



# JAPANESE PURISM

## Weisenburger Headquarters, Karlsruhe

Tadao Ando's buildings stand for archetypal architecture. Karlsruhe is now home to such a solitaire: the new headquarters of the Weisenburger corporate group. Here, even the smallest details have been carefully thought through. It is therefore not surprising that the sliding fire doors, which prevent the spread of fire in the long office corridors in the event of an emergency but should otherwise be as invisible as possible, also require precise planning.

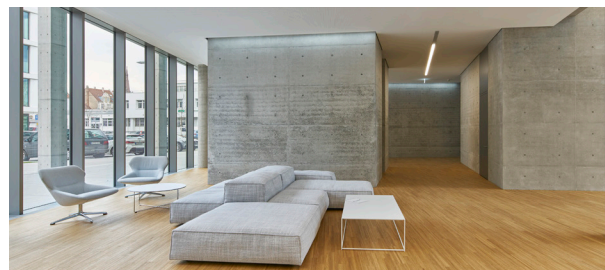


## The Task

A contemporary administrative building that shows its modernity on a large scale and in detail: This is the new company headquarters of the Weisenburger Group in Karlsruhe, designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando. Around 11,000 square metres of space, an innovative working environment on seven floors, including a cafeteria, fitness studio and underground car park. In its characteristic architectural language, the building features mainly concrete and glass in a clear cubature: the „master of minimalism“ reduces all decoration. His approach: Ando perfects the simplicity of exposed concrete - with tie holes, flat surfaces and sharp edges.



The headquarters are located on the north side of Ludwig-Erhard-Allee, one of the main access roads to Karlsruhe. Fast connections via the A5 and A8, with sufficient parking space via two underground parking decks, connected to public transport, headquarters are ideally located for the approximately 300 employees.



What appears simple is often particularly demanding in terms of execution - the exposed concrete walls are an impressive example of this: quality and appearance depend on the performance of those involved in the construction. The concrete elements were formed and cast on site, all joints run across all floors, posts and pillars form vertical lines and structure the building.



## The Solution

For projects like these, the selection of each building element is carried out according to clear quality specifications, including hinged doors and doors, which combine fire protection and functionality in top design. The sliding doors („Teckentrup 62 FST“ EI290) offer the highest technical level: they effectively protect against fire and smoke. With their cool, modern industrial look, the construction elements blend harmoniously into Ando’s architectural language: In the storage area of the open doors, a facing shell was mounted after the door installation. This recess in the wall makes the doors almost invisible when open and fulfils Ando’s demand for minimalism.

### Masterly: craft and material

The door manufacturer faced special challenges: On the one hand, ceiling recesses were specifically requested in the concrete for the rails so that they would not be visible. Secondly, a steel substructure in F90 quality was used in the walls in this area. Another special feature: the flush wicket door with panic function (dimensions: 1,200 mm x 2,100 mm), which allows people to pass through even when the door is closed and serves as an escape route in case of emergency.



Steel as a material blends harmoniously into the clear architectural language: The sliding door fits perfectly with the style of the Weisenburger headquarters. From a technical point of view, it meets the necessary standards for fire protection - and the wicket door offers additional convenience during operation.



This is where our strategy of 'customer centricity' and product development together with our partners, which we have been pursuing for many years now, pays off. With early consultation and planning, even purely functional elements such as fire doors can meet the aesthetic demands of architects and building owners: The trend towards purist solutions has been apparent in architecture for some time now, which is why we have geared our product development precisely to this and optimised it with planners and fabricators. The fact that our doors can be seen in this building encourages us to continue on this path and it does indeed make us quite proud.



Andreas Sieker | Technical Advisor, Teckentrup



Reliable fire protection with excellent aesthetics was also a decisive factor for the doors in the stairwell and underground car park. With the T30-FSA „Teckentrup 62“ fire doors, an attractive solution was implemented in accordance with standards.

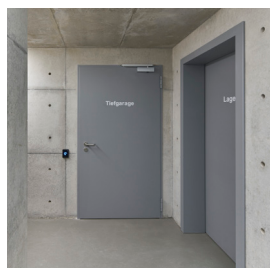
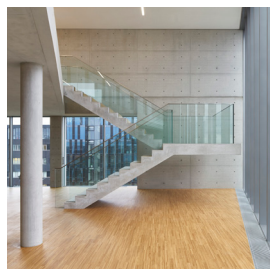
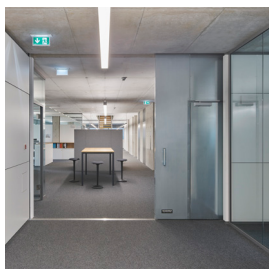


In the basement, no flush surfaces were used - this does not detract from the appearance of the doors.



Glass, concrete and clear lines: Tadao Ando's architecture relies on a clear language of forms and a purist choice of materials.

Photo credits: Photodesign Eblenkamp



#### Fact sheet

#### Data and facts

Builder	weisenburger bau GmbH
Architect	Tadao Ando
Use	Office building (company headquarters), approx. 11,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Teckentrup products	Fire sliding doors „Teckentrup 62 FST“ EI <sub>2</sub> 90; fire-protection doors T30-FSA „Teckentrup 62“
Opening	2021

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