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SCHOTT

glass made of ideas

Media column
at the Frankfurt
Airport Center

Project Report



SCHOTT media column together with MIRONA® – the perfect solution for monitor-supported communication systems

Is it a mirror or glass? SCHOTT MIRONA® is a quick-change artist, so it's really both.

When placed in front of a light background, this mineral glass is transparent. In front of a dark surface, it acts as a mirror, thanks to its homogeneous, silvery brilliance. These properties can be used even more effectively in combination with monitors and thus offer the ideal solution for a technically advanced and rather innovative guidance system at the Frankfurt Airport Center.

The Task

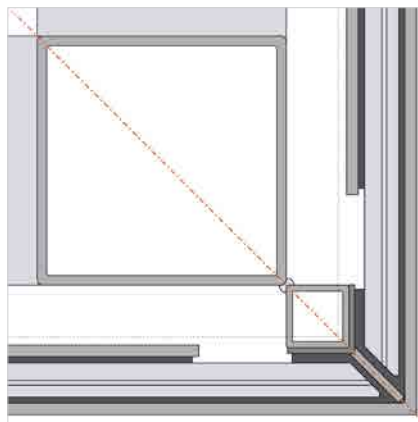
The Frankfurt Airport Center (FAC) is an exclusive office and conference center that is perfectly located at the Frankfurt Airport – the top address for companies interested in combining easy accessibility and mobility with a particularly attractive location.

Nevertheless, the mere size of the complex and the diversity of the services offered here meant that it was very important to help passengers and visitors find their way around. For this reason, the decision was made to install an equally efficient and sophisticated "navigation system" inside the FAC as part of the extensive renovation measures planned.

The Challenge

The guidance system was to consist of several elements at various locations in the building. On the one hand, a free-standing information terminal had to be installed at a central location. On the other, four information display surfaces needed to be mounted to the walls.

The most challenging aspect of this project was that, because of the different types of navigation contents, monitors with and without touch screens had to be integrated into the guidance system. The client placed special emphasis on coming up with an unusual design, while also assuring the main element would be sturdy enough. After all, due to its intended location inside the airport and the fact that so many people frequent the building, there was always the risk of it being damaged, by a suitcase, for instance. For this reason, the customer requested effective, yet invisible "impact protection" and this meant coming up with yet another special solution



Drawing: Corner detail showing a corner post, the glass profile, rubber bumpers and impact protection in the form of a stainless steel "strut".

THE MATERIALS

- MIRONA® | 7/16 inches in thickness
- A glass cube with an invisible inspection door – mounted on heavy duty hinges (load capacity 440 lbs/per element)
- Impact protection
- An interior steel frame
- Monitors equipped with speakers

The Solution

Both parties decided to produce a large glass cube with multimedia elements that would serve as the main information terminal. In SCHOTT, the architects had found a partner who impressed them with its experience and broad portfolio in the area of special glass.

The special properties of MIRONA® that make it simply ideal for use with monitors represent the cornerstone of this solution. They produce a special effect in that the edges of the monitors remain invisible and the image appears to “float” while the technical inner workings remain completely hidden behind the reflective surface.

SCHOTT was responsible for planning, realizing and assembling the glass structure and steel frame together with an expert network of partners.



MIRONA® is a mineral glass that has been coated with an optical interference layer on both sides to allow for a defined degree of reflection and transmission.

