

THE 'LITERATOR'

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN MOSCOW (RU)

Planning: Sergey Kisselev & Partners architects bureau, Moscow

Custom architectural assortment of Røben hand-formed facing bricks FORMBACK and DYKBRAND in WDF format

An exclusive residential building complex known as the 'Literator' was recently completed in the centrally located Moscow district of Khamovniki. The complex was designed by the renowned Moscow architect, Sergey Kisselev, and comprises five structures, each of different sizes and deliberate variations in detail and alternating between three and six storeys, which together form a self-contained 'city within a city'. The majority of the buildings were designed with brick facades while in some areas light limestone slabs were used as an alternative.

The name 'Literator' is a reference to the Russian author Lev Tolstoy. As a count, he resided with his staff in the houses directly adjacent to the site, whenever he stayed in Moscow, in a manner that befitted his standing in the nineteenth-century. After undergoing extensive restoration, these buildings now house the Tolstoy Museum.

Quiet fragmented structures

The spatial programme comprises 182 apartments ranging in size between 77 and 297 square metres. Also incorporated are guest residences, a concierge area, a kindergarten, several shops, a cafe and a fitness centre. A two-floor underground garage allows the entire area to be kept free of cars.





“A pleasant and calm environment with fragmented structures has evolved in the interplay, in which each section displays its own architectural character,”

A.V. Medvedev
Project architect

The layout of the complex with its elongated block and four orthogonally adjacent volumes creates a varied grid of paths and squares that directly adjoin traditional typologies in the Khamovniki district. The complex gains additional quality from the emphatically varied architecture. “A pleasant and calm environment with fragmented structures has evolved in the interplay, in which each section displays its own architectural character,” says project architect A. V. Medvedev explaining the concept. An important component of this is the facades with their numerous projections and recesses, French and recessed balconies, and wooden windows, some of which are set back diagonally, framed in light Jura limestone.

Artistic brick facades

The brick facades, created with great manual dexterity, form a powerful eye catcher. The planners made conscious use of tradi-

tional techniques in their construction. The adjoining building to the south-west, for example, contains a brickwork section in which every third brick projects from the facade by about four centimetres, creating a regular three-dimensional structure with an expressive character.

To emphasise the varied facade design, the planners wished to employ a custom brick type, for which reason they chose BRICK DESIGN® by Röben. The assortment that was specially configured for the project comprises varying proportions of three different FORMBACK and one DYKBRAND hand-formed facing bricks. The rough texture emphasises the craft-rooted nature of the facades and harmonises well with the wood and sandstone materials otherwise used. The effect of the brick facade is emphasised by the selection of the small 210 x 100 x 65 millimetre Waal thick format, laid in stretcher bond with dark pointing.



Source: Sergey Kisselev & Partners

Discreet and yet clearly visible: light Röben DYKBRAND bricks scattered within the red brickwork

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Residential complex in Moscow*

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architects bureau, Moscow*

Photos: Mikhail Serebryanikov

Special architectural assortment comprising Röben hand-formed facing bricks: FORMBACK, red-brown, light-red variegated and flashed-variegated, also approx. 5% DYKBRAND Flemish variegated. All in WDF format.

Water absorption approx. 10.0%