.





- The concrete is cast on the membrane.



- The element is de-moulded and the membrane is removed the following day.



- The element is high pressure washed.





- Finally, the graphic concrete pattern is exposed.





## Qualifications:

- requires prefabrication (not suitable for on-site casting)
- requires horizontal casting on a casting table

## Suitable for:

- any type of concrete
- sandwich elements
- any type of concrete slabs
- light concrete panels

## Applications:

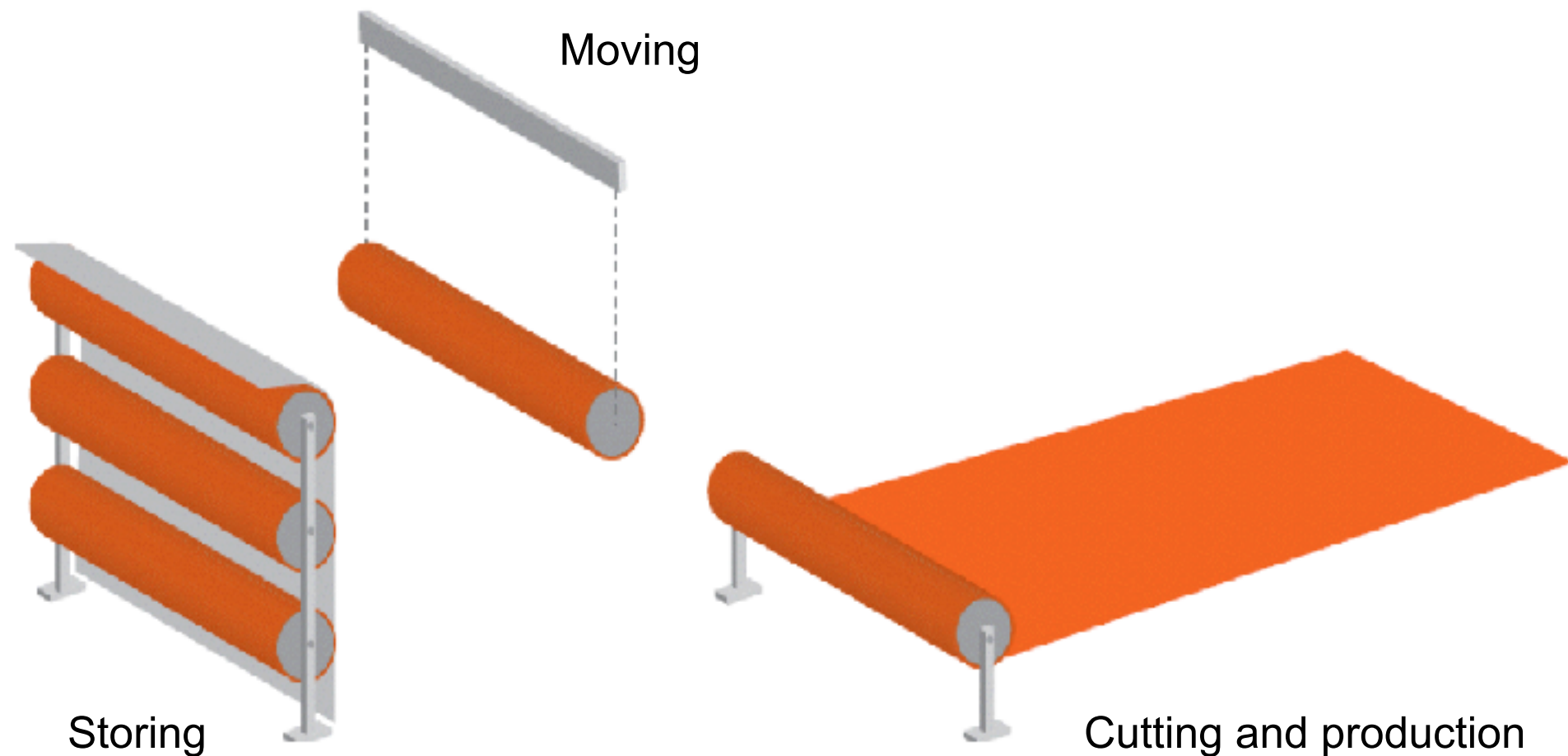
- everything from large facades and landscaping to the finest interior design

# Needs to consider

- Participation on GCTechnologyTraining
- All instructions must be carefully studied and followed
- Knowledge and facilities to produce fine exposed aggregate concrete surfaces
- Facilities and equipment to use high-pressure washing with water (approx. 200 bar / 2900 Psi)
- High-quality holds for horizontal casting (vacuum table use recommended)
- Keep the membrane in the original delivery package until using it
- Prevent all compression to the membrane roll
- Dry conditions (relative humidity under 50%)
- Warm conditions (temperature + 15-40 °C / +60 -105°F)
- No direct sunlight on the membrane
- The membrane shall be used within 12 months of delivery
- Use appropriate equipment for moving and storing
- Keep the membrane clean: do not allow the membrane to become dusty, dirty, wet or covered with oil



# Membrane



## For moving:

- A lifting bar
- A crane

## For cutting:

- A clean, even surface by the roll rack
- Re-roll after cutting if the membrane needs to be moved

## For production:

- No wrinkles, creases or ruptures will appear
- The membrane will stay clean

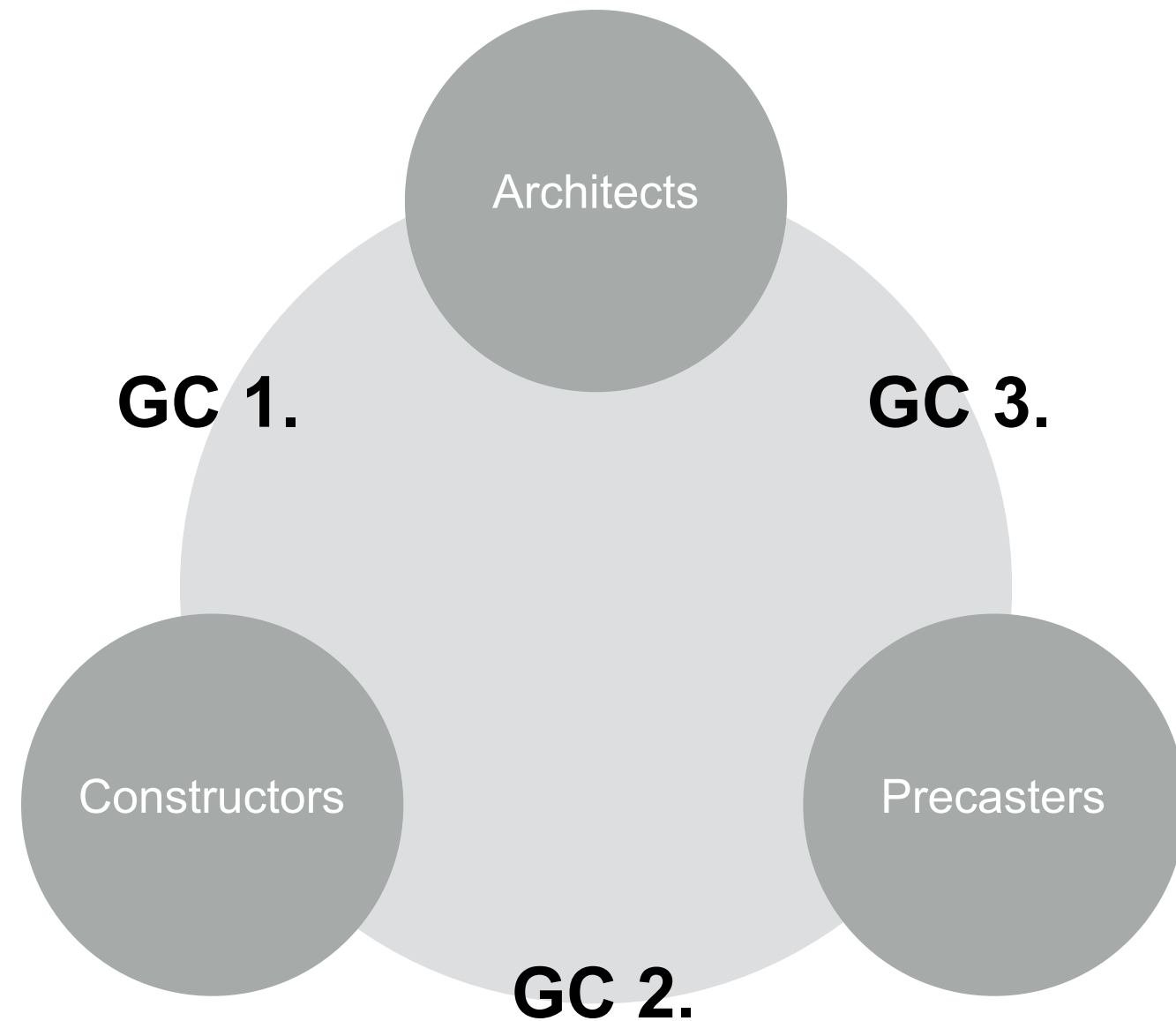
## For storing:

- A roll rack for safe storage and efficient use of the membrane
- A protection tarpaulin to protect the membrane in the factory

## **2. About US**



# What do we do?



- GC provides membrane and service for different stakeholders during the whole process.
- GC facilitates better communication among each stakeholder.
- GC inspires architects out of concrete, as well as consult and support the best application of GC at the planning stage.
- GC supports finding the local precasters and train precasters to produce the best quality
- GC supports problem-solving during the production.

# Contact



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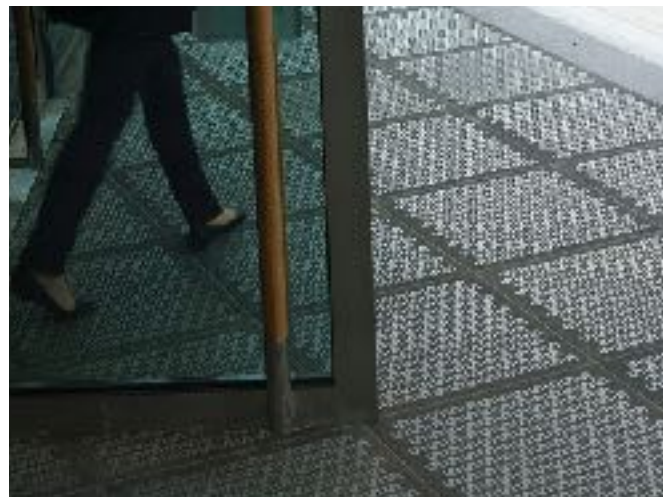
[lena.weckstrom@graphicconcrete.com](mailto:lena.weckstrom@graphicconcrete.com)



### **3. Applications**



# Where to apply?



- Exterior façades
- Parking houses
- Sound walls
- Interiors
- Paves
- Landscaping
- School



# Where to apply?



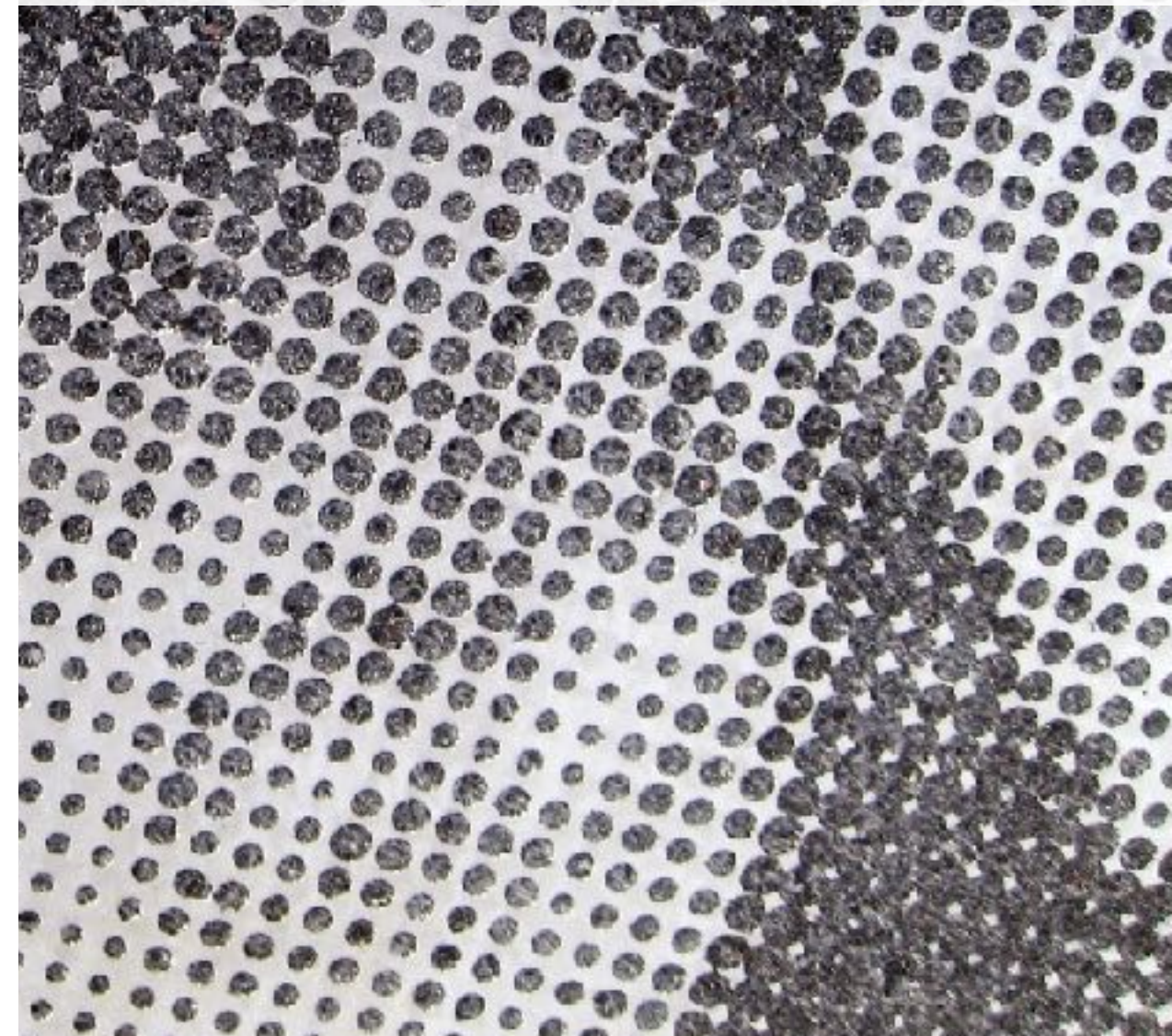
- Educational building
- Civic building
- Government building
- Parking structure
- Infrastructure and non-building structure
- Industrial building
- Religious building
- Medical building
- Residential building
- Commercial building
- Others





## The image -dot raster

Albert Edelfelt School  
Porvoo, Finland  
Eduarch Oy







Surface Design Award, London 2015  
Best interior space -winner  
Best of the best - winner

## The image -line raster

Chiesa Beato Papa Giovanni XXIII, Chapel  
Bergamo, Italy  
Traversi + Traversi Architetti





## Color - from aggregate

White cement – red aggregate

Maxinge Shopping Center  
Mariehamn, Åland  
Arch. Michael Donalds







## Color - from pigments

Pigmented cement – black aggregates

Joensuun Elli, student housing

Joensuu, Finland

Arcadia Oy , Design by artist Maria Mughal







## **Color - surface treatment**

Tuusulan Tulppaani housing  
Tuusula, Finland  
L-arkkitehdit







## Surface -texture

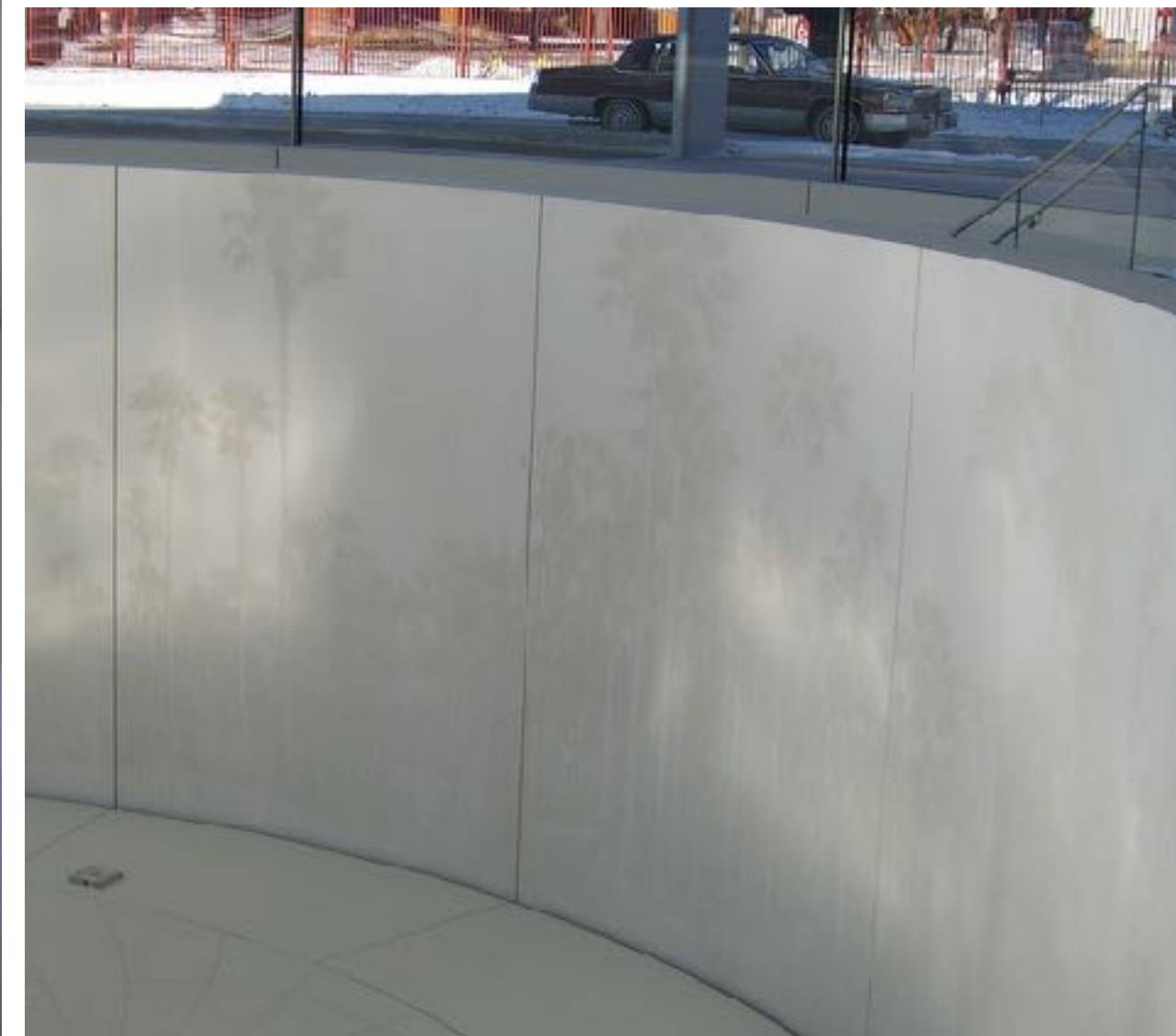
Attunda Tingsrätt  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Svante Forsström Arkitekter AB





## Curved forms

SC Johnson "Project Honor"  
Wisconsin, USA  
Arch. Fosters + Partners







# Small-scale

Skanskaplattan  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Strategisk Arkitektur







## Large-scale

Pihlajalaakso Sound barrier  
Kuopio, Finland  
Ramboll Finland





## 3-D effects

Viborg Landsarkiv- Archive  
Viborg, Denmark  
Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects

**"Utzon- prize" concrete construction nominee 2017**  
**City of Viborg Honorable Mention for fine architecture 2016**

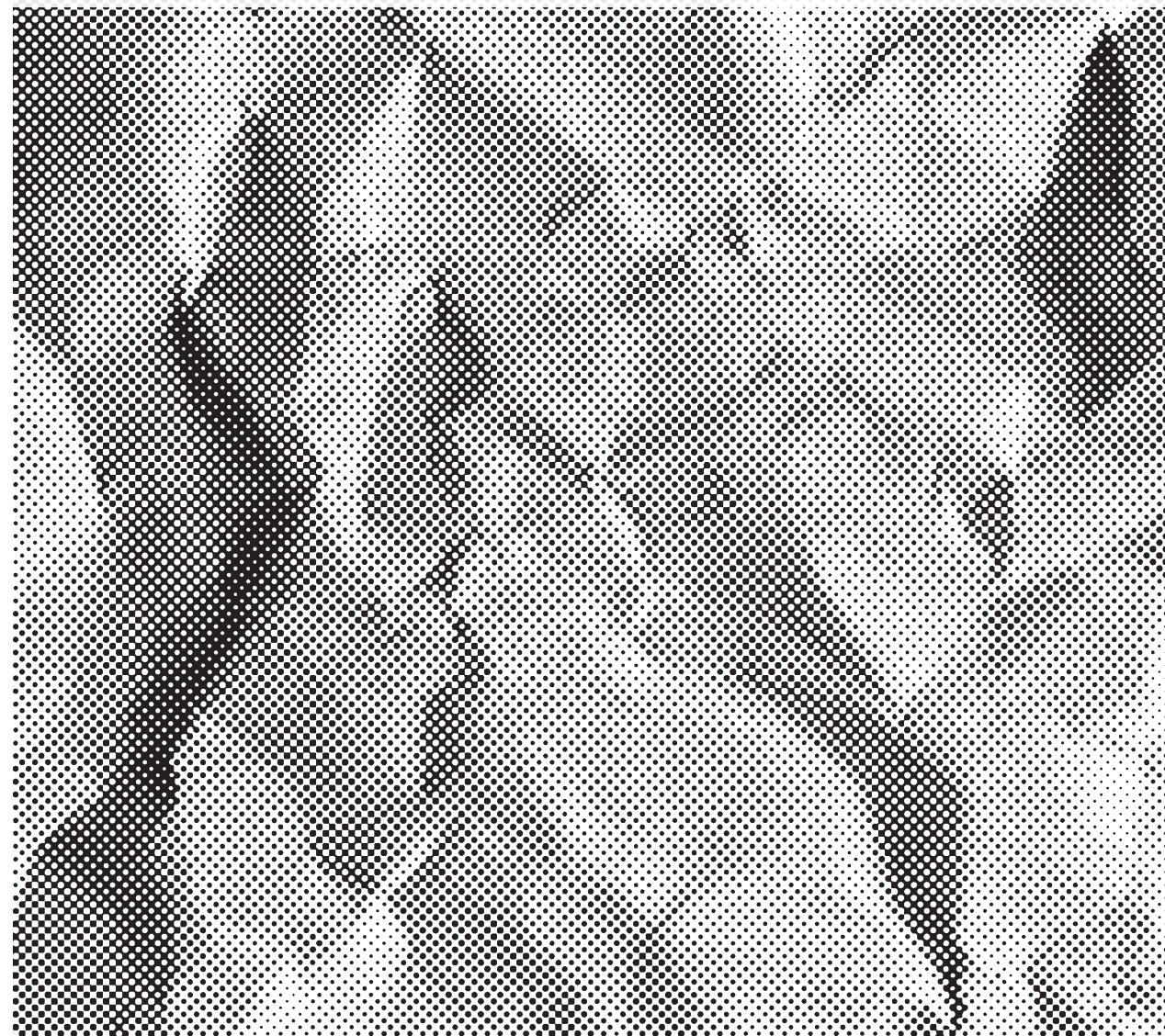






## 3-D effects

Timanttikujan Pysäköinti  
Vantaa, Finland  
Anttinen Oiva Arkkitehdit Oy





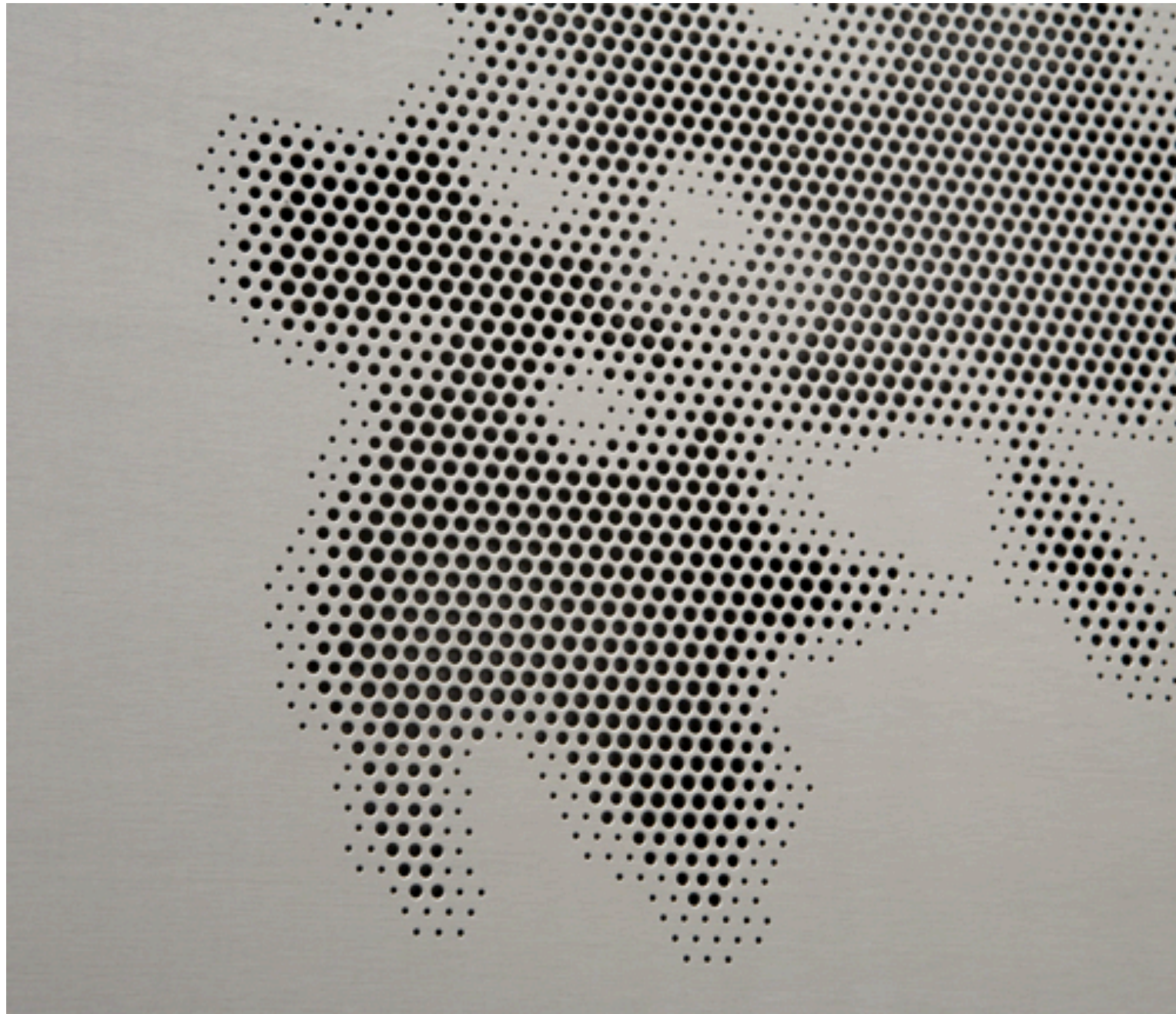


**Bricks**



**Graphic Concrete**





**Perforated metal sheet**



**Graphic Concrete**





**Patterned glass**



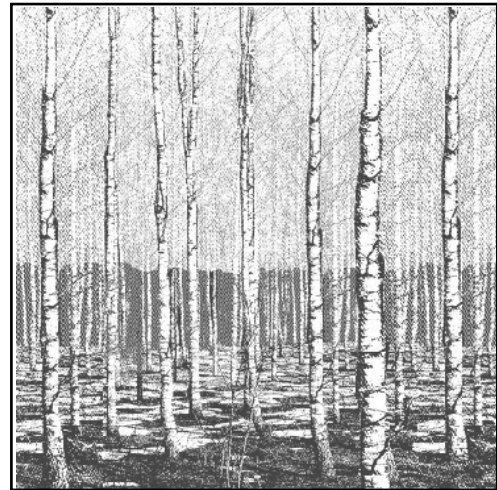
**Graphic Concrete**



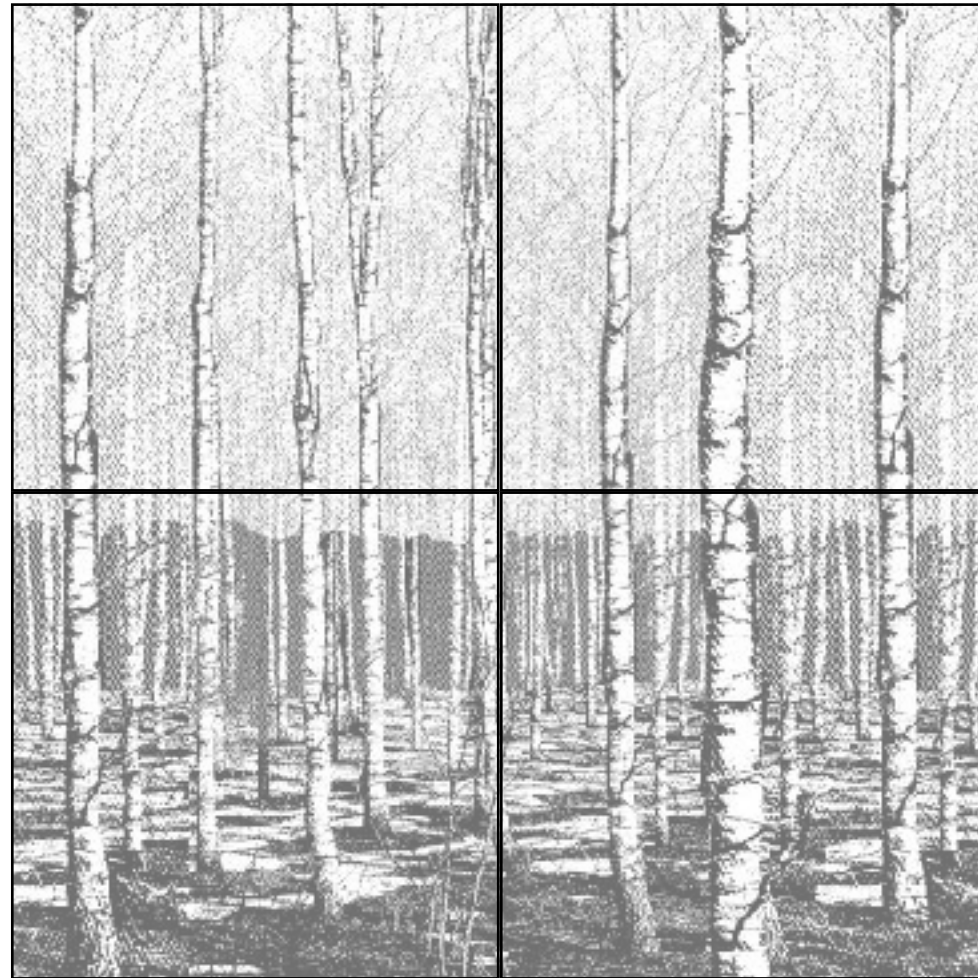
## **4. Design & Price**



# How to design/place pattern?



One image on one panel



One image on four panels

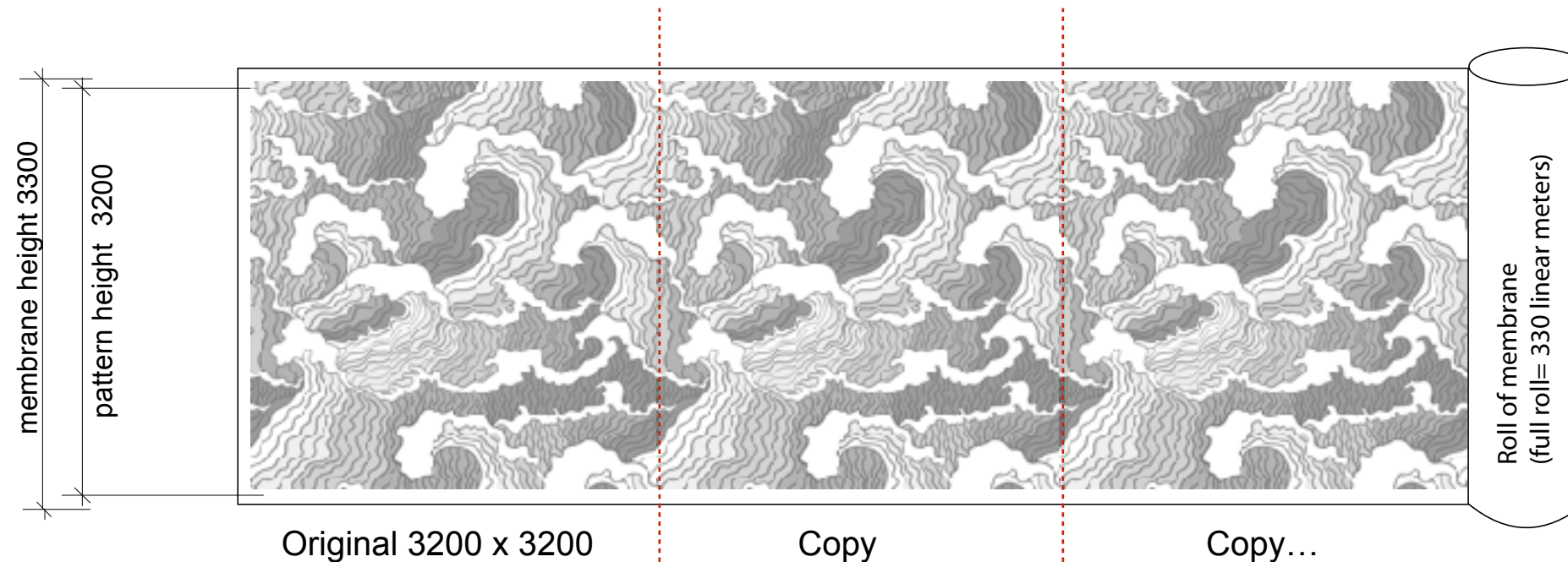
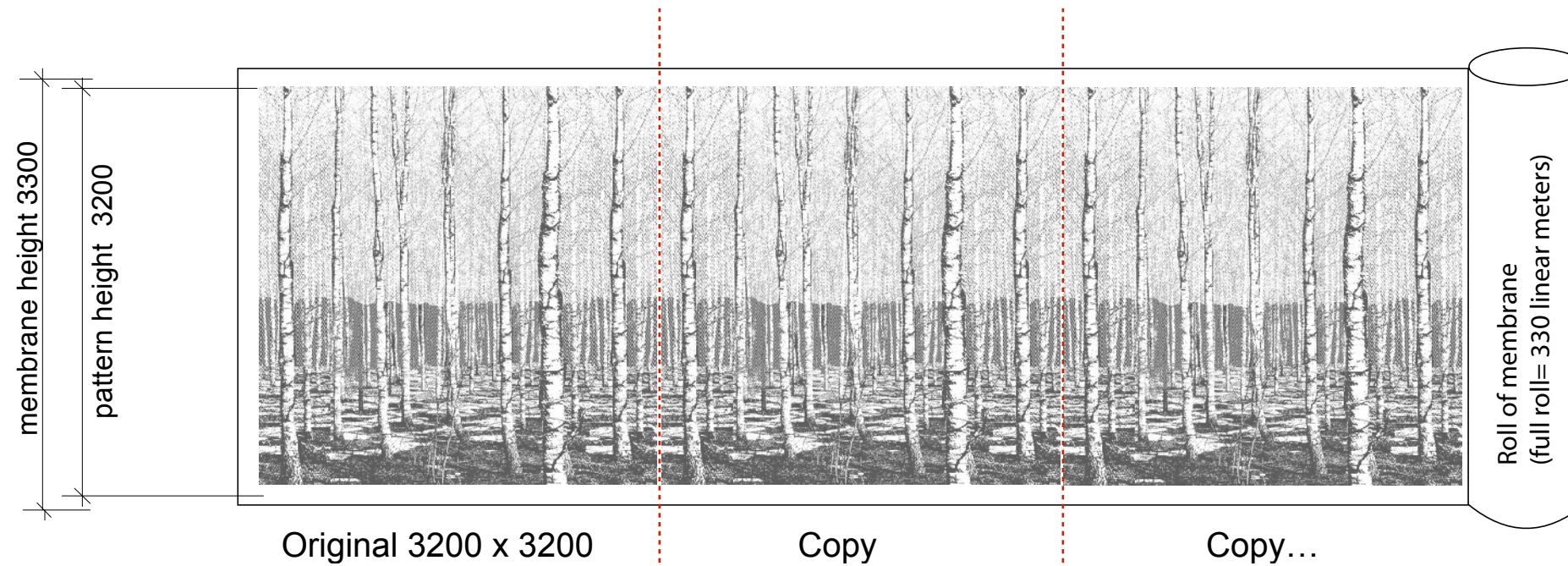
- You can make one image on one panel or have a large image stretching over many panels.
- The membrane is disposable (use once) and can be cut or combined to any size.



# How to design/place pattern?

- The image can be anything that can be printed on a piece of paper
- The membrane is disposable and flexible to use; it can be cut into small sheets or larger pieces can be joined together
- There is no limit to the slab size
- It can be used with very different types of concrete
- It requires no special equipment; a factory that can make exposed aggregate surfaces can also make graphic concrete
- It requires no special structural adjustments; the exposed areas are only about 1,5 mm deep, thus the image does not affect the thickness of the slab (—> minimises the amount of concrete, weight, cost for material / transportation / installation)





- You can also choose to make a repeating pattern (like a wallpaper).
- The image can be anything that can be printed on a piece of paper.
- The most cost effective is repeating an image of max size 3200 x 3200 mm.
- The membrane is sold per linear meter. The image is max 3200 mm high. The image is repeated for as many linear meters as needed
- The cost depend on the amount ordered: for larger amounts the price per linear meter drops





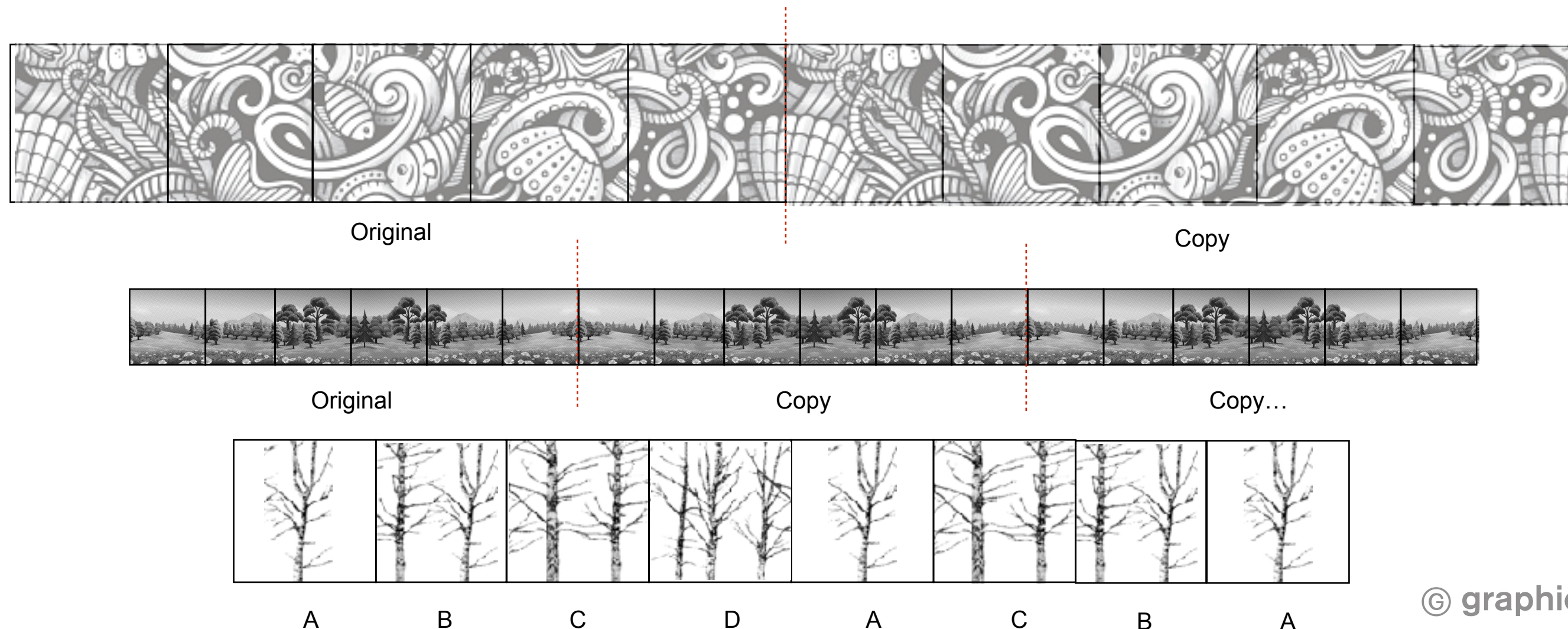
- In order to print the design, we need a black and white pdf of the design.

Black = exposed aggregate surface  
White = smooth concrete surface



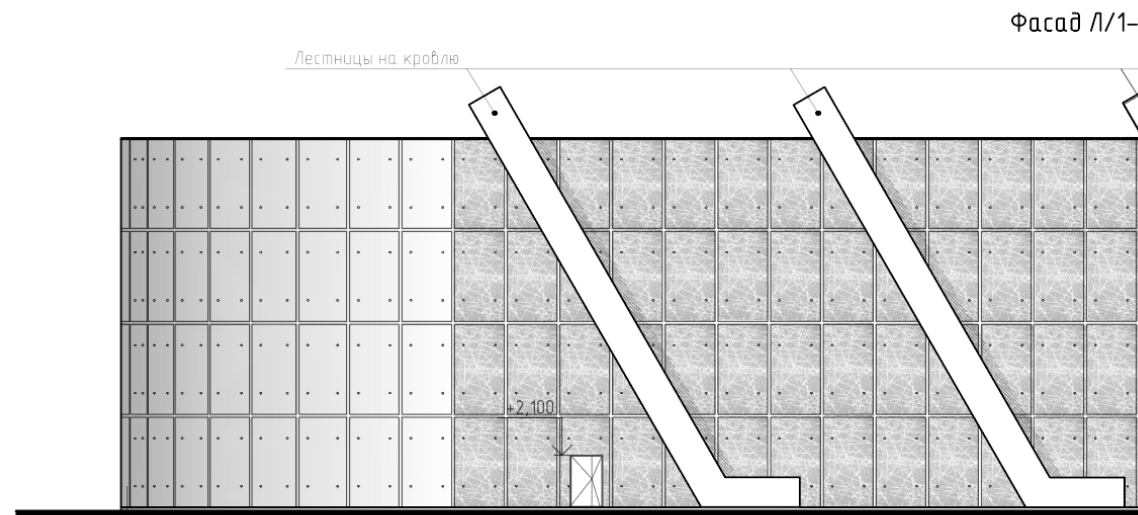


- You can repeat a larger image.
- There is no limit to the size of the image, but it can be divided into parts on the membrane. If the original to be repeated is larger than 3200 x 3200 mm, the place is set according to the size (m2) of the original.
- Instead of repeating the exact same image, you can choose to repeat different images.
- By combining the images in varying order your design will constantly change and the repetition will not be noticeable.

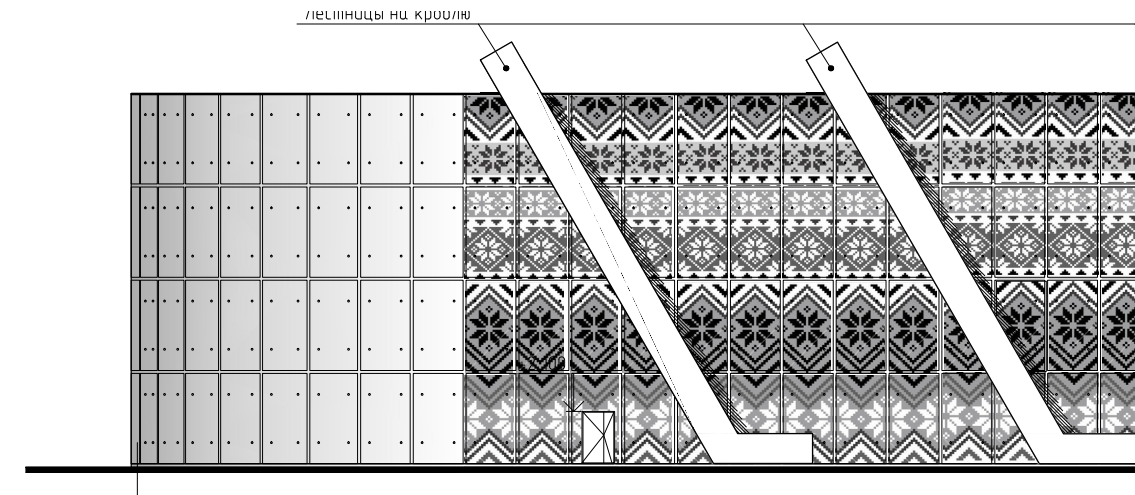




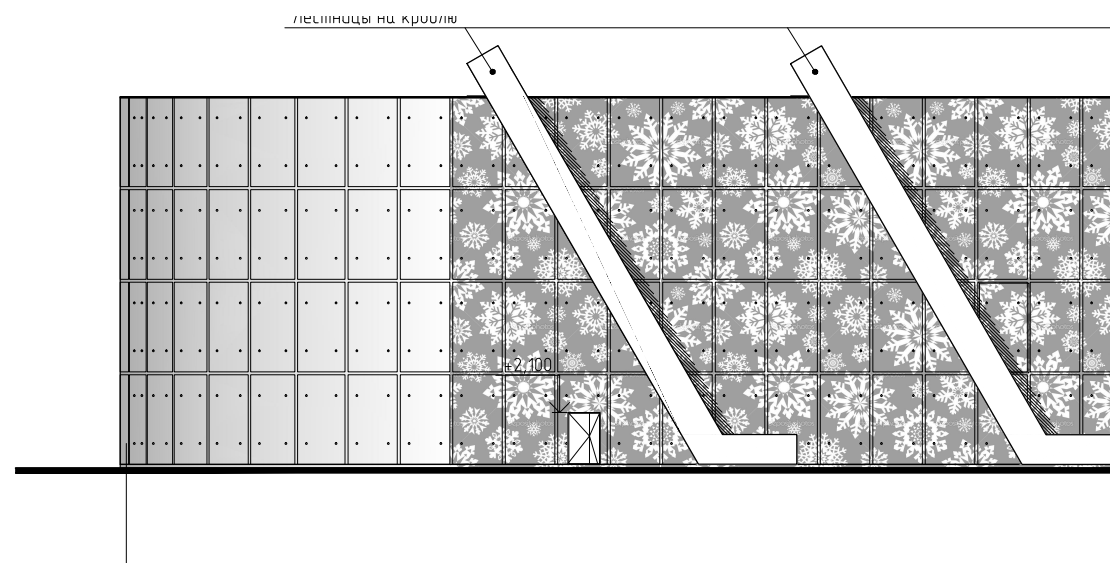
- You can achieve very different looks depending on the scale of the pattern (ex. Ice Hockey Arena, Moscow)



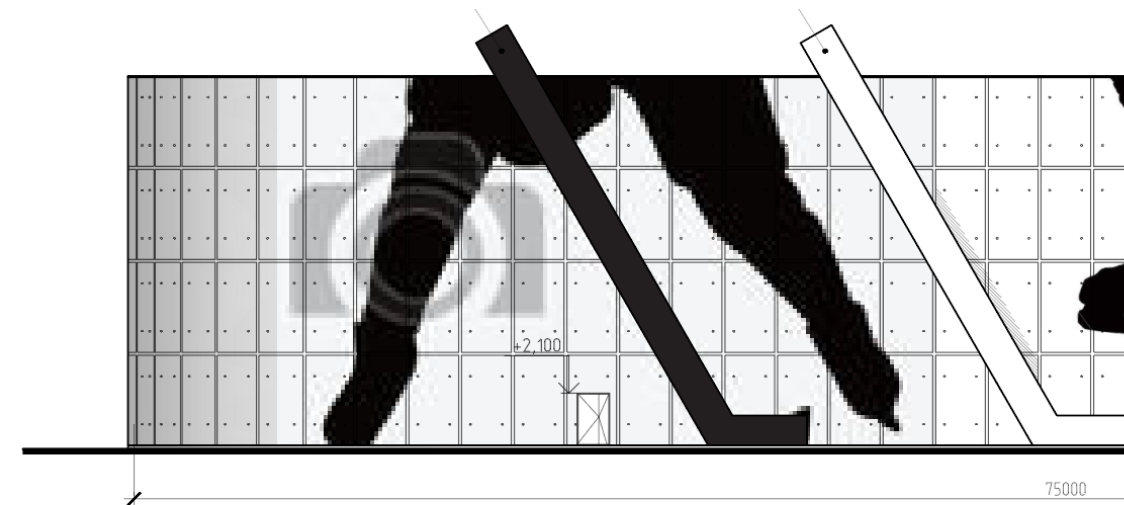
texture finish ("scratched ice")



graphics emphasising the facade division ("Norwegian sweater")



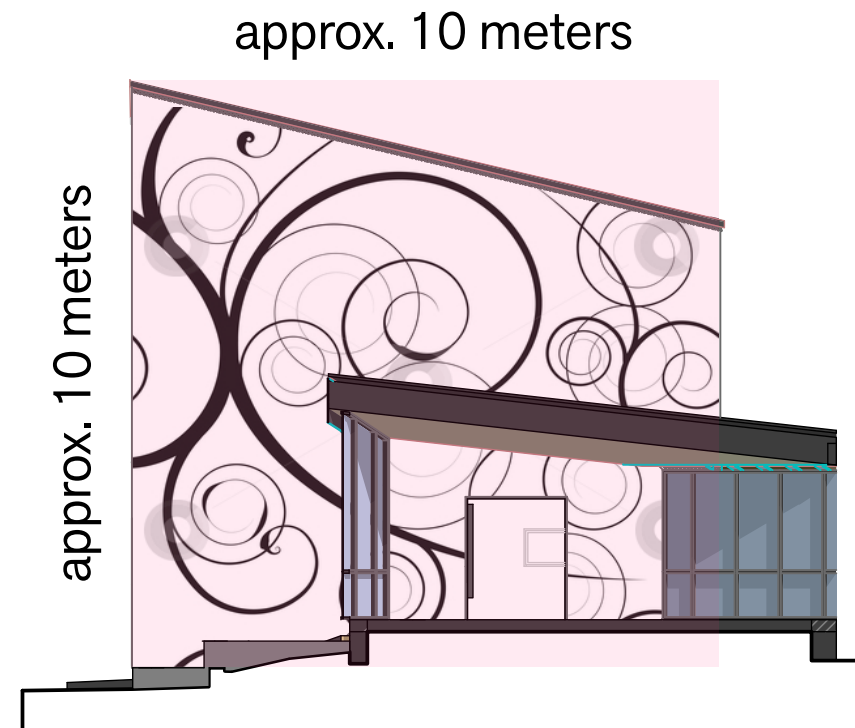
large wall-paper like finish ("snow flakes")



mega-graphics playing with the architecture ("hockey player")



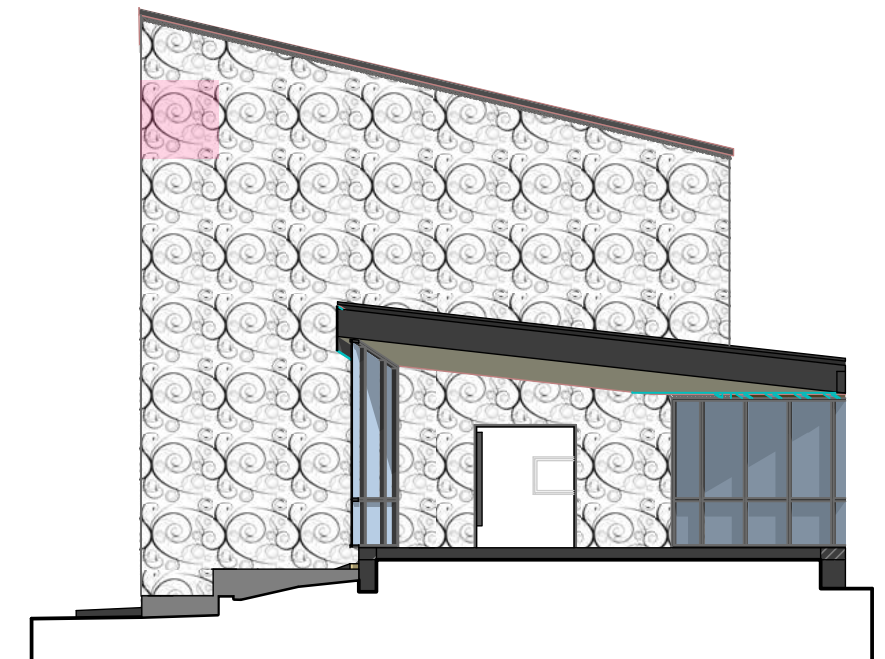
- The first copy is the most costly; you copy more the same design and the price/m2 of membrane decreases.



One unique piece of art:  
The most costly option (100% price)



One image repeated four times:  
(33 % price)



A wall-paper type continuing pattern:  
(15% price)



## **5. Benefits & Need to know**



# Specification

## Project membrane

- Image/pattern (file): GCCollection -pattern OR Special pattern/image (print file sent to Graphic Concrete according to GCDesignInstructions)
- Image size: There is no limitation to the size of the image
- Project Drawings: Façade drawings, element drawing or equivalent materials  
The following information needed:
  - the total area of graphic concrete
  - image/pattern, positioning and repetition
  - the element/panel measurements and positioning direction
- Concrete Recipe: Cement, aggregates, pigment %



# Project Sample

## Things to consider

- same production process than in real project
- no stock products
- high starting costs
- time consuming
- usually leads to interruption of production

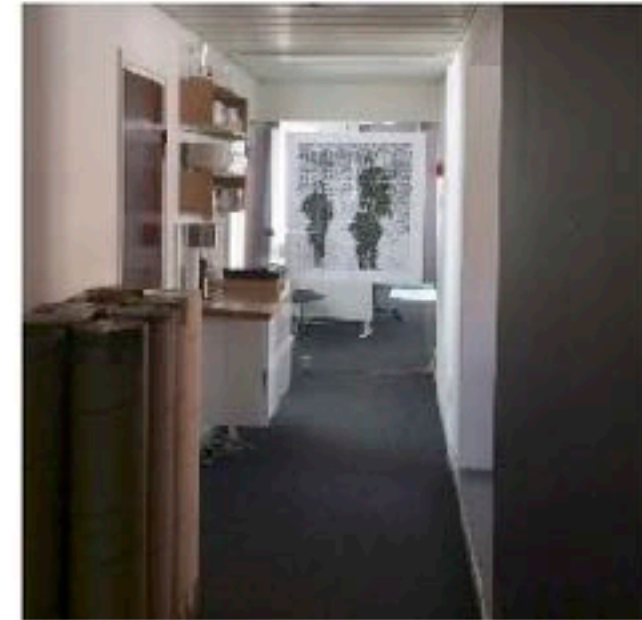
**not necessary for image or raster testing**



# Project Sample

## Simple Image Testing

Original picture



Rasterized Image

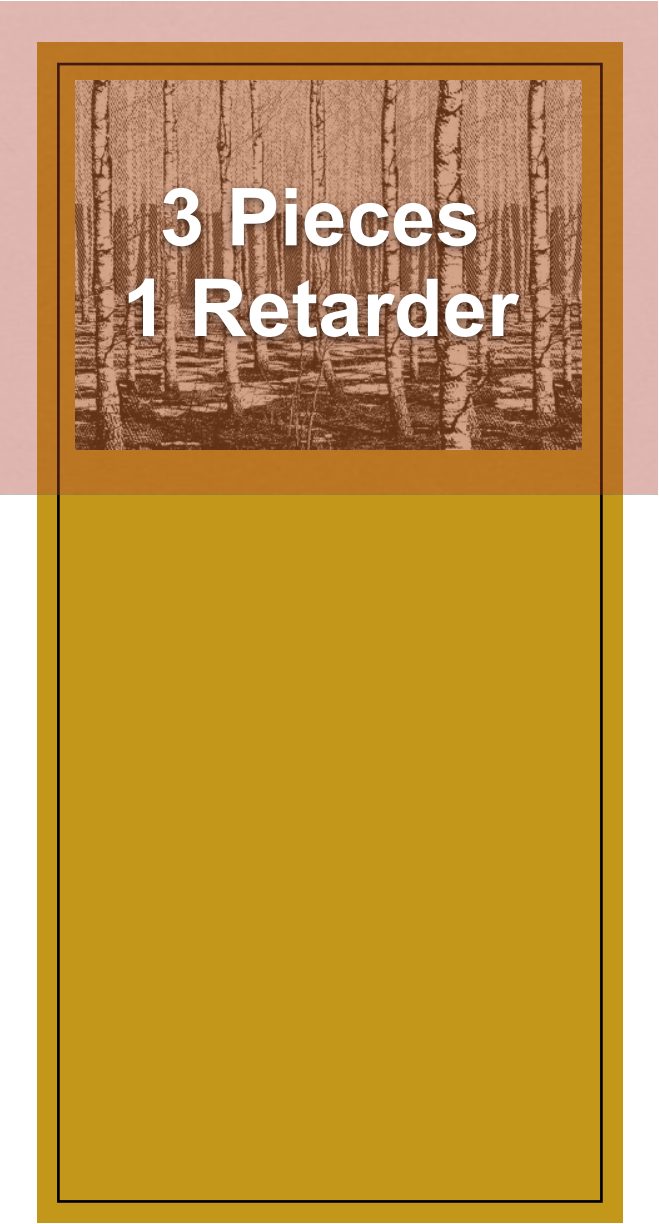


Final concrete slab

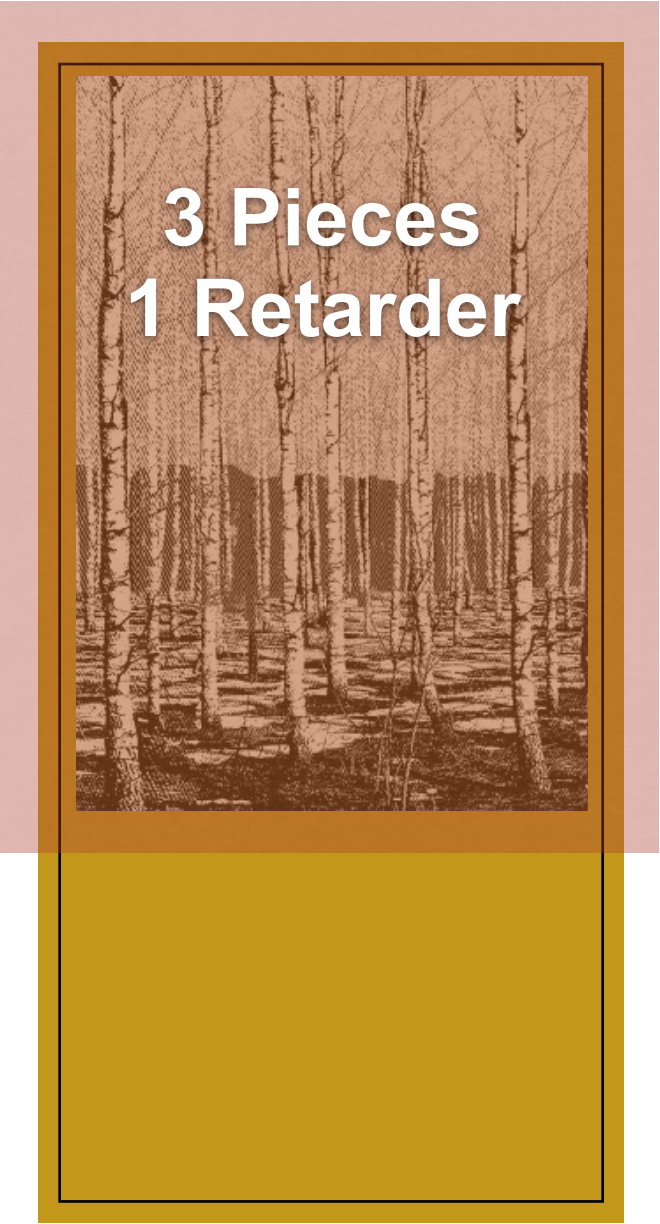




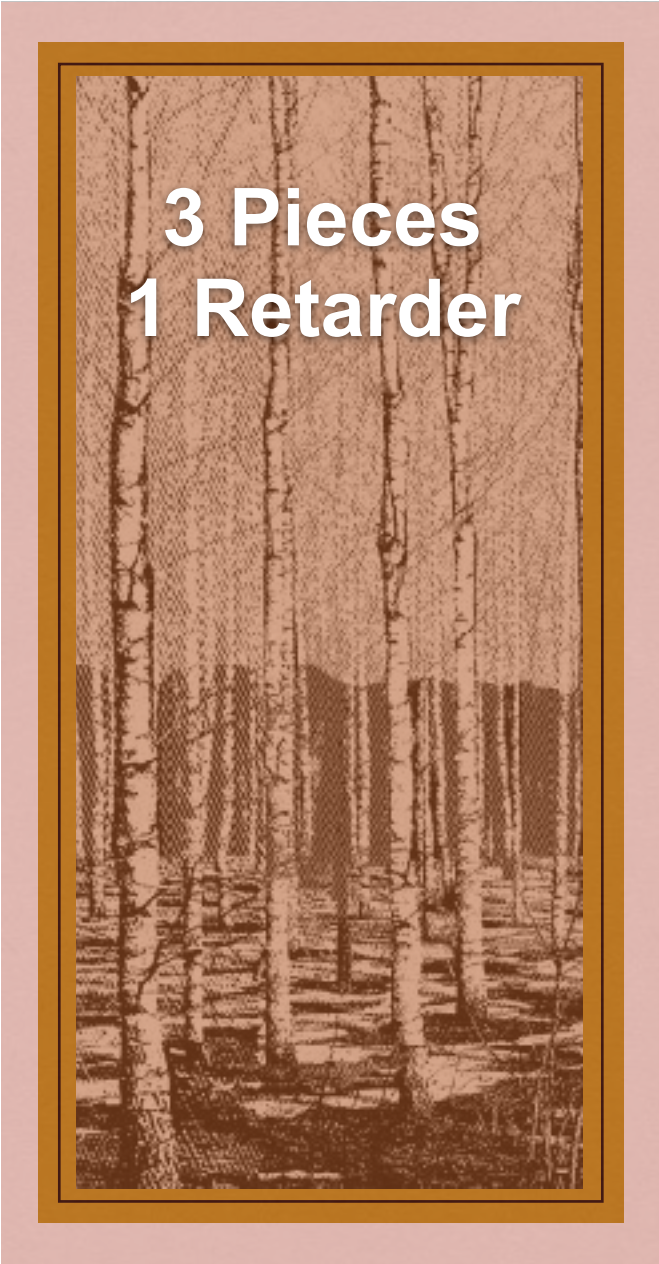
# Project Sample



Sample size max.  
1500x1000mm



Sample size max.  
1500x2000mm



Sample size max.  
1500x3200mm



# Benefits

- Recyclable and safe to use
- Does not emit any harmful gas or chemicals
- Reduces the use of solvent based materials and dust inconvenience during production
- Does not have any effect in regards to the environmental loading of a building reduces the need for additional material use on the concrete surface (additional cladding, treatments or paints)
- Reduces the need for additional scaffolding at the site; minimally disrupts the construction site and saves time during construction
- The surface is straight; - stays clean, easy to maintain, no formed edges that can break
- The outcome is 100% made of concrete and the surface as durable as the concrete itself
- A graphic concrete surface is virtually maintenance free, which saves costs during the whole lifespan of the structure
- It provides great slip resistance on horizontal surfaces




## **6. References**





**Enjoy Concrete Factory Building, Veurne, Belgium**  
Industrial building  
2012  
Architecture: Archoteltiirbirp Govaet & Vanhoutte  
Prefabrication: Enjoy Concrete  
Designer's own pattern





Cortex Science Park  
Educational Building  
2015  
Architecture: Creo Arkitekter  
Prefabrication: DS Elcobyh A/S  
GC-collection





**Läansisatamankatu 23 Residential Building, Helsinki, Finland**  
**Residential Building**  
**2014**  
**Architecture: Huttunen Lipasti Rakkanene Architec Oy**  
**Prefabrication: Ammän Betoni Oy**  
**GC-Collection pattern**



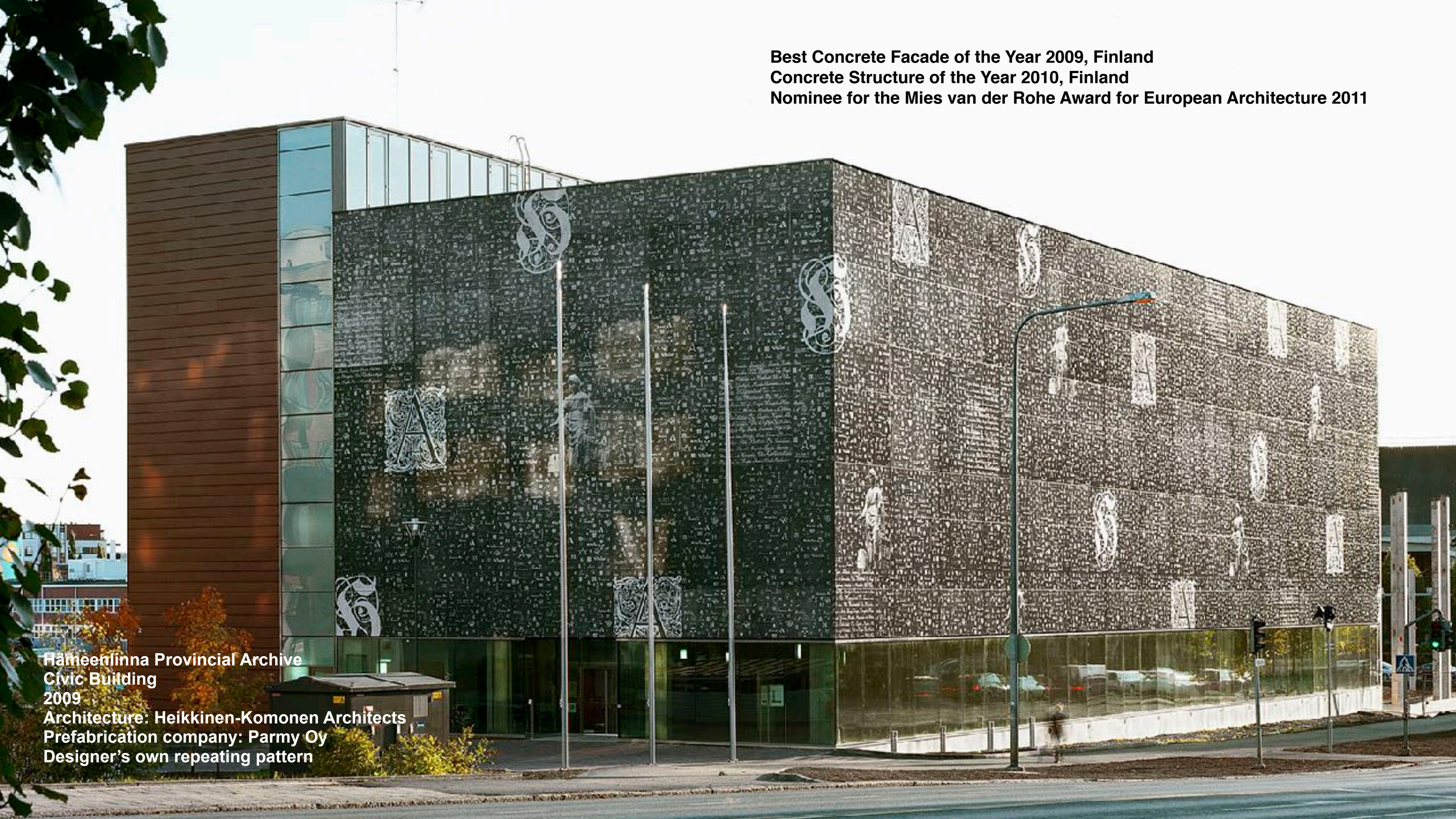


**Albert Edelfelt School, Porvoo, Finland**  
**Educational Building**  
**2008**  
**Architecture: Eduarch Oy**  
**Prefabrication: Betoniluoma Oy**  
**Designer's own pattern**



**Best Concrete Facade of the Year 2009, Finland**  
**Concrete Structure of the Year 2010, Finland**  
**Nominee for the Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture 2011**

**Hämeenlinna Provincial Archive  
Civic Building  
2009  
Architecture: Heikkinen-Komonen Architects  
Prefabrication company: Parmy Oy  
Designer's own repeating pattern**





**Rubiiniparkki Parking House**  
**Parking Structure**  
**2015**  
**Architecture: L.a.B Arkkitehdit Oy**  
**Prefabrication company: Betonimestarit Oy**  
**Designer's own repeating pattern**









A photograph of a modern industrial building with a facade composed of vertical panels in various colors and textures, including dark grey, green, orange, and white. The building is set against a clear blue sky. To the right, two large industrial storage tanks are visible. The building has a flat roof and a concrete base.

**H.A.N.S. Industrial Building, Czech Republic**  
**Industrial Building**  
**2009**  
**Architecture: Ing. arch. Jan Jarolimek**  
**Prefabrication company: H.A.N.S. Stavby. a.s.**  
**Designer's own repeating pattern**

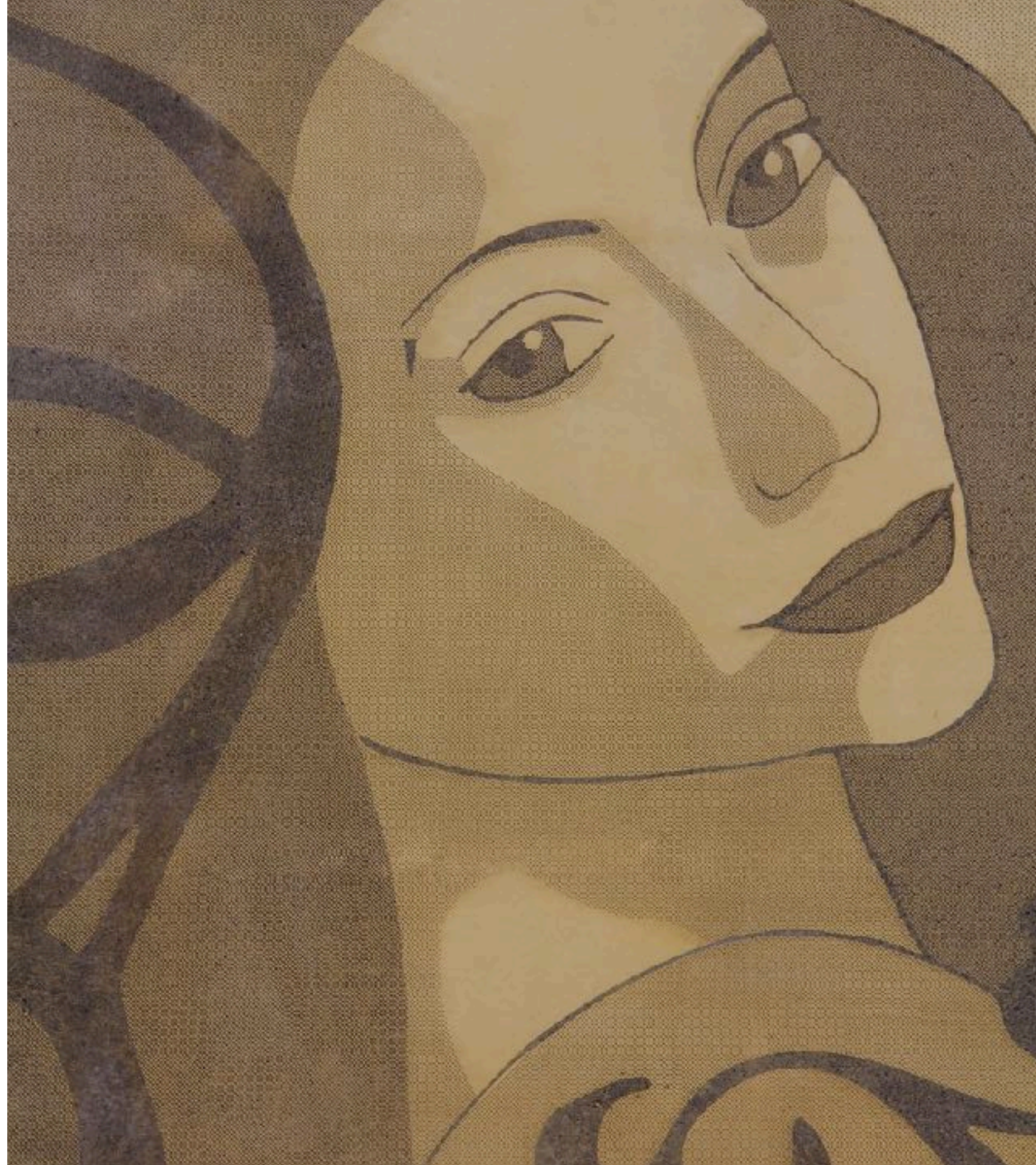
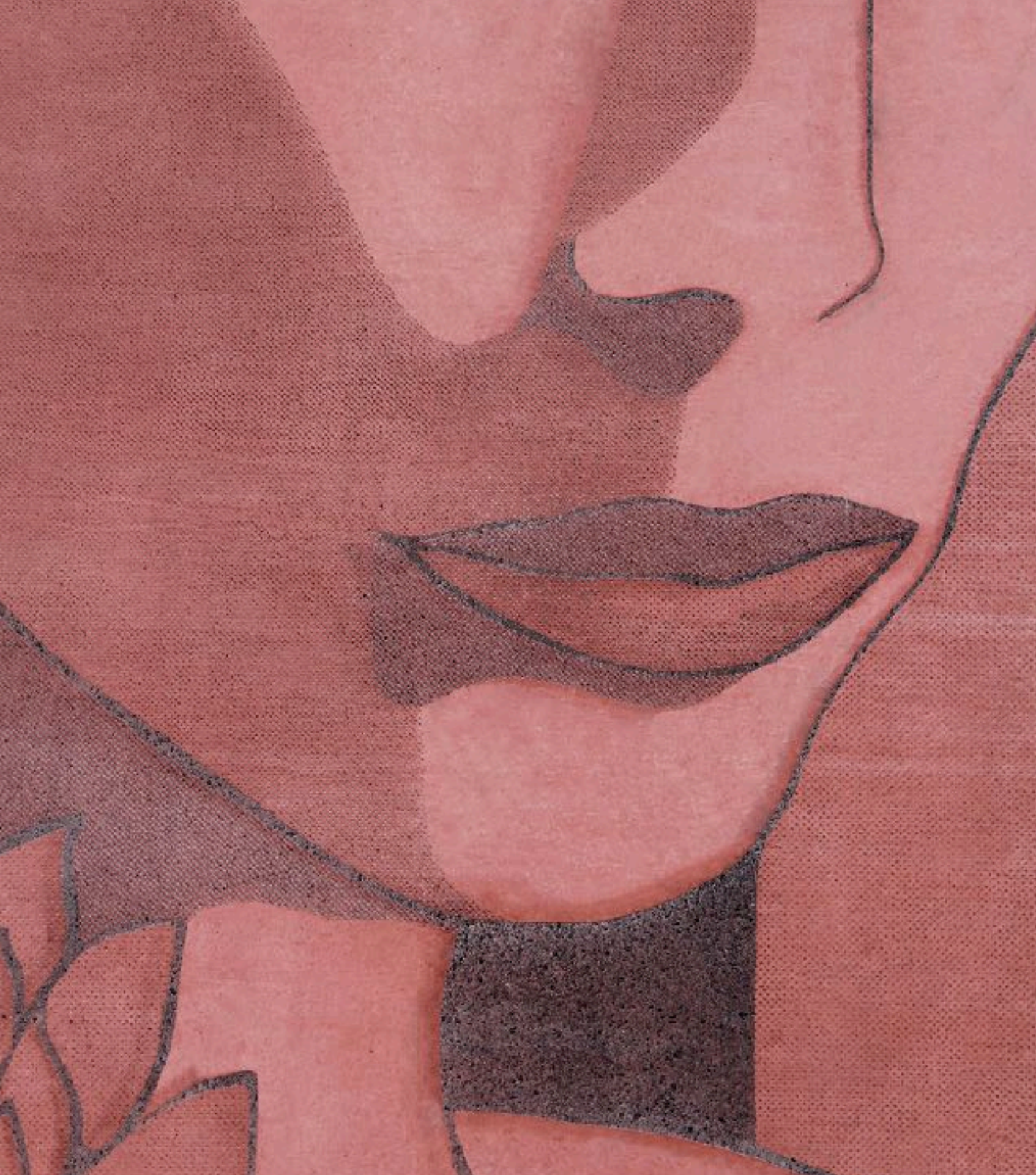




Joensuun Elli Residential Building, Joensuu, Finland  
Residential Building  
2011  
Architecture: Arcadoa Arkkitehtitoimisto Oy  
Prefabrication company: Pielisen Betoni Oy  
Designer's own pattern











**Lexia Reception Desk,  
Commercial Building  
2016**

**Architecture: Katriina Kankinen  
Prefabrication company: Sklocement Plus s.r.o / Polycom  
Designer's own repeating pattern**

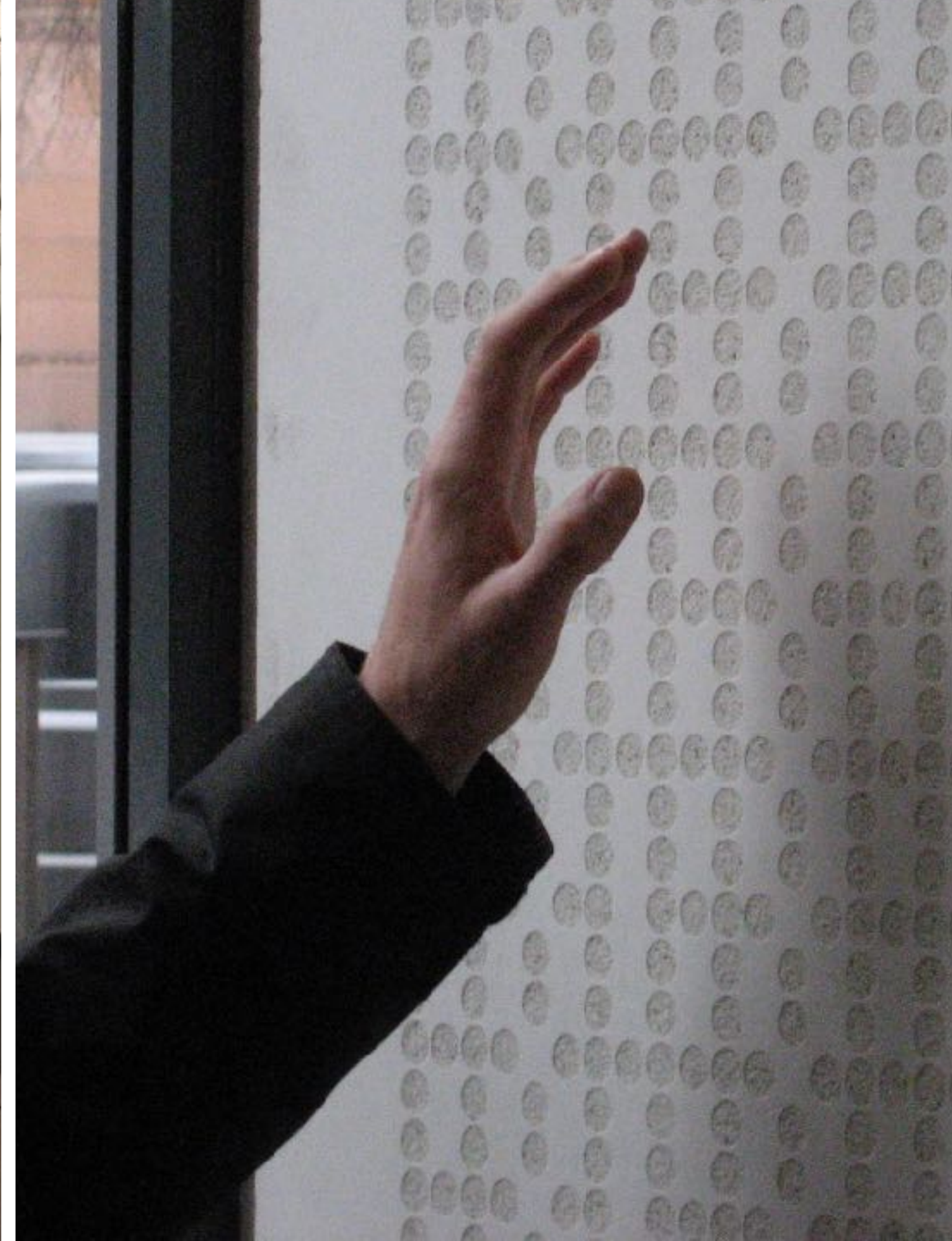








Pennfäktaren, Office Building Entrance, Stockholm, Sweden  
Commercial Building  
2010  
Architecture: Reflex Arkitekter  
Prefabrication company: Fiberbetong  
Designer's own pattern  
Designer: Gabor Palotai Design



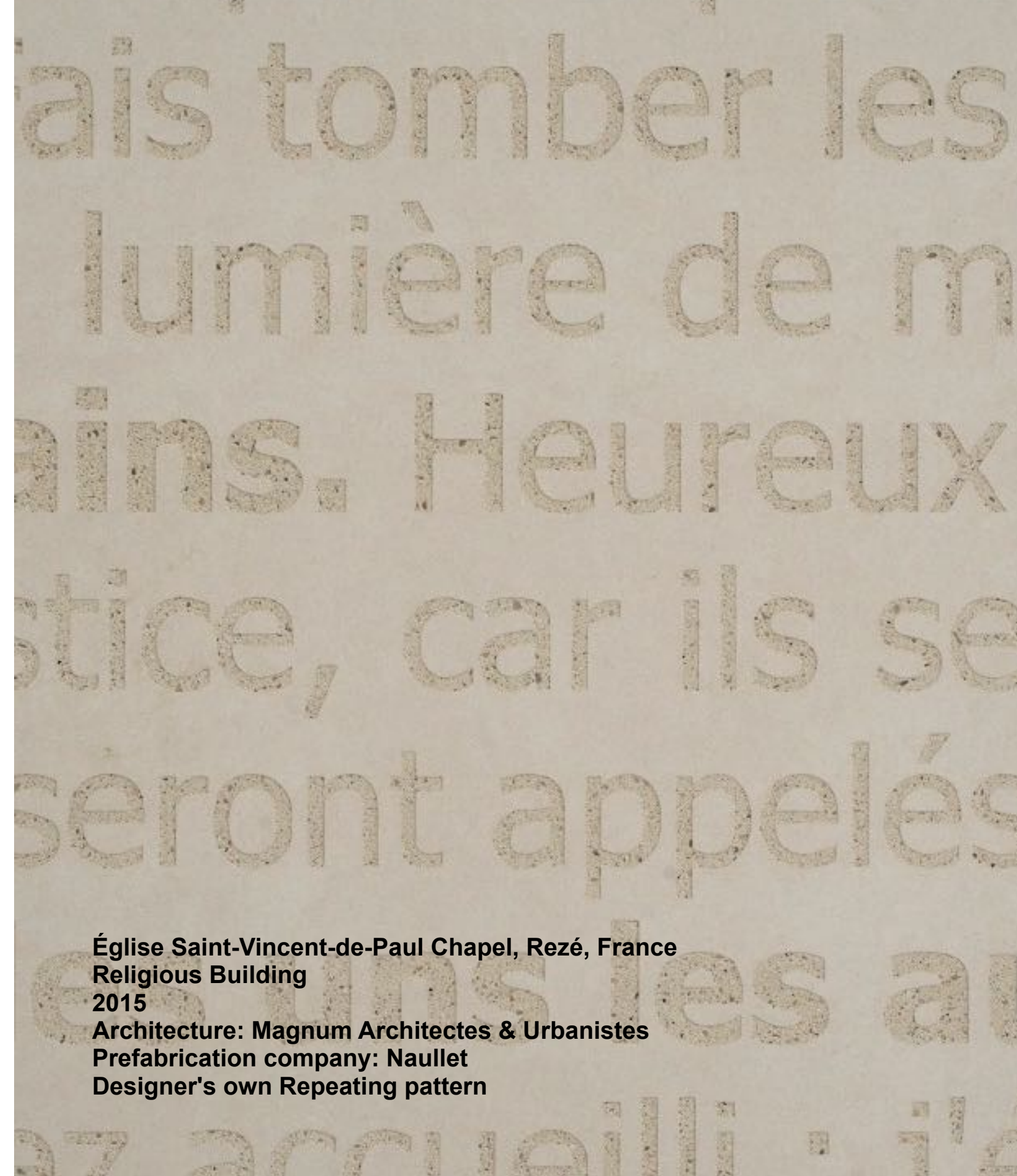


**Leed Platinum building**

**M**  
**MULT**  
thinking center

**General Electronic Building**  
**Commercial Building**  
**2015**  
**Architecture: GaS Studio**  
**Prefabrication company: Il Cantiere**  
**Designer's own pattern**





**Église Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Chapel, Rezé, France**  
**Religious Building**  
**2015**  
**Architecture: Magnum Architectes & Urbanistes**  
**Prefabrication company: Naullet**  
**Designer's own Repeating pattern**





Långbrodal School, Älvsjö, Sweden  
Educational Building  
2017  
Architecture: Aperto  
Prefabrication company: Abetong  
Rebecka Bebben Andersson's own pattern





**Helsinki Culinary School Perho, Helsinki, Finland**  
**Educational Building**  
**2015**  
**Architecture: SARC Architects**  
**Prefabrication company: Parmy Oy**  
**Oiva Toikka's own design pattern**





**Falun Travel Centre, Falun, Sweden**  
**Infrastructure and Non-Building Structures**  
**2015**  
**Architecture: Sweco Architects, Falun**  
**Prefabrication company: Strängbetong AB**  
**Designer's own pattern**





Pihlajalaakso Sound Barrier, Kuopio, Finland  
Infrastructure and Non-Building Structures  
2014


Architecture: Ramboll Finland

Prefabrication company: Betonimestarit Oy

Rebecka Bebben Andersson's own pattern

Designer: Teemu Matilainen / Ramboll Finland Oy and Graphic Concrete





**“Utzon- prize” concrete  
construction nominee 2017**

**City of Viborg Honorable  
Mention for fine architecture  
2016**

**Viborg Provincial Archive, Viborg, Denmark  
Civic Building  
2015  
Architecture: Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects  
Prefabrication company: Confac A/S  
Pattern: Designer's own Repeating pattern  
Designer: TGrethe Sørensen**





**Thank you!**

[www.graphicconcrete.com](http://www.graphicconcrete.com)