

Longchamp Hippodrome

Paris, France

The origins of the Longchamp racecourse date back to the 19th century. However, numerous remodeling and extension projects have led to a rather non-transparent network of buildings and areas. Perrault therefore proposed tearing down the existing stands, as well as multiple buildings spread across the site, to create space for a new grandstand and pavilions that would secure the infrastructure required at a horse racing venue. Various historic buildings – including the administration building, stables and totalizator – were also renovated and extended in line with his concept.

The colours selected for the buildings – natural tones such as ocher and brown – as well as the wooden-clad spectator terraces help the huge building structure blend in with its environment. When designing the façades, Perrault once again put his faith in the various metallic fabrics offered by GKD.

For the horizontally movable, full-height solar protection elements of the grandstand and pavilions that flank the representative stairway up to the main entrance of Paris Longchamp, he selected golden stainless steel fabric of the type ESCALE 7x1.5. It's spirals create interesting light effects throughout the seasons. When closed the panels, which measure more than

three meters in height and 1.70 meters in width, protect the stand from becoming uncomfortably hot, thereby supporting the building's sophisticated energy concept. The structure, like all of the hippodrome's other new buildings, complies with the HQE standard (Haute Qualité Environnementale).

At the same time, the open fabric structure gently filters daylight and allows it into the rooms, creating bright and pleasant spaces. Thanks to their unrestricted outward views, the solar protection panels also meet the explicit aim of transparency. At night, interior lighting grants views into the building from the outside through the metallic membrane. During daylight hours, the shimmering membrane engages in a delicate dialog with the natural environment and lends the stand a sense of Mediterranean lightness thanks to its warm shade of gold.

ParisLongchamp therefore breaks away the old pattern of classic racecourses and instead focuses on networking the poles of sports and events, nature and prestige, innovation and tradition to create a unique world of experiences that can more than hold its own in international comparisons.

Environment:	park side
Material:	gold coloured 316 stainless steel
Manufacturer:	GKD Escale 7*1.5
Architects:	Dominique Perrault
Photographs:	Dominique Perrault
More information:	gkd.de or impetus-pr.de



