

Profile of JSWD Architekten

The Cologne-based architectural firm JSWD Architekten was founded in 2000. It began with a relatively small team but today the four partners Jürgen Steffens, Olaf Drehsen and brothers Konstantin and Frederik Jaspert head up a firm of around 50 employees.

The four partners come from the Rhine and Mosel areas, and all four began their architectural career at RWTH Aachen technical university. The practices of Günter Behnisch and of Meinhard von Gerkan und Volkwin Marg (gmp) formed important staging posts, which were followed by lecturing work and the founding of their own practices.

In the few years of its existence, JSWD Architekten has carried out a surprisingly large number of surprisingly varied projects in Germany and abroad, the great majority of them as a result of competition wins: research institutes, university buildings, a youth hostel, stations for the Wuppertal monorail – and numerous office buildings. Several projects, among them the ThyssenKrupp Quarter and the new Luxembourg central train station, were the result of joint designs with Paris-based Chaix & Morel et associés.

In projects like these the partners in JSWD Architekten benefit from their great sense of planning in urban dimensions. This potential runs through all the work of the architects. Working with a small number of clearly defined elements creates clear building and space hierarchies. This also characterizes the ThyssenKrupp Quarter: Buildings and surrounding landscape are equal parts of a spatial whole; embedded in the green spaces of the campus the individual elements develop their full potential.