## BORNACK DROP STOP TRAINING CENTER PATZNER ARCHITEKTEN

Project locationMarbach am Neckar, GermanyEstimated useTraining center and office spaceContainer typeBuilding container

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For anyone-from elevator and bridge repairers and outdoor adventurers, to rescue squads and construction workers—Bornack offers bespoke security systems, coaching and consultation, as well as "drop-stop" safety equipment. Patzner Architects transformed a monumental, landmarked former steam power plant in Marbach am Neckar (built in 1939 and closed in1951) into its fourth training and product development center. To do so, the designers tore out all the old coal boilers except one inside the boiler house, adding 500 square meters of space over several floors to this industrial cathedral of 3,000 square meters. Patzner converted the factory into offices, training ranges, camps, and meeting and break rooms while working hard to reconcile the magnificent original structure with these new functions.



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Containers added more intimate space, for safety training, to this former steam power plant. 02

The new, but still industrial, stairwell. 03

The end of each container was fully glazed to give monumental views of the building's main volume.





By raising shipping containers 6.5 meters off the floor, the designers underscored the church-like volume and epic 35-meter ceiling height of the existing building (this is also emphasized by the new stairs which hang from two powerful old steel girders). By completely glazing the ends of the boxes, the architects punctuated the space with new layers of texture and transparency. Inside the containers,

visitors seem to float in midair while enjoying a magnificent view of "the mountain climbers", clients who train in drop-stop safety directly opposite these windows. Patzner was wise to preserve the existing building strategically and generously, including rehabilitating concrete and steel surfaces, in order to communicate the original character and surreality of the plant environment.

04 05

**04, 05** The windowed containers hem one flank of the factory, accessed via stairs, and give views onto training sessions taking place in the larger volume of the space.