

Light and colour in urban planning at Barcelona

Project information

Project: Layetana

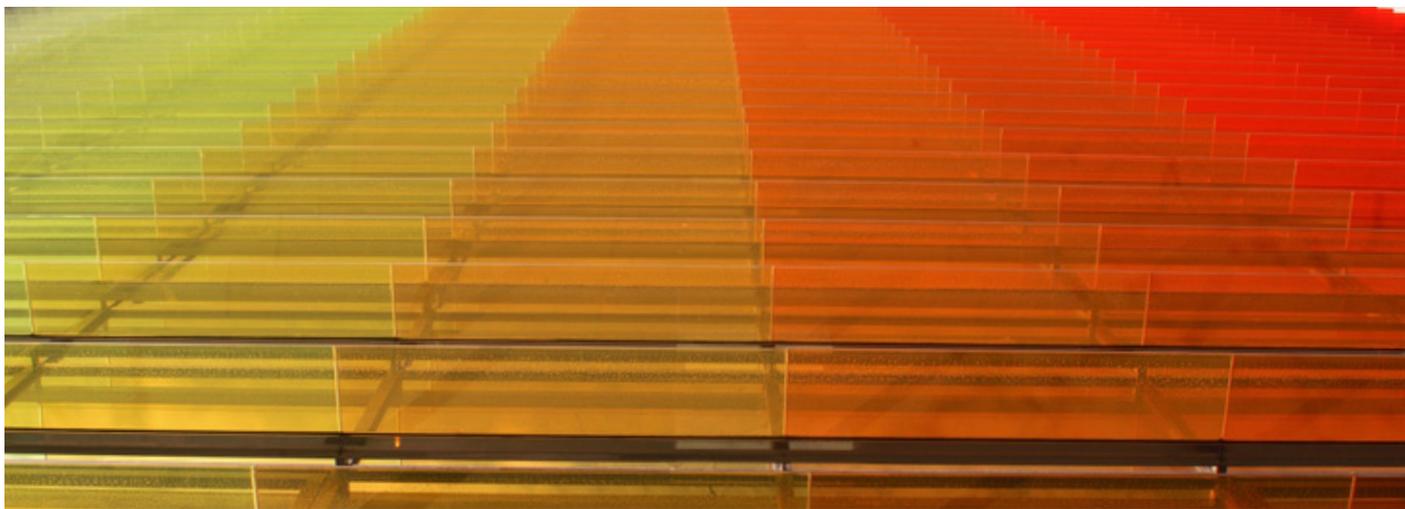
Architects: b720—Fermin Vázquez

Location: Barcelona, Spain

Date completed: early 2003

Product: Vanceva® colour PVB interlayers

Glass laminator: Cricursa (www.cricursa.com)



Maestro Nicolau

Façade in the vanguard at Maestro Nicolau: local colours

The residential area that surrounds Maestro Nicolau street has acquired a new air through the use of laminated glass with Vanceva® colour interlayers on the façade of an office block. The infrastructure is now the centre of the gaze, thanks to the use of brisse-soleils made of laminated glass, which has brought some high-impact yellow, red, and orange shades to the outside walls.

The outcome is a gradation of colours on the façade, ranging from yellowish-red to reddish-orange. There is nothing casual about the choice of shades. Before choosing them, a chromatic study was conducted, which supported its inclusion into the surroundings and produced the result that an implicit tradition arose in the neighbourhood, whereby the selected colours came to predominate. For example, they were extensively used in the awnings of homes and surrounding establishments, and characterised the surroundings of a row of orange trees (again, the same colours). In short, the façade of the building at issue attracts attention by being original and challenging, for its vitality and its size, yet it does not clash with the architectural style of the area.

Distinct perspectives

As already noted, the graded effect succeeds, apart from the use of colour, thanks to 40 rows of 10 sections of brisse-soleils. To cope with a high-level installation, the use of laminated glass was essential for safety reasons, hence each one of the strips is made of 6-mm glass plus the Vanceva® colour interlayers, which gives the finished result on the building's distinctiveness. Yet the singular effect produced by the building's façade goes much further: depending on the time, and thanks to the sun's rays, different colours were projected onto the asphalt of Maestro Nicolau. The appearance of the street has been completely renewed, since it previously managed with very little lighting.

As Fermín Vázquez affirms, the façade is "a protective colour screen." However, all this colour and style is merely the external face of the street. The architects decided to place the laminates in the horizontal position and attached to the wall by only one of its faces. In this they succeeded in making the colour virtually imperceptible from the interior, while the view from inside the building is transparent.

Utility, but design as well

The benefits of using this type of laminates are not just aesthetic. The cost of air-conditioning is much lower, as there is control over solar light reaching the interior of the offices. In this way, a significant energy saving is achieved in the summer, as penetration of the sun's rays remains limited. However, Vanceva materials do not merely provide insulation from heat during stiflingly hot periods; they also bring other benefits to the building, for example, greater resistance to insults and atmospheric effects, and ultimately greater protection for those found inside the building.

About Vanceva®

Producing a broad spectrum of colours and moods that are unachievable using stock selections of glass, Vanceva gives architects and designers more creative freedom with glass than ever before. Vanceva colour interlayers can be combined to produce more than 3,000 transparent, translucent, or opaque colour options to help create the desired tone and intensity. When Vanceva colour interlayers are combined with tinted or reflective glass, the design possibilities are nearly limitless. No other interlayer brand delivers the complete spectrum of colours for laminated glass like Vanceva colors.

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