

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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- Project description: MATERIAL ARCHIV
- The database: [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch)
- The collections of the initiators of the project: Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Sitterwerk St. Gallen and Zurich University of the Arts

**Current information:**

**Wed 25 February 2009**

Online rollout of the database: [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch)

**Sun 22 March 2009, 1-6 pm**

Opening of the exhibition: *Von Werkstoffen und Kunstwerken*, Sitterwerk St. Gallen

**Fri 3 April 2009, 11 am**

Press conference about the overall project MATERIAL ARCHIV in the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur

**Sat 4 April 2009, 4 pm**

Opening of the exhibition: *MATERIAL ARCHIV Muster- und Schausammlung* in the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur

**The Project: MATERIAL ARCHIV**

MATERIAL ARCHIV is a new network that provides broad-ranging and knowledgeable access to information about materials and substances through the online database [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch) and a range of collections of materials and exhibitions at a variety of locations. Creative professional groups such as architects, designers and artists as well as students and trainees are able here to find an abundance of information on traditional and novel materials free of charge.

The initiators of the MATERIAL ARCHIV are the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Engineering & Architecture (HSLU), Sitterwerk St. Gallen and the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK).

The MATERIAL ARCHIV brings together the collected knowledge of the four institutions involved from practice, theory and research. This is intended to provide specialists as well as interested laypeople with easy access to extensive knowledge about materials and to a large range of materials such as wood, paper, metal, synthetic materials, stone, glass as well as ceramic, fibers and textiles. Up to now, it was often only possible to compile information on materials through laborious research. Now, it is possible to obtain detailed information on a broad palette of materials and compare them with one another comparatively easily and quickly.

**The Database: [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch)**

[www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch) went online on 25 February 2009 with approx. 300 material data sets from the eight groups of materials named. The online database is a form of extended digital reference work, in which information can be accessed in a multiple step process and be sorted according to individual requirements. Each individual material is recorded under a range of aspects and criteria and described according to, for example:

- Cultural and historical background
- Spectrum of means of processing and applications
- Physical and chemical properties
- Market aspects
- Recycling and waste disposal
- Images of the material and application

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The presentation of the information in the database provides simple access to the material information that has been compiled. What is central is the possibility to compare different materials and their characteristics with one another. Color, consistency, dimensional stability, puncture strength, thermal conductivity or also surface finishing, generative production process, degree of brightness and opacity are only a few of the randomly selected properties and possible search criteria with which the material search on [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch) can be defined. MATERIAL ARCHIV thus allows analytically exact research as well as intuitive creative searches for how materials can be utilized and for combinations of substances.

Each participating institution has engaged specialists who further process the data sets in the database on an ongoing basis. The intermediate-term goal is to add to the data sets and to increase the number of materials included. In addition, new areas in the database will be developed such as surface treatment and roughcast, and paints, pigments and bonding agents. The inclusion of additional areas such as conservation, restoration, protection and maintenance of materials are also on the list of items pending.

### **The Collections**

In each of the institutions involved, a collection of materials, each with a specific emphasis, is being set up. In the collections, the materials included in the database are exhibited as samples and are also presented in the form of objects that provide examples of their respective applications and uses. These physical collections include materials and substances for contemporary art and for architecture and design as well as materials for creative teaching professions. The collections in Winterthur, Lucerne, St. Gallen and Zurich (starting in 2012) enable users to directly examine the materials and their appearance and characteristics. In the collections, visitors can handle and examine the various materials, can assess the optic and haptic effects and compare them with one another. In addition, the individual samples of materials are linked with the online database [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch): A RFID-system is installed in every collection, which automatically links the information in the database with the samples of materials exhibited. This provides a broad spectrum of different research options.

### **Short Explanation of the RFID-System**

"RFID" – Radio Frequency Identification – means that two components, a reading device and a so-called RFID-tag, communicate with each other wirelessly. In doing so, an identity number from the RFID-label is transmitted to the reading device. Already familiar uses of this technology are contactless smart cards for opening doors or contactless tickets for ski facilities. Libraries also use RFID for the lending of books. The technology behind them is always the same.

The samples of the materials in the MATERIAL ARCHIV are equipped with RFID-labels, which are scanned by a reader next to the monitor. When the labels are scanned, multiple sections within the reading field can be recognized simultaneously. This means that an entire stack of materials can be placed on the reading device and a connection to all corresponding data sets in the database is generated automatically. Information about the particular materials is then displayed on the screen.

### **Gewerbemuseum Winterthur (Museum of Applied Arts and Design)**

Founded in 2001, the material collection of the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur offers a broad palette of information and background for schools and experts in the fields of design, architecture and arts. From April 2009 on this collection will be presented to the public in an updated and extensively renewed form: in addition to material samples, an exhibition will display examples of their range of use, design and construction, visual and tangible. Moreover, parts of the colour lab – pigments and vehicles – will be integrated. Furthermore, a specialised library and a selected film collection are at the visitor's disposition. Having several experimentation labs, the collection is suitable to be used as workshop for schools and other interested parties.

### **Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts / HSLU**

The degree programme 'Master of Arts in Architecture' strongly focuses on the combination of teaching and research and therein on three topics: material, structure and energy. Within the focus on materials the emphasis is laid on the combination of materials, substances and construction parts, their correlation to each other and to the spatial and supporting structure as well as to the infrastructure of a building. As a basis for theory and research, the physical presence of materials serves not only as an incitement, it is vital demonstration material. The material collection is available to lecturers and students of the HSLU as a background for teaching and research and also to interested external experts.

### **Sitterwerk St. Gallen**

The archive of substances at the Sitterwerk collects and documents materials, which come into use in contemporary art as well as in the restoration of plastic art. The specific demands in arts, design and preservation of ancient monuments often require the development of novel substances and uncommon processing technologies. This is how countless samples of materials come into existence in the various craftsman's workshops in the environment of the Sitterwerk. The archive of substances collects and processes them. The focus lies on the materials used for various casting and reshaping technologies in the production of contemporary plastic art – metals, synthetic materials, plasters or waxes. The collection of the archive of substances is situated in the same hall as the art library, opening up a broad reference field for the history of architecture and art.

### **Zurich University of the Arts /ZHdK**

Zurich University of the Arts comprises approximately 2000 students and resulted from merging the Zurich School of Music, Drama and Dance and the School of Art and Design Zurich. It offers a unique range of studies in the fields of design, film, arts, media, music, dance, theatre and art education. It goes without saying that this abundant range of possibilities entails the use of various means and media, processes and substances. Therefore, ZHdK engages in the MATERIAL ARCHIV project, thereby encouraging the acquirement of expert knowledge in the degree courses. The substances and materials used in design, theatre and education will form the centrepieces of the physical material collection on the future campus, which will be situated at the Toni-Areal in Zurich-West. (starting in 2012)

### **General information about the collections**

#### **Gewerbemuseum Winterthur**

Kirchplatz 14, CH-8400 Winterthur, T +41 (0)52 267 51 36, [www.gewerbemuseum.ch](http://www.gewerbemuseum.ch)

Opening hours: Tue – Sun 10 am – 5 pm, Thu 10 am – 8 pm

Admission: CHF 5.-/3.-

#### **Hochschule Luzern – Technik & Architektur / HSLU**

Technikumstrasse 21, CH-6048 Horw / Luzern, T +41 (0)41 349 34 68, [www.hslu.ch/t-materialbibliothek](http://www.hslu.ch/t-materialbibliothek)

Opening hours: During the semester Tue / Thu 10 am – 12 am and 1 pm – 5 pm or by appointment

During the semester break by appointment

Admission free

#### **Sitterwerk**

Sittentalstrasse 34, CH-9014 St. Gallen, T +41 (0)71 278 87 08/09

[www.werkstoffarchiv.ch](http://www.werkstoffarchiv.ch) / [www.sitterwerk.ch](http://www.sitterwerk.ch)

Opening hours: Wed / Sun 2 pm – 6 pm or by appointment

Admission: CHF 10.- / 5.-

#### **Zürcher Hochschule der Künste / ZHdK**

Ausstellungsstrasse 60, CH-8005 Zürich, T +41 (0)43 446 46 46, [www.zhdk.ch](http://www.zhdk.ch)

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## General Information

### Program of events

For further information about the program of events, see the separate complete overview on [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch) / Veranstaltungen (in German).

### Press conference

Fri 3 April 2009, 11 am in the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur

### Visual material

See [www.materialarchiv.ch](http://www.materialarchiv.ch) / Medien. For images in high quality definition please contact [luzia.davi@materialarchiv.ch](mailto:luzia.davi@materialarchiv.ch)

### For further information

Christoph Flury, Project management MATERIAL ARCHIV, [christoph.flury@materialarchiv.ch](mailto:christoph.flury@materialarchiv.ch)  
Ueli Vogt, Werkstoffarchiv / Sitterwerk St. Gallen, [ueli.vogt@sitterwerk.ch](mailto:ueli.vogt@sitterwerk.ch)  
Luzia Davi, Public relations MATERIAL ARCHIV, [luzia.davi@materialarchiv.ch](mailto:luzia.davi@materialarchiv.ch)

The initiators of the MATERIAL ARCHIV are:

**GEWERBEMUSEUM**

**HOCHSCHULE  
LUZERN**

**SITTERWERK**

**Z** hdk

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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**AVINA STIFTUNG**

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