



ACO. The future of drainage.



ACO history – growth from strong roots

1780



1780 The sailing ship captain Otto Friedrich Ahlmann decides to pursue a career on land as a businessman. It proved a successful move: his sons and grandsons become bankers and owners of a large ironware trading business operating in the Scandinavian region. The Ahlmann family's commercial activities soon focus on the Carlshütte iron foundry set up in Büdelsdorf in 1827. The iron foundry is the first industrial company established in Schleswig-Holstein.

1931



1931 Käte Ahlmann (1890-1963) takes over management of the Carlshütte following the sudden death of her husband Julius. She grows the company in the face of many challenges, and becomes one of the most famous business women of her time. Among her many achievements, Käte Ahlmann was a founding member and first president of the Association of German Business women (VdU).

1946



1946 Josef-Severin Ahlmann (1924-2006) sets up his new company, ACO, on the site of the Carlshütte. The youngest son of Julius and Käte Ahlmann, he starts a business producing concrete construction components and windows. The first drainage channels are added in the 1960s and the innovative polymer concrete channel drainage system, ACO DRAIN®, was launched in the 1970s. Also in the 1970's ACO expands into markets and establishes companies outside Germany for the first time. In the early 1980s, Severin Ahlmann gradually transferred the reins to his nephew Hans-Julius Ahlmann, under whose visionary leadership the ACO Group has experienced significant growth, diversification and globalization. Today, ACO remains a family owned company.

2012



▲
2012 The family enterprise ACO moves forward with the next generation: the present and the future of the ACO Group are represented by Hans-Julius Ahlmann and his son Iver, who officially joined the management of ACO Severin Ahlmann GmbH & Co. KG in 2012 as a managing partner. Iver Ahlmann therefore takes on corporate responsibility and bears ACO's identity as a family enterprise into the future.

▲
Büdelsdorf near Rendsburg, North Germany, is still the headquarters of the ACO Group. The historic buildings at the site of the former Carlshütte foundry on the banks of the River Eider have undergone significant restoration over the years, and are used today as offices, guest accommodation, and conference and event venues. This environment gives visitors and employees from all over the world a direct insight into ACO's deep commercial roots.

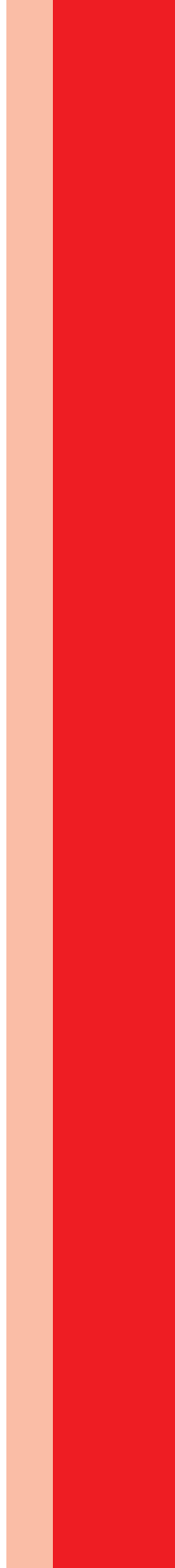
▲
The modern face of the ACO Group is the ACO Academy in Rendsburg/Büdelsdorf opened in 2007. With a showroom, hospitality centres and meeting/lecture facilities it allows a wide ranging programme for staff, clients and users to promote knowledge transfer, help forge personal contacts, and facilitates training and further education. The ACO Academy is an important element in the ACO Group's strategy of maintaining its status as a quality supplier now and in the future in the face of global competition.



A strong brand around the world.

The ACO Group is a world market leader in drainage technology. Climate change sets us a challenge to react effectively with innovative solutions to new environmental conditions. With its integrated approach, ACO stands for professional drainage, efficient cleaning, and the controlled discharge or reuse of water. The major innovation strength of the ACO Group is built on intense research and development, and its technical expertise in processing polymer concrete, plastic, cast iron, stainless steel and reinforced concrete. ACO has a presence in over 40 countries, with a total of 30 production sites on four continents.

With a global workforce of 4,000, the company generated sales of Euro 670 million in 2014.



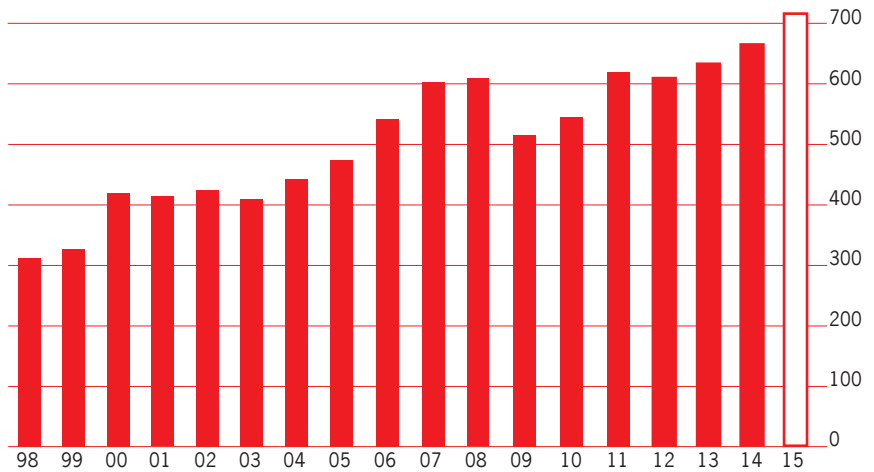
*Global player
with its feet
firmly on the
ground*



ACO at a glance

- 1946, company founded by Josef-Severin Ahlmann
- 4,000 employees in more than 40 countries (Europe, North and South America, Asia, Australia, Africa)
- 30 production sites in 15 countries
- Sales 2014: Euro 670 million

Development in sales in Euro million





Extraordinary weather events are happening more frequently throughout the world. Wherever water represents a danger, that's where we step in. For example, extreme rainfall after long dry periods creates the need for special drainage, backflow prevention and runoff systems to cope with the consequences of downpours. ACO's developments in progress include gutters with increased storage capacity and drain speed, flood-proof separator and pump plants, backflow and percolation systems as well as presswater-tight cellar windows and light shafts.



*Working solutions for
the effects of climate change*





The ACO system chain provides the drainage solutions for tomorrow's environmental conditions.

Increasingly extreme weather must be counteracted by more complex and sophisticated drainage concepts. ACO achieves this with intelligent system solutions which have a dual purpose: protecting people from water, and water from people. Every ACO product within the ACO system chain therefore safely controls the water as it passes along the chain to ensure that it can be ecologically and economically reused in a viable way.



*ACO. The future
of drainage*



ACO system chain
in action



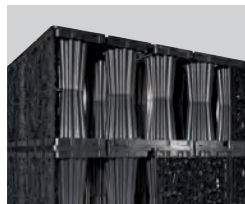
collect



clean



hold

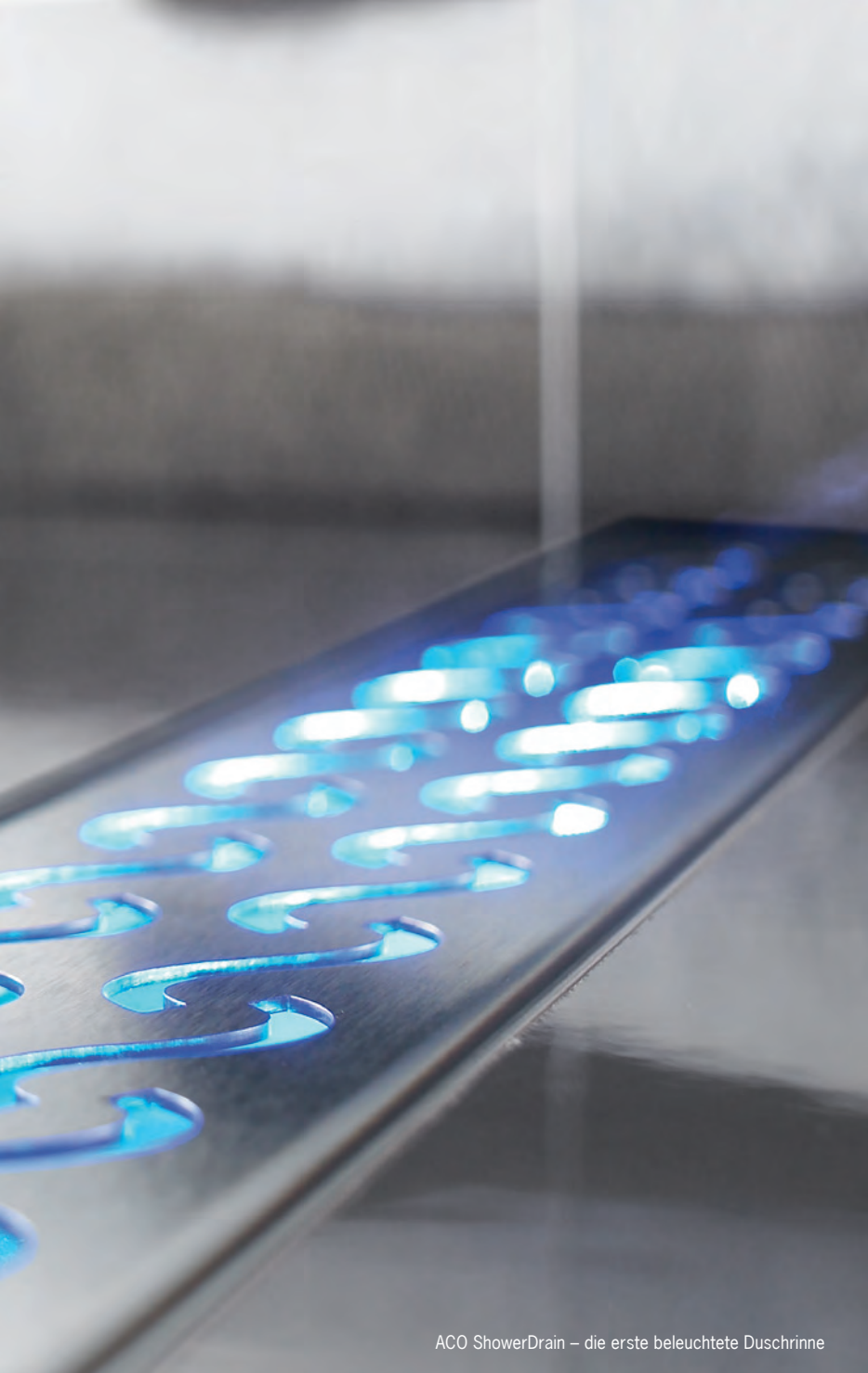


release





Not all of our products are as eye-catching as an illuminated ACO stainless steel channel. Most of our products do their jobs reliably, but unnoticed, year after year. They are still attractive because we strive for perfection in every detail. As even products of the highest quality can always be improved, our engineers and technicians are constantly working on innovations to enhance all kinds of aspects delete, - no matter how large or small. Polymer concrete, reinforced concrete, polymers, stainless steel and cast iron are materials ACO masters to create intelligent, efficient and sustainable products and solutions.



ACO ShowerDrain – die erste beleuchtete Duschrinne

Perfection is beautiful



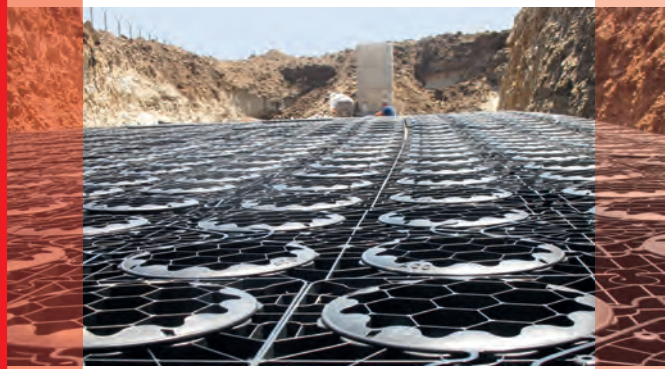
DESIGN PLUS
powered by: **light+building**





Being on hand pays dividends – for our customers and us. The planning and installation of drainage, water treatment, and backflow systems is best left in the hands of experts. This work demands detailed knowledge of local situations: planning depends on the right design and calculation criteria, while in depth know-how is vital for professional installation and operation. You can always rely on ACO project engineers and system consultants to be on hand when needed. Their invaluable experience and professional commitment on site ensures that our products are optimally installed in roads, open spaces, or buildings – effectively assuring ACO's high quality standards whenever our products are depended on.

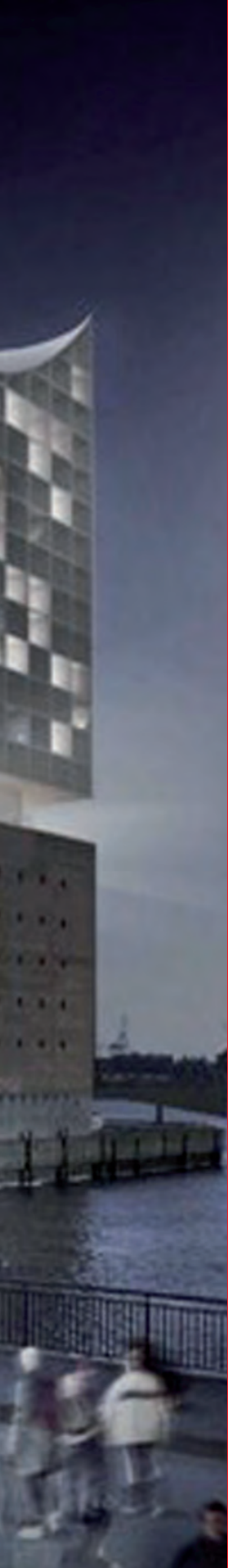
*When something is new,
ACO is there*



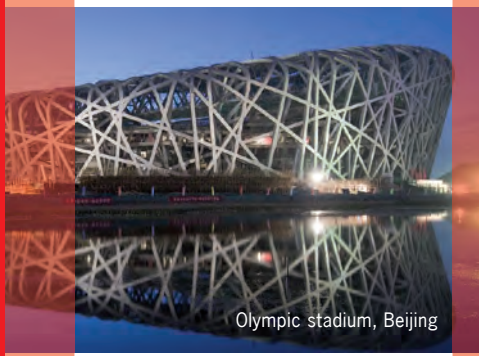


Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg

Great architecture makes no compromises. Our products are frequently found in, on and around many stunningly beautiful and spectacular buildings worldwide. Planners and architects know they can depend on ACO's competence in situations where not only design excellence but also extreme ruggedness, functionality and safety are a top priority. A big thank you to all those in the construction business who demand quality!



World Trade Center 1, New York



Olympic stadium, Beijing



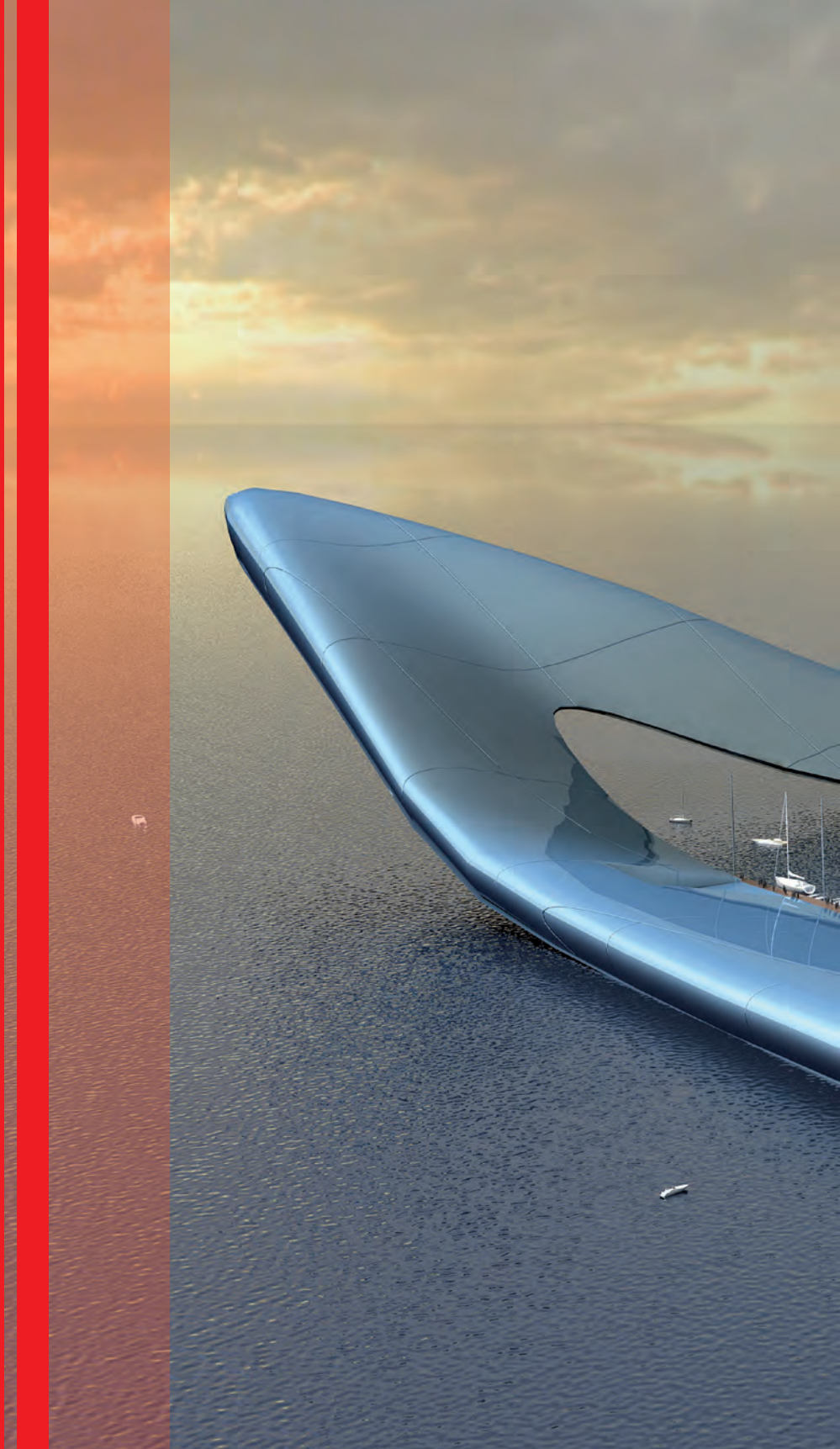
Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur



Airrail Center, Frankfurt

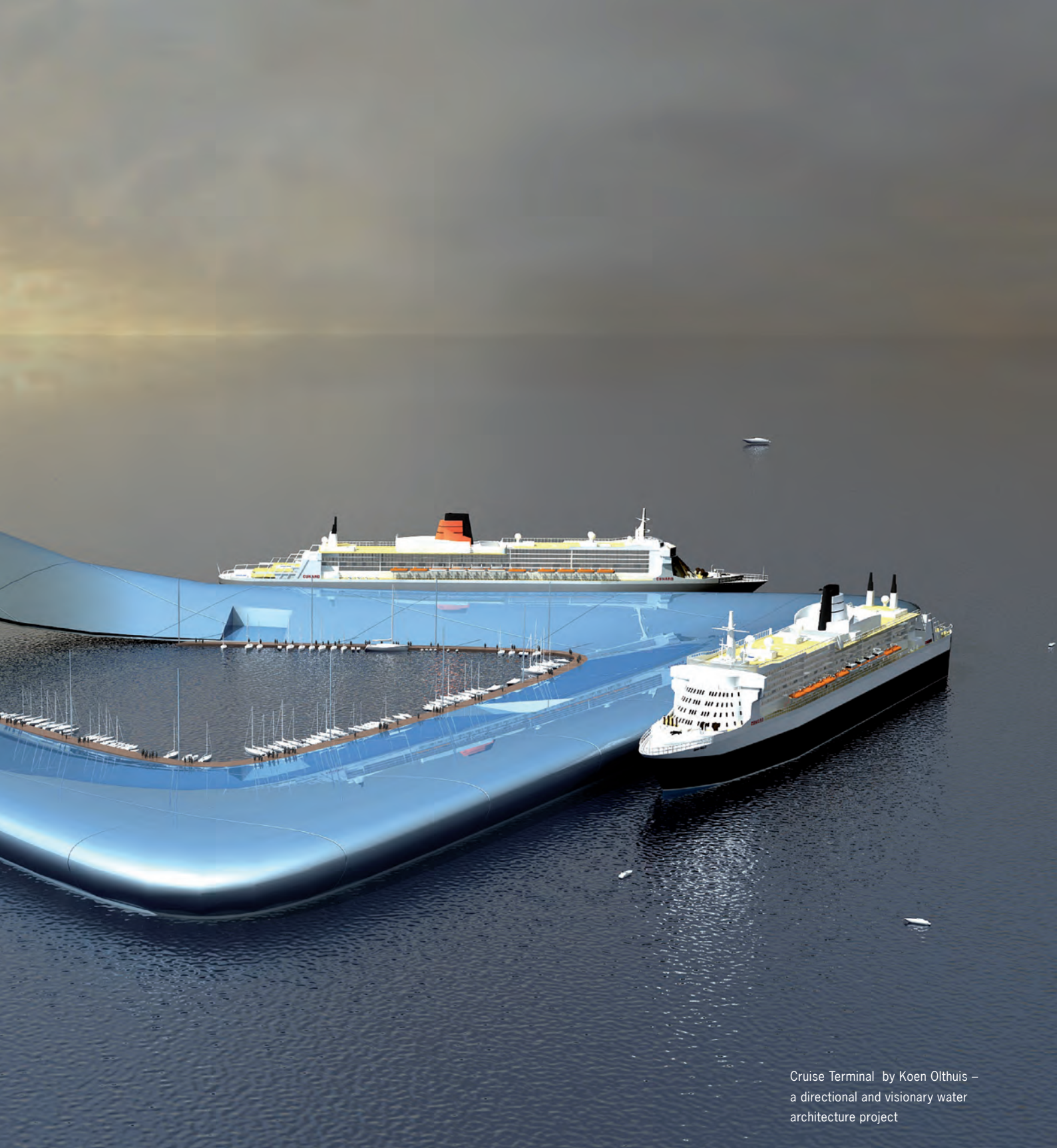
*Great architecture makes
no compromises*

*Interface_
architecture_water*



There always has been an interaction between water and architecture.

The fact that human life depends on water makes this link unavoidable. What is the situation today, in terms of our life on this planet and the development of technologies and cities? How do we use water: that very same water that is the foundation of all life and also one of Nature's elemental forces? ACO's architect-water interface magazine seeks to build a bridge between these two areas, in keeping with its role as the global market leader in drainage technology as well as in the development of products: communications reflecting our intense engagement in this issue and items such as visions for future living and today's current drainage needs.



Cruise Terminal by Koen Olthuis –
a directional and visionary water
architecture project

*Olympic champions
since 1972*



Is there any better proof of world class quality? Since the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich we have equipped ten of eleven Olympic stadiums with specially designed ACO sport drainage systems and construction elements for competition facilities. Furthermore, ACO has also been involved in many other Olympic infrastructure projects and building complexes. That is why we are already working on the next challenge following on from London: Brazil 2016!





When markets take off at high speed, ACO is the leader from the start. A great example is the use of ACO DRAIN® surface drainage systems at the most modern motor racing tracks around the world – from Shanghai and Dubai to Indianapolis. The development of transport infrastructures in India, China, the Middle East and South America is a gigantic undertaking. ACO experts provide advice on planning, and product choice for draining roads, industrial sites, ports, airports, tunnels, and bridges – for high speed as well as heavy duty.



*Faster, bigger, stronger –
ACO in pole position*





Innovative ACO technology, helps keep the oceans that bit cleaner. Solutions that have been successfully tried and tested in industrial kitchens, clinics and factories on land, also work just as smoothly offshore: ACO separator systems, drains and pipe systems, as well as biological wastewater filtration and treatment plants, are highly reliable onboard cruise liners, luxury yachts and naval vessels that sail around the world everyday.



ACO cares for clean seas



*The ACO principle:
Sharing knowledge means
spreading knowledge*



Another aspect strengthening the ACO family: we see communication as a success factor. With our extensive knowledge and ability to network worldwide, we can put our creativity and experience to use quickly where it is needed in practice. The ACO Academy in Rendsburg/Büdelndorf, Germany is our centre for the exchange of ideas and expertise between staff, partners, and clients. The central ACO showroom, lecture theatres, meeting rooms, e-learning in virtual classrooms, and of course, making personal contacts in the Academy Lounge, establish the best conditions for sharing expertise and giving everyone a big advantage.





A permanent place for international art. ACO's famous and innovative Kunstwerk Carlshütte bridges the gap between the industrial traditions of the Ahlmann family and modern cultural engagement in a Public Private Partnership. Over 200 international artists showcase their works every summer in line with the art exhibition NordArt at the grounds of ACO headquarters in Rendsburg/Büdelndorf. An exciting interaction between new art and young music was created with the arrival of around 120 young musicians making up the International Orchestra Academy of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in summer 2011.



*An environment for
development:
the ACO culture*

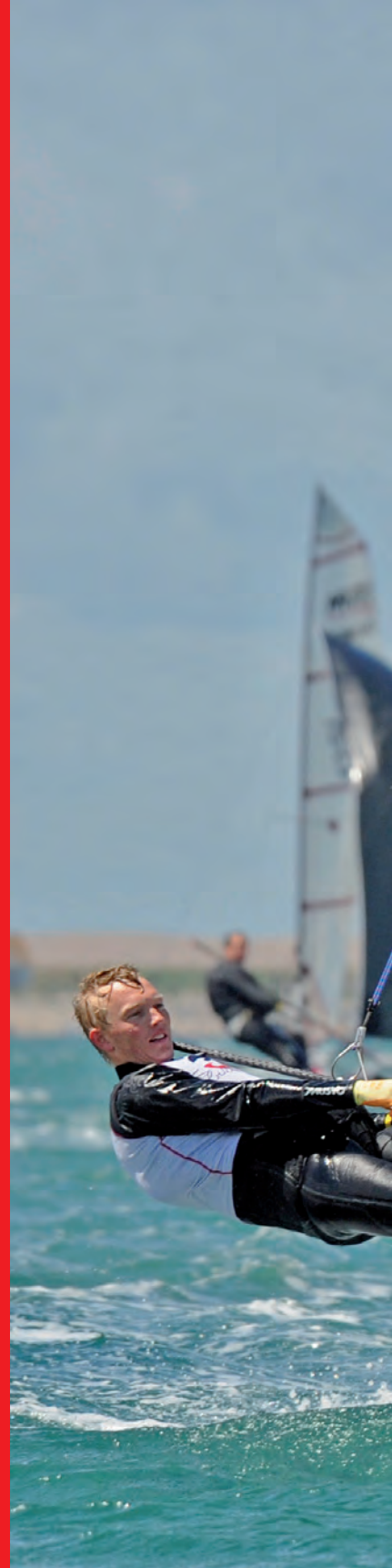


Deutschland
Land der Ideen
Ausgewählter Ort 2008
Ausgewählter Ort 2012

As part of the initiative "Germany – Land of Ideas", which takes place under the patronage of Germany's president, Kunstwerk Carlshütte was for the second time selected as a venue of creative passion and visionary thought.



*ACO people –
water heroes*



ACO creates a passion for top performance. Team work and personal commitment are what's needed at our regattas and sailing trips with staff, partners and clients. This is where the ACO family demonstrates, in hands-on fashion, how well it can be relied on by all those aiming to win.



Iver Ahlmann (managing partner) at the Musto Skiff World Championship 2012 in Weymouth

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