

PRESS RELEASE

## **Mermet at the *Musée de l'Homme*; light control subjected to the sternest of tests**

Protection against UV rays, light control, visual and thermal comfort... performance is once again the challenge for Mermet, a market leader in the design of technical fabrics for the solar protection sector.

Wishing to open the museum up to its environment, the architects of the brand new *Musée de l'Homme* in Paris selected the M-Screen 8505 fabric.

### **The central issue: protecting the exhibits**

Partly dating back to the Universal Exhibition of 1878 and located at the heart of the Palais de Chaillot in an east-west orientation, the *Musée de l'Homme* has just reopened its doors after 6 years of construction work.

A metamorphosis for this building classified as a Historical Monument which the architects wanted to expose to space and light: "*We have made a number of small incisions into this building to give it a new clarity, while seeking to maintain the viewing experience and ensuring the preservation of the exhibits*", says Olivier Brochet, lead architect\*.

And it has been a great success. In addition to successfully rising to the challenge of respecting both the building and the history of the institution, a magnificent perspective has been created alongside the spectacular views over the Seine and the Eiffel Tower.

As well as returning to the original glazing, at the heart of the museum the project called for the creation of the Gallery of Mankind covering 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> and benefitting from natural lighting provided by large bay windows punctuating the open space.

These large windows are also equipped with interior blinds fitted to a double ceiling rail, designed to:

- highlight the ambitious simplicity of the renovations;
- form a transparent, unobtrusive and modular partition;
- encourage the concentration of visitors;
- contribute to the planned museum experience by bringing visitors away from the large bay windows and directing them towards the more intimate interior spaces;
- protect the exhibited collections from sunlight.

### **M-Screen, the high-performance decorative solution**

Available in 36 colours and several lengths (200 cm, 250 cm) and an extra-wide 320 cm for 13 colours in the range, the M-Screen 8505 is currently the most "decor-friendly" of all the Mermet fabrics.

In addition to its aesthetic qualities, it is also its excellent performance that makes it stand out:

- 5% openness factor provides effective glare protection while offering optimum transparency;
- With M1 fire classification, the M-Screen 8505 meets all the requirements for public buildings;
- Thanks to its composition of coated glass fibre, it has high mechanical resistance, good dimensional stability and excellent durability (10,000-cycle mechanical endurance test: Class 3 EN 13120).

For this project, the colour 0202 White was selected:

- for its heat control properties, reflecting back up to 75% of the solar energy (g<sub>tot</sub> = 0.25 / glazing g = 0.32 and U = 1.1);
- to optimise the intake of natural light: 79% of light rays are filtered (VLT = 21%) and to protect the exhibits with 95% of UV blocked out;
- it has received architectural approval from *Bâtiments de France* for its ability to be inserted within the architecture of the museum.

60 blinds of 1350 cm x 1350 cm were manufactured and subsequently fitted by the company CYB Stores.

Revealing works of art to the broad daylight, exposing fragile collections to the sun's rays?

After the Museum of Toulouse, the Gadagne Museum in Lyon, and recently the *Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération* in Paris and the future Louvre in Abu Dhabi... with the *Musée de l'Homme* Mermet has once again demonstrated the effectiveness of its fabrics.

Today's solar protection places no limits on the heart's desires: perhaps the dawning of a new era for museography.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contracting authority: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle – Musée de l'Homme – Palais de Chaillot</li><li>• Designated project manager: OPPIC</li><li>• *Lead architect: Brochet Lajus Pueyo</li><li>• Associate architect: Emmanuel Nebout</li><li>• Blind manufacturer – Installer – Fitter: CYB Stores</li><li>• Museography: Zen + Dco</li><li>• Technical consultants: Setec Bâtiment</li><li>• Lighting: Grandeur Nature</li><li>• Construction economics: Alain Mazet</li><li>• Photo credits: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle / Musée de l'Homme - O.P.P.I.C. - P. Tourneboeuf/Tendance Floue - Agence Brochet Lajus Pueyo - Atelier Emmanuel Nebout - CYB STORES - Mermet S.A.S.</li></ul> |
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