

ahrens & grabenhorst



About the Office

ahrens & grabenhorst are an architecture studio in Hanover, Germany, setting a focus on the city, its buildings, and their volumes for over twenty years. The office reached nationwide recognition for the extension of the East-Frisian National Museum, the expansion of the Art Museum in Celle as well as for the conversion of a former church into a synagogue for the Liberal Jewish Parish in Hanover, honoured with the State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture in 2010.

The studio was founded by Prof. Gesche Grabenhorst and Roger Ahrens in 1994, realizing projects of various types since then, enjoying an excellent reputation in the field of architecture for a long time and being awarded with several prizes over the years.

Their projects hold a clear form language combining high quality design and cost awareness. Ecological, social as well as economic factors influence each phase of a project. Furthermore, transparent communication and a dialogic approach present the base of the architect's work.





Prof. Gesche Grabenhorst

since 2012	Member of the Convent of Building Culture, Federal Building Culture Foundation
since 2011	Honorary Professor at University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld, Department 6 (Shape and Design)
2008	Chamber of Architects, freelancing urban planner
2006 - 2011	Professor for Design at University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld, Department of Architecture
2006	Visiting Professor at University of Hanover, Winter Academy
2005 - 2015	Member of the Cooperatively Discussion Group of the Head of the Municipal Planning and Building Control Office, Hanover
2004 - 2014	Member of the Advisory Council for Urban Development in Göttingen
2003 - 2012	Member of the work group of young architects in the Association of German Architects
1999	Appointment into the Association of German Architects
since 1994	Office partnership with Roger Ahrens
1987 - 1994	Architectural Studies at the Technical University of Munich and the Braunschweig University of Art, study visit in Graz, apprenticeship as architectural drafter

Roger Ahrens

2003 - 2007	Deputy Regional Chairman of the Association of German Architects in Lower Saxony
1998 - 2002	Ahrens Grabenhorst + Zimmermann Architekten Hanover
1998 - 2001	Member of the Cooperatively Discussion Group of the Head of the Municipal Planning and Building Control Office, Hanover
1996	Appointment into the Association of German Architects, Work Group of young architects in the Association
1994	Office partnership with Gesche Grabenhorst
1990 - 1994	Reimers+Parter Berlin
1984 - 1990	Architectural Studies at the Technical University of Braunschweig, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne and Technical University of Berlin

Publications (selection)

06/ 2018	Dokumentation zum Symposium Re-formationen Kirchen - Weiter - Bauen Einblicke - Ausblicke - Durchblicke
01 / 2017	Architectural Record "Second Coming, A church is resurrected to serve its congregation as well as a local choir"
2017	umrisse Journal for Building Culture "Weltnaturerbe als Thema- Umbau des Wattenmeer Besucherzentrums in Wilhelmshaven"
05/ 2016	AIT International Choral Centre "Chorzentrum in Hanover"
05 /2015	AIT Jewish Memorial Ahlem, "innen und außen"
2015	madeby "Architekturbüros"
07/ 2014	Journal Architekten und Planer Profile ahrens & grabenhorst
05/ 2014	Interior Design "Architekturstudio ahrens & grabenhorst"
04 /2014	AIT Architecture studio ahrens & grabenhorst
04/ 2014	D'Architectures Architecture studio ahrens & grabenhorst
2014	umrisse Journal for Building Culture "Im Licht der Neuen Zeit"
2013	"Sakrale Bauten – Kirchen, Synagogen, Moscheen" Verlagshaus Braun, Community Centre and Synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Parish Hanover
2012	Sacred Architecture + Design, Braun Verlag "Liberal Judaism Community Center and Synagogue"
02/ 2009	DB, Community Centre „Etz Chaim“ of the Liberal Jewish Parish Hanover
03/ 2010	umrisse Journal of Building Culture Conversion to "Tree of Life"- The Community Centre with Synagogue Hanover
05 /2008	AIT Theodor-Heuss-Gymnasium & Hölty Schule (college and school), Göttingen
2008	"Made in Germany" Verlagshaus Braun 2008, Art Museum Celle
2008	"in full colour" Recent Buildings and Interiors, Verlagshaus Braun Art Museum Celle with collection Robert Simon
2008	Häuser Extra "Die 100 besten Einfamilienhaus-Architekten"
04/ 2007	Casabella Nr. 754 „Cube di Luce“ by Giovanni Crespi, Art Museum Celle
02/ 2007	AIT Wohnen/Living , Innen und Außen, Living and Working in the „Quartier“, Ha- nover-Kirchrode
06/ 2007	DB „tagsüber ein Zwerg, nachts ein Riese“ Art Museum Celle by Peter Struck
2006	1000 x European Architecture Art Museum Celle, Verlagshaus Braun, Autumn 2006
10/ 2006	Desenio Interior Madrid „Una fachada de luz en el siglo XVI“, Museo de Arte, Celle
03/ 2006	Bauwelt Im Museum – Celles Kristall by Elmar Kuhlmann
05 /2006	AIT Public Buildings, "Sympathisch" East-Frisian National Museum Emden
2001	"Ideen für die Zukunft" Expo 2000 Hanover, Theme Park, Jovis Verlag
1999	"Der Themenpark der Expo 2000" Springer Verlag Vienna, New York

Exhibitions (selection)

2018	BDA Review 17/18 Groner Tor, Hotel FREIgeist, Göttingen
2018	Day of Architecture Restaurant Handwerk
2017	Retrospective Association of German Architects Lower Saxony 15/16 Lenbach Quarter
2016	State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture Jewish Memorial Ahlem, Finalist
2016	POLIS Award International Choral Centre, nomination
2016	Association of German Architects Award Jewish Memorial Ahlem
2015	Interior Contract Award Architecture studio, nomination
2015	EnEV Award (German Award for Energetic Building Reconstruction) Jewish Memorial Ahlem
2015	20 Years Day of Architecture Art Museum Celle collection Robert Simon
2014	Retrospective Association of German Architects 13/14 Architecture studio ahrens & grabenhorst
2014	Day of Architecture Chapel in the Convent of the Holy Spirit
2014	Day of Architecture New construction of eight nurseries
2013	Day of Architecture Wetland Visitor Information Centre in Resse/Wedemark
2012	Day of Architecture Conversion and Extension of the UNESCO World Nature Heritage Mudflats Visitor Information Centre in Wilhelmshaven
2011	Day of Architecture Community Centre with Synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Parish Hanover
2010	State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture Community Centre with Synagogue of the Liberal Jewish Parish Hanover

Awards and Honorings

2018	Day of Architecture Restaurant Handwerk
2017	PLAN Award Architecture Office ahrens & grabenhorst Finalist, International Choral Centre in the Christ Church, Shortlist
2017	Day of Architecture Ada-and-Theodor-Lessing Adult Education Centre
2016	State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture Jewish Memorial Ahlem, Shortlist
2016	Day of Architecture International Choral Centre in the Christ Church
2016	POLIS Award International Choir Centre of the Christ Church, 4th place
2015	German Award for Energetic Building Reconstruction (EnEV) Jewish Memorial Ahlem
2015	Interior Contract Award Architecture Office ahrens & grabenhorst, nomination
2015	Award of the Association of German Architects in Lower Saxony (BDA Niedersachsen) Jewish Memorial Ahlem, Honored
2010	State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture "Etz Chaim" Community Centre and Synagogue of the Jewish Liberal Parish
2009	GECKO: Think forward Award "Etz Chaim" Community Centre and Synagogue of the Jewish Liberal Parish
2008	State of Lower Saxony Award for Architecture Art Museum Celle, nomination
2007	European Museum Prize East-Fresian National Museum Emden, one of four German nominations
2007	Best Buildings in Germany Art Museum Celle, 5th Place
2006	Project "Germany – Country of Ideas" Art Museum Celle, Shortlist
2006	Award of the Association of German Architects in Lower Saxony East-Frisian State Museum Emden, Honored

Judge Prof. Gesche Grabenhorst (selection)

	Judging in various architecture competitions within the disciplines of high rise, urban development, engineer construction, as well as for student competitions
2018	Investor selection process for a urban restructuring in Erkelenz (chair)
2018	AIT in cooperation with the sto Foundation, Interior Scholarship (chair)
2018	New construction of a fire station in Nordhorn with 15 participants
2018	New construction near the Konrad Adenauer Park in Willich with 15 participants
2018	New construction and renovation of the school center in Bochum with 15 participants
2017	New construction of the primary school in Oerlinghausen
2017	Administration building and multi-storey car park in Unna
2017	Living in the street Tulpenweg in Düsseldorf
2017	New construction of a family centre in Burgdorf, realization competition (chair)
2017	ArtRoom – Extension of the Academy of Art in Kassel, restricted realization competition
2017	New construction of St. Joseph comprehensive school in Bad Honnef, realization competition according to RPW 2013 (guidelines for planning competitions) with 8 participants
2017	New construction of beverage technological centre (GTZ) – new construction logistics, new construction auditorium building, new construction practicum for food safety within the HEUREKA program, restricted realization competition (chair)
2016	New construction of eastern building of the Federal Supreme Court in Karlsruhe, restricted planning competition with 21 participants
2016	Building-integrated rooftop green house and administration building in Oberhausen, restricted competition with 18 participants
2016	Urban-landscape planning high rise campus in Geisenheim, open realization competition
2016	Competition "First Flat" at Körnerplatz, GBH Hanover, Invitation competition with 9 participants
2016	New construction of student residence in Göttingen, restricted competition with 15 participants (chair)
2016	New construction of administration centre in Eschwege, open, 2-phased competition
2016	Extension of the primary school in Fuhrberg, Bugwedel, restricted competition according to RPW (guidelines for planning competitions) with 14 participants (chair)
2016	New construction of hall and canteen for the vocational training centre in Darmstadt, restricted competition according to RPW (guidelines for planning competitions) with 15 participants
2016	New construction of the Department for Mechanical Engineering/ Energy Technology at campus Wiesenstrasse at Technical University Giessen, open competition

Lectureship, International Academic Network

2015	Hoogeschool van Amsterdam International Workshop, Andre de Ruiter, MA BNA "Vertical City –solution, dream or nightmare?"
2013	Exhibition lichtbreust Hanover Cooperation with Nimbus LED, Concepts for the next LED technology, realized with students from University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld
2011	Honorary Professor at University of Applied Sciences Department 6 "Shape and Design"
2011	Hoogeschool van Amsterdam, Andre de Ruiter MA BNA International Workshop "Streets of Amsterdam – a Comparative Study of Traditional and Modernist Approaches to the Concept of the Streets at the Characteristic of Urban Life"
2010	contractworld congress Pimping Minden, Exhibition of students of Department of Design
2010	Mimar Sinan Fine Art University Finikli/Istanbul International Workshop "A Comparative Study of Traditional and Modernist Approaches to the Concept of the Streets as the Characteristic of Urban Life", Prof. Dr. Güzin Konuk
2009	Professorship at the University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld Department 6, Basics of Design
2007	Deputy Professorship at University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld Basics of Design
2006	Visiting Professor at Technical University Hanover Winter Academy, Institute for Urban Development, Prof. Trojan/ Prof. Braum
2005	Lectureship at University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld Department 6, Basics of Design
2000	Guest critics at Technical University Berlin Prof. Donatella Fioretti

Lectureship, National Academic Network

2018	Leibniz University Hannover, Faculty for Architecture and Landscape The special Book, Lecture about architecture theory, Prof. Dr. Buchert
2018	Convent of Building Culture Heritage - Continuation - Future, Forum
2018	Institute for City Planning Aesthetics Conference about the beauty and viability of the city, home in the city, discussion
2017	Foundation for Building Culture Colloquium in Volkenroda, Reformation – continue building, lecture
2017	Institute for City Planning Aesthetics Conference about the beauty and viability of the city, from house to city, discussion
2016	BDA Masters University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld, Department 6, Prof. Gesche Grabenhorst, Living at the riverside, Christian Corral, Matthias Gebhardt, Peter Mathies
2014	University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt/Main Lecture "Transformations – respect for the old, visions for the new", Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Peterek, Department of Urban Development and Design
2014	Fireside Chat in the Monastery of Frensdorfer Weg Prof. Christoph Mäckler discussing the landmark architecture of the 21st century with other architects
2014	Kestner Gesellschaft Hanover "Transformations. Art meets architecture", lecture and tour with Veit Görner
2014	Forum Architecture of the city Wolfsburg Program for Building Culture
2013	contractworld award Chair of the jury in the category "material"
2013	Lecture "Architecture dialogue in church – conversion of sacred buildings"
2013	Leibniz University Hannover Lecture "Tuesdays at 6", Prof. Hilde Leon
2012	Evangelic Academy Loccum/ National Church Hanover Lecture "Reformation Jubilee 2017 – Reformation in and through spaces"
2012	Lecture "How to develop and what is the need of good school architecture?"
2011	Designing learning landscapes Symposium for Building Culture in Lower Saxony
2010	Forum Michaelis – 1000 years St. Michaelis Hildesheim Scale of the human – space of the future"
2009	Architecture Dialogue "Conversion"
2008	Architecture + Education "School of the future", AIT Forum in the House of Architecture in Munich
2006	University Hanover Lecture "Tuesdays at 6", Prof. Klaus Trojan

Competitions (Selection)

01/2018	Realization competition of two residential buildings on the property of Wasserstadt Continental Limmer 1st Prize	10/2014	Procedure of Contracts for Freelance Services (VOF), KISS Birkenstrasse (Nursery, School, Sports) 2nd Prize
06/2017	Realization competition Kirchstrasse 1-3 in Bremervörde, 1st Prize	09/2014	High-rise competition Hanover south station 2nd Prize
05/2017	Realization competition Primary school complex in Boizenburg/Elbe, 1st Prize	12/2013	Multiple commission, new construction of Ensemble Evenburg, extension of the outer bailey 1st Prize
09/2016	Realization competition, new construction for the Forum Diaconia and Church Göttingen 1st Prize	06/2013	Invitation competition, Living in Hanover (Altenbekener Damm 82) 3rd Prize
06/2016	Realization competition, Library of the Preacher's Seminary of the Evangelic Lutheran Church Hanover in the Monastery Loccum 2nd Prize	05/2013	Invitation competition, Living at the high bank (Am Hohen Ufer) 3rd Prize
03/2016	Procedure of Contracts for Freelance Services (VOF), new construction of the Luise High School in Hamburg, 1st Prize	10/2012	Restricted competition, Extension and reorganization of House A of the vocational school in Wolfsburg 3rd Prize
12/2015	Invitation competition, Entrance and shop for the Zoo Hanover 2nd Prize	02/2012	Restricted realization competition (9 participants), new construction of a community centre at Vahrenwalder Strasse in Hanover 2nd Prize
10/2015	Architect's competition, Microapartments in Hanover 3rd Prize	01/2012	Restricted realization competition (8 participants), new construction of community hall of Evangelic Lutheran Jakobi Parish, Hanover-Kirchrode 2nd Prize
03/2015	Urban, high-rise workshop procedure with landscaping part (4 participants), new construction of sports and club centre of Hanover 96 Finalist	03/2011	Restricted realization competition (30 participants), new construction of the remedial learning centre for social and emotional development in Hanover 1st Prize
01/2015	Planning competition, new construction of residential building at Seelhorststrasse/ Zeppelinstrasse in Hanover 2nd Prize		
01/2015	Procedure of Contracts for Freelance Services (VOF), new construction of a canteen for the school complex in Hanover-Misburg 2nd Prize		

