

Innovative Design for Museums

Innovatives Museumsdesign

John French, Director and Chairman of Click Netherfield Ltd., one of the world's leading international museum showcase manufacturers, reflects on the use of anti-reflective glass in displays in museums.

John French, Direktor und Vorsitzender von Click Netherfield, einem der weltweit führenden Hersteller von Schaukästen und Vitrinen, über den Einsatz von entspiegeltem Glas in Museen.

CHRISTINE FUHR

solutions: Mr. French, please say a few words about your company.

French: We are an innovative company that focuses on manufacturing museum display cases and design solutions.

solutions: What do you consider to be your most important success factors?

French: Because we have such a narrow focus, we have become very good at what we do. In addition, we operate internationally and our showcases can be found in more than 50 countries all over the world. Another important reason why we are so successful is that we work together with some of the world's best architects and designers, Jean-Michel Wilmotte, Ieoh Ming Pei, Frank Gehry and Norman Foster, to name only a few.

solutions: Can you please describe a few of the most recent projects that you're particularly proud of?

French: Our top projects have definitely been the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto that was designed by Frank Gehry and the Leeds City Museum in the UK. We are currently working on the Ulster Provincial Museum and a project in Anchorage, Alaska.

solutions: Has Click Netherfield ever been presented with awards over the years?

French: Yes, we've received quite a few: the British Design Award, the Best Business in Scotland Award, and the Queen's Award for International Trade, the highest business award in the UK, only last year.

solutions: Beschreiben Sie uns bitte Ihr Unternehmen, Herr French.

French: Wir sind ein innovatives Unternehmen, das auf Vitrinenbau und Designlösungen spezialisiert ist.

solutions: Welches sind für Sie wichtige Erfolgsfaktoren?

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solutions: Auf welche aktuellen Projekte sind Sie besonders stolz?

solutions: What were the main challenges you faced with the ambitious project in Qatar?

French: The Doha project that actually started in 2005 required the largest financial commitment that our company has ever undertaken. Jean-Michel Wilmotte, who was the



“Our recipe for success is that we cooperate with some of the world's best architects and designers.”
 „Unser Erfolgsrezept ist, dass wir mit den besten Architekten und Designern der Welt zusammenarbeiten.“

interior designer, also proposed some very innovative solutions that we then had to develop into engineering solutions. Nevertheless, the main challenge was really one of scale.

solutions: For example?

French: The project included 410 showcases and 18 different types of cases. The largest case is as big as a whole room: ten meters long, five meters high, and three meters deep. And, of course, the shipping and logistics challenges were unheard of. We had more than 200 tons

French: Zu den wichtigsten gehören definitiv das von Jean-Michel Wilmotte gestaltete Museum für Islamische Kunst in Doha, Katar, die von Frank Gehry entworfene Ontario-Kunstgalerie in Toronto und das Stadtmuseum Leeds in Großbritannien. Im Moment arbeiten wir an einem Auftrag für das Ulster Landesmuseum und an einem Projekt in Anchorage, Alaska.

solutions: Wurde Click Netherfield bereits für seine Arbeit prämiert?

French: Ja, wir haben mehrere Preise erhalten: den British Design Award, den Best Business in Scotland Award und letztes Jahr sogar den Queen's Award for International Trade – dies ist der am höchsten dotierte Wirtschaftspreis Großbritanniens.

solutions: Welchen Stellenwert hat das anspruchsvolle Projekt in Katar für Sie?

French: Mit dem 2005 gestarteten Doha-Projekt sind wir die bislang größte finanzielle Verpflichtung in unserer Firmengeschichte eingegangen. Der Innenarchitekt Jean-Michel Wilmotte hatte sehr innovative Ideen, für die

of anti-reflective glass and more than 350 tons of steel that had to be imported into Qatar.

solutions: What actually convinced you to involve SCHOTT in this prestigious project?

French: We had already been working with the company on the fiber optics and glass side for around ten years and therefore knew we had found a reliable partner. So, when it came to the Doha project, we were comfortable with the relationship and completely convinced of the quality of this product.

solutions: At what point did you decide to use the anti-reflective glass Amiran® from SCHOTT?

French: From the very start, to be honest. We selected Amiran®, because it is truly the best. By that, I mean that it has the best wearing properties of any of the low reflective types of glass. For a project of this scale, one really has no choice, but to go for the best.

solutions: What types of innovations are you using Amiran® for?

French: One innovation that is quite worth mentioning is the first configurable showcase

spiegeltes Glas und mehr als 350 Tonnen Stahl nach Katar zu transportieren!

solutions: Warum haben Sie SCHOTT bei diesem prestigeträchtigen Projekt ins Boot geholt?

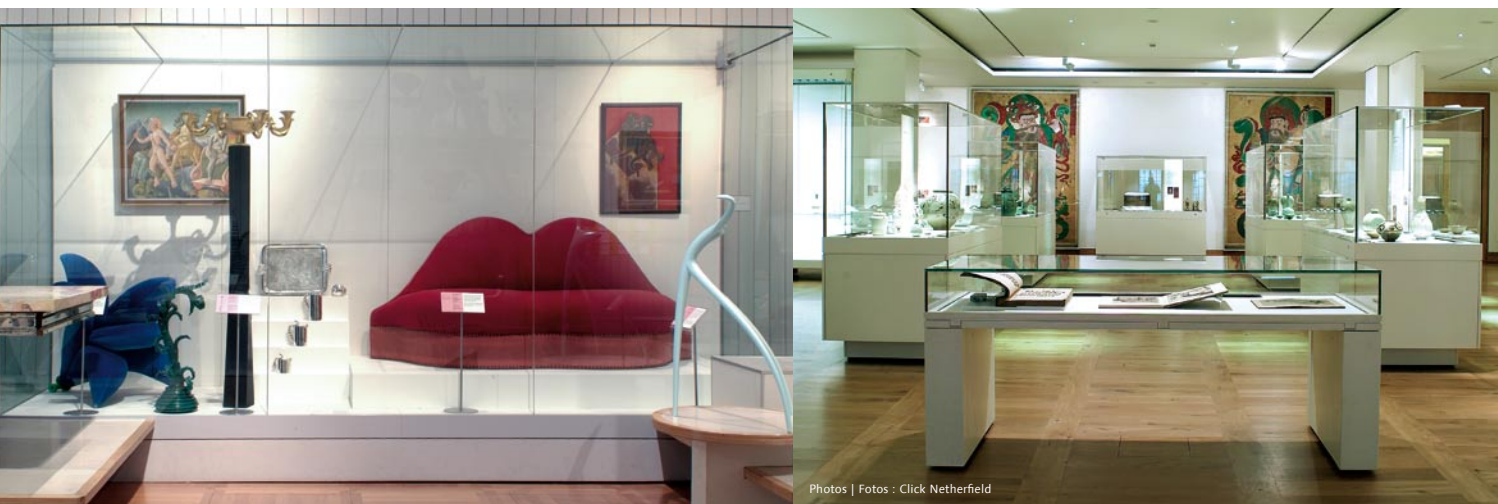
French: Wir arbeiten seit ungefähr zehn Jahren mit SCHOTT im Bereich Glas und Faseroptik zusammen und waren uns sicher, einen zuverlässigen Partner an unserer Seite zu haben, der qualitativ hochwertige Produkte liefert.

solutions: Wann hatten Sie sich für das entspiegelte Glas Amiran® von SCHOTT entschieden?

French: Um ehrlich zu sein, gleich zu Beginn. Wir haben Amiran® gewählt, weil das Produkt aufgrund seiner hervorragenden Eigenschaften das beste unter den entspiegelten Gläsern ist. Und für ein Projekt dieser Größenordnung gibt es keine andere Wahl, als Spitzenprodukte zu verwenden.

solutions: Für welche Ihrer neuen Produkte setzen Sie Amiran® ein?

French: Eine unserer ganz besonderen Neuheiten ist die erste konfigurierbare Vitrine mit



Photos | Fotos : Click Netherfield

wir spezielle Konstruktionslösungen entwickeln mussten. Aber die größte Herausforderung war das Ausmaß des Projekts selbst.

solutions: Inwiefern?

French: Für das Projekt waren 410 Vitrinen und 18 verschiedenartige Schaukästen vorgesehen. Die größte Vitrine besitzt die Größe eines Raums: Zehn Meter lang, fünf Meter hoch und drei Meter breit. Enorm waren auch die Herausforderungen, was Versand und Logistik betrifft: Es galt über 200 Tonnen ent-

called "Evolution" that is made entirely of Amiran®. This is truly unique, because this showcase can be made into modules.

solutions: What are your plans for the future?

French: Well, considering how successfully we've been using low reflective glass in exciting museum applications all over the world, we're clearly looking forward to working together with SCHOTT on many new projects in the years to come! <|

dem Namen „Evolution“. Sie verwendet ausschließlich Amiran® und ist einzigartig, denn die Vitrine kann in einzelne Module zerlegt werden.

solutions: Wie schauen Ihre Zukunftspläne aus?

French: Aufgrund des Erfolgs, mit dem wir entspiegeltes Glas in hochkarätigen Museumsprojekten weltweit eingesetzt haben, freuen wir uns in den nächsten Jahren auf weitere interessante Projekte mit SCHOTT. <|