

Kobra Formen GmbH, 08485 Lengenfeld, Germany

Requirements for the development of new concrete blocks and stone systems

Concrete blocks are a means for shaping urban and landscape areas, and demands on the individuality and functionality of the products have increased significantly in recent years. The trend is toward the widest variety of surfaces, new stone systems, formats and functions. This necessitates high creativity in the development and production process, in which the concrete block manufacturer must place its trust in a partner with a great deal of experience and excellent knowledge of its products. Kobra Formen GmbH has been producing moulds for the concrete block industry for over 20 years and offers a comprehensive service, from the idea to the development to the implementation of new stone designs.

In close coordination with the customer, true-to-scale stone models are created in virtual 3D drawings from sketches, photos, natural stones or 2D models. Just a photo is enough to be able to create various surface models, shapes and geometries.

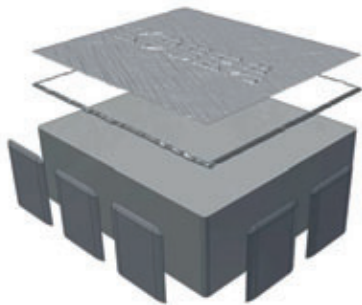
Motifs and data from individual stones, stone systems, laying patterns and producti-

on board usage are made available to the customer. In this way, for example, colour gradients can be visualised and used for determining a suitable colour palette for the product range.

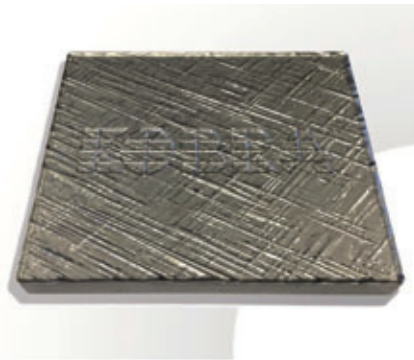
Especially in the creation phase of new products, close cooperation between the concrete block manufacturer and Kobra is fun-

damental, since designs and drawings are exchanged and refined until the individual result desired by the customer is achieved.

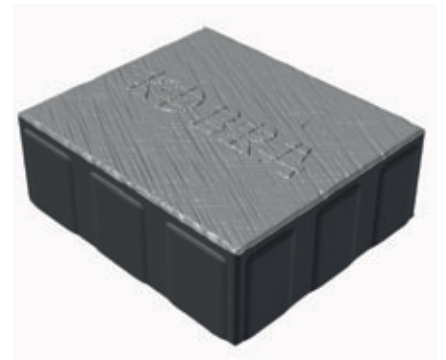
The diversification of surfaces has strongly increased in the international market., For this reason, Kobra works with state-of-the-art CAD and CAM programs and can create a variety of different surfaces with some-



Concrete block overview schematics, consisting of basic stone body with spacers, chamfer and surface



Sample pressure plate (shoe) for test method for the production of stone prototypes



3D model



Sample stones with individual surface models

times very delicate elements. Practically no limits are imposed on the imagination.

In order to guarantee the trouble-free production of new developments, the ability of each stone to be manufactured, packaged and stacked is already clarified during the development phase. Kobra currently has archives of over 3,000 surfaces. In this regard the variety of visually distinct products can be increased by mixed installations using different surfaces.

For demanding new stone developments it is possible to have a prototype of the stone produced. In this case Kobra offers two variants. On the one hand, a 3D model can be produced in which the characteristics of the stone are visible in detail. On the other, sample pressure plates (shoes) can be manufactured so that the customer can produce the finished concrete block using a

test method. Both possibilities provide for a better visualisation of the final product and thus serve as a decision-making aid for the final stone design.

The customer's products - the concrete block and the stone system - are the basis for the design and production of the mould. The method of construction of the mould depends on the customer's manufacturing requirements and Kobra attaches great importance to sustainable and high-quality manufacturing variants. This is achieved by using a modular construction, which enables the cost and time-saving replacement of individual wearing parts. A significantly longer service life can also be achieved by Kobra's own >>Optimill carbo 68 plus™<< hardening process, which exhibits a hardness quality of 68 HRC and thus supports the economical and environment-friendly production of concrete blocks. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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TECHNOLOGY MATTERS



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