Veyrins Thuellin, 13 September 2007

PRESS RELEASE

The HQE® approach is an integral part of the Mermet® Company's focus

Each year houses, buildings and offices alone release on average 7.85 billion tons of carbon dioxide: everyone is fully aware of the fact that the building industry is the biggest consumer of energy among all the economic sectors. The objective today is quite simple: reduce the quantity of energy consumed.
Through its participation in HQE® projects Mermet® has continuously shown its willingness to take up such a major challenge. Furthermore, the Scientific and Technical Centre for the Building Industry (CSTB) has chosen to promote such projects through the creation of a certification.

An ecological and sustainable project
In September 2006, the new ecological and sustainable Town Hall of the town of Echirolles (in the department of Isère) was unveiled: two floors, an 11-metre high atrium with its indoor street and garden ... This represented a wager in terms of technical expertise to comply with the High Environmental Quality standard.
Mermet®, which manufactures technical and decorative solar protection fabrics, has been contributing to passive temperature reduction for a number of years. The Echirolles project, which was elaborated by the CSTB to test HQE® certification, gave Mermet® the opportunity to prove that its fabrics comply with ecological and sustainable development requirements.
The key principle in a HQE® approach is the obligation to control temperatures as, since the summer of 2003, the ever-increasing presence of air-conditioning has had and continues to have far-reaching consequences on the environment. The 11-metre wide and 57-metre long glass roof of the Town Hall of Echirolles clearly highlights the essential role played by the Mermet® Company's solar protection fabrics.

Mermet®, the HQE® solution
The solar protection fabrics, which offer durability and are easy to clean and maintain, must not only reflect heat but also provide good natural light. The Sunscreen® Satiné 5500 blind fabric (colour 0202 white) from the new Mermet® Modulight® collection fully complies with these requirements in particular thanks to a proven controlled incoming light transmission and solar reflection. In addition, the diagonal weave allows for perfect glare control together with good visual comfort at any hour of the day.
The Mermet® solar blinds, which open out according to the light and temperature in the hall, take full advantage of the heat supply in the winter and offer protection in the summer.
The Mermet® solar panels are generally used outdoors to provide a better protection against the heat. In this particular project they use indoors stemmed from an original combination between solar protection and the air circulation system called "Canadian well". This system, which uses geothermics in a passive way by collecting air from the basement which is at a constant temperature (between 17°C and 19°C), allows for the building to be cooled down in the summer and heated in the winter due to natural ventilation. In simpler terms, the freshness is kept at the bottom of the atrium while the heat is evacuated through the top. The system as a whole (solar protection and Canadian well) offers a transition from an outdoor air temperature at 30°C to 22°C inside the building.

This environmental project, which included the participation of the Mermet® Company, has provided the CSTB with the possibility of testing a new certification system in the HQE® approach. The "NF Non-Residential Buildings - HQE® Approach" trademark on buildings proves that they have efficiently implemented the approach with significant results. The 2-year monitoring by the Addenda agency (Assistant to the contracting authority) of the building should enable it to be awarded with the "NF Non-Residential Buildings - HQE® Approach" trademark and to confirm once again the efficiency of the Modulight® collection fabrics in the face of ecological and sustainable development problems.

Mermet®, intelligent solutions
In addition to its maximum solar qualities, the Sunscreen® Satiné 5500 fabric was recommended by the architects of the project (Arcane Architectes) for its aesthetic, transparent, resistant and stability qualities. The composition of the fabric which is made from coated fibreglass yarns provide it with an excellent mechanical resistance together with perfect dimensional stability. These last points are moreover indispensable as the blinds have been installed on an inverted winding mechanism with two motors which are opposite one another for a perfect adjustment and tension of the blind.

Press contact: Agence Dépêches
Marine Armand/Florence Le Berre
+ 33 (0)437 490 202/depeches@wanadoo.fr

MERMET

Photos / Fotos : Shading Systems - DT Structures - Ilesstende - Architen Landrell Ltd

Product Reference:
Sunscreen® Satiné 5500 colour 0202 White

The 4 Modulight® Rapid'Selection comfort factors (scale from 1 to 40):
NL – Natural Light (level of incoming natural light) = 24 / Optimised light
EC – Eye Comfort (Controlling glare) = 16 / Medium glare control
HP – Heat Protection (Protection against heat) = 27 / Very good heat protection
CV – Contrast vision (Quality of outward visibility) = 16 / Good outward visibility

Parties involved in the project:

Commissioned architects:
Arcane Architectes
www.arcane-archi.fr

HQE® Technical Consultancy firm:
Etamine
www.bet-etamine.com

Manufacturer of blinds – fitter / blinds specialist
Alpes Bâches Stores
www.alpes-baches-stores.com