

More than 1,500 different rubber matrix designs for the production of sophisticated concrete slabs

A steadily growing number of house and apartment owners want indoor and outdoor floor coverings and products for gardening and landscaping as well as wall coverings that emphasize the individual character of the property and stand out from the common mass-produced goods (Figure 1). In order to survive in this market, in which ceramic products are increasingly being used, manufacturers of concrete slabs are required to adapt to changing customer requirements and offer their customers sophisticated products that are suitable for everyday use. Numerous manufacturers rely on SR Schindler, a member of the Topwerk Group, when selecting the production technology. SR Schindler is a leading supplier of hermetic presses for the production of concrete slabs and a renowned supplier of complete production lines for the surface finishing of concrete paving stones and concrete slabs. At the same time SR Schindler is one of the world's largest suppliers of rubber matrices for hermetic presses.

In order to create an individual surface structure of the concrete slabs, which are often further refined in elaborate processes, so-called rubber matrices are used in the hermetic presses. These are metal plates with a vulcanized rubber layer. The surface of this rubber layer represents the negative profile of the desired surface of the concrete slab. Figure 2 shows the surface structure of a rubber matrix manufactured by SR Schindler.

SR Schindler has been manufacturing these rubber matrices at its Regensburg plant for more than 20 years now. The company has more than 1500 different surface designs in its portfolio, some of which are customer exclusive, making it the world market leader in this growth industry. Figure 3 shows the manual production of a design draft.

"The outstanding feature of all SR Schindler rubber matrices is their very high dimensional accuracy and long service life.



Fig. 1: Sophisticatedly designed concrete products suitable for everyday use are enjoying steadily growing demand (Fig. F.C. Nüdling).



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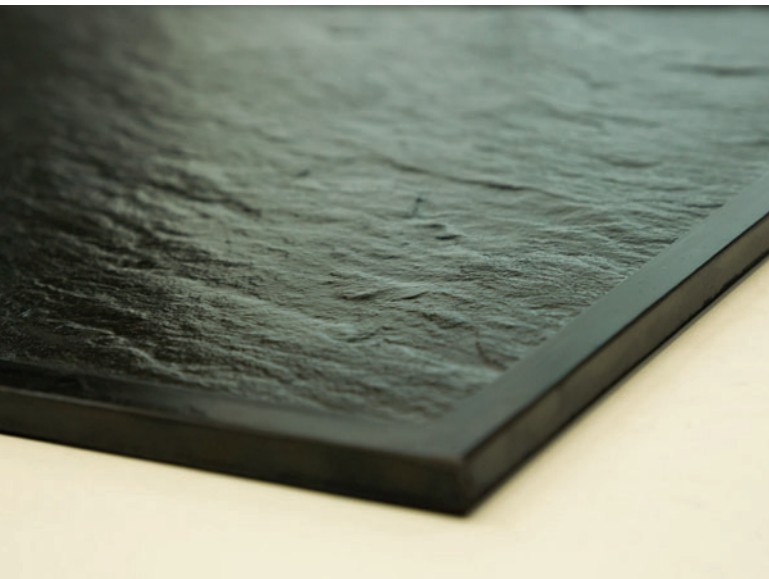


Fig. 2: Surface structure of a rubber matrix



Fig. 3: Preparation of a design draft

With these properties, we help our customers to produce concrete slabs that meet the highest demands in terms of appearance and suitability for everyday use," reports Andreas Schlemmer, who worked for more than 25 years in a well-

known production company in the concrete industry and has been the sole managing director of the Regensburg-based company since the beginning of 2020. "From my own experience, I can say that machines and plants from SR Schindler are valued throughout the concrete industry for their innovative technology and durable, high-precision construction, as they guarantee above-average quality of the concrete products and at the same time enable very economical operation of the production facilities," adds Andreas Schlemmer.



"We appreciate the short distances and the excellent communication with the rubber matrices and mould making department of SR Schindler. On this basis, both new technical and creative design solutions are generated quickly and easily. For a concrete products manufacturer, this is a fundamental requirement for responding to the changing and

demanding design requirements of the market. In addition, we particularly value quality and adherence to delivery dates as important prerequisites for stable routine operation. This applies to both conventional and special rubber matrices and mouldings. For many years we have had a trustful relationship with the rubber matrices and mould making department of SR Schindler. We have been able to implement numerous product ideas with which we had unique selling points on the market, particularly in the area of surfaces resembling natural stone. With the installation of the new UNI-1200 hermetic press, we will be able to further expand our product range into new and interesting design areas. Here, too, we will rely on the experience of the mould construction department of SR Schindler", reports Dr. Steffen Mothes (Authorized Signatory - Management of Production & Technology at F.C. Nüdling Betonelemente)

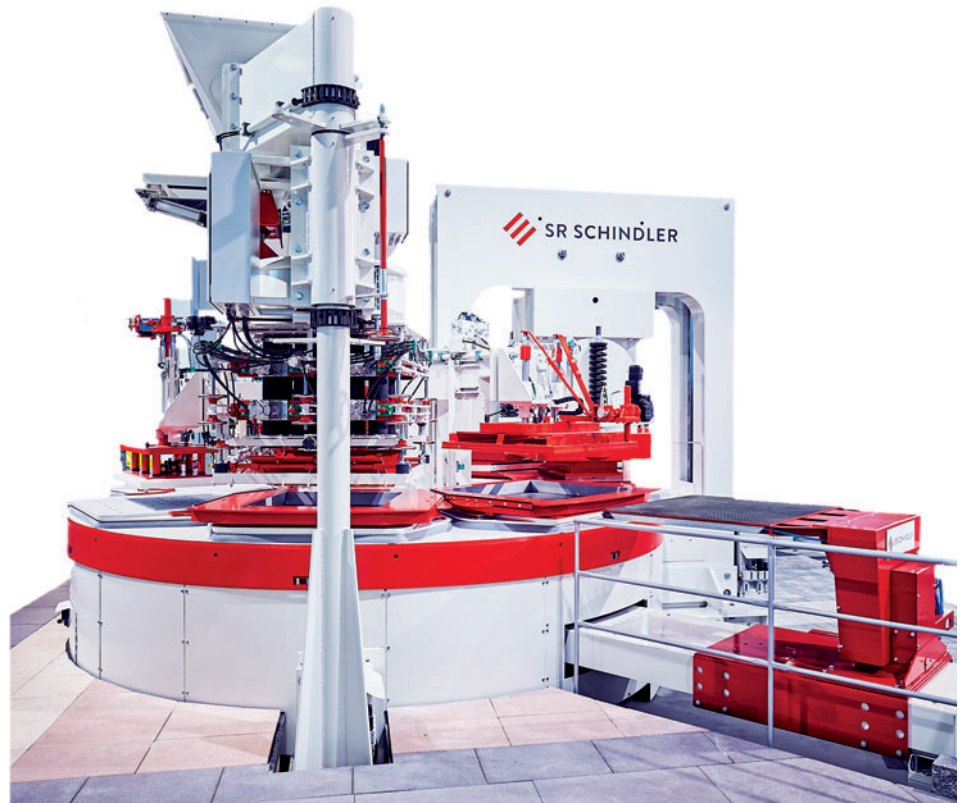
In line with the ever-growing demand for high-quality rubber matrices, SR Schindler has continuously invested in staff training and machinery and has thus been able to expand its global pioneering role, to which the company's very short delivery times compared to competitors undoubtedly contribute.

SR Schindler today produces rubber matrices "Made in Germany" not only for its own hermetic presses, such as the new Uni 1200 presented at the last Bauma (Fig. 4), but for all established hermetic presses on the market. SR Schindler is able to offer creatively designed rubber matrices up to a format of 1,000 mm x 1,000 mm. Of course, special shapes, for example with curved edges or customer-specific special formats, can also be supplied from a batch size of 1.

There are individual trends and design ideas in the different geographical regions, which the company meets thanks to its many years of experience with a wide range of creative surface designs.

Another advantage for customers is that SR Schindler can also offer all machine-dependent components such as wear frames, mould equipment and facemix distributors for hermetic presses. In particular, the additional solutions for everyday process challenges, based on more than 20 years of experience, combined with the expert support of in-house personnel when commissioning new rubber matrices, are a great

Fig. 4: SR Schindler Uni 1200 hermetic press



help for users. This ensures that everything fits together and that the availability of the production facilities at the manufacturers of concrete slabs is at a consistently high level.

"In particular, the intensive consultation regarding the challenges of the respective designs is helpful for many customers to avoid later problems in production," explains Stefan Kaiser, head of the spare parts sales department at SR Schindler.

Innovative. Reliable. Efficient

In today's world, where customers around the world are placing ever greater value on visually and technologically sophisticated products, the Regensburg-based company SR Schindler offers manufacturers of concrete slabs an integrated service for the creative creation of new surface designs: From the first design draft to the successful commissioning and after-sales service, which is recognised worldwide, true to the company motto: Innovative. Reliable. Efficient.



"SR Schindler has constantly accompanied us as a partner for the last 20 years of our company development. SR Schindler was able to respond to our ideas during this time. Thanks to this professional support and innovative ideas, we were able to successfully realise our own designs such as the Provence line and thus support our extremely successful development."

This positive statement was made by Martina Fischer-Feiner, Managing Director of one of the leading producers of high-quality concrete slabs, Feiner Betonwerk GmbH und Co KG.



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