

**SECOND EDITION OF THE "TROPHEE ARCHIZINC":
LEADING PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT THE
ARCHITECTURAL QUALITIES OF ZINC**

VMZINC[®], the international brand of rolled zinc manufactured and sold by the Building Products Unit of the Umicore Group, launched the second edition of its ARCHIZINC Trophy last November at the Batimat trade fair. The ARCHIZINC Trophy competition is for international architects and consists of four building categories: Individual Housing, Collective Housing, Public Buildings and Commercial Buildings. Three special prizes for Innovation, Tradition and, for the first time, Environment will also be awarded.

The purpose of this competition is to reward the most attractive creations for the quality of their architecture and their integration into the environment as much as for highlighting zinc through appropriate new applications.

The distribution of a large number of registration files, translated into four languages, resulted in 146 entries in the competition from throughout the world.

■ ARCHIZINC TROPHY: A TRULY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Eighteen countries entered this 2nd edition of the ARCHIZINC Trophy. From Belgium to France, from the United States to Lebanon, from Australia to Canada, all the candidates' creations demonstrated the architects' attachment to zinc and their outstanding talent through the quality and originality of their projects.

The jury, made up of renowned international architects*, met in March to select the winners. Fifteen creations were chosen with one winner per category, one to three runners up for different categories and a Jury's Prize. Three special prizes for Innovation, Tradition and Environment were also awarded to 3 projects selected from among all the categories. A variety of creations, from a private college in Canada to an archaeological site in Spain, from a wine and spirit warehouse in Italy to a Museum of American Art in the United States, testifies to the diversity and richness of the works presented.

The awards ceremony took place on Friday June 2nd at the Pavillon Gabriel in Paris. It was attended by all the members of the jury, the Winners, the Runners up and the Special and Jury's Prize winners and representatives of the Umicore Group.

*List of members of the jury on page 2

2006 ARCHIZING TROPHY: THE WINNERS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS CATEGORY

WINNER



Private college in Waterloo (Canada)
Architect: Trevor Davies
CDROM ref: EQ PUBL – LAU CAN

1ST RUNNER-UP



Railway station in Athens (Greece)
Architect: Nikolaos Gkortsios
CDROM ref: EQ PUBL – ME GR

2ND RUNNER-UP



Archaeological site Burgos (Spain)
Architect: Maryan Alvarez/Builla & Joaquin Ibanez
CDROM ref: EQ PUBL – ME ESP

3RD RUNNER-UP



Community Hall, Marcy l'Etoile (France 69)
Architect: Nicolas Guillot
CDROM ref: EQ PUBL – ME FR

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS CATEGORY

WINNER



Logistics Centre, Vicenza (Italy)
Architect: Silvia Dainese
CDROM ref: LI ENTR – LAU IT

1ST RUNNER-UP



Wine Storehouse, Barolo (Italy)
Architect: Paolo Della-Piana
CDROM ref: LI ENTR – ME IT

2ND RUNNER-UP



Offices and showroom, Herford (Germany)
Architect: Dirk Stanczus
CDROM ref: LI ENTR – ME IT

PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

WINNER



Museum of American Art,
Chatanooga (USA)
Architect: Randall Stout Architects
CDROM ref: PX SPEC – PX AUDACE

2006 ARCHIZING TROPHY: THE WINNERS

COLLECTIVE HOUSING CATEGORY

WINNER



Condominium building, New York (USA)
Architect: Jonathan Mallie
CDROM ref: HAB COL – LAU USA

1ST RUNNER-UP



Apartments, Merksplas (Belgium)
Architect: Edith Wouters
CDROM ref: HAB COL – ME BE

2ND RUNNER-UP



Apartments in Glebe Harbour (Australia)
Contractor : Robert Pradolin
CDROM ref: HAB COL – ME AUS

PRIZE FOR TRADITION

WINNER



Renovation of a warehouse in a Shopping Centre, Ghent (Belgium)
Architect: Romain Berteloot
CDROM ref: PX SPEC – PX TRAD

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING CATEGORY

WINNER



House in Santander (Spain)
Architect: Pablo Oriol Salgado
CDROM ref: HAB IND – LAU ES

RUNNER-UP



House in Foxgraound (Australia)
Architect: Rita Qasabian
CDROM ref: HAB IND – ME AUS

JURY'S PRIZE

WINNER



Offices in Ghent (Belgium)
Architects: Arlauskas Arunas & Eckels Armand
CDROM ref: PX SPEC – PX JURY

ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

WINNER



House in Santander (Spain)
Architect: Pablo Oriol Salgado
CDROM ref: PX SPEC – PX ENVIR

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS

JURY'S PRIZE COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

Offices in Ghent (Belgium)

Architects: Arlauskas Arunas & Eeckels Armand
Website: www.nu-web.be
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® - Standing seam

All in one

This building, in the heart of a residential neighbourhood, is not just a house. Its mono-pitch roofs with glass panels give the impression of an artist's loft, but the big window in the facade and the very eye-catching envelope are more in the style of a boutique or office. This old chalet, now entirely dressed in ANTHRA-ZINC®, was designed according to the owner's wishes to fulfil the multiple functions of workplace and home. With all the accoutrements of a modern house, this building is designed to be flexible with moveable partitions, mounted on rails, which provide freedom to create new spaces at will. Special attention has been paid in this house / office, the home of a communication consultant, to natural light. The light entering through the glass roof panels and the façade openings is modulated to suit colours and reduce shadows on the work surfaces. The building is in zinc because this natural material provides the building with unity and attracts attention while respecting environmental standards.

The jury appreciated the very successful architectural achievement of treating the envelope as a whole while paying great attention to detail in the design and realisation of the building. Inside, daylight is controlled to advantage. Outside, the orientation of the facades helps the building blend into the residential neighbourhood. This project was judged the most attractive and the one that conformed best to the Archinzinc Trophy.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Winner

Private college in Waterloo (Canada)

Architect: Trevor Davies
Website: www.saucierperrotte.com
VM ZINC products used: Natural VM ZINC® - Interlocking panel

Seat of learning

In the small Canadian city of Waterloo, near Toronto, the physicists of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics focus their research on the biggest problems of modern theoretical physics, such as string theory or the symbiosis between particle physics and cosmology, etc. Since it wished to attract the best experts and rapidly become a world class research centre, this private institute founded in 1999 recently invested in a new building to serve as a showcase for the advanced research carried out there and to "host scientific conferences and public events without disturbing the work of the researchers in residence".

It will house research laboratories, administrative offices and theatres and lounges, a bistro and a squash court. Overlooking a pool which reflects the ambient light, the north-west façade, essentially made up of vast picture windows, provides a view into the showcase and its interpretation. Thanks to the Natural VM ZINC® Interlocking panel façade which both draws a protective curtain across the main amphitheatre, and individualises and emphasises the subtle offsetting of the 44 individual offices.

Zinc was chosen for this building for its noble character and beautiful patina, but, above all, because it requires little maintenance.

The beautifully balanced aesthetics between glass, zinc and concrete, and the fragmentation of volumes – office /boxes -, which give the façade readability and elegance, won the judges' approval.

1st Runner-up

Station in Athens (Greece)

Architect: Nikos Gortsios
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® - Warm roof, standing seam

Aerodynamics

Perissos station, on line 1 of the Athens urban network, has been completely rebuilt by the architect Nikos Gortsios whose credo was "lightness, movement and speed". Designed to provide maximum shelter from the sun or inclement weather without hampering the flow of light and air, the building consists essentially of two canopies resembling the wings of an aircraft, creating a light, airy effect. The two "wings" are 100 m long and slightly curved to follow the lines of the railway track. They are made up of five prefabricated metal roof frames which were assembled on site. Only after the wings had been installed on the seven irregularly placed posts did each wing receive its triple metal covering: pre-formed steel and aluminium sheets on the underside and a QUARTZ-ZINC® standing seam roof - all without interrupting train circulation. Zinc was chosen for its watertightness and because it can be fixed to curved surfaces. The modern industrial look of QUARTZ ZINC®, ideally suited to an urban railway station, also played an important role in the choice.

The jury particularly liked the fluidity of the roof, the movement reflecting that of the trains and the openings which provide air circulation but also open up the outside to the waiting passenger.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

2nd Runner-up Archaeological Site in Burgos (Spain)

Architects: M. Alvarez/Builla & M. Ibanez
VM ZINC products used: Natural VM ZINC® – Standing seam, roll cap

A journey back in time

At Burgos castle on the San Miguel hill, the archaeological park of the old fortress invites us to travel back in time to the XIth Century Kingdom of Castile, by following a walkway which leads from the old "Plaza de armas" to the parapet walk. Along the way, there are two buildings set down among the ruins. One houses an exhibition of the objects discovered during the excavations, the other shelters the access to the underground galleries, while a third structure draws attention to the masonry of the ancient well.

The light wooden buildings (structure and cladding) designed for "reversibility" on this very rich archaeological site which is destined for further excavation. However, the architect wished to crown the structures with a "very high quality roof which would not change their light, modern, intentionally abstract appearance". The technical constraint of maintaining a sense of lightness and the shallow pitched roof led to the choice of a Natural VM ZINC® roll cap roof, equally suitable for the exterior shape and the ceilings of the interior spaces, and for fitting the light wells. The archaeological building is lit by strategically placed light sources: roof spots, big dormers in the roof, gaps in the wood, etc. the second building has a glass crystal floor the lighting of which has been engineered to make the floor invisible and walking on it quite disturbing.

The jury's enthusiasm was aroused by the amount of research put into the project as demonstrated in the choice of materials and colours which bring out the contrast between the ruins and the development; the emphasis on transparency; the simplicity and discretion of the double slope zinc roof and the rainwater collection system which is completely invisible.

3rd Runner-up Community hall, Marcy-L'Étoile (France)

Architect: Nicolas Guillot
Website: www.nicolasguillot.com
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® – Standing seam

Dressed for the ball

The Marcy-l'Étoile community hall, built in the 1960s, has been renovated in full recognition of the two ideas inherent in the word "fête": lightness and tradition. The original curved concrete roof gave the impression of flight. When the building had to be renovated and enlarged, the architect wanted, first and foremost, to preserve the character of the structure and emphasise its complex geometry by having the extensions in a single, unique envelope that would bring this out. Limited to two materials, QUARTZ-ZINC® for the roof and the opaque facades and glass, the building, in its new envelope stands out from the surrounding traditional houses "like a huge coat draped over tall posts with the light from shows and festivities escaping from between its folds. The sound-proofing of this building was studied in great detail. The zinc envelope, folded over the vertical sections and laid on a framework over mineral wool, ensures optimum thermal and acoustic insulation as required by the specifications.

The jury appreciated the curves, the unity and the treatment of the material in a complex architecture and the welcome installation of two valleys which enriches the original project.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Winner Logistics Centre at Vicenza (Italy)

Architect: Silvia Dainese
Website: portfolio at www.europaconcorsi.com
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® – Cassettes, Sine wave profile

A creator's signature

At Vicenza, leading motorcycle clothing equipment brand Dainese recently enhanced its headquarters with an extension as sophisticated as its products. The completely automated warehouse is a vast parallelepiped with four closed sides. It is attached to a showroom which is open to the light through a square glass facade and three bays, elegantly arranged on its curved flank. For the showroom, corrugated zinc panels have been applied vertically and superimposed. For the warehouse, sheets of zinc folded into standing seam panels were attached to a subframe. Access to the original building is through a linking tunnel.

Highlighting contrasts through functions, forms and openings, the three parts of the work nevertheless display the same ANTHRA-ZINC® finish. In addition to the high strength of the material, its durability and the way it fits into the industrial zone, the velvety finish of ANTHRA-ZINC® recalls the "black skin" used in the manufacture of Dainese leather suits as well as its logo.

Finally the building, which reflects the light in daytime, can at night become a black screen on which to project illuminated images and messages.

The jury was convinced by the exceptional quality of the workmanship, which successfully mastered the ductile nature of the material to give the warehouse a monolithic appearance.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

1st Runner-up Wine storehouse Barolo (Italy)

Architect: Paolo Della-Piana
Website: portfolio sur www.europaconcorsi.com
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® – Standing seam, Flat lock panel

Neo-rustic

In the Barolo vineyard, in the midst of the Piedmont hills, the wine storehouse of the Adelaide farm celebrates man's love of tending the earth. The building, in the shape of a hill, is designed like a hypogeum, symbolically re-imprinting the earth with the work of masking, pressing and wine-making before it serves to store the bottles – for, as the architect Paolo Della-Piana says, "Everything comes from the earth". Zinc was used as a covering wherever it was necessary to place limits between the volume and the air, that is, on the border separating the green meadow from the structure but also on the walls of the "building": vertical or sloped, they represent the cuts made in the earth to create the hill. The top section of the wine storehouse is opened up at the front by a wide, curved glass wall shaded by a QUARTZ-ZINC® hood. On the sides and at the back, other parts linking the paved ground and the grassy roof are also covered by folded panels of the same material. QUARTZ-ZINC® was chosen because it could be shaped by hand and because its solid, durable appearance blends naturally with the surrounding traditional houses.

The beauty of the edges and the attention to detail by the contractor, who added his signature to the architect's creation, charmed the jury.

Second Runner-up Offices and Showroom at Herford (Germany)

Elegance and function

Architect: Dirk Stanczus
Website: www.bks-architekten.de
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® – Hollow joints

Founded by Julius Blum, an Austrian blacksmith who forged calks for horseshoes, and specialising in the production of hinges, the Blum Company has made design and functionality its trademarks. From Brazil to Poland, and as far as China, today it offers highly elaborate kitchen systems to customers devoted to high quality. So, at the company's German headquarters at Herford, the public are invited to discover the key products and concepts of a world in which everything is within reach and where doors and drawers open and close in a perfect, silent movement. The building, an efficient visual medium in which business services, display and demonstration areas and stock are grouped together, is itself presented in the form of a high-quality composition "in drawers" and with its public areas finished in ANTHRA-ZINC® panels. Zinc, using the recessed joint method, was chosen for its technical qualities.

The effectiveness of the installation of the panels in the cladding of the upper level was particularly appreciated by the jury, all the more because it displays a perfect mastery of this technique.

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

1st place and Environment prize House in Santander (Spain)

Architect: Pablo Oriol Salgado
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® – Interlocking panel

Between land and sea

Originally, the owners wanted the house to be able to accommodate from 2 to 28 people. This flexible “black box”, which merges into the landscape of the Costa Verde, was built by the architect Pablo Oriol Salgado, who tells us the design of the house owes everything to the sea, the environment, the sky and the North wind.

The construction principles applied to this sophisticated design were rooted in a deep concern for the environment. The house has a sophisticated sectorised insulation system which optimises energy consumption, a rainwater management system which incorporates a planted roof and a rainwater recycling system. There were three reasons for the choice of ANTHRA-ZINC® which entirely covers the upper level: it met the requirement that the building blend into its immediate environment (colour and aspect), that it have a long life-span and stand up to the marine environment and it conformed to the owner's wish to use a 100% recyclable material.

The individual initiative with regard to the environment is, according to the jury, all the more praiseworthy since it was taken by a private owner and incurred extra construction costs. The jury was also impressed by the predominance of zinc in the project.

Runner-up House in Foxground (Australia)

Architect: Rita Qasabian
Website: www.studiointernationale.com
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® - ANTHRA-ZINC® – Interlocking panel

A place in nature

About 150 km south of Sydney, in a spot hidden from the ocean, this summer “house on stilts”, is “simple, sophisticated and timeless”. It fits in with the environment and the owners' life style and furnishings and encourages us to forget time and other buildings. The transition between the driveway and the garage on the outside and the house is made by a simple passage which opens onto a view of lush vegetation, with the mountain range on the horizon, with its constantly shifting colours. The house, situated on two sides of the square patio and swimming pool, is slightly elevated its glass wall extending the lines of the patio and fitting into an environment where the spare lines blend into each other.

The outside walls of the house were finished using the Interlocking panel system –in QUARTZ-ZINC® for the main building and ANTHRA-ZINC® to define the separate garage. A pattern of intersecting lines was chosen for the façade of this modular building. This material was chosen for its quality, its great resistance to time and weather, but also because it is easy to cut and requires little maintenance and it was suited to the owner's wish for continuous lengths. Water also has its place in the ultramodern building playing a reflective and cooling role (pool, pond, swimming pool, rainwater recovery system, etc.).

The jury appreciated the unaccustomed brightness and practicality of this private house and the use of Interlocking panel the relief effect of which enhances the facade of the building.

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

Winner

Condominium building in New York (USA)

Architect: Jonathan Mallie
Website: www.shoparc.com
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® – Profiles made locally.

Up scale

At the intersection of 9th Avenue and 15th Street, Porter House adds an original touch to the rich architectural mix of historic Manhattan. In the country that invented the loft, the conversion of a wine warehouse built in 1905 into a luxurious 22 apartment condominium building gave rise to an unusually extensive rehabilitation involving literally grafting a four storey extension onto the building using a daring cantilever system. The cube is cantilevered against the two top storeys of the original building so that the two blocks seem to meld into each other in spite of the century that separates them.

Each of the 22 apartments in the residence is a unique combination of the two structures. The vertical light boxes which draw the passer-by's eye upward day and night, give a sense of lightness to the addition. The metal framework of the extension is clad in ANTHRA-ZINC® which is one of the outstanding features of the project. "We wanted to work with a limited number of materials, reduce material wastage to a minimum in the production phase and speed up construction," explained Gregg A. Pasquarelli, from Architects SHoP.

Data in an Excel table was processed by a three dimensional design programme to create working drawings for all the facades. Then, using a feedback system, cutting, forming and identification of the panels could be done in the manufacturer's premises. This giant 3,800 piece jigsaw puzzle then only remained to be assembled.

This project has won numerous awards across the Atlantic: *Housing Design Award, Merit in Design (2004 and 2005), American Architecture Award, Bronze Award, Building Design and Construction.*

The jury was particularly impressed by the upscale nature of the development, the quality of the design and the superior finish.

COLLECTIVE HOUSING

1ST Runner-up Apartments in Merksplas (Belgium)

Architect: Edith Wouters
Website: www.teema-Architect.com
VM ZINC products used: ANTHRA-ZINC® – Natural VM ZINC® – Standing seam

Playing with colours

This public housing development consisting of 11 residences in Merksplas, north east of Antwerp, demonstrates that public housing does not necessarily go hand in hand with banality. These six, two-storey buildings, built over a semi-underground parking garage, are neither country cottages nor impersonal apartment buildings but resemble detached houses in which the architect wanted to create a new type of home. While the project melts into the landscape the latter flows through the houses thanks to the openness of the front and rear facades and, less obvious on the sides, provides the residents with a garden. Breaking with the usual public housing habits, the project uses different materials – Natural VM ZINC®, ANTHRA-ZINC®, orange ceramics – on the façade and the roof to counterbalance the strict unity of the design with a rhythmic effect. Zinc, a light material, was the most suitable for the roof and facade. The least ray of sunshine playing on the interior surfaces accentuates the sense of space inside each house and invites the landscape in. This optimism is, indeed, the signature of the Teema office, for, "Although the world is definitely not always a beautiful or pleasant place," states Edith Wouters, co-founder of the Teema office, "we rise to the challenge of creating beauty in our buildings."

The jury was impressed by the simplicity and intelligence of the play of colours which personalises the houses and by the semi-underground parking.

2nd Runner-up Apartments in Glebe Harbour (Australia)

Architect : xxx
Contractor: Robert Pradolin
Website: www.sjb.com.au
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® - DEXTER®

Rhythm of the waves

The Victorian terrace houses in Glebe Harbour were built at the beginning of the XIXth Century. The following century, outclassed by new buildings, the district became one of the poorest in the town and did not arouse any interest for a very long time. The fruit of a development and rehabilitation plan, the new Glebe Harbour, built on 23,000 sq. in the shadow of the Anzac Bridge, is made up of 135 contemporary residences divided into five independent complexes, inspired by a rich cultural heritage. Wishing to cover the facades of two of these complexes with rectangular panels presenting a vertical profile in staggered sections, the architects found a solution in the VM ZINC® DEXTER® system which matched their aesthetic expectations and did not require any particular protection with plating or varnish to stand up to the marine climate. In addition to adding a designer touch to the project, these pre-formed panels delivered ready to install, represented a suitable solution from the financial point of view. As Olivia Largeteau, manager of the programme for Umicore, pointed out, "VM ZINC® materials are so pliable and flexible that it can be used to transform any kind of architectural design into reality".

The jury was captivated by the judicious use of the DEXTER® system in segmenting the buildings and by the beauty of the expression, at the limits of complexity.

PRIZE FOR TRADITION COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Warehouse at Ghent (Belgium)

Architect: Romain Berteloot
VM ZINC products: QUARTZ-ZINC® - ADEKA®

Local heritage

In the “old port” of Ghent, where the factories have closed and houses have been built, the warehouse had remained the sole guardian of the local heritage. A restoration project has brought it back to life for, beneath the remnants of building materials and the corrugated iron, a superb metal-frame structure was discovered, witness to a time when this technique crowned prestigious achievements inspired by Gustave Eiffel or Armand Moisant.

Promised a new future – it will soon house a shopping centre – the structure has been faithfully restored according to the oldest documents collected from the archives by the project manager. The warehouse has thus re-appropriated its covering in small zinc sections (QUARTZ-ZINC®, ADEKA® system) and its original elegant waterside design.

The way in which the structure has been enhanced to renew the sense of place, as well as the transformation of the roof to let in the light without affecting the outline, particularly appealed to the jury.

PRIZE FOR INNOVATION PUBLIC BUILDING

Museum of American Art at Chattanooga (USA)

Architect: Randall Stout Architects
Website: www.stoutarc.com
VM ZINC products used: QUARTZ-ZINC® - Custom profiled zinc, special profiles

Optical illusion

Built on a rock spur overlooking the river from a height of about 25 metres, the Hunter Museum of American Art at Chattanooga (Tennessee) displays the lines of its recent 9,000 sq.m extension for all to see. The original museum, a country house built in 1905, was first extended in the 1970s. The new project is of an entirely modern design combining glass, steel and marbled mineral-like cladding consisting of QUARTZ-ZINC® panels specially pre-oxidised to develop this patinated aspect. The extension consists of an underground gallery in the east wing, a visually dominant west wing serving as the new entrance and a bridge providing pedestrian access to the museum. The gallery and provisional terraces are covered with patinated zinc. For the walls, zinc insulating panels and flat lock panels were used. These 8mm thick panels have a tailor-made oxidised finish and preserve the watertightness of the insulated walls. As for the oxidised zinc, this is intended to accentuate the natural limestone environment of the Tennessee River.

The jury appreciated the judicious siting of the building on a rock spur, but also the beauty of the envelope as well as the strong presence of zinc and the originality of its treatment.

UMICORE FRANCE/BUILDING PRODUCTS UNIT - VM ZINC®

ADDRESS:	UMICORE FRANCE - VM ZINC® Les Mercuriales 40, rue Jean Jaurès 93176 BAGNOLET Cedex Tel. 01 45 72 42 42 - fax. 01 49 72 41 82 www.vmzinc.fr E-mail: vmzinc.france@umicore.com
DATE FOUNDED:	1837 under the name of « <i>Vieille Montagne</i> ».
BUSINESS:	Production and sale of rolled zinc products under the international brand name of VM ZINC®.
PRODUCT FAMILIES:	Sheets, coils, pre-formed products and systems for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• roofs• façades• accessories and flashings• rainwater drainage• ornaments (Ateliers d'Art Français)
CERTIFICATION:	ISO 9001 certified since February 1998 ISO 14001 certified since 2003
PRODUCTION PLANTS IN FRANCE:	Auby (59) – Viviez (12) – Bray-et-Lû (95) – Neuilly-Sur-Marne (93)
INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION PLANTS:	Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia, etc.
NETWORK AND DISTRIBUTION IN FRANCE AND WORLD-WIDE:	250 VM ZINC® Centres in France covering the entire country. Fifteen sales subsidiaries in the world with dedicated teams for projects and in some cases, specialised distribution networks.
AREAS OF APPLICATION:	Building envelope, all types of building.
UMICORE GROUP	Umicore is an international group specialised in metals and materials. Its business is centred on five sectors: Precious Metals Services, Precious Metals Products and Catalysts, Advanced Materials, Zinc and Copper. With 14,000 employees and a turnover of 6.6 billion euros, Umicore has industrial operations on all continents and serves a world-wide customer base.

Press Agency in France : CABINET VERLEY

Contacts: Djaméla BOUABDALLAH or Isabelle BOSSUETTE - BP 89 – 92254 La Garenne Colombes Cedex

Tel: 01.47.60.22.62 – Fax: 01.47.81.38.68

E-mail: d.bouabdallah.cabinetverley@wanadoo.fr ; isabelle.cabinetverley@wanadoo.fr