

PUSTEBLUME CENTRE

Location: Cologne, Germany
Designer: 100% Interior Sylvia Leydecker
Photography: Karin Hessmann
Area: 150 m²

Pustebume offers dancing, relaxation and gymnastics not for the rich and belles, but for the average ordinary people from children to singles to elderly people. Besides, "Pustebume" is well known for the social activities integrating disabled children in theatres and musicals. A former parish library had been transformed into their new rooms: 150 m² on two floors had to be carefully designed, to express its character. Pustebume appears colourful, positive thinking and quite "normal" (outstandingly normal...).

Low Budget

Limited space combined with low-budget-planning were the basics, but nevertheless resulting in an individual appearance. Despite the not very expensive layout, interior designer's standard recipes such as "whites let rooms appear bigger", are consciously ignored for the benefit of a special and well-feeling atmosphere. Pezziballs which have to be stowed away, are on display as decorative eyecatcher and safe space.

Normal – not the riches and belles

A representative of the "normality" of Pustebume is found in the entrance area. Lulu who just came from the playground – instead of a modeling-agency – is greeting visitors with a big smile. Another picture in the washroom, printed on tiles, shows elderly ladies from the neighbourhood, enjoying a ballgame. An 8m-megaprint shows dandelion (=Pustebume) flowers in unsharp brownshades as background for the relaxing main room.

Bright power-colours contrast relaxing soft and natural colour scheme

All rooms except the dancing-room itself, are covered in juicy colors – blue, green and pink. It's almost psychedelic, when it comes to violet and purple light reflections at the pink ceiling. The clear and impressive colour concept had been integrated in the design process just from the beginning instead of just painting it afterwards. The dance-studio has in contrast to the bright and

colourful scheme a very quiet and natural atmosphere. A soft and natural colour scheme is dominating the atmosphere. Translucent curtains in front of a large mirror provide beside protection an aircleaning effect.

Lights are inexpensive – recycled, low-budget, simple concept: as for the dressing-rooms recycled lights of the library where used, aisles are lit by simple strip lights – all placed carefully, low budget paperlamps in the main rooms are completed by downlights and wallwashers in the entrance area. Epoxy with ballotini-surface, tiny glassballs, covers the floors. Smudge-resistant latex is used on walls. Additives such as furniture are integrated very sparsely and consciously and not a single "designer-object" is found. The powerful overall concept proves that interior design is affordable for everybody and not exclusively limited to luxury. They just love it.

