The diverse production programme at the Design Factory has been extended with a new technique: anti-fingerprint coating of metal surfaces. In this process, sheets are coated with a thin, invisible, micro-layer of varnish. The coating thickness ranges between 1 and 4 microns, and this is firmly attached to the sheet. Since it is invisible, the surface characteristics of the particular sheet in terms of look and feel are retained. All kinds of metal surfaces such as stainless steel and aluminium look exactly as before but are resistant to fingerprints and marks of all kinds. In addition, the coating is UV resistant, withstands the salt spray test and is therefore suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

As a specialist in the area of surface finishing of stainless steel, the Design Factory GmbH, based in Sachsenheim, near Stuttgart, offers new possibilities for its high value products. Bright (mirror) polishing (No.8), effect blasting, grinding/brushing (now also vibration grinding and Hairline), PVD/TiN colour coating and anti-fingerprint coatings are now offered by the Design Factory from ultra-modern, innovative production facilities, which in part were designed specifically for the company.

The coating has the necessary forming properties so that there is no damage to the coating caused by folding, punching, or forming. Sheets up to 6,000 x 2,000mm, and up to 2mm thick can be coated. Also, various colour pigments can be added to the anti-fingerprint varnish allowing the metal surface to be coloured. The coating can be used on any kind of metal surface.

Vibration grinding is another new development in the area of surface processing at the Design Factory. Vibration grinding creates a uniform, non-directional grinding pattern on the stainless steel surface. Numerous variants of
Grain sizes from fine to coarse and different widths and configurations of the grinding lines mean that there are many different options for the Hairline finish. Sheet up to 2,000 x 6,000mm and from 0.5 to 6 mm thick can be processed.

**Other types of grinding**

All kinds of other ground finishes (lengthwise, criss-cross, diagonal, Duplo) up to 2,000 x 8,000 x 20mm are, of course, also part of the Design Factory range of products.

**Blast surfaces**

Blast surfaces have been a part of the Design Factory’s range of products for many years. Blasting is carried out in a directionless manner, homogeneously and cloud-free, retaining the flatness of the sheet. Moreover, each sheet is precisely reproducible according to the specifications stipulated. By using different grain sizes (very fine to coarse) and different machine settings, additional surface finish effects can be obtained. By modifying the production process, it is possible at the Design Factory to bead blast sheet as well as profiles and tubes in lengths up to 12,000mm. Sheet from 0.5 to 150mm as well as...
stampings and shapes up to a height of 150mm can be bead blasted on all surfaces. Decorative blasting is also possible, including logos, stripes, diamonds etc, in either a positive or negative format.

**Polished surfaces**

Surface polishing has been an area of activity for the Design Factory since 2005. Bright polished, mirror polished (No8) sheets and yacht quality are offered. A line designed specifically according to Design Factory requirements allows the large format polishing of stainless steel sheets up to a size of 2,400 × 12,000 × 15mm. Tubes can be polished up to 800mm diameter. A further speciality is the two-sided mirror polishing (No8) and the polishing of sheet edges in thicker plate sizes.

**PVD/(TiN) coating**

All surface finishes produced in-house and also all pattern rolled surfaces can be produced in colour using the PVD (TiN) coating process. The colour spectrum ranges from champagne to gold, copper, bronze and mocha up to black - further colours are possible on request. A shiny, stable surface quality turns each sheet into a very extraordinary product from an aesthetic point of view. The coloured layer is very hard and resistant to damage, and colour, corrosion and UV resistant. Here also, sheets up to a size of 2,000 × 6,000mm up to 3mm thick, can be pro-
processed without any difficulty.
“In our facilities, all important process combinations can be carried out in-house in Sachsenheim. We also have a comprehensive stock of all common dimensions. Even square and rectangular tubes are held in stock, polished, at the Design Factory in all common dimensions.

“Bars and round tubes can be produced with a polished surface finish with very short delivery times. This allows us to keep to strict delivery schedules. In addition we can also meet unusual customer requests quickly and flexibly,” Design Factory says.

“These capabilities, combined with a large number of designer surfaces and processes, make us an important partner for the sheet processing industry.”

The exclusive surfaces from the Design Factory can be seen today nationally and internationally on many often very prestigious building façades, shopping malls, lifts and shops, exhibition areas, artistic objects, and not least in modern kitchens and interior design, as well as in plant construction. Participation in various large-scale projects both inside and outside such as the Porsche museum in Stuttgart, the Louis Vuitton flagship store in Vienna, the Skyline Plaza Frankfurt and the Musée des Confluences in Lyon are just a few examples of the ever larger number of projects the company has been involved in. These are described in detail on the Design Factory website.

For the family-owned Design Factory excellent customer service and the highest quality products are the most important preconditions for a long-term relationship with customers.