

Fire-protection glazing with PYRAN[®] S from SCHOTT in the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart

The new Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart is a unique new building which is worth a visit for its architecture alone. Designed by Dutch architects, UN Studio, the £1 million glass and aluminium building is as sleek and shiny as the 160 vehicles it houses, rising 47 metres from the ground allowing 16,500 square metres of exhibition space on a plot of just 4,800 square metres. The structure of the building could be compared to a cloverleaf, consisting of three overlapping circles with the centre cut out to form a giant triangular atrium with futuristic lifts.

Since it's opening at the end of May 2006, visitors have needed to be prepared to wait in long queues. Not only car fans and school trips, but study groups from architectural associations and architectural and engineering degree course students will doubtless make a pilgrimage to take a real look at the building in the hope of understanding the intermingling of corridors, ramps and airspace.

Fire-protection glazing with PYRAN[®] S

The fire protection requirements for the glazing on the top floor, where the tours begin and the event zone is situated, were especially high-tech, particularly with regard to the design. Both the glazing between the event area and the foyer and the "Walk round the corridor of legends" required 30 minutes integrity. In addition to providing fire protection, the glazing replaced the need for security railings.

The fire-protection glazing to the atrium is floor to ceiling and the glazing between the "Walk round the corridor of legends" and the event area is approximately 50m long. Both fire-protection glazing components were manufactured using PYRAN[®] S from SCHOTT, a monolithic, toughened borosilicate glass which prevents the passage of fire and smoke in passive structural fire protection.

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PYRAN® S remains transparent even at high temperatures, thus guaranteeing safe evacuation of people from buildings in event of fire. PYRAN® S has an international portfolio of fire tests and assessments to the European Standard to offer up to 120 minutes integrity.

The architects wanted a construction which was as 'clean' as possible, without any mullions to disturb the glazing lines; therefore vertically butt jointed panes were installed. This enables the elaborate pattern designed by the UN studio to be shown to its best advantage.

True to the original

Not only is the extravagantly designed two-coloured screen printed pattern on the fire resistant glass unique – nearly everything at the Mercedes Benz Museum is one of a kind. This means the building remains faithful to the originality philosophy of the Mercedes-Benz brand, to find a common denominator for mobility and safety – from the invention of the car itself to the vision of accident-free driving. Avoidance of accidents by employing safety is also one of the tasks of passive fire protection which is achieved by using PYRAN® S from SCHOTT.

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Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart



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Stuttgart

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