



Dear Mr. Niemeyer,

My name is Ludwig Koehne. I have been involved in business for 17 years. Together with my brother Tim I manage Kranunion, a group made up of three companies with a long tradition, Kirow, Ardel and Kocks. Our products are used worldwide on railway lines, in steelworks, shipyards and ports. We have around 500 employees. In Brazil we erected over 100 port cranes some 35 years ago. Some still line the road from Rio de Janeiro to Niterói. We recently provided the TKCSA steelworks with several heavy goods transporters and the first mobile ladle crane worldwide.

While securing this order, I especially gave myself a couple of days off to view first hand the museum in Niterói, Las Canoas, the ministries and the church in Brasilia. The buildings in the Port of Niterói were still under construction all those years ago. The individuality, freshness and stringency of your buildings impressed me greatly. They exude a vitality and joie de vivre which is very contagious.

Why am I writing to you?

We run a canteen which is located in a former workshop in a brick building built in 1927. It is special for two reasons: Firstly, the dining hall is very airy with a ceiling height of 6 m and is beautifully lit. Of even more importance, though, is the chef. He is a real restaurant chef who, in contrast to the food normally found in canteens, uses exclusively fresh ingredients in the preparation of the meals. Every day there is something different. Sometimes even fresh fish. The Kirow canteen is therefore not only extremely popular among the workforce, but also among external visitors.



Like every creative person, our chef aims higher. He seeks a challenge and would also like to experiment a little. To this end, it is vitally important that he has the right setting, that is to say the right space for fine cuisine and small celebrations. This setting should be somewhat smaller than the current dining hall, have an intimate and yet at the same time generous character, as well as have a special view.

The idea is to build a dining and dance room on the roof of the canteen building. Its precise location would be the front corner of the outer wall. From here it will have a beautiful panorama view and will also be seen from afar. The building could be accessed by a ramp, which would merge into an existing bridge. The technology for the kitchen or sanitary facilities do not need to be accommodated because they are already available in the surrounding area. The roof area can be included fully in the project. For example, a complementary roof landscape or roof garden could be created.

In particular the buildings you have built in recent years, including the extension for Florio Punter, have encouraged me to approach you about this small project: the panorama view, a curved building design, possibly elevated and with ramps. Your architecture simply is well-suited to this construction project.

As a crane construction company, we are also attracted by your approach regarding statics and of from time to time pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

I would be delighted if I could get you on board for our project. Please feel free to make any changes or suggestions.

Your sincerely,

Ludwig Koehne  
Managing Partner