The light frieze of the new building for the Kunstmuseum Basel produces its effect through the symbiosis of stone and light. Designed to be an integral part of the architecture, it subtly enlivens the building’s brick facade with words and graphic elements. The horizontal joints of the frieze are cast in shadow by the incident daylight, yet can be precisely lit by white LEDs. For the viewer, a play of light and shadow emerges, which is fleeting and yet seems to be as solid as the masonry itself.

Operating principle. Horizontal joints cast in shadow are partially illuminated by white LEDs.

Day mode. A shadow effect is used to display text.

Reflection on the bricks of the frieze creates an indirect light.

Evening mode. Text is now formed by the illuminated pixels.

The light frieze can also show graphics and animations.

The frieze operates during the opening hours of the museum from 10am – 6/8 pm.