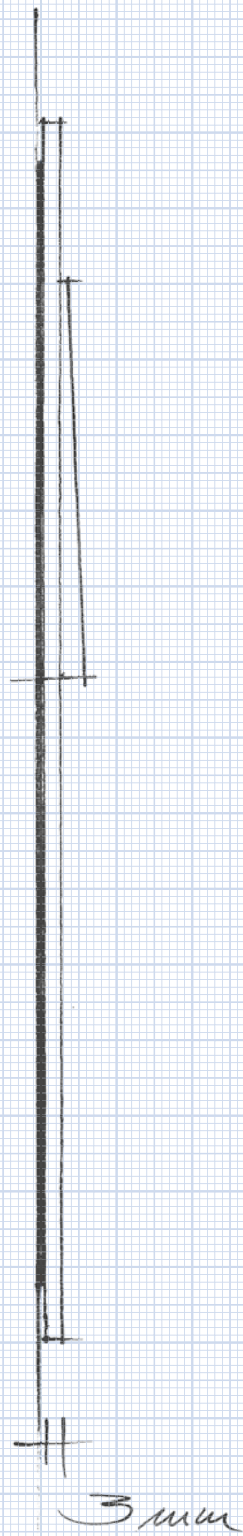


**How
something
simple
becomes
something
special.**

**Pure material.
Minimalist form.
The new Berker R.8**

R.O



0.003 metres

Three millimetres. That is, for a sense of scale, almost as thin as a 1-euro coin. It is also the depth of the new Berker R.8, making the switch range one of the thinnest on the market today. And that's just for starters.

As soon as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe coined the maxim “less is more” some 80 years ago, the phrase came to encapsulate a radical reduction down to the bare essentials, the beautiful and the enduring. It is this compelling principle that inspired us in our design of the Berker R.8 – a range of switches that combines minimalist form with premium materials, a wide choice of combinations and precision design. No other range of switches offers glass coverings in proportions so slim they appear almost flush with the wall. What's more, the Berker R.8 can be combined with all the inserts of the award-winning Berker R.1 and Berker R.3 designs and is also easy to install. This makes it an excellent choice for architects, planners, tradespeople and builders.

Berker R.8 stands less for superficial design and more for effect and insert options. This extraordinary range of switches gives you an opportunity to bring maximum impact to your projects. And at just three millimetres, it's a small detail that makes a big difference.

Discreet yet eye- catching

**Virtually no other switch is as discreet as the Berker R.8.
At the same time, however, the eye is naturally drawn to its
elegant finish and its pure form.**



A perfect pairing: A glass frame gives a distinguished finish to black switch or socket inserts. And the unrivalled proportions of the thin glass frame simply add to the impact.





Aesthetic response: Not only does the glass give a sense of luxury, it also creates a small reflection of its surroundings.

Genuine variety: Whether stainless steel, aluminium or glass (in black or white shades) – the Berker R.8 frames are produced using only the finest materials. Materials that create a striking impression time and time again.





Beauty inside and out: The attractive exterior of the Berker R.8 is easily matched by its impressive inner workings. Its switch and socket inserts are compatible with all the latest technological functions. At the same time, its connector socket is designed to be quick and easy to install. In other words: The Berker R.8 impresses from the very first moment – and each and every day thereafter.



**The
new
Bau-
haus**

It was around 100 years ago that the company Berker made a name for itself producing timeless and functional switches in the German town of Schalksmühle. In the very same year, the Bauhaus school was founded in Weimar and began influencing the way we design, build and furnish our surroundings. Even back then, Bauhaus masters, such as Walter Gropius, were incorporating Berker switches and sockets into their designs. In the decades since, both names have come to be equally emblematic of beautiful form, practical functionality and a clear focus on people's needs.

In 2014, architectural company Bruno Fioretti Marquez highlighted the everlasting relevance of Bauhaus with its new **Dessau Masters' Houses**.









Simplicity. Form over appearance. Elegant design born of an object's functional purpose. This guiding principle, coupled with the very finest quality of materials and craftsmanship, earned Bauhaus the status of being the most important school in the classical modern movement. The Berker Serie Glas (right) successfully applied this design principle to create a modern classic. And the Berker R.8 (left) is well on its way to doing the same: With its elegant sleek form and ultra-minimalist profile, it highlights how something simple can make a beautiful grand gesture.

1919
2019





Berker and Bauhaus look back on a long shared history, and so when it came to the Dessau Bauhaus renovation, Berker was the natural choice for switches. “With their rounded features, the switches perfectly complemented the design of this house,” explains Bauhaus architectural historian Monika Markgraf. Developed in the late seventies, the historically faithful “Serie Glas”, with its rounded veneers, fits in just as naturally as the “Serie 1930” developed a few years ago in close collaboration with the Dessau Building Research Department. The elegantly unembellished rotary switches and push buttons embody the unadulterated functionality that has been Berker’s guiding principle since the company was founded in 1919.

“Less is more”





Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's "Villa Tugendhat" in Brunn was particularly notable for its modern construction techniques, breathtaking proportions and intricate details. It's therefore no wonder that when the building was faithfully restored to its original guise, the renovators opted for the Berker Serie Glas and the Berker Serie 1930. Mies van der Rohe is widely considered one of the most influential modernist architects. He found fame as a director at Bauhaus Dessau and as a prominent exponent of minimalism in architecture, which he so neatly expressed through the phrase "less is more".



Berker R.8





Munich-based interior designer Sebastian Zenker, together with his team, specialises in primarily private residential and hospitality properties. Alongside various apartments, houses and board-rooms, the 36 year-old is currently working on the interior design for a hotel.

Subtle distinction

Top-level architecture thrives above all on the finer details. So says Munich-based interior designer Sebastian Zenker, speaking on the subject of emotions, materials and every last millimetre that make the difference between a mediocre building and an architectural triumph.

M. Zenker, you are known for your highly expressive interior designs. Is there a specific era of design that particularly inspires you in your work?

The sixties. When you see the Riva yachts or the cars from that decade or you watch films like “To Catch a Thief”, you’re reminded that nothing before or since has come close to the laid-back glamour of the 1960s. I fear that we are at risk of losing this style. That’s why we are endeavouring to revive it and create its place in the modern day.

How does a person convey a sense of style?

Not everyone has a natural flair for design, and so our task is to help clients identify their style and to guide them through the finer details. Rooms should never be merely decorative; they should always serve a purpose and serve it well. In order to design a space, I – as the interior designer – first need to truly understand the daily comings and goings of my clients. Essentially, I have to slip into their daily routine and discover what it entails. For instance, how important is a grand master bedroom? Do they fold their shirts or hang them in this household? All these seemingly small details combine to play an important role, as do the look and feel of switches. And that brings us neatly on to light switches and the Berker R.8.

What is important when it comes to light switches?

They should be intuitively positioned. If I go to the guest toilet and have to search for the switch, only to eventually discover that it is actually outside the door, the interior designer has done something wrong. Another key consideration is the aesthetic of the switches. And that is where the Berker R.8 gets it spot on.

What is it about the Berker R.8 that you find so appealing?

Its simple and unpretentious design. And the way it skilfully combines curves and corners. Lots of apartments and houses feature both round and angular shapes, and the Berker R.8 lends itself perfectly to both. In particular, I’m impressed by its extremely slim profile. Our clients are usually worldly wise and have seen it all before. Yet, this switch is truly one-of-a-kind. With its modest profile, the Berker R.8 is quite simply unrivalled.

Isn’t it contradictory to say that a switch is eye-catching because of its minimalism?

Well, yes. The Berker R.8 stands out precisely because it doesn’t stand out – at least not at first glance. Which makes the second glance all the more compelling. And that is exactly what a light switch should do. It’s not supposed to take centre stage. Its job is to be there, but not to dominate the foreground. What’s more, it should remain the perfect match even if our furnishings, our style and our tastes evolve. Colours, furniture and design features change over the years, whereas a light switch stays unchanged.

In most cases, when we choose a switch, we are making a choice for many years to come.

Exactly. A house stands for several decades, and with it the basic framework such as the switches, sockets, fittings and spotlights. That’s why it is no longer fashionable to install elaborate two-tone switches, like people did in the eighties.

So the principle of “less is more” still holds true.

Absolutely. Though ‘more’ can sometimes be cool too. Stark contrasts, vibrant colours, sharp lines – if you know how to use them properly, they can create a lasting impression. However, the relaxed Ralph Lauren style interior that the Americans do so well, is a real art form. If you put a foot wrong, it can very quickly veer into the realms of kitsch. Minimalist interiors, by contrast, are far easier to design.

Sebastian Zenker keeps a wide range of exquisite materials to hand in his studio. And the Berker R.8 works perfectly with virtually all of them.





The perfect combination: Transparent glass, white insert and vibrant colours.

Finishing touches: With black inserts and a stainless steel frame, the Berker R.8 adds an extra touch of class.



Which properties and projects will you be using the Berker R.8 in?

A whole host of different projects, since the Berker R.8 is so versatile. It is stylish yet discreet, so it looks just as good against the bold colours and contrasts of my studio as it does in an elegant country manor.

What do you associate with Bauhaus, 100 years after it was first established?

A tremendous achievement, without which we would probably still be waiting to discover modernism. What I particularly admire is the way the Bauhaus designers nurtured a close connection between art and craftsmanship. Craftsmanship is so often undervalued. But when you see a truly skilled plasterer at work, as I did recently, you can't help but stop and appreciate the importance of good craftspeople.

How would you describe your style in one sentence?

A confident style focused on aesthetic and perfection, coupled with sharp lines, bold colours and contrasts.

Are there any materials you are especially fond of?

Natural stone has been a particular favourite since I returned from a trip to Italy. And wood. They are both materials created by mother nature, which can be worked and applied in so many different ways. And, depending on personal preference and how they are used, they can create a sense of warmth or coolness.

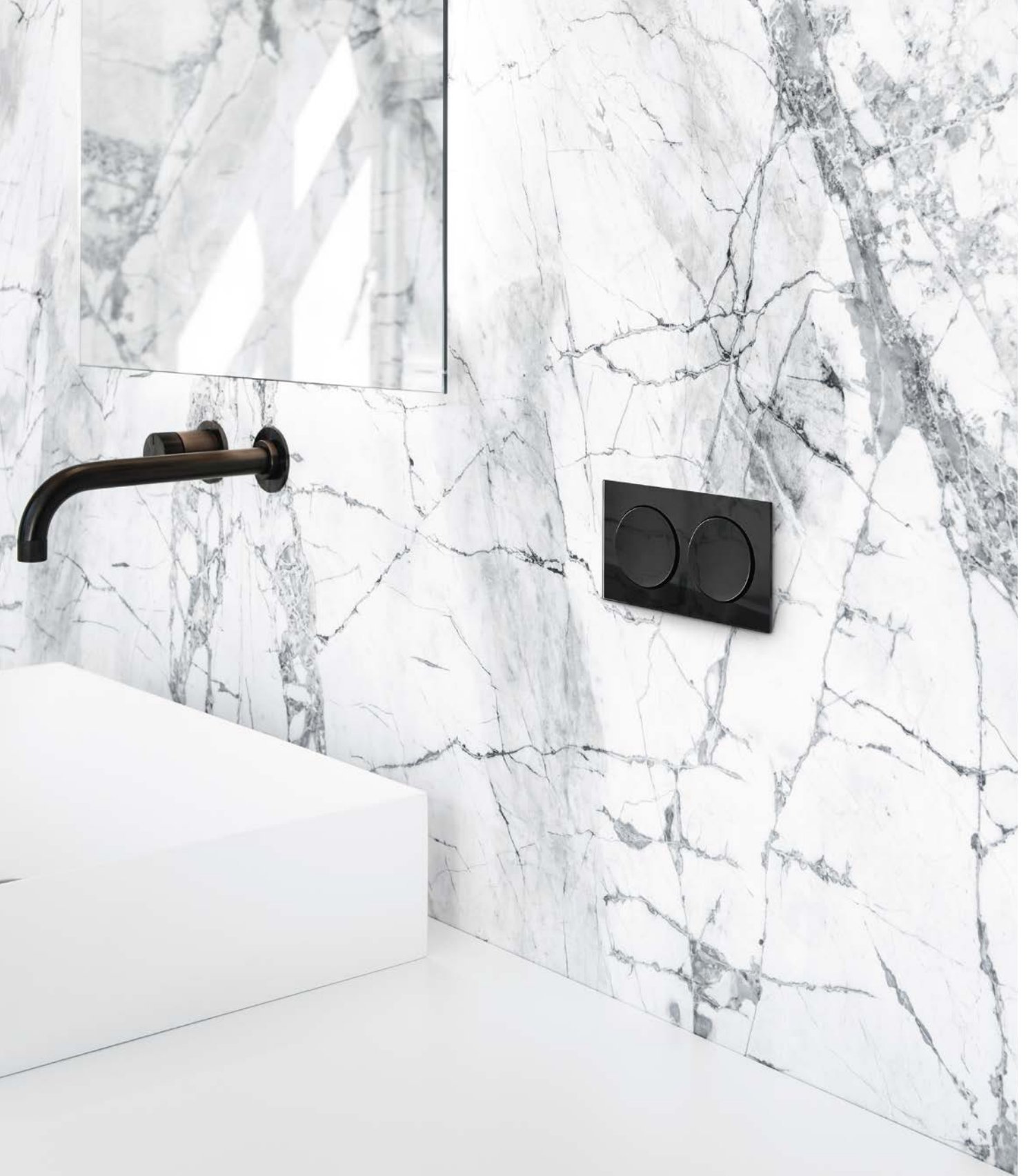
Is there a particular space you would like the opportunity to design?

An aeroplane. Or a private yacht. Many of them have beautifully designed exteriors, but the interior design lacks a certain something. I would love the chance to put that right.


A stylish pair: Some call it contrast, others call it an interesting combination. Ultimately, polar white inserts perfectly complement an aluminium frame.







An impressive all-rounder: The Berker R.8 in black glass looks just as at home on natural stone as it does on plaster or lightweight materials.



**“As an interior designer,
you need to be able to slip
inside your client’s daily life.”**

What it all comes down to

Titus Bernhard

“In an age of all-round sensory overload and over-orchestrated frivolity, the maxim ‘less is more’ has more significance than ever in the field of architecture. Clear lines lead to clear thinking and lasting value. Our clients want clear concepts centred around a choice few materials and features that are expertly implemented by hand down to the very smallest detail. The Berker R.8 fits the bill perfectly. It follows our architectural philosophy of clarity, aesthetic and minimalism. And for that very reason, it can be applied in a hugely diverse range of building projects.”

Titus Bernhard,
Bernhard Architekten

Axel Martin Schmitz

“Our company dates all the way back to 1864 when Peter Heinrich Schmitz was building churches, hospitals, factories and country houses – back in those days, our ancestor Robert Venturis would certainly have disagreed with Mies and would have impertinently argued that ‘Less is a bore!’ These days, however, Mies’s famous oxymoron is integral to many of our building projects across Germany. As the great architect Heinrich Tessenow, under whom my grandfather studied, once said: ‘Simple is not always the best – but the best is always simple.’”

Axel Martin Schmitz
Managing partner at Ralf Schmitz

Katja Winkelmann

“When it comes to switches and sockets, a minimalist design is always preferable and is always the answer. Their look should not compete with the overall architecture, but instead – as with well thought-out light – enhance it wherever possible. In this regard, the principle of ‘less is more’ is as true and as important as ever.”

Katja Winkelmann
Licht 01 Lighting Design

Joern Frederic Kengelbach

“The idea that ‘less is more’ has never lost its validity. However, I would interpret the phrase for today’s design and luxury industries as ‘less but better.’ We live in an age of excess, at the expense of our environment and future generations. Fewer things, but of a higher quality – this is more than just a pipe dream, it needs to become the guiding principle of a human race that wants to live with dignity.”

Joern Frederic Kengelbach
Robb Report / A&W Architektur & Wohnen magazine

Regina Hoefter

“For me, ‘less is more’ means following one single concept and not mixing up multiple ideas. That is not to say that a design has to be plain in its appearance, rather that its understated nature should make that one concept strong and striking. Switches should always stay in the background so as not to distract from the overall impact of the interior. I like simplicity in the switches I use for all my projects, because fixtures and fittings can never be too minimalist in my opinion.”

Regina Hoefter
Interior designer, Munich

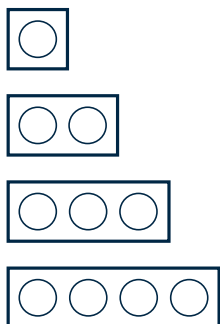
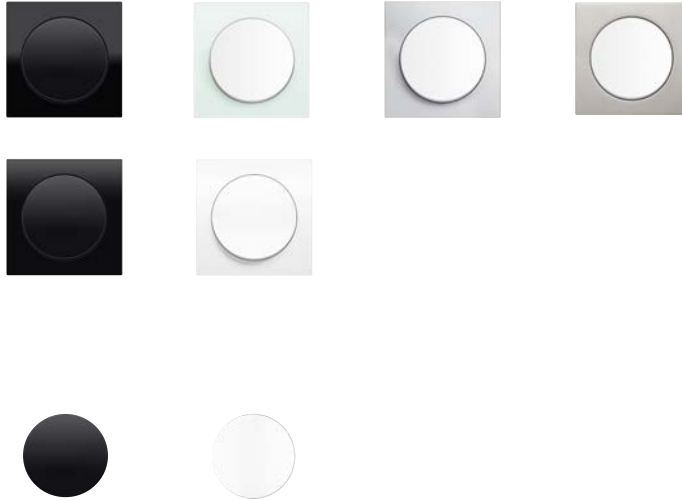
Claudia Neumann

“As countless other people have no doubt experienced, my working life has been heavily influenced by the digital revolution. For me, ‘less is more’ means focussing on fewer things – the things that really matter – and doing them properly.”

Claudia Neumann
Neumann Communication

Extreme variety: Frames and inserts

The Berker R.8 is not only simple, it is flexible. Frames in the Berker Serie R.8 are available in a fantastic selection of premium materials: Black or white glass, aluminium, stainless steel, polar white plastic or black plastic. What's more, the frames can be combined with all the inserts from the acclaimed Berker R.1 and Berker R.3 design lines.



Frames for the Berker R.8 design line are available in black **glass**, polar white **glass**, aluminium, stainless steel, black **plastic**, polar white **plastic**. The rockers and other cover plates are available in black **plastic** and polar white **plastic**.
Version: 1x to 4x
External dimensions (1x): 90.0 x 90.0 mm

Made-to-measure solutions

Individual projects call for individual solutions, and that is precisely what we can provide. We produce switches in the material and colours to match your unique vision. In the universal design. And in a reasonable time frame and at a reasonable price. Welcome to the Berker Manufaktur.



Technology and design from a single source

For a building project to be truly successful, everything has to fit neatly together – technologies and technical standards, structure and design, measurements and schedules. And that is why we provide you with every service from a single source: Future-proof electronic technology in exquisite switch ranges from Berker and the perfect door communication systems from Elcom. Having a dedicated contact for all three areas gives you the ultimate peace of mind that everything in your project is running smoothly.



