



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

ParisLongchamp: New icon in horse racing

Golden GKD metal fabric for Paris' polished jewel

The famous ParisLongchamp racecourse in the heart of Paris has been given a new face. Based on a design by Dominique Perrault, the venue received a four-floor grandstand, the stylized form of which is reminiscent of a galloping racehorse. When designing the façades, walls, and interior ceilings, Perrault selected various metal fabrics from GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG.

The origins of the Longchamp racecourse date back to the 19th century. Every year in October, it plays host to the *Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe*, which attracts 60,000 visitors and is broadcast in over 200 countries. With the redesign, the operators were keen to make the venue more attractive to a broader and younger audience. Another objective was to ensure that it could be used flexibly, so as to attract smaller race meetings and open air events. In keeping with this concept, equal emphasis was placed on convenience and sustainability, and the desire for architecture that creates an identity and respects the venue's illustrious history. Perrault lent the architecture the desired distinctiveness by integrating and transforming the surrounding landscape of the famous Bois de Boulogne park. Starting from the guiding principles of *movement* and *transparency*, he had the existing stands and a number of buildings located across the site demolished. This provided him with the space needed for the 160-meter-long grandstand and various pavilions, which provide the infrastructure required for horseracing events. Various historic buildings, such as the totalizator, administration building, and stables, were also renovated and extended in line with his concept.



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Movable solar protection

The core element of the hippodrome is the shelf-like design of the grandstand that is open at both the front and the back, offering up a 360° view of the stables, parade ring, racecourse, and landscape of the surrounding Bois de Boulogne park. The open, slightly offset, and twin-angled floors form an approximately 20-meter-long overhang toward the finish line, which lends the stand the appearance of a racehorse in motion. The use of natural tones such as ocher and brown, as well as the wood-clad spectator terraces, help the huge structure to blend in with its environment. There is a tree-lined wooden boulevard that runs over five kilometers, connecting all the establishments on the site with one another and inviting visitors to stroll among the greenery. Ceiling-high, horizontally movable solar protection elements made of golden stainless steel fabric lend the stand and pavilions along the representative stairway a sense of elegance and Mediterranean lightness. Thanks to its open structure, the ESCALE 7x1.5 spiral mesh gently filters daylight and allows it into the rooms, creating unrestricted views out of the facility. The sliding shutters also prevent the rooms from becoming too warm and thereby support the venue's sophisticated energy concept, which complies with the HQE Standard (Haute Qualité Environnementale) throughout.

Ceiling and wall cladding

For the ceilings of the passages in the stand, Perrault selected acoustically effective CMP mesh from GKD. The large-format elements made of aluminum mesh improve both acoustic comfort and speech intelligibility in the corridors, otherwise characterized by reverberant concrete and glass, and create a monolithic effect. For visual structuring of the spacious floors, Perrault combined vertically suspended fabric panels made of gold-anodized



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ESCALE 7x1 with huge chandeliers, whose slick tubes and cables are reminiscent of a horse's harness. He also used the same fabric type to clad the walls in the *Salon Présidentiel* above the row of windows to make the room appear less tall and provide a sense of elegant comfort. Since its reopening in April this year, the ParisLongchamp racecourse has been a successful synthesis of tradition and innovation that also sets leading standards on the international stage.



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interior design made of metal fabrics) and Mediamesh[®] (Transparent media façades). With its headquarter in Germany and five other facilities in the US, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in France, Spain, Dubai and worldwide representatives, GKD is close to markets anywhere in the world.

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