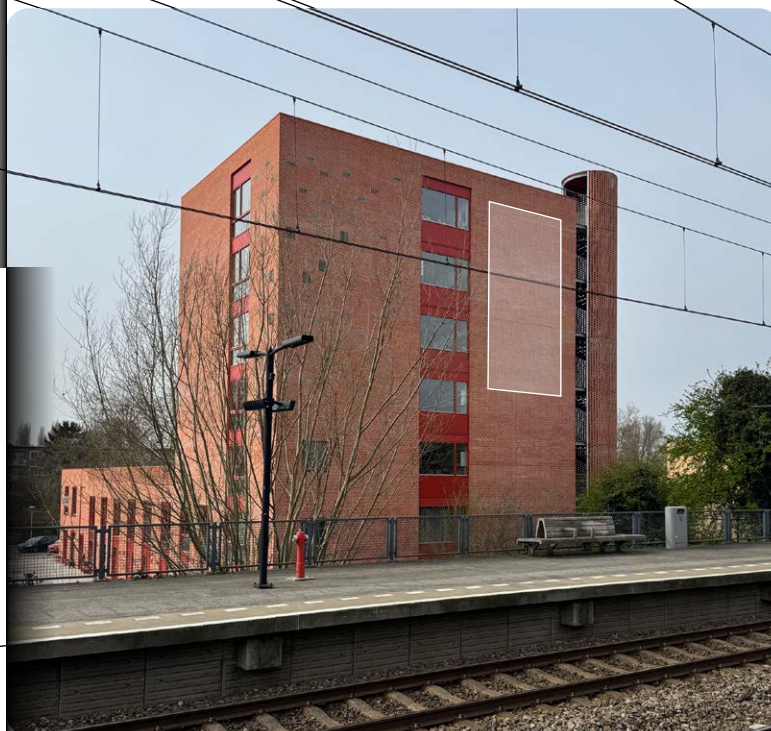


de Nieuwe Meent (dNM) OPEN CALL for a mural

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UPDATE

17 July 2026



dNM, view of the North facade
from Science Park Station

In April 2026, the housing cooperative de Nieuwe Meent (dNM), together with a coalition of Amsterdam-based cultural institutions formed by de Appel, Fram-er Framed, and If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution, have launched an open call for the realization of a **semi-permanent mural** on the North facade of the dNM building in Watergraafsmeer, Amsterdam East.

NEW DEADLINE: 15 September 2026

After receiving feedback on the open call we have decided to **update the application process**. The main changes concern:

- a lighter submission round without sketch and proposal for the first phase
- a more extended short-list phase with a higher artist fee

The applications that have already been submitted following the criteria of the first open call will still be considered, but the committee will focus mainly on the candidate's affinity with the call and its objectives.

de
Appel
Amsterdam

FRAMER
EBAWED

IF

I CAN'T DANCE,
I DON'T WANT TO BE PART
OF YOUR REVOLUTION

About de Nieuwe Meent

dNM is one of the first housing cooperative pilots initiated by the City of Amsterdam and was completed in the summer of 2025. Recently, it has been awarded the Amsterdam Architecture Prize 2026. Rooted in the housing rights movement, dNM is a social, political, and architectural project completely developed through a collaborative and community-led process.

Literally meaning “the new commons” (from the Dutch word *meent*, meaning commons), dNM is organized around principles of shared use and collective governance. By combining affordable housing, shared living, mutual care structures, and solidarity economy practices, it aims to contribute to a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society. The core values of dNM are: Commoning, Care, Diversity, Sustainability.

dNM has been designed by the coop members together with the architectural studio Time to Access i.c.w. Office Raumanplan. The seven-storey building houses around fifty residents in multiple living arrangements, from communal *woongroepen* to individual social housing units.

Reflecting the ethos of the project, the building includes several collective spaces both indoors and outdoors, uses sustainable and circular materials and is energy positive. Alongside the housing units, dNM also hosts Woonruimte, a cooperative space home to organizations working on the commons, and Noon, a café, bookshop, and event space centered on Levantine culture.

The design reflects the communal character of the project and reclaims the language of affordability as an aesthetic and ethical value. An example of this is the use of raw materials (such as the red/pink bricks just made of clay and the natural wood for all the interiors), the geometric and diverse detailing of the brickwork and the use of colors (green steel balconies and red windows).

The mural forms an integral part of this vision and was imagined by the designers and the community as a **contemporary reinterpretation of the practice of integrating messages of different kinds on blank facades of buildings in Amsterdam.**

Site

The mural will be realized on the North/back facade of the building overlooking Science Park Station and the railway, transforming a visible urban surface — primarily seen by the local community and train commuters — into an impactful platform for the values and imaginaries of dNM. Next to the mural, the facade contains 65 bird and bat nests integrated in the brickwork.

The mural will be placed in a recessed, in-built frame of 4,74 x 9,16m (w x h) on the upper part of the facade (11,2 m from the ground). **The dimensions and placement of the frame cannot be altered because it is already built and approved as such by the Municipality.**

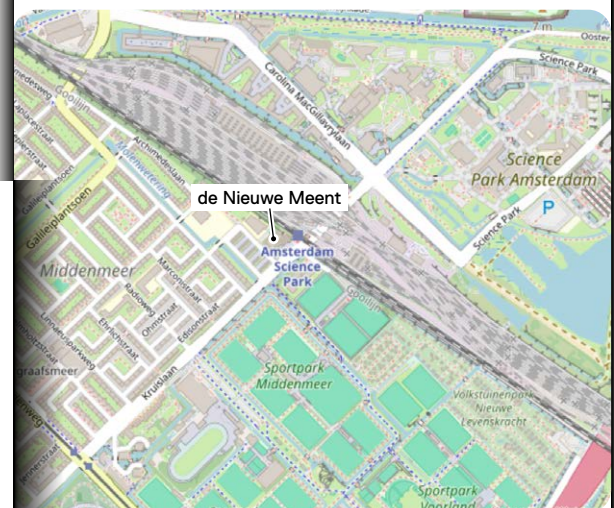
This position ensures visibility from Science Park Station and passing trains. No buildings will be constructed behind dNM, guaranteeing unobstructed visibility.

Immediate surroundings

Science Park Station primarily serves Amsterdam Science Park, a collaborative initiative of the University of Amsterdam, the municipality of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The campus features research institutions, university departments and companies working in the field of AI & Digital Innovation, Sustainability, Life sciences & (e) Health, and High-tech systems and materials.

The immediate surroundings also include Van Koetsveld-school, a primary school for children aged 4–12 with mild to severe intellectual disabilities or multiple disabilities, and Stek Oost, a residential complex offering housing to youth and refugees.

The wider neighborhood is primarily residential.



The mural should have a **strong conceptual, poetic, and potentially political message, which reflects the principles of commons, community, co-governance, and equitable living at the heart of dNM.**

With this open call, we are looking for artists who are community-oriented, and combine a conceptual and relational approach in their practice.

Following the co-design methodologies through which dNM came to being, we welcome applications that envision an experimental process of co-creation or dialogue with dNM, or potentially, with other relevant groups/communities in the immediate vicinity of the building.

1. Typology

- The final artwork may be text-based, visual, or combine text with visual elements. Abstract, conceptual, symbolic, or figurative approaches are equally possible.
- The conceptual and aesthetic clarity of the mural must remain legible at a distance.
- The final design should show awareness of how text and visuals operate at an architectural scale and within a socio-political urban context.

2. Thematic Core

- The work must meaningfully engage the ideals of dNM: collectivity, shared resources, urban commons, solidarity, and community-led initiatives.
- Conceptual, experimental, and politically imaginative approaches are encouraged.

3. Participatory Approach

- The work must include a method of dialogue, co-creation, or participatory exchange with the dNM community, and optionally, with other relevant groups in the immediate vicinity (e.g., youth center, school).
- Elements created with or by the community may be incorporated into the final work, or artists may propose a process-based engagement.

4. Audience & Visibility

- Primary viewers are train passengers, requiring the artwork to be highly legible, visually coherent, and impactful from afar.

5. Technical Requirements

- Weather-resistant, UV-stable materials must be used to ensure a lifespan of 5–10 years. Support on this will be offered during the development phase..
- The design must utilize the specifications of the existing back facade “frame” of 4,74 x 9,16m (b x h) standing at 11,2m from the ground. Technical drawings and pictures are provided in the appendix.
- Execution will be carried out with the support of (or by) a professional mural painter, if needed.

How to apply

For the first phase, applicants must submit:

1. A CV and/or portfolio demonstrating the connection between your practice and the spirit of the project.
2. A motivation letter that details:
 - A description of how your artistic practice connects with dNM's values, architectural context, and aims of the open call;
 - What in the project sparks your interest and what specific expertise you want to draw from to approach the project;
 - How you envision community engagement in your practice, and how this can be applied to a context such as dNM.

A committee consisting of representatives of dNM, the cultural institutions coalition, and Time to Access will select three shortlisted candidates on the basis of their correspondence with the values of dNM and their vision for community engagement.

Submission format: 1 PDF, max. 10 pages, max. 10MB
File naming: Surname_dNM-Mural.pdf

Please include your email address so that we can easily reach you.

Upload your PDF to the following Dropbox folder:
www.dropbox.com/request/qsrrdzdu2exkazgcc723
Deadline: September 15th 2026, 23:59hr (CET).

If you have problems with the upload, send your submission to dnm.mural@proton.me

Who can apply

Applications are welcome from practitioners in any discipline, including but not limited to: visual artists, writers, poets, activists, designers, architects, typographers, and interdisciplinary practitioners. Duos (e.g. writer + graphic designer), collectives, and non-traditional formations are eligible. However, the budget for the development phase remains the same.

Previous experience with mural-making is not required. A professional mural painter will be hired to support execution if needed.

In line with dNM's mission of diversity and inclusion, priority will be given to applicants from marginalized backgrounds, including but not limited to BIPOC, queer, trans, Disabled, and non-binary practitioners, and those whose practices reflect lived experience with the politics of commons, community, or housing rights.

Short List Phase

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The three shortlisted applicants will each receive a budget of €2000 to develop a proposal for the mural through dialogue with dNM or other local interlocutors. Shortlisted artists will also receive an orientation session and site visit. This proposal should include a vision for the mural project and a feasibility plan, detailing:

- The intended vision and research approach for the mural
- A plan for participation and dialogue with the dNM community
- A budget listing development and production costs

The final selection will be based on feasibility, conceptual strength, and alignment with dNM's values, with priority given to the perspective of the dNM community as a whole.

The selected proposal must also be approved by Stadscuratorium, the municipal advisory body for public art.

New timeline

- Open call deadline: 15 September 2026
- Selection of three shortlisted proposals: Mid-October 2026
- Deadline to submit the full proposal: End of January 2027
- Selection of the project: February 2027
- Execution: Summer 2027

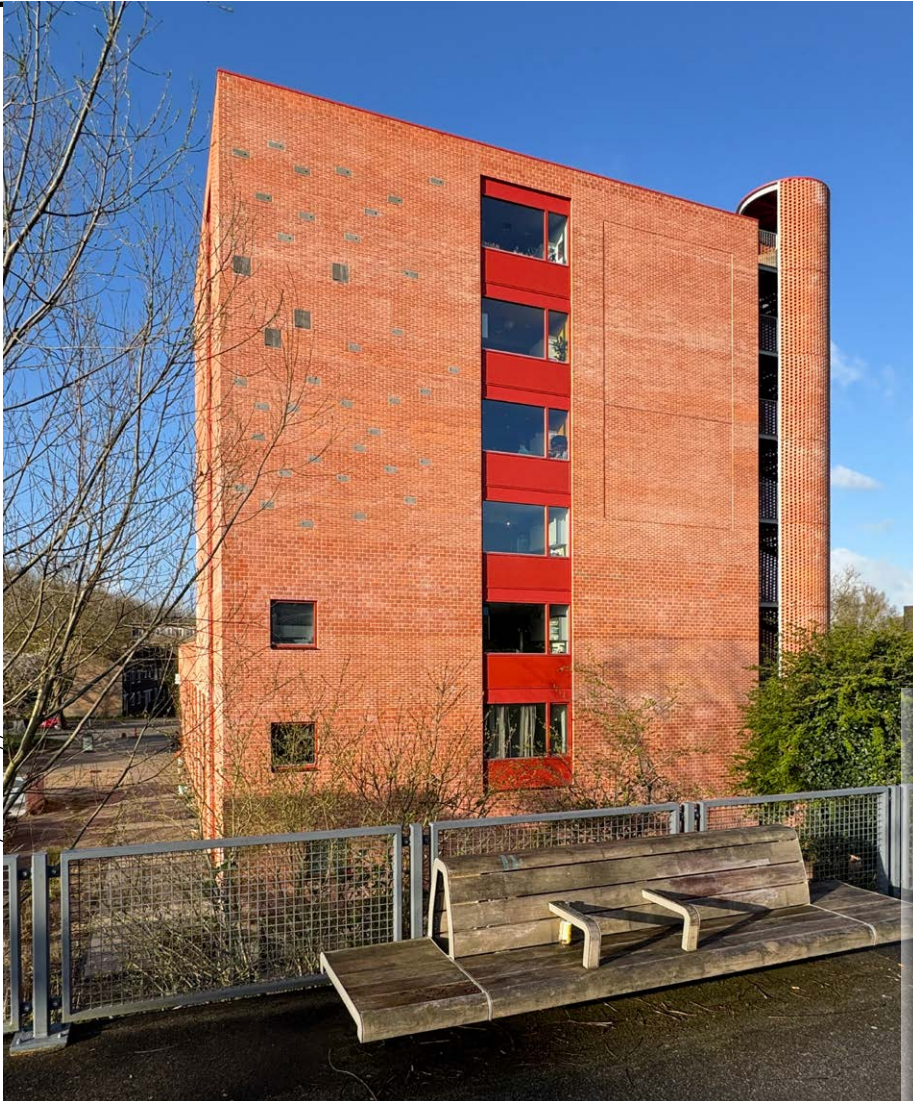
Please note that the timeline may shift depending on municipal approval and fundraising outcomes.

Financial arrangements

The execution of the mural is dependent on securing funding via grant applications. **If there is a delay in securing funding, the timeline will be adjusted and the execution phase will be postponed.**

Compensation

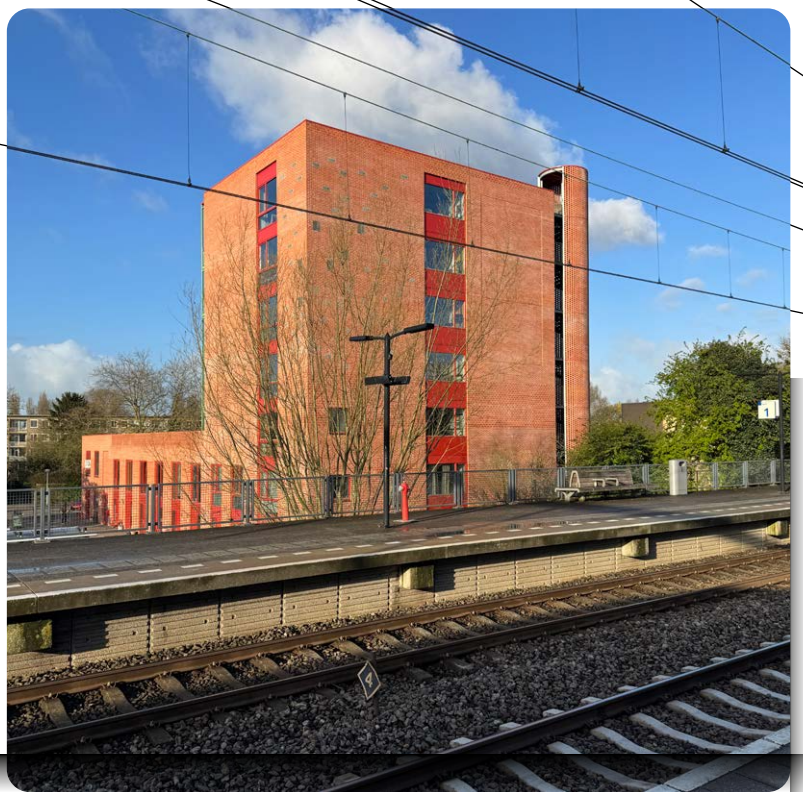
- The three shortlisted artists will receive €2.000 for the short list phase.
- Final artist fees and production costs will be confirmed upon selection and will be formalized in a contract following the sector's guidelines.

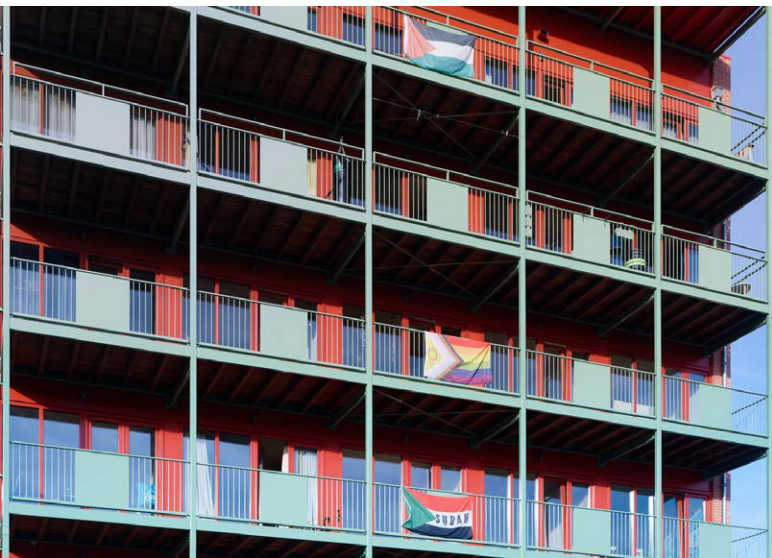
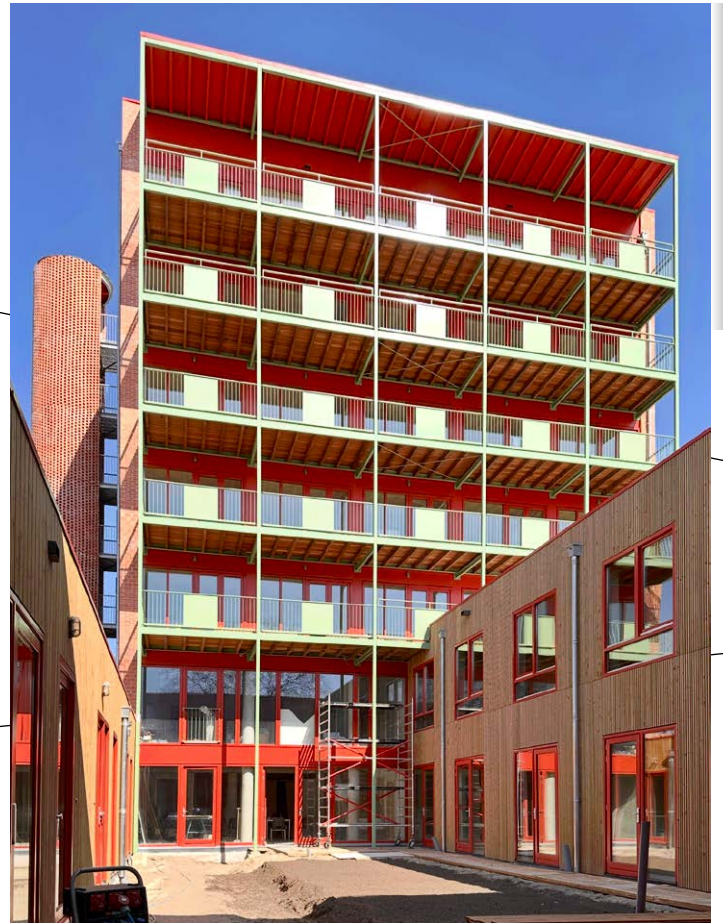


1.
← North facade of de Nieuwe Meent,
where the mural is located
↓ View from Science Park Station

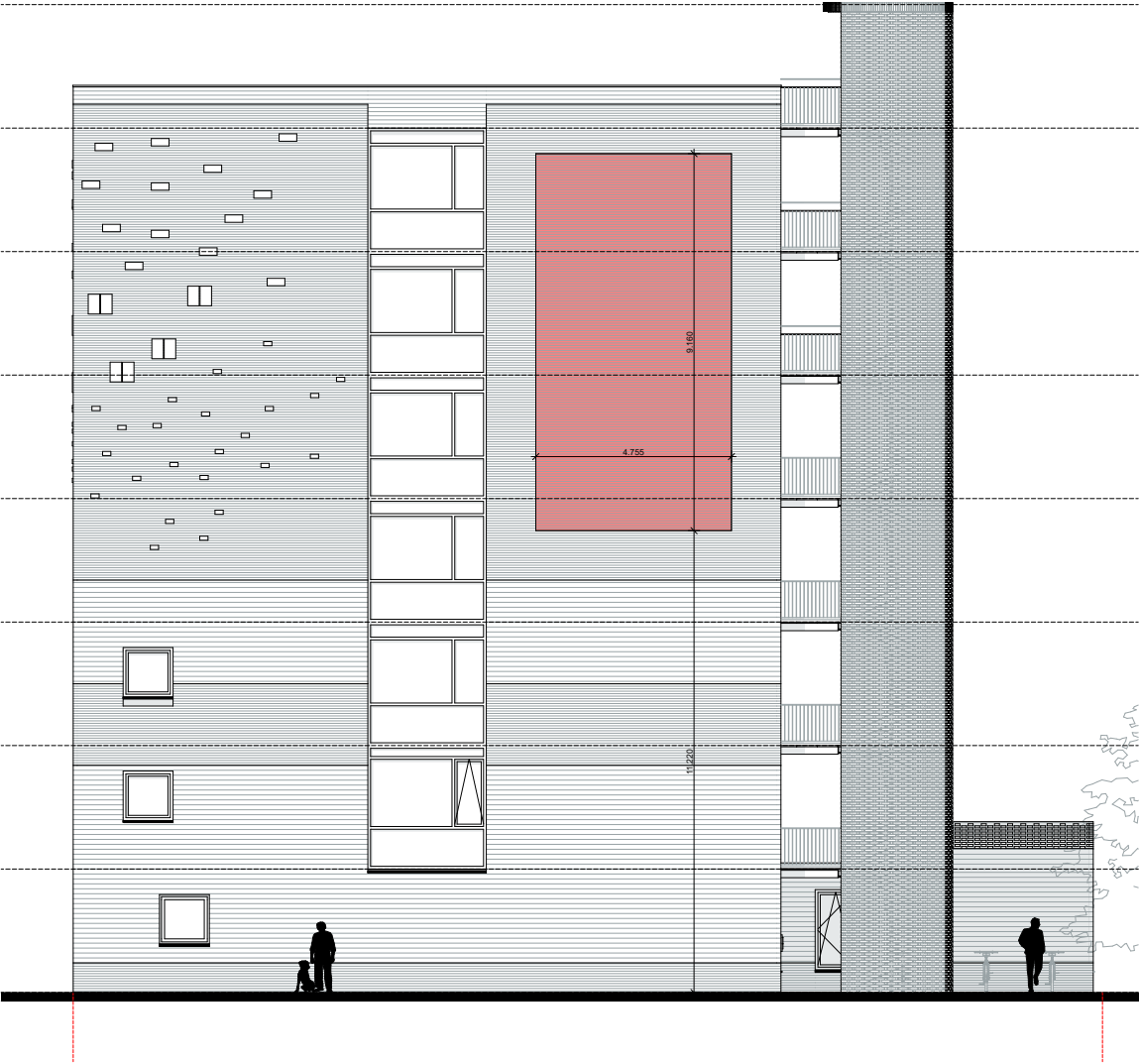


2. View of dNM from the Middenmeer area
ph. Ruben Dario Kleimeer

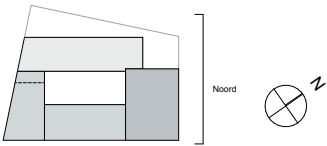




3. dNM, views of the building
ph. Ruben Dario Kleimeer



4. Technical plan of the North facade of dNM, where the mural is located.



5. Building specifications



red paint
(window frames)
RAL 3016
RGB 166, 61, 48



green paint
(balconies)
RAL 6021
RGB 138, 152, 119



double format bricks
200 x 100 x 110 mm

wallon format bricks
200 x 100 x 50 mm



wood cladding in spruce
(patio facades)
allowed to grey naturally