GRC Stud Frame Cladding
For a Typical Office Building in Zurich, Switzerland

One of the most interesting aspects of rear ventilated stud frame cladding panels is the wide range of designs which the system offers to the architect. Installed in 1990, the facade of the office building at 33/35 Lessingstrasse in Zurich is an impressive example. In this case, there were two aspects which offered the opportunity to take advantage of the versatility of the stud frame system. On the one hand, the architect wanted strong profiles on the main panels and on the column elements. On the other hand, the following requirements had to be allowed for:

- Different heights and longitudinal axes for both parts of the building.
- Oriels on the East and West facades at first floor level.
- Re-entrant balconies at 2nd and 3rd floor levels.
- Single storey annex on the East facade.
- 1.6M Overhang on the South facade.

Window and column elements: The bright colours of the blue windows and the yellow, red and blue window frames create a vivid contrast to the grey of the facade.

Builder--Owner: Civil Engineer's Department of the Canton of Zurich
Architect: Robert A. Fehr & Peter Boss hard Architekten Zurich
Main Contractor: Gehnert AG Zurich
Manufacture and Installation of Facade Elements: StahlTon AG Zurich

Main Entrance
The result involves a large number of external and internal corners (38 at second floor level). These ideas, including the panel and pillar facings, were achieved to the satisfaction of the architect, but not without causing some headaches to the engineers and the mould makers.

The photographs of the completed building clearly demonstrate the complexity of the facades. The internal and external corners in addition to the many details required in the upper and lower sections of the oriel show clearly the flexibility of the GRC stud frame system which can be applied for various designs.

The lightly structured partition walls and the front facing walls create a contrast to the strongly structured longitudinal facades. For the flat roof annex the same elements were used as for the main buildings.