

## HONORABLE MENTION

# Tesselated Timber

**Category:** International Exhibit

**Exhibitor:** Müllerblaustein HolzBauWerke GmbH (Geiger Gruppe)

**Design/Fabrication:** Atelier Damböck Messebau GmbH, Neufinsing, Germany, 49-8121-975-0, damboeck.de

**Show:** BAU Munich, 2023

**Budget:** \$150,000 – \$249,000

**Size:** 46-by-33 feet

**H**ow does a giraffe get its spots? There's a complex mathematical equation at play: Toss a random assortment of points on a flat plane, and then expand outward from each at the same rate until you hit another. The tessellation fills the space with a mesmerizing and uneven elegance.

Voronoi diagrams like this have practical applications, but they occur everywhere in nature, including the distribution of melanin in giraffes and, in this case, the very cells in wood.

What better way to showcase the mastery of Müllerblaustein HolzBauWerke GmbH (Geiger Gruppe), one of Germany's leading timber engineering and construction companies?

Atelier Damböck Messebau senior vice president Nils Herfeldt was charged with designing a stand for Müllerblaustein's exhibit at BAU 2023, a show dedicated to architecture, materials, and systems. "During the design process, I woke up one night and had the idea to structure it like

the cells in wood," said Herfeldt. Not only did it help the exhibit stand out from other booths at the show, it delivered a sustainable and reusable environment that one EDA judge called "ingenious."

But executing a design of such complexity proved challenging. The facade is made from three layered plates cut 2.5 inches thick with a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine, essentially using similar technology to 3-D printers to cut wood. Locally sourced silver fir trees became 55-inch-wide parts connected by beams on the top and on the bottom.

The modular construction could be reused time and time again. What better way to show a company's values and skills than to make the invisible building blocks of life spectacularly visible? **E**

**Corey Plante**, contributing writer



PHOTOS: DESIGN FACTORY MUNICH