

A project completed:

Art and laminated glass

Vanceva® and children: fantasy and colour at the service of our little ones

PROJECT DETAILS

LOCATION

Guadalajara (Spain)

ARCHITECT

Ángel Luis Lorenzo

WINDOW MANUFACTURER

Ariño-Duglass

PROJECT COMPLETION

June 2004

PHOTOGRAPH

www.sergebrison.com

The Child Amusement Centre “La Casa de Mamá”, at Guadalajara: entertainment with colour.

Right at the heart of Guadalajara, “La Casa de Mamá” brings a touch of colour to the city’s landscape. When viewed at a distance, it’s a gigantic cube of brilliant shades reflecting the sunlight. However, once inside we get a sensation of walking through rooms in which everything is a blaze of colour, yet also transparent, as the light penetrates into the building, filtered through the Vanceva® glass sheets: a complete multi-coloured prism, which can leave no-one cold. Parents are astonished by the innovative, mould-breaking aesthetic, in a rather traditional setting, and children – at whom the project is primarily aimed – are delighted at being able to play and amuse themselves in such an unusual environment.

The dream of its designer, Ángel Luis Lorenzo, became reality thanks to Vanceva® colour interlayers for laminated safety glazing: *“The building’s intrinsic architectural design implied using colour, she explained. It involved building a transparent ‘box’ using colour as a resource, so that it would be instantly recognisable for children and suitable for its intended use”*. Six Vanceva® shades were chosen to give the project its distinctive character: blue, green, red, pink, yellow and orange.

The façade comprises various vertical and horizontal modules, in which fortuitous patterns in the colours used are blended together, creating an impression of ‘organised chaos’, perfectly encapsulating the child’s outlook. In all, some 300m² of crystalline façade has been used, of which 100m² would be glazing including Vanceva®. “We were seeking the right balance to make the most of the glazing, both financially and having regard to its position. In this way, we succeeded in getting a façade that is neutral, abstract, in the style of a mosaic of colour”, notes Lorenzo.

Games and activities

Each day, 200 children pass through the centre’s doors at set times, performing a very varied range of activities: psycho-motor, English, swimming, road-safety education, games, etc.



In addition, Casa de Mamá has catering facilities and birthday-party rooms. In the course of all this, they may manage to get objects flying through the air, or they might find their own children tapping on walls during their games. With this rate of usage, it will easily be understood that safety was absolutely fundamental to this project. Furthermore, the building faces directly onto a public road, which meant that the safety of pedestrians would also be at risk in the event of a breakage of the façade. Hence, the most suitable option for the architect was plain: a window laminated with Vanceva® interlayers would give the advantages of safety “and moreover the ability to express the creativity intrinsic to our profession, architecture, through the use of colour”, explains Lorenzo.



So Lorenzo has transformed his creation into a reference-point for its location by mixing shades of yellow, pink, red, green, orange and blue by Vanceva®, into this box of crystal: *“The finished result was perfect; it’s the first time I’ve used Vanceva® products and I’m very pleased with the work. What’s more, everyone who visits leaves fired with enthusiasm for the colour effects in the windows”*. On the one hand children discover an environment in tune with their tastes and energy; on the other hand, their parents find an unusual, spectacular building where their children, and ultimately the staff who work at the centre, are delighted with the luminosity and functionality of the place.

Casa de Mamá is also a project recognised in educational circles, it won a Distinction of Honour from the Official College of Architects of Castilla-La Mancha as the finest building constructed in Guadalajara over the last two years.

LAMINATED GLASS: A VERSATILE MATERIAL

Laminated glass is made of one or more interlaminates of PVB plastic (or butyric polyvinyl) interposed between two or more sheets of glass. Particularly resistant to breaking or cracking, PVB gives the laminated glazing outstanding qualities, protecting people from the danger of injuries caused by shattering glass windows, and protecting assets against vandalism or theft. Other advantages of this glazing are sound insulation and prevention of damage caused by UV rays.

In the present instance, Vanceva® colour interlayers were thought particularly suitable for the manufacture of decorative laminated glass. Starting out with a basic palette of four basic colours in two light-transmission levels, to which three new options have been added more recently: two darker colours, Deep Red and True Blue, as well as Pure White. By combining up to 4 interlayers, it is possible to produce over 1,000 shades for laminated glazing. A whole gamut of possibilities is available to architects, interior designers and those in charge of construction in general.

For further information:

- website: www.vanceva.com/design

- e-mail: films-archi@solutia.com



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