



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

The brightest students and the brightest colours at the EPFL

Black base allows *Bâtiment iPod* to seemingly float

As a genuine "talent foundry", the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland trains top students from across the globe in the disciplines of engineering and architecture. French architect Dominique Perrault transformed the former university library, which today functions as a central administration and service building, into a colourful postulate on reclaiming public space. Large, movable solar protection elements made of black-coated stainless steel mesh from the leading international technical weaving mill GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG play a key part in unleashing the full effect of the colourful façade.

Glass panels spanning the entire height of the building in lucid yellow, orange, red, blue and green alternate with dark-tinted windows to divide the glass façade into vertical columns of equal width. Perrault then underlines this expressive effect by using black (non-colour) coated solar protection elements made of Escale 7 x 1 stainless steel mesh. A total of 37 solar protection elements – all of which can be moved horizontally by hand – divert soft daylight into the cafeteria of the EPFL and grant unrestricted views of the world outside. The large-format elements, which were applied with a black coating for the first time ever, are 1.20 / 2.40 metres wide and 3.60 metres high. They are attached horizontally and vertically to steel frames, also finished in black, using eyebolts. Since they are movable, the solar protection elements really bring the black area to life without compromising its overall reserved and sophisticated impression. Alongside their role in regulating the



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room climate, they also provide a functional and reliable form of protection against break-ins and vandalism.

GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE

As a privately owned technical weaver, GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG is the world market leader in metal, synthetic and spiral mesh solutions. Four independent business divisions bundle their expertise under one roof: Industrial Mesh (woven metal mesh and filter solutions), Process Belts (belts made of mesh and spirals), Architectural meshes (façades, safety and 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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