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The pumping station is situated in the northwest of the former inland port in Mainz. Due to structural changes to a new attractive city quarter, the surrounding area along the promenade gets revalued so the client made the decision for a sustainable design of this local future recreation area. There is no typology for pumping stations at all. However it was important to the architects to design a building which shows the function of a pumping station to its environment. The window and seamless building, in terms of an “architecture parlante” (C. N. Ledoux 1736–1806), is a pure and heavy monolith, resting on a vein of water regulating the stream. The surface of the charcoal grey concrete cube with folded sides and eaves edges was edited by masonry on its entire surface. Through the 30 mm deep rawness of the surface, nothing reminds on the conventional build-up process. The folded sides produce light and shaded edges and the rawness of the surface increases the interaction of sidelight, full covered illumination and shadows.

