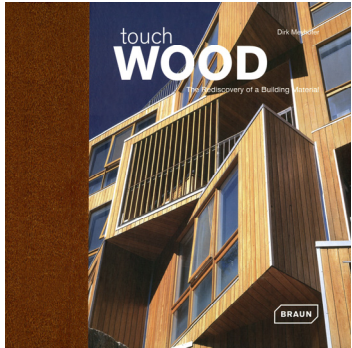
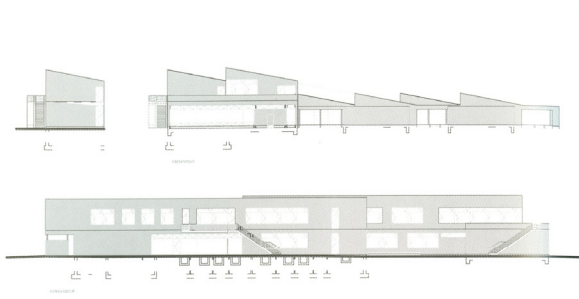


“ILMASI school (special school for mentally disabled children) ” / publication in “**Touch Wood**”, Verlagshaus Braun, 2008



ILMASI School (special school for mentally disabled children), 2002
Address: Ludwigstraße 9, 30827 Garbsen-Berenbostel, Germany. **Client:** Region of Hanover. **Gross floor area:** 4,000 m². **Materials:** solid wood, shell construction, nail-laminated timber with “Thermoholz” (heat-treated 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.

01 West and north elevation 02 Exterior view 03 Recreation court
 04 Larchwood canopy above classroom courtyard

