

## PRESS RELEASE

**Mermet weaves the sky over Barcelona with the Puig Tower**

Present the world over, Mermet, market leader in the design of coated glass yarns, once again proves its expertise and experience in the solar protection field.

Since September this year, the French company has been supplying a prestigious project, the Puig Tower, which rises high into the skies over Barcelona and is being fitted out with blinds made from the **5500 Metal** fabric, renowned for its technical, environmental and design qualities.

**Between light and transparency under the Barcelona sun**

The fruit of collaboration between Rafael Moneo, Lucho Martial and GCA Arquitectos Asociados, the Puig Tower, covering some 23,000m<sup>2</sup> at ground level, has been designed to become the head office of the family company of the same name and to celebrate its centenary at the same time.

A flagship for the brand, a historical name in the world of luxury goods, the tower grabs the attention through its originality, modernity and innovative features. Located in the new business district of Barcelona on the *Plaça Europa*, the 21-floor tower is drenched in sunlight, day in and day out.

This was a key design factor in order to ensure optimum working conditions.

Created in the shape of a prism, the building plays with the light in 2 different ways:

- Oblique and translucent sunshields form a permanent pattern over the building's façade,
- 860 interior blinds made from *5500 Metal* (5,900m<sup>2</sup> in total) provide excellent glare control and optimum thermal protection.

Regarding the grey shade selected, in this case chosen to reduce the percentage of light transmission (Tv), it maintains a comfortable level of natural light and offers greater transparency, providing very clear outside visibility.

While benefiting from the same performance levels as the *Satiné 5500* fabric, the metallic reflective face of *5500 Metal* further accentuates thermal and optical performance, reaching unequalled levels of effectiveness for a dark shade used on an interior blind.

And, in addition to its intrinsic qualities, the fabric provides a perfect aesthetic marriage with the grey façade thanks to the seamless integration of the metallic effect within the overall building.

**5500 Metal, the fruit of Mermet's R&D, for interior and exterior applications in large width sizes**

Mermet enjoys unique know-how in terms of the manufacture of metallic fabrics. It's a capacity for innovation and an expertise which enables the *5500 Metal* to:

- offer the special properties of the original fabric, the *Satiné 5500*,
- remain unsurpassed by any other product on the market.

When the *5500 Metal* is selected by the greatest architects, it's because it is still **the only metallic screen fabric on the market available in large width sizes for interior and exterior applications**. Exclusive properties:

- **for both interior and exterior:**
  - its 285cm large width size has proved invaluable for large bay windows thanks to its excellent dimensional stability,
  - it filters up to 97% of light rays (Tv = 3%) for perfect glare control,
  - it blocks out up to 98% of UV light,
  - it benefits from a non-inflammable classification (M1 and B1), Oeko-Tex Standard 100 class IV and Greenguard<sup>®</sup>,
  - it is available in four colours: in addition to the Grey chosen here, there is also Pearl, Flax or White.
- **or specific to exterior applications:**
  - it offers excellent resistance to weather extremes,
  - it improves on the solar reflection of the *Satiné 5500* by some 32%, for greater thermal comfort with the best *gtot* value ever recorded: up to 92% of solar energy reflected back as an exterior blind. It has a class IV rating (very good effect) under the EN 14501 standard and less than 0.10 using the French *RT 2012* standard.

By softening the effects of the Barcelona sun, Mermet has once again proven its ability to offer specific solutions to any challenge demanding the harmonisation of visual comfort and thermal protection.

At a time when energy consumption is a major concern for us all, using the *5500 Metal* also makes it possible to gain credits in eco-efficient and eco-designed building programmes (LEED or Breeam, Passiv Haus, DGNB, HEQ, etc.). An approach not to be ignored in current times!