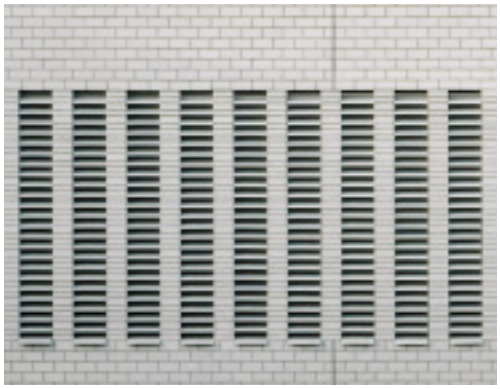
Stainless steel louvres as ventilation openings

The block-type thermal power station in Neu-Ulm is an extension to an existing heating plant built by the local US army base 13 years ago. The barracks have now been converted into a new residential area with a new district-heating grid. The block-type thermal power station provides not only heat energy (to 8,000 people), but also electricity (to 17,000 households). Because of its location in the middle of a residential district, the power station had to be visually acceptable to the residents as well as fulfil its technical function. This was achieved by using the quality materials of calcareous sandstone and stainless steel and by exploiting the gleaming smooth surfaces of the steel boiler housing and pipework.

The clarity of the architectural language derives from the storey-high openings in the walls of the ground floor, and the vertical ventilation slits fitted with horizontal stainless steel louvres. The line of slits continues around the building's corners. The entire façade construction, including the ventilation system, had to be designed to withstand the enormous acoustic pressure acting from inside to outside. It was necessary therefore to also sound-proof the ventilation slits and the stainless steel louvres.



Slim, sound-proofed ventilation slits fitted with horizontal stainless steel louvres continue the precise overall impression of the façade.

Client: SWU Energie GmbH, Ulm, Germany
Architect: Dr Daniel P. Meister, Ulm, Germany
Photos: Atelier Kinold, Munich, Germany

The use of just a few high-quality materials underlines the importance of this industrial building. Accent and interest is added through the stainless steel of the vertical pipes and the louvres in the ventilation system.