

Press release

Dornbirn, February 2012

HDI Hanover

Energy-efficient interplay of daylight and artificial lighting in offices



Growing staff numbers and the desire to bring various office locations together under one roof was the reason why the HDI-Gerling property insurance group commissioned a new group head office building in the north-eastern outskirts of Hanover. The architectural competition launched for this purpose was won by ingenhoven architects, who designed an administrative building with a floor space of 75,000 m², including a central atrium and office wings arranged like the sails of a windmill. The discreet elegance of the building immediately strikes the eye. “We did not want to build a palace for our company”, says chairman of the Board Christian Hinsch during the presentation of the new six-storey building for 1,850 staff members, “but we shouldn’t hide our light under a bushel either.”

It was important to the building owners that the building was adequately sized, designed in an aesthetically pleasing way and provided workplaces of equivalent quality, but they also wanted the building to consume as little energy and resources as possible. The essential components of the environmentally

compatible building concept comprise triple glazing, thermally activated ceilings



and parapets, recuperators connected to the atrium intended to act as a climate buffer, the utilisation of geothermal energy for heating and cooling – and all the offices were fitted with energy-efficient, flexible lighting solutions by Zumtobel.

Interior spaces flooded by daylight

Ground floor areas with room-height glass walls and meticulously planned open spaces anchor the office wings into the surrounding landscape and lend the structure of the building a light, transparent look, an impression that is only reinforced on entering the atrium. The sweeping glass façades and the glass roof supported on an elegant steel structure produce an interior space that is bathed in light, housing a reception and event area for up to 1,500 visitors, a cafeteria and an informal meeting point as well as providing the central interface with the directly adjacent office floors.

Capsule-shaped building cores with emergency stairs, adjoining rooms and meeting points mark out the transition between the atrium and office premises on each floor. The architects designed the stub-shaped office corridors that branch off from here with room-height glass walls throughout, in keeping with HDI's corporate culture of openness. Low windowsills and glazed façades allow daylight to penetrate deep inside the building.



Artificial lighting solution for all task areas

The design brief for the office lighting concept developed through close liaison between Zumtobel, Tropp Lighting Design and the architects was to develop an aesthetically attractive, flexible, intelligently controllable and efficient lighting solution that had to work in all office premises without any supplementary luminaires. A total of 3,996 double-length Ecoos pendant luminaires positioned



along the room axes were used. In combination with a modern lighting control unit, it is easy to add just the right amount of artificial lighting, as required. The fact that control units can be used in any office at any time to

individually override pre-set automatic system actions was an essential factor in securing user acceptance.

Flexibility and energy efficiency even for future room configurations

Easy installation/removal of modular Ecoos pendant luminaires also creates the best basis for responding to any future changes in floor plan configurations such as dividing large spaces up into smaller units. A variant model with additional centrally and laterally located LED downlights is used to realise special lighting scenes in Management Board rooms and several larger conference rooms.

Ecoos proves to be a particularly energy-saving luminaire thanks to the mix of direct, indirect and lateral light components. The fluorescent lamps fitted provide high light output levels and pleasant light colours in the direct light component. This is



beneficially counterbalanced by the luminaire's diffuser optic, which ensures uniform, indirect illumination of the ceiling and room. Tried-and-tested MPO+ technology provides additional flexibility, as it reduces any glare produced by

the light source; accordingly the luminaire can also be installed directly above the workstation.

In principle, all the planning for HDI's group head office was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). As the owner/occupier, the client nevertheless ultimately opted to dispense with any official certification procedure, which, among other reasons, ensured that the financial resources this freed up could be used to realise other ecological measures. Less prestigious areas, such as emergency staircases, have reaped the benefit of this indirectly with their aspirational design featuring exposed high-grade concrete and flush-fitted Linaria luminaires.

Zumtobel. The Light.

Fact box:

Client:

HDI Gerling AG, Hanover/D

Architects:

Ingenhoven architects,

Düsseldorf/D

Lighting design:

Tropp Lighting Design GmbH,

Weilheim/D

Electrical design:

ZWP Ingenieur-AG, Cologne/D

Electrical installations:

Bauer Elektroanlagen GmbH, Halle (Saale)/D



Lighting solution: Zumtobel

ECOOS pendant luminaires, SUPERSYSTEM LED lighting system, MIREL recessed luminaires, LINARIA batten luminaires, RESCLITE LED emergency luminaires

Brief profile

The Zumtobel brand is a leading international supplier of integral lighting solutions that enable people to experience the interplay of light and architecture. As a leader in innovation, the luminaire manufacturer provides a comprehensive range of high-quality luminaires and lighting management systems for the most varied application areas of professional interior lighting – including offices and educational facilities, retail and presentation, hotels and wellness, health and care, art and culture as well as industry and engineering. Zumtobel is a brand of the Zumtobel AG group with its head office in Dornbirn, Vorarlberg (Austria).

Captions:

B1_ A workplace designed to foster a sense of well-being: state-of-the-art architecture and lighting deliver excellent lighting quality and an appropriate feel-good ambience in HDI's new administration building.

B2_ Care was taken to achieve a harmonious interplay of colours, materials and light in lounge areas such as the canteen. Warm woody hues, inconspicuously recessed ceiling luminaires and coloured accent lighting leave plenty of room for agreeable discussions and inspirational breaks.

B3_ A look of openness: abundant glass, daylight and intelligent artificial lighting bring a contemporary, feel-good ambience to the office premises.

B4_ The Ecoos direct/indirect luminaire fascinates with its gently curved design and harmonious all-round 360° light distribution. A unique combination of direct, indirect and lateral light components increases visual comfort and also saves energy.

B5_ Particularly efficient: Ecoos pendant luminaires

For more information, please contact:



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