

Systematic success

New metallic mesh products well received

With promising contacts and project inquiries, GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG (GKD) can look back at the BAU 2013 trade fair with a sense of satisfaction. The leading international manufacturer of woven solutions made from metal and other weaveable materials presented not one, but four new products at the world's leading architecture trade fair in Munich. Alongside the new generation of transparent media facades employing two different technologies, these also included systems for balustrades and roller shutters, as well as grid-free ceiling systems made of composite elements. The positive feedback on the comprehensive range of products offered confirmed GKD's more pronounced focus as a system supplier. "The quality of the discussions and contacts was significantly higher than in previous years," emphasises Hans Michael Link, General Manager Business Unit CreativeWEAVE.

This assessment was also confirmed by the event organisers, as the approximately 235,000 visitors to this year's BAU fair included over 50,000 architects and planners. By submitting inquiries on the GKD stand regarding various concrete construction projects, the specialist audience also reflected the economic upturn being enjoyed in the sector.

Transparent media facades

The presentation of the transparent Mediamesh media facade system attracted a great deal of interest. The new generation – available with six LEDs per pixel or innovative RGB-SMDs for indoor and outdoor applications – is the perfect solution for any facade and can be individually

customised. The system presented at the trade fair with three RGB-SMDs per pixel made company logos, graphics and moving images come to life even from great distances and attracted many interested visitors to the stand.

Premium provider of ceiling systems

The ceiling systems from GKD, presented for the first time at the BAU 2011, once again proved to be a crowd puller and attracted many high-level interior designers. The Silentmesh acoustic ceiling system combines the attractive appearance of metallic mesh with pleasant room acoustics. Equipped with either a highly effective sound absorption mat or tested acoustic fleece, woven ceiling panels reduce the reverberation time in rooms and optimise speech intelligibility. The most recent development, which uses composite elements for large-area applications, also attracted particular interest. The aluminium honeycomb supporting plates with a mesh surface layer allow an absolutely flat surface to be created with a monolithic effect, while an intermediate layer of acoustic fleece improves room acoustics.

Elegant roller shutters

Various designs of motorised roller shutter systems were further visual highlights on the GKD trade fair stand. The sophisticated Tigris stainless steel mesh structure is particularly well suited to interior applications at airports, restaurants or shopping centres. In the exterior area, a robust construction of Licorne mesh guards against undesired access. An additional eyecatcher on the side wall of the trade fair stand was a woven Licorne mesh curtain. The flowing, glossy texture of this material caused many visitors to touch and try out the curtain, which was attached to the ceiling of the stand with a smooth-running rail system.

New balustrade system

Although the other exhibits clearly impressed visitors, the silent hero of the GKD trade fair stand was the new Safemesh balustrade system. As a prefabricated system, made up of panelled mesh, frames, point fittings, posts and handrails, it combines reliable safety and robustness with low maintenance and different degrees of transparency based on the mesh type selected.

The spectrum of system solutions on the GKD stand motivated visitors to enter into discussions on concrete projects while at the fair. The specialist audience also had much praise for the trade fair stand itself, which made intelligent use of the full bandwidth of systems on display. In individual discussions with architects and planners, the expert consultants from GKD were even able to find new inspiration for further development of products and systems. "Thanks to the many excellent discussions, as well as interesting project inquiries from home and overseas, this year's BAU fair was a resounding success for us," summarises Thomas Holtkötter, Manager Market Development at GKD.

4,395 characters incl. spaces

GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG

The owner-run technical weaver GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG is the global market leader for metal and plastic woven solutions. Under the umbrella of GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE the company combines four independent business units: SOLID WEAVE (industrial meshes), WEAVE IN MOTION (process belt meshes), CREATIVE WEAVE (architectural meshes) and CompactFiltration (compact filter systems). With its eight plants – including the headquarters in Germany and other facilities in the US, Great Britain,

France, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in Spain, Dubai, Qatar and worldwide representatives, GKD is never far from its customers.

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