

 CASE STUDY

Between daily work and centre stage

How C. Gerhardt transformed a proven laboratory into a flexible platform

Köttermann developed a demonstration and application laboratory for C. Gerhardt that translates safe fume hood technology, flexible media supply, and sustainable materials into a clear spatial concept. The room supports changing equipment setups and customer demonstrations in daily use.

01 STARTING SITUATION

An incident turns into an opportunity

A water leak in early 2023 presented C. Gerhardt with a practical question: Should the existing laboratory spaces simply be renovated, or did the situation offer an opportunity to fundamentally rethink the space? A new environment should support workflows more effectively and create ample space for knowledge transfer. Demonstrating customer applications live is a key focus.

Since the existing Köttermann equipment dated back to 1999 and had reliably served its purpose for around 25 years, the decision was made to carry out a comprehensive modernisation with the same equipment partner.

More space with representational areas and state-of-the-art equipment: A structural renovation resulted in a project that more closely integrates technology, spatial structure and use.

02 CHALLENGE

A room for many tasks

Daily life in the C. Gerhardt laboratory is multifaceted: demonstrations, training sessions, application activities, method development, and quality assurance. The new laboratory therefore needs to offer more than a traditional workspace.

- ✓ Precise work
- ✓ Present devices effectively
- ✓ Flexibly adaptable

THE COMPANY

C. Gerhardt has been developing and producing analytical systems and basic products for laboratory work since 1846. Products manufactured at the company headquarters in Königswinter are used in laboratories worldwide.

This family-run business combines analytical precision with durable technology and practical, application-oriented service. In its in-house demonstration and application laboratory, C. Gerhardt continues to develop new methods, using the facility as a central hub for exchange and knowledge transfer.



Concentrated work: Sample preparation and the weighing room are spatially separated.

03 SOLUTION

Flexibility as a foundation

The multiple roles of the laboratory spaces shaped the planning process, as did the fundamental requirements for durability and state-of-the-art technology to ensure sustainable operation. The Köttermann planners developed a spatial concept that translates these requirements into a bespoke interior design: an open-plan layout that offers maximum flexibility whilst still prioritising safety.



Walk-in fume cupboards

The walk-in fume cupboards can be flexibly fitted with equipment modules: protected areas for demanding processes.



Media bridges

The centralised media supply provides connections where they are needed, without wasting space or creating a tangle of cables.



Mobile workstations

Workflows or presentations can be reorganised without much effort, and equipment can be easily moved or exchanged.

The smaller laboratory rooms were set up according to their function: there is a separate area for sample preparation, and a separate weighing room provides the necessary quiet for precise work. The focus was on a laboratory layout that specifically supports communication and concentration.

04 IMPLEMENTATION

Thoughtful down to the last detail

The design followed a clear concept: to enable technically precise work while simultaneously providing a professional environment for customer visits and trainings. Bright surfaces, minimalist furnishings, and robust work surfaces create a clean and uncluttered atmosphere.

The equipment takes centre stage, whilst the laboratory equipment forms the backdrop. Discreet storage space, integrated into the workspace – beneath the fume cupboards and in the form of base and wall units beneath the worktops – organises the wide range of materials and associated accessories.

The powder-coated steel furniture is timelessly elegant and will withstand decades of use. Maintaining hygiene becomes effortless.



Open space structure: 135 m² for analysis, training and demonstration.

04 IMPLEMENTATION

TouchTronic: control all functions centrally

An important feature for day-to-day work is the digital TouchTronic control system for the laboratory fume cupboards. This was on C. Gerhardt's list of preferred equipment and helps to streamline workflows.



The digital control unit for laboratory fume cupboards combines all functions, clearly displays operating statuses and controls the exhaust air flow according to requirements – ensuring minimal energy consumption. Particularly handy in everyday use: the foot switch, which allows the fume cupboard to be opened even when your hands are full.



"The collaboration was always uncomplicated and smooth. Köttermann listened carefully, understood our needs and implemented even minor adjustments flexibly."

Björn Krüger, Laborleiter C. Gerhardt GmbH & Co. KG

05 RESULT

A laboratory that grows with its tasks

The modernisation has created a spatial layout that is in keeping with the company's role: C. Gerhardt develops analytical systems and shares knowledge – it is precisely this combination of application and presentation that is reflected in the laboratory's architecture today.

135 m²

Demonstration and application laboratory in Königswinter

3 roles

Workspace, training center and stage

1

central media bridge

iF 2026

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Everyday Uses

- ✓ Presentation area for instruments and demonstrations
- ✓ Simplified communication in open spaces
- ✓ Flexibility for a variety of applications and configurations

Sustainability

- ✓ Steel furniture, designed to last for decades
- ✓ Energy-efficient extract technology with digital control
- ✓ Reliable in the face of any challenge



YOUR LAB BEGINS WITH A CONVERSATION:

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