



OPALIKA® glass from SCHOTT lights up the trading floor of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange

The main trading floor in the Frankfurt Stock Exchange is now brightly illuminated in combination with OPALIKA® white flashed opal glass from SCHOTT. The seven round trading areas are particularly striking. They distribute the light evenly ranging from white to blue to truly enhance the exciting activity in Germany's leading financial centre.

The seven trading counters inside the main hall at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange are familiar to many. Each day, they light up in the background while television reporters summarize the events of the trading day, for instance on Germany's "Börse im Ersten", that is broadcast just before the Tagesschau (Daily Show) at 8:00 p.m.

With the remodelling that was completed in February, Deutsche Börse was seeking to create a modern and clear appearance for the main trading hall of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. "We were interested in making use of blue and white, the colours of the Deutsche Börse, and utilising modern materials," explains René Walkenhorst from Atelier Brückner in Stuttgart, the architectural practice undertaking the remodelling which took place over a period of five months.

Thanks to OPALIKA® from SCHOTT the trading counters, where 70 leading brokers take trading orders, now display special luminance. OPALIKA® disperses light very evenly in a neutral colour so that even very small light sources located behind the glass create a glow. At the same time, the sandblasted glass has a pleasant surface feeling and features a dirt-resistant and easy-to-clean surface, thanks to its "Clearshield" coating. This made it possible for us to execute our design ideas very effectively," explains Walkenhorst.

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These design ideas were carried out by the glass finishing specialists at First Glas GmbH in Berlin. "The challenge was to implement the designs we received from the architects using the specialist glass OPALIKA®. But, because this illuminated furniture will be used on a daily basis for decades, we had to take strict requirements into consideration with respect to glass static, impact loads and shatter protection," explains Frank Sagurna, Managing Director of First Glas.

First Glas bevelled the edges of the 1.80 x 1.20 metre OPALIKA® panes in order to subject them to a bending process that results in as little tension as possible. OPALIKA® consists of two panes of optical white glass and a white flashed opal glass that are fused using a drawing technique. The white flashed opal glass layer possesses the unique capability of dispersing light very evenly. Finally, the outside layer was sand-blasted to provide a diffused appearance and sealed with the "Clearshield" coating.

Thanks to its excellent light dispersion OPALIKA® is used mainly in illuminated ceilings, such as the one at the Sony Style Store at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin or for coloured backlit partitions, like those at the newly opened AUDI showroom in Tokyo. Renowned designers like Tobias Grau and Philippe Starck have discovered the "brilliant" advantages that OPALIKA® has to offer for their light fixtures.

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Download-link to ZIP-file containing the picture in printable quality: http://www.schott-pictures.net/ng/downloadArchive/LTCnZUohYoUSQN1OSmlUU1GJ7Rb4otmA/SCHOTTPICTURES_06_08_2007.zip

Image caption No. 132626 and 132618: Shining symbol of the Deutsche Börse: Thanks to OPALIKA® from SCHOTT, the trading counters at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange unfold their special luminance. Source: Uwe Dettmar, atelier brückner gmbh.

More press pictures can be downloaded at <http://www.schott-pictures.net>

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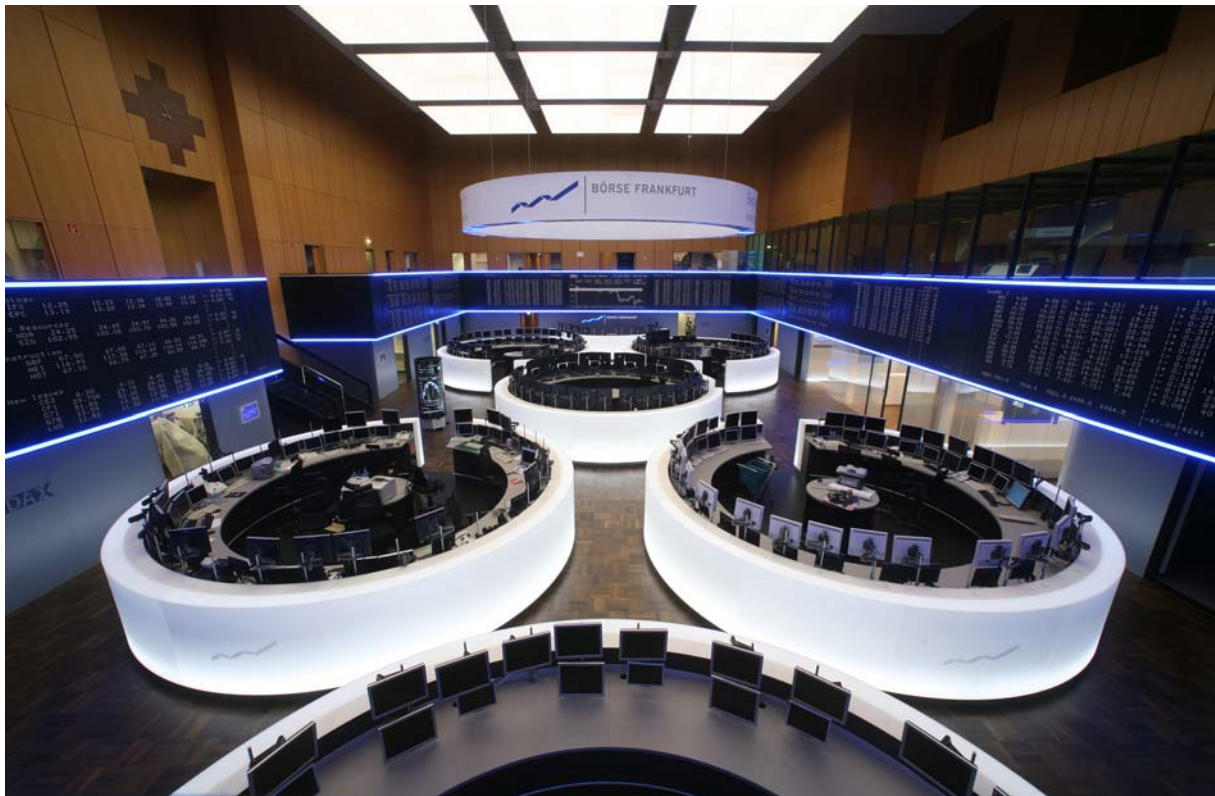
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