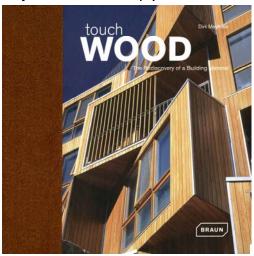
Project "ILMASI school (special school for mentally disabled children)" / publication in "Touch Wood", Verlagshaus Braun, 2008



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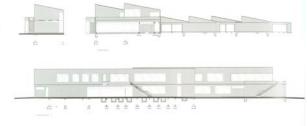
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ILMASI School (special school for mentally dis-

abled children), 2002 Address: Ludwigstraße 9, 30827 Garbsen-Berenbos-tel, Germany. Client: Region of Hanover. Gross floor area: 4,000 m°. Materials: solid wood, shell construction, nail-laminated timber with "Thermoholz" (heattreated wood) curtain wall.



A sensual building

ARCHITECTS: Despang Architekten





This school, which accommodates 100 mentally disabled children and 40 teachers, was designed as a patchwork of different components and forms. The result is an ensemble of attractive spaces and rooms. The distinguishing feature of this structure is the use of nail-laminated timber elements. The architects describe this as "a consistent texture that add a large measure of sensual stimulation to the building. The tectonics of the layered boards symbolize the effort to strengthen and support the individual pupil while maintaining a solidly united school community." This is a building that is best experienced with the senses; in addition to its changing moods of light and shadow, it can be felt, heard, smelt and - as resins bleed from the wood - even tasted. Wood features here in a wide variety of forms: in durable, white-pigmented, oiled spruce walls; in sturdy doors; in the floors of the upper level, in handrails and coatracks of fumed oak; and in the larchwood canopy above the classroom courtyard.



