



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

## **GKD metal fabric gives racecourse a golden glow**

The Longchamp Racecourse in Paris is steeped in tradition. In redesigning the venue, French architect Dominique Perrault chose gold-colored metal fabric from GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG for the cladding of the façades, walls, and interior ceilings. The famous racecourse in the heart of Paris is the venue for one of the most prestigious horse races in the world. Thanks to the redesign, however, it has now also become an attractive open-air stage for events aimed at a broader and younger audience. The core element of the venue is its four-story grandstand, which Perrault gave a silhouette reminiscent of a galloping racehorse. By doing so, he created an organic connection between the 160-meter long stands and the landscape of the neighboring Bois de Boulogne, as well as establishing the infrastructure required for horse racing. The shelf-like design of the grandstand, which is open at both the front and the rear, therefore grants 360-degree views of the stables, parade ring, racecourse, and park landscape.

This concept of visual openness is underlined by story-height, horizontally movable solar protection elements made of golden Escale 7 x 1.5 stainless steel fabric. Installed on the stage and pavilions along the representative stairway at the main entrance, the sliding shutters made of spiral mesh convey a sense of Mediterranean elegance. The open fabric structure gently filters daylight and allows it into the interior rooms, while also granting the guests unrestricted views of the picturesque surroundings. Providing effective solar protection, the three-meter high and 1.70-meter wide movable panels support the venue's sophisticated energy concept, which complies with the HQE Standard (Haute Qualité Environnementale) throughout. To improve the room acoustics in the corridors of the grandstand, characterized by reverberant glass and concrete surfaces, Perrault selected acoustically



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effective AMP fabric from GKD. The large-format golden ceiling elements optimize the reverberation time and underline the spaciousness of the corridors. Perrault combined panels made of golden spiral fabric, suspended vertically from the ceiling, with huge chandeliers, whose slick tubes and cables are reminiscent of a horse's harness. Large-format wall hangings made from the same golden Escale 7 x 1 fabric also clad the walls above the windows in the Salon Présidentiel. The textile structure of the metal fabric softens the height of the room and lends it a sense of elegant comfort.



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