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PRESS RELEASE

The high performance of Mermet® serving the new Museum of Toulouse.

On 26 January 2008, the Museum of Toulouse re-opened its doors to the public. After being closed for 10 years, the new architectural features impressed visitors. It is a unique creation of the practice of Jean Paul Viguier, which called on the international experience of Mermet®.

Mermet®, a manufacturer of hi-tech and decorative fabrics for solar protection, has once again shown its mastery and know-how in a large-scale project; 2,000 m² of fabrics, installed under the atrium windows and inside the double skin façade, protect the skeletons and other masterpieces of the Museum from light.

State-of-the-art technology in public places.

Combining the requirements of the public with scenography requires the best possible design. Transparency, control of natural light and glare, heat control, etc... the Mermet® range allows for all possible effects to be achieved.

The Louvre Museum, the Museum of Roman Art (Lisbon), the Guggenheim Museum (Bilbao), the Prado Museum (Madrid), the Getty Museum (Los Angeles), etc. Thanks to the research carried out by its team, Mermet® has already become a first-choice partner in prestigious international projects.

New: a double skin envelope for floating skeletons

Bay windows enclose the bones of the skeletons that make up the façades of the exhibition halls. The architect designed a 'shop window' using Japanese walls in Mermet® fabric: fabrics which do not undulate and which express all the beauty of the great curved glassed-in windows.

With 2 lines of Mermet® fabrics installed inside the 'breathing' double-skin envelope, each 60 cm thick, the animal skeletons are:

- protected from damage by outside sunlight,
- visible from outside and inside alike (as a backlit image), thanks to the transparency of Mermet® fabrics,
- enhanced aesthetically by the choice of dark green colouring.

Mermet® takes it one step further. A thermal study of the double skin façade, organised by the architectural practice, recommended the use of fabrics with different openings depending on their positions. Therefore a set of fabrics was proposed: from the most closed at the bottom of the building (M-Screen 8503) to the most open at the top (E-Screen 7510), all in the same 3051 Charcoal Huntergreen colour.

This set of openings makes it possible to give the ground floor:

- excellent glare control,
- a low level of natural light to respect the scenographic settings of the objects,
- improved heat protection.

On the other hand, the opening of the fabric on the 2nd floor allows for:

- a clear increase in natural light,
- better ventilation to remove heat.

An atrium window in E-Screen 7510 in the room 'Le Grand Carré'

Made up of a 16-metre high atrium window, the ceiling of the *Grand Carré* is also supplemented by Mermet® fabrics, stretched on frames. This time, the E-Screen 7510 0202 White was selected for the enhancement of natural light. This great hall, with open access, needed to have excellent lighting while preventing glare.

With their energy-saving properties, and stability over time, Mermet® fabrics use various technologies for optimal efficiency and are adaptable to all requirements. Especially for architecture using glazed surfaces, Mermet®'s expertise has been an indispensable advantage, for which the Museum of Toulouse forms a remarkable shop window.

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Product data sheet

References

In the exhibition halls:

- **M-Screen 8503**, colour 3051 Charcoal Huntergreen

Its **4 indexes of comfort of the Modulight® Rapid'Selection** (scale from 1 to 40):

NL - Level of incoming light = 10 / Low light

EC - Glare control = 27 / Good glare control

HP - Heat protection = 11 / Poor heat protection

CV - Outward visibility quality = 17 / Good outward visibility

Fire classification: M1, BS 476 Pt 6 Class 0, FR, AS 1530-2/3, C UNO

UV screen : up to 98%

- **E-Screen 7510**, colour 3051 Charcoal Huntergreen

Its **4 indexes of comfort of the Modulight® Rapid'Selection** (scale from 1 to 40):

NL - Level of incoming light = 17 / Optimised light

EC - Glare control = 23 / Good glare control

HP - Heat protection = 10 / Poor heat protection

CV - Outward visibility quality = 31 / Very good outward visibility

Fire classification: M1, BS 476 Pt 6 Class 0, FR, AS 1530-2/3, C UNO

UV screen : up to 90%

Quantity of fabrics: 397 Japanese walls (automatic or manual)

Dimensions of the Japanese walls: 940 mm wide, heights varying from 2100 mm to 4350 mm

In the Grand Carré:

- **E-Screen 7510**, colour 0202 Blanc

Its **4 indexes of comfort of the Modulight® Rapid'Selection** (scale from 1 to 40):

NL - Level of incoming light = 28 / Optimised light

EC - Glare control = 8 / Poor glare control

HP - Heat protection = 21 / Good heat protection

CV - Outward visibility quality = 27 / Very good outward visibility

Quantity of fabrics: 100 fixed frames

Fabric dimensions: 1500 mm wide x 3000 mm drop

Participants

Client:

- Toulouse City Hall - www.toulouse.fr

Architects:

- Jean Paul Viguier SA D'Architecture - www.viguier.com
- Delegated Architect: LCR - tel: 05.34.27.37.27

Manufacturer of blinds:

- ATES - www.ates-mhz.com

Carpentry / Aluminium work:

- REALCO - realco@realco.fr

