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Christian Fischbacher

ST. GALLEN - SWITZERLAND
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AEB

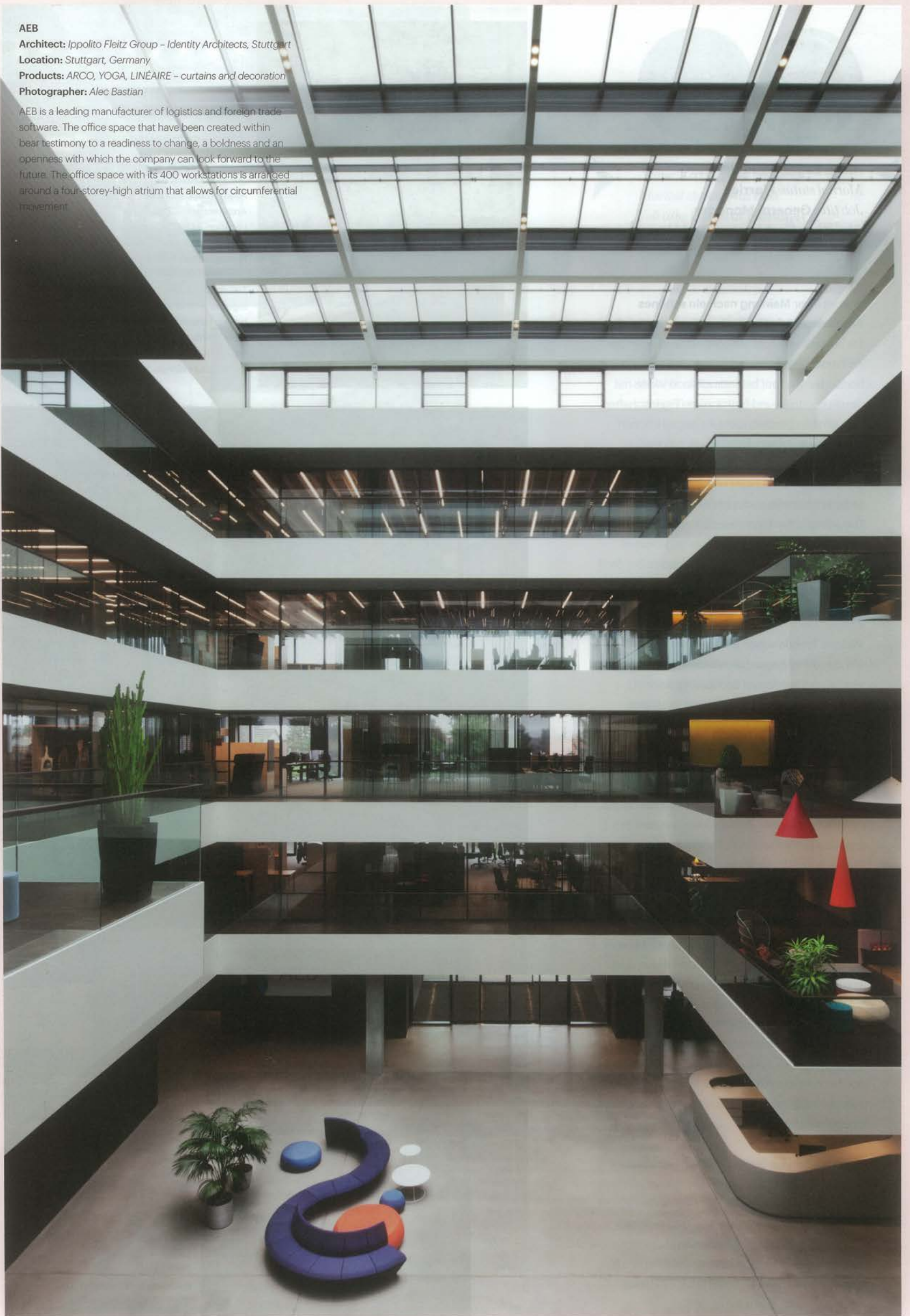
Architect: Ippolito Fleitz Group – Identity Architects, Stuttgart

Location: Stuttgart, Germany

Products: ARCO, YOGA, LINÉAIRE – curtains and decoration

Photographer: Alec Bastian

AEB is a leading manufacturer of logistics and foreign trade software. The office space that have been created within bear testimony to a readiness to change, a boldness and an openness with which the company can look forward to the future. The office space with its 400 workstations is arranged around a four-storey-high atrium that allows for circumferential movement





Interview with Edgar Aumüller

What do you think is a good example of textiles in architecture?

For me, an impressive example of textiles in architecture is the Casa da Musica in Porto. This building portrays an excellent interplay of the decorative and functional properties of textiles, used in a variety of ways over huge surfaces. The Aesop Luitpoldblock signature store in Munich is another instance of strong, exciting contrasts created through the use of different materials. Subtle, tactile touches are added through the wall panels that are clad in our Visconte velour. The fabric plays with the light throughout the day, creating a wonderful array of different reflections.

What trends do you see emerging?

In addition to having more courage when it comes to colours, I think the tactile properties of textiles are gaining in importance. Soft velours have been on-trend for a long time now. Recently, however, loden and felt surfaces are also becoming more significant. The respect for the environment aspect is important in terms of fabric production, where we offer a wide range through our BENU Recycled collection. This is very popular for projects such as the Biohotel Bavaria in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

What must be considered when choosing textiles for a building?

For buildings, textiles often – but not always – have to be flame-retardant. With architecture dominated by glass and concrete, acoustic effectiveness also plays a major role. Textiles are ideal for this purpose, since they can be added at any time and can be flexibly adapted to the particular use of each room. They also need to be robust and as low maintenance as possible.

What services does Christian Fischbacher offer for architects?

The advantage we have at Christian Fischbacher is that we collaborate with numerous first-class producers with excellent technological facilities. This means that we are also able to offer architects customised solutions even at short notice.

You originally trained as a carpenter and studied business administration at the Technical College of Furniture in Cologne. How did you first discover textiles? What fascinates you about them?

I'm still very attached to manual craftsmanship, which has a lot to do with touch. Your hands can feel quality, whether it's a piece of furniture, a shoe or a textile. What fascinates me about textiles is their incredible diversity and the effect they have on a room. It is amazing how the atmosphere can change via different materials. As often happens it was due to pure chance that I ended up in the textile industry after my studies. I've felt at home here ever since and still love it today.

Interview with Katsuyuki Tahara

Are there any special needs in the Japanese market that might be different from the European market?

High-rise apartment blocks are popular in Japan and this is a very important market for us. We often propose 'in-between' fabrics for this market, which are in between drape and sheer fabrics.

Are there any other differences?

We mainly sell finished curtains and we have our own sewing factory, Fisba Thailand, in order to provide finished curtains of the best quality.

Are there any new movements on your market?

The carpet collection has been growing continuously in terms of its design and quality and, as you know, we take off our shoes at home, which means that the texture of our carpets is greatly appreciated. The wallpaper collection has also been well received by our customers so that we can enhance the overall look, thereby reinforcing the Urban Luxury

What is your profession? Have you always worked with textiles?

I have experienced sales and marketing in several different industries and I like to make good use of my experience within the textile industry.

What fascinates you about textiles?

Textiles change the atmosphere of a room. They make me feel relaxed.