

press release

## Creating something outstanding: seele realises free-floating glass walkway for Bründl Sports

**One of the most innovative sports stores in the Austrian Alps will be built in the heart of Kaprun. The existing flagship store of Bründl Sports will be extended to an area of 2,500 sqm with underground parking. The architectural highlight visible from the outside will be the glass panorama walkway realised by seele, which will cantilever about 10m over the Kapruner Ache river and offer an unobstructed view of the Kitzsteinhorn mountain. The opening is planned for autumn 2021.**

Schörfling (Austria), 17 December 2020. In addition to the panorama walkway, the new flagship store of Bründl Sports offers a glass-enclosed ski service and a lounge with roof terrace. blocher partners, a German architecture and design firm, which was also responsible for the first design of the award-winning flagship store, has now been commissioned again for the extension. With its monolithic shape the flagship store is a real eye-catcher. The entire construction management and detailed planning will be carried out by Austrian MAB Kaprun.

### **Cantilevered glass walkway**

seele-austria, a company of the seele Group, was awarded the contract for the detailed planning, production and erection of the 10m cantilevered glass walkway. The static specifications, as well as the planning, are carried out by Austrian office Baucon. For the construction, seele plans 11m long lateral glass stringers for transparent fall protection and the static support of the glass walkway. The glass supports are attached by means of stainless steel tension fasteners in the upper area and by means of supports in the lower area. This solution gives the viewing platform maximum transparency. The floor consists of three glass panes. Standing on them, one can look down 15 metres onto the crystal blue mountain river.

The installation site above the river is a logistical challenge. The pre-assembled glass footbridge, weighing approx. 9t, has to be lifted from the street side over the existing building to the installation site on the fourth floor. In addition, the glass walkway has to withstand enormous forces such as its own weight, payload, wind and snow. In order to ensure the withstanding, the laminated safety glass is subjected to a tensile test before installation. Calculated forces are applied to the test specimen several times and increased until the specimen breaks due to the loads.

### **Engineering know-how**

seele has gained experience in platforms construction recently with the tallest building in Thailand's capital Bangkok. On top of "MahaNakhon" tower seele has

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realised a 60sqm glazed floor which cantilevers from the building in 314m height. Those spectacular constructions are realised thanks to seele's in-house all-glass expertise and engineering know-how. In an all-glass construction, the glass itself must support significant loads by means of shear-resistant films. This opens up completely new possibilities for glass roofs, façades and interior constructions, such as glass balustrades, glass stairs and glass bridges. Minimal metal connections, so-called fittings, for example, are laminated or fixed selectively by means of grouting holes.

### **Two companies creating the outstanding**

Thomas Spitzer, Managing Director of se-austria, and Christoph Bründl, Managing Director of the Pinzgau-based company Bründl Sports, are looking forward to the joint cooperation. "Through our cooperation we create something outstanding. We are delighted that two such innovative partners are working together for such a spectacular high-end project in Austria," say the managing directors.

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seele group

The seele group, with headquarters in Gersthofen in Bavaria, is one of the world's top companies specialising in the design and construction of façades and complex building envelopes made from glass, steel, aluminium, membranes and other high-tech materials. The technology leader in façade construction was founded in 1984 by master glazier Gerhard Seele and steelwork engineer Siegfried Gossner.

Based on a profound understanding of design and materials, seele provides everything necessary for ambitious one-off designs true to the original ideas of engineers and architects. The seele group offers its building sector and industrial customers a complete package of services ranging from R&D, individual advice and joint conceptual design right up to the planning, detailed design and construction of their projects. seele's own production plants for technologically challenging designs and the group's own erection crews on site provide a guarantee of the very highest quality "made by seele".

The 1,000 employees of the seele group worldwide together generate an annual turnover of about €250 million.

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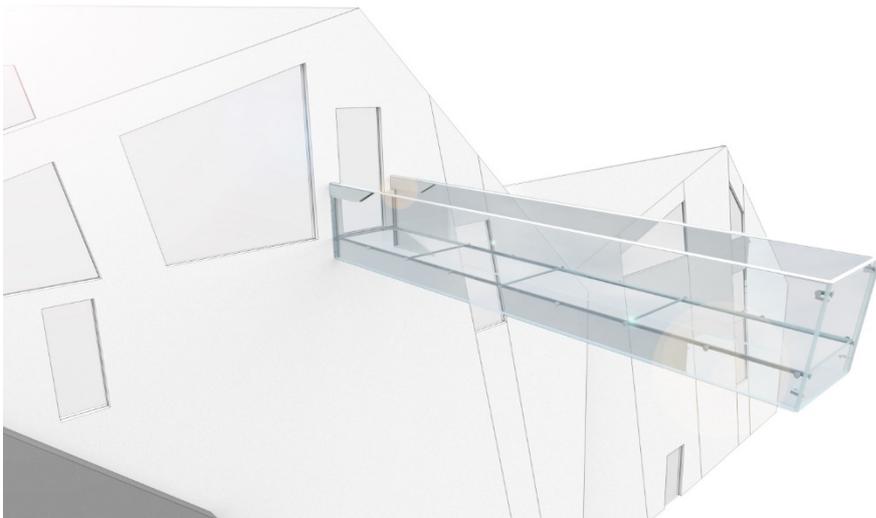
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visual material



Rendering of new Bründls Sports flagship store with glass panorama walkway. © blocher partners



Visualisation of the glass walkway made of low-iron glass. The special connection to the existing building enables maximum transparency. © seele

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Rendering of Bründl Sports © blocher partners