



## AS 2024 DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

we take a look back at the past year, and are looking forward to see what the new year has in store...

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*by Management*

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# ON OUR WAY TO 2025...

As 2024 ends, we reflect on our achievements. Despite challenges in the construction industry in 2022 and stabilization in 2023, 2024 has been productive for Sorba.

We collaborated with clients and partners on exceptional projects, achieving outstanding results. Our work ranged from high-end facade cladding for residential projects and facade and cladding systems for the infrastructure sector, to creating artwork from bronze. This year once again demonstrated the dedication of our project teams in delivering superior quality, affirming our commitment to the Perfect Finish in every development.

We participated in industry events that offered valuable insights for the ongoing enhancement of our practices. Furthermore, we successfully obtained recertification for ISO 9001, 14001, and VCA\*\* standards. Additionally, we achieved the Safety Culture Level 3 certification, demonstrating our team's unwavering commitment to safety and quality.

This year, we acknowledge the work anniversaries of our team members who have achieved 12,5, 25, and 40 years of service. Our employees are the foundation of Sorba, and their dedication is truly commendable. The milestone of an employee completing 40 years with the company underscores the enduring commitment and sense of community within Sorba.

Dear Clients and supply chain partners, your trust and support have been key to our success. We look forward to continuing partnerships and starting new projects in 2025. We wish you health, joy, and warmth this period.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



*Patrick Weijers*  
Managing director



*Wouter Siedenburg*  
Commercial director



# NEW BRANDING

Over the past year, we have implemented new branding, which includes a new style and a new website. We also looked at whether our old brand promise ( Shaping façades, shaping cities and old tagline (shaping architecture) still fitted with where Sorba is and wants to go the coming years.

## **Sorba's new branding: bold and authentic**

Sorba. The perfect finish. This powerful promise is at the heart of the renewed branding of Sorba, a name that has been synonymous with high-quality facade and object cladding for almost half a century. Sorba presents itself as a full-service engineer, manufacturer and collaboration partner, with material independence and customisation at its core. In short: Surface creators. The new visual and content identity reflects who Sorba is: technical, bold, solution-oriented and reliable.

## **A bold and professional tone**

The revamped branding emphasises authenticity. Sorba communicates openly, confidently and respectfully. The brand addresses its target audience with a personal yet professional approach.

Logo

**sorba**

SURFACE CREATORS

Pay off

Sorba. The perfect finish.

# SAFETY CULTURE LADDER

In Week 43 auditors have been to Sorba to certify us again, when we aimed to move from safety ladder step 2 to step 3. Employee safety awareness and safe actions play a crucial role in occupational safety.

With the safety ladder, we measure the safety awareness of our own employees, contractors or suppliers. With this outcome, we can specifically improve safety awareness and behaviour. In this way, we reduce the risks of accidents and staff absenteeism. Moreover, we can do targeted business with organisations that are also safety-conscious. Conversely, our organisation is an attractive partner.

From 1 January 2025, Step 3 of the Safety Culture Ladder (SCL) will apply as a requirement for Safety in Tendering (ViA). With this decision, signatories to the Governance Code for Safety in Construction (GCVB), including the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat), want to provide more certainty to companies about the effective date for Step 3.

*With the Safety Culture Ladder you measure and improve safety awareness within the organisation. This way, you encourage everyone in the organisation to act more safely and consciously. And, reduce the number of unsafe situations, resulting in fewer incidents.*



## 5 steps of the SCL

### Step 5: Progressive

Safety is fully integrated in all business processes

### Step 4: Proactive

Safety is a high priority and continuously improved

### Step 3: Calculating

Safety rules are considered important

### Step 2: Responsive

Change behaviour is ad hoc and short-term

### Step 1: Pathological

What does not know does not hurt. As long as we don't get caught.

# DONATING

Since last year, we have decided to reinterpret our annual Christmas cards and company gifts.

Instead, we are making a donation to a charity close to our hearts: Hospice de Lelie in Winterswijk. This wonderful initiative offers warm and loving care to people in the last phase of their lives.

With our contribution, we hope to do our bit for the valuable work they do there.



*For terminal care at home or in our hospice*

## **Hospice**

People who are terminally ill and cannot be cared for at home, or who do not wish to die at home, can visit our hospice in Winterswijk. We have room for four guests. Each guest has a private room with bathroom and can use the common living room and kitchen. Family members of the guests are welcome 24 hours a day. We want to give everyone a dignified farewell.

## **Watching at home**

When a terminally ill person wants to die at home, a lot is asked of their partner, children, family and other informal carers. Our volunteers are there to support them seven days a week. Day and night. Our volunteers have a complementary role to that of a carer. They can support and relieve the burden on the patient's family.



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*News, projects and jobs*

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# A word from...

## GERT-JAN NIETSCH SALES MANAGER NEDERLAND

This year, Sorba Netherlands has once again managed to win and complete a number of great projects. A temporary building in the Hofvijver in The Hague fitted with mirrored cladding. A new multi-storey car park at Ahoy in Rotterdam, fitted with louvres. A new facade for an existing building on the Stadhuisplein in Rotterdam. And the construction of two new 150 kV substations in Beverwijk and Rozenburg.

Ongoing projects include the Bernini Tower in Rotterdam. The Orchard in Rijswijk. The Huis van de Stad in Dordrecht and the new Elements building in Amsterdam.

Some great projects will also follow in 2025. These will also feature innovative solutions in the field of façade energy generation.

In the coming year, the Sorba team will continue to work on the projects with the same enthusiasm and will continue to look for developments and innovations to improve and develop the company.

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation, wish everyone good health and happiness, and look forward to continued cooperation and new opportunities in 2025.



*Gert-Jan Nietsch  
Sales Manager Nederland*



# THIS AMSTERDAM



Located on the IJ in the vibrant North Amsterdam district, THIS. is an innovative concept that combines living, working and leisure in a unique environment.

The THIS. office building offers approximately 7,300 square metres of flexible office space over five floors. A lush green atrium forms the beating heart of the building, while large floor-to-ceiling windows provide abundant natural light and breathtaking views over the IJ Lake.

In addition, the building reflects the industrial heritage of Amsterdam North through the use of materials such as brick, glass and copper-coloured aluminium cladding. The cladding consists of vertical slats that vary in position, creating a dynamic and playful façade.

The copper finish blends perfectly with the surrounding industrial architecture, while giving the building a modern and sophisticated look. The clever placement of the louvres allows the façade to provide natural solar shading, contributing to the energy-efficient character of the building.

*Architect: The Powerhouse Company  
Contractor: Wessels Rijssen B.V*

# A word from...

## MEL NOON BUSINESS MANAGER UK

Sorba UK Limited has had an interesting 2024, with many schemes coming to an end, and others just starting. At the beginning of the year we continued with a major re-cladding project in Woolwich London where we are using our own designed cladding system, and this will continue into the 2nd quarter of 2025. Also we were fortunate to secure a HS2 scheme for a tier one contractor where we were commissioned to engineer, supply and install a complete envelope façade/Roofing system for a large Tunnel Head House facility in the Chiltern Hills, this is now on-going and is due for completion in mid-2025.

During the year we also supplied and installed various Bronze Artworks, and this is still continuing for Thames Tideway throughout the network, some of these have been challenging, especially working with the artists intent and the manufacturing capabilities, however with our experienced engineers together with the supply chain we have been able to produce the required artwork that the intent deserved. Please see some examples of the artworks we have produced and installed.

Going forward Sorba UK continue to participate in some marvelous projects, and are working with design teams, clients and our partners to produce façade solutions fit for the future in all aspects of construction, so look forward to 2025 and beyond.



*Mel Noon  
Business Manager UK*



# TESCO LONDON



The Tesco residential building in Woolwich, London, has recently undergone a major recladding project. Led by Willmott Dixon Construction Limited and executed in collaboration with facade specialist Sorba Projects, the initiative combines cutting-edge engineering with strict safety compliance. Sorba's expertise in facade systems played a pivotal role in delivering a robust, fire-safe, and visually appealing cladding solution.

The project was driven by the need to replace outdated cladding systems that no longer complied with the UK's new fire safety regulations. The focus was on installing a facade system that adhered to BS 8414, Approved Document B, and other relevant safety standards.

Sorba provided a custom-engineered facade solution using aluminium panels. The design ensured compliance with thermal and acoustic performance standards, with precise integration into the building's existing structure.

Panels were pre-fabricated in Sorba's advanced production facilities to exact specifications, minimizing on-site adjustments and ensuring high-quality installation.

Sorba implemented a ventilated rainscreen system, allowing air circulation to manage moisture while protecting the building envelope.

*Contractor: Willmott Dixon*



# A word from...

## HELLE REINOLD BUSINESS MANAGER GERMANY

das Jahr 2024 neigt sich dem Ende zu, und wir möchten diese Gelegenheit nutzen, um uns bei Ihnen für das entgegengebrachte Vertrauen und die gute Zusammenarbeit in den vergangenen Monaten zu bedanken. In einem Jahr voller Herausforderungen und Veränderungen haben wir gemeinsam viele Erfolge erzielt, und dafür möchten wir Ihnen unseren herzlichsten Dank aussprechen.

### **Rückblick auf ein erfolgreiches Jahr 2024**

Auch in diesem Jahr konnten wir viele spannende Projekte im Bereich Fassadenbau umsetzen. Sei es die Sanierung historischer Gebäude, die Realisierung moderner Neubauten oder innovative Lösungen für individuelle Kundenwünsche – es war uns eine Freude, mit Ihnen zusammenzuarbeiten und Ihre Visionen in die Tat umzusetzen. Wir sind stolz auf das, was wir gemeinsam erreicht haben, und blicken auf zahlreiche erfolgreiche Projekte zurück.

Ein besonderes Highlight war der Abschluss einiger komplexer Projekte, bei denen wir durch präzise Planung und exzellente Ausführung neue Maßstäbe gesetzt haben. Unser Team hat sich erneut als hochprofessionell und flexibel gezeigt, was in der heutigen Zeit besonders wichtig ist.

### **Ausblick auf 2025: Auf neue Herausforderungen und Chancen**

Das kommende Jahr verspricht, ebenso spannend und herausfordernd zu werden. Wir möchten uns auch 2025 kontinuierlich weiterentwickeln und unsere Expertise in der Fassadenbau-Branche ausbauen. Mit innovativen Materialien, nachhaltigen Lösungen

und einer noch stärkeren Fokussierung auf Qualität und Präzision werden wir Ihnen weiterhin als verlässlicher Partner zur Seite stehen.

Besonders im Bereich der energieeffizienten Fassaden und nachhaltigen Sanierungen sehen wir großes Potenzial und werden unser Wissen in diesen Bereichen vertiefen. Neue Technologien und Trends werden uns auch in Zukunft begleiten, und wir freuen uns darauf, mit Ihnen gemeinsam die nächsten Schritte zu gehen.

Zum Abschluss dieses Jahres möchten wir Ihnen und Ihren Familien eine besinnliche Weihnachtszeit und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr wünschen. Möge das Jahr 2025 Ihnen Gesundheit, Glück und viel Erfolg bringen.

Genießen Sie die Feiertage in vollen Zügen, kommen Sie gut erholt ins neue Jahr, und lassen Sie uns auch in Zukunft gemeinsam neue Höhen erreichen!

Frohe Weihnachten und einen erfolgreichen Start ins neue Jahr!

Herzliche Grüße,



*Helle Reinold  
Business Manager Germany*



# CAMPUS HOCHSCHULE FÜR MUSIK UND TANZ COLOGNE



An ambitious new building for the Cologne University of Music and Performing Arts (HfMT) is rising in Cologne's historic Kunibert district. The history of the HfMT dates back to 1845 and the school has developed into one of the leading institutions for music and dance in Europe.

The new building integrates modern architecture, sustainability and functionality to create an inspiring environment for the approximately 1,500 students of one of the largest music and dance academies in Europe. Sorba Projects is responsible for the striking cassette facade of the new building.

Designed, assembled and installed by Sorba, the façade consists of powder coated aluminium cassettes in a striking gold metallic colour, RAL 1036, finished with a durable Duraflon coating. This coating protects against weathering and ensures that the façade retains its lustre for years to come, even in harsh urban conditions.

The new building is part of a larger plan to centralise the HfMT on a new campus. In addition to the existing main building, a combination of renovation and new construction will create a future-proof educational environment. Notable features include sustainable elements such as a rooftop photovoltaic system that will generate 100,000 kWh of electricity annually, and extensive roof vegetation that contributes to urban life and biodiversity. The new building has been designed by renowned architects HPP Architekten.

Architect: HPP Architekten

Client: Ed. ZÜBLIN ag

Bauherr: Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetriebe NRW  
(BLB-NRW)- Köln



# ARTWORK CARNWATH ROAD RIVERSIDE LONDON



The artwork at Carnwath Road Riverside in London is part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project, which incorporates public art into its infrastructure developments along the River Thames. Each ventilation shaft serves not only a practical purpose but also acts as a canvas for sculptural art, contributing to the aesthetic and cultural fabric of the riverfront. These sculptures vary in form and concept but share a focus on the connection between the river, nature, and human activity.

The two Herons, designed by Sarah Staton, are cast in Silicon Bronze which is one of the hardest bronze alloys. The sculptures are patinated with a dark brown colour and polished in certain areas to maximise the 3D effect.

Sarah Staton is a contemporary British artist renowned for her innovative approach to sculpture, public art, and design. Her works often explore the interplay between materials, form, and context, challenging the boundaries of art, architecture, and everyday life. Staton has a reputation for creating artworks that are not only visually striking but also deeply engaged with the environment and community they inhabit.

*Name: Herons*

*Material: Silicone Bronze*

*Artist: Sarah Staton*

*Location: Carnwath road London*



# VICTORIA & ALBERT LONDON



*Name: Poo art*

*Material: Patinated silicone Bronze*

*Artist: Richard Wentworth*

*Location: Albert Embankment and  
Victoria Embankment London*

The Thames Tideway Tunnel, often referred to as London's "super sewer," is a major infrastructure project aimed at improving the capital's sewage system and reducing pollution in the River Thames. As part of this ambitious project, a series of ventilation shafts have been integrated along the Thames to manage air and wastewater flow in the tunnel. What makes these shafts remarkable is their transformation into public parks adorned with striking sculptures that blend art, functionality, and environmental awareness. A few of these sculptures are designed by Richard Wentworth.

The sculpture "Poo Art" by Richard Wentworth is one of the most provocative and thought-provoking public artworks created as part of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project, London's ambitious "super sewer" infrastructure initiative. The piece is designed to address a crucial environmental issue—the cleanup of the River Thames—and engages with its subject matter in an innovative and playful way, making a commentary on the often-overlooked aspects of urban living.

Richard Wentworth (born 1947) is a British artist who is a prominent figure in contemporary art, particularly associated with the New British Sculpture movement of the late 1970s and 1980s. He is best known for his works that explore the relationship between everyday objects and their contexts, often challenging how we perceive ordinary materials and their functionality. Wentworth's work challenges the way we think about the ordinary, drawing attention to the beauty and complexity in the mundane.

# NWZ ALKMAAR



## Materials

The North West Hospital project consists of several components developed, assembled and fitted by Sorba and can be broken down as follows:

- 10825 m<sup>2</sup> of aluminium composite cladding invisibly
- fixed to concrete inner cavity trays and inner boxes
- 1123 m<sup>2</sup> of enamelled glass cladding
- 928 m<sup>1</sup> of aluminium roofing
- 7002 m<sup>1</sup> of aluminium flashings (water levels, reveals, curtain wall connections, etc.)
- 1630 m<sup>2</sup> of indoor boxes with insulation
- 840 m<sup>2</sup> of profiled sheeting (basement)
- 8886 m<sup>2</sup> insulation.

*Architect: Gortemaker Algra Feenstra architects*

*Client: MedicomZes*



# ELEMENTS AMSTERDAM



*Architect: Koschuch Architects  
Contractor: Kondor Wessels Vastgoed*

Elements, a new residential tower in Amsterdam's Amstel Quarter, is a pioneering example of sustainable urban development. Designed by Koschuch Architects, the 70-metre-tall building combines innovative design with state-of-the-art construction techniques. Elements offers a residential programme of 140 apartments, commercial facilities and various communal facilities such as a swimming pool and roof gardens.

The building was not designed in a traditional way. Instead, key factors were incorporated into a parametric 3D model developed by Arup. Aspects such as the sun's path, daylighting, wind currents and biodiversity formed the basis of the final design. This approach has resulted in a sculptural residential tower with a unique appearance from all sides, optimal daylighting for the apartments and integrated solar panels.

The façade developed by Sorba incorporates PV elements integrated into the balcony edges. These elements generate more than 100% of the building's energy needs, making Elements Energy Efficient (ENG).

The edges of the balconies are designed so that the solar panels receive optimal sunlight. This not only meets energy targets, but also enhances the architectural appearance of the tower. This integrated approach makes sustainable technology an integral part of the building's design.

Elements is an example of how architecture, technology and sustainability come together in a forward-looking design, setting new standards for urban development.



# HEADHOUSE AMERSHAM



The Amersham Headhouse is a striking building that serves as a ventilation shaft for the 16km Chiltern Tunnel of HS2, the UK's new high-speed rail network. The building combines technical innovation with an aesthetic design that blends seamlessly with the surrounding landscape and local architectural traditions.

Developed by Sorba, the facade of the Headhouse is made of advanced glass fibre reinforced concrete (GFRC) panels. These panels offer a combination of lightweight construction and high strength, essential for sustainable building projects. GFRC is weather resistant and offers flexibility in design, which enabled the curved design of the building. The circular shape of the building reflects the cylindrical ventilation shaft below.

The exterior is surrounded by perforations in patterns inspired by tree leaves, creating a play of light and shade. The top of the building is clad with perforated zinc panels and a flint wall, giving the building a natural appearance and a nod to the traditional building style of the Chilterns.

To minimise the impact on the landscape, the building is surrounded by newly planted trees and limestone grassland, contributing to biodiversity.

*Architectural design: Grimshaw Architects*

*Contractor: Align Joint Venture*



# HIGH FIVE UTRECHT



The Utrecht Science Park will be enriched with a new and iconic student complex: High Five. This is the fifth project of Stichting Studenten Huisvesting (SSH) at this location and responds to the acute housing shortage of students in Utrecht.

High Five consists of two 21-storey towers connected by a plinth. The building houses 721 independent studios of approximately 20 m<sup>2</sup> and 200 rooms of approximately 15 m<sup>2</sup> in group houses. In the group houses, ten students share a spacious communal kitchen.

The plinth houses various communal facilities such as a laundry, study areas, sports facilities and a restaurant with a terrace. A striking element in the design of High Five is the façade, which is both functional and aesthetic. For High Five, Sorba provided the gold-coloured diamond-shaped composite cladding that gives the towers a modern and distinctive silhouette. This façade not only emphasises the scale of the individual apartments, but also plays with light and shade to create a dynamic appearance.

The collaboration between Sorba, architect OZ and contractor VORM2050 made it possible to realise the design exactly as planned.

*Architect: OZ Architects*

*Client: Studentenhuysvesting Utrecht*

*Contractor: Vorm2050*



## HOLIDAY CLOSURE

WE ARE CLOSED FROM  
23 DECEMBER 2024,  
WE WILL BE BACK IN THE OFFICE ON  
MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025

WE WISH EVERYONE

*Merry Christmas*  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**sorba**  
SURFACE CREATORS