

## AGING PROCESS

Many of the basic construction metals physically transform over time. As natural environmental conditions interact with the metal its surface changes in texture and color. Initially, a basic oxide layer is formed. With time, the oxide layer converts to a hydroxide and soon the hydroxide layer combines with other elements in the atmosphere. In the end, the surface of the metal has a stable mineral composition that is very resistant to further alteration. This aging process is apparent in natural aluminum, copper and the copper alloys, lead, steel and zinc. At Zahner, we have been perfecting the ability to accelerate and enhance the weathering process to bring the metal surface to a texture and color desired by our customers. For interior applications, we are able to apply inhibitors that will essentially “lock” the texture and color at a particular state.

The result of our efforts is a unique and very dynamic metal finish. By introducing interesting textures and application methods, we are able to enhance the metal surface even further. The results are far from a monotonous painted appearance; our finishes tend to reflect the natural beauty of the metal and its surrounding elements. Each finish is unique and expressive, consistent in overall context yet naturally variant.

Copper and zinc are probably the most expressive metals throughout the aging process. We have been able to achieve patinas on copper that range from rose colored to greenish blue to very rich black. With zinc we have succeeded in introducing a near white hue to rich browns and reds.