



The 20th century in audio and vision

The Dutch institute for Beeld en Geluid (Audio and Visual), in short NIB, will relocate at the start of December to a spectacular new building on the outskirts of the Hilversum Mediapark. The Netherlands shall gain a single central location for the storage of national audio-visual heritage, which will be available for everyone. A prestigious and colourful construction project.

The NIB Building is a prestigious design by Neutelings Riedijk Architecten. It contains office areas, depots and a museum section, where the general public can admire everything associated with the audio-visual world. The outwards appearance is striking; a colourful glass façade, in which archive images from the collection have been incorporated. However, once inside, the daring constructions and the surprising spatial layout are the most admirable elements.

FAÇADE OF ARCHIVE IMAGES

Each year the anticipated 150,000 visitors shall encounter the Audio-visual experience, while literally standing on top of the collections. The glass façade, designed by Studio Jaap Drupsteen, which is secured to the building like a second skin, is also an amazing sight. The glass plates are produced using the procedure which was specifically designed for Beeld en Geluid by Saint Gobain Glass. 768 different archive images from the Beeld en Geluid television and film collections have been incorporated in the 2244 glass plates. The image of the façade continually changes due to natural light on the relief and the colours in the glass...

The building is actually two individual buildings, which are encapsulated by a single glass shell. This resulted in a large area between the two building sections, the atrium. You can look straight up to a height of 25 metres when standing on the ground floor. The museum section leads upwards in increments, towards the office section, creating the impression that it is sloping forwards significantly. The outside of the museum is covered with aluminium plates to reflect the coloured light radiating into the building. The building also has five subterranean levels, down to a depth of 16 metres. These subterranean depots are intended for storing the collections. 1.6 million audio or visual carriers, or more than 700,000 hours of historical and modern audio and visual material shall be stored here under optimum climatic conditions.

Prestigious

The dynamic construction and image of the NIB building refers to both the content and the function of audio-visuals. The use of colour plays an active role in this- on the outside, and certainly on the inside. The painting business Metim from Best was instructed to apply a coat of paint to the entire interior. Six painters from Metim have been working on the building non-stop since January.

'A very challenging project,' says Director Harry Knapen. 'The stunning architecture in the first instance – it is certainly one of a kind. It is also a very prestigious building due to its status and



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location. We are therefore very proud to have been chosen to make a contribution to this.'

There is nothing minor about the surfaces of the NIB Building. It concerns a total of more than 30 thousand square metres or tex work, or more than three hectares. The museum section alone amounts to eight thousand square metres. A special shade of blue was used in these areas, which is used to achieve impressive visual reality effects. Floor to ceiling images can be projected; visitors are under the impression that they have entered a completely different reality. All walls and ceilings in the depots have been painted orange using Wijzoplex Extra, because of the good washable properties. The painters use Wijzotex Super for the offices. The office walls are off white and the window frames and ceilings are metallic. Yellow stairways lead to the office section, blue to the museum section, and orange to the depots.

Choice of paint

Metim mainly used Wijzonol water-based paints for the interior paintwork. All window frames are painted with the water-based A-Qua Adhesive Primer and Satin gloss. Knapen: 'Quality takes precedence when choosing paint, which is a given fact with Wijzonol. Furthermore, they also provide the required level of support, which is something we truly need with projects like this. It is clear that they join in the thought process and assume the role of a reliable partner. This was ultimately the decisive factor.'

Following consultation with Wijzonol Bouwverven, Metim choose to use a completely unknown paint product to paint the four hundred plus doors in the NIB building. The product is Spray-Okay, a water-reducible spray paint based on self cross-linking core shell technology. Knapen: 'We had no previous experience with the product; >

20.000 M² OF EXPERIENCE

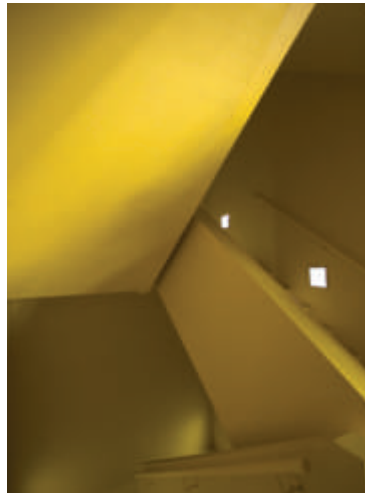
The surface of the NIB Building amounts to an astonishing 20,000 m², and is laid out as follows:

- large exhibition hall (4000 m²) with 15 themed pavilions;
- flexible layout exhibition hall;
- large film theatre (200 seats, with film and HD projection);
- small film theatre (50 seats, with HD video projection);
- workshop area: 30 work stations with multi-medial facilities;
- shop, restaurant with own kitchen and terrace, lobby, atrium, central reception hall), customer service with viewing and listening rooms;
- offices and depots and various operational facilities, subterranean parking garage with 200 spaces;
- grand cafe with access to terrace, pond and garden;
- height, width and length of the building: 54 x 54 m square, 16 m deep, 26 m high.



METIM

Metim Schilderwerken en Vastgoedverbetering was founded in 1983. This medium-sized company has considerably expanded its activities over the years. Metim specialises in paintworks, property improvements, concrete repairs and preservation, roof and wall maintenance, industrial paintwork, glazing and wood treatment. In the past, Metim carried out paintworks for a large number of prestigious building projects, such as the Admirant residential tower in Eindhoven, the Eindhoven University of Technology and Essent's head office in Den Bosch.



however, Wijzonol provided excellent advice and information. The advantage of Spray-Okay is that it can be applied under less pressure, in turn reducing the amount of spray generated. What's more, the flowing properties of paint are excellent.' Choosing Spray-Okay turned out to be an excellent move. From the perspective of efficiency, all doors were treated in the Metim workshop and then transported to the Mediapark.

Fantasy city

In addition to archiving, the NIB building shall also assume an important public function. 150 thousand visitors are expected each year who want to experience the 'Audio-visual experience'. That is possible in a 3330 square metre fantasy city, where visitors can explore the world of radio and television using various Dutch Celebrities who are on hand to provide virtual cooperation.' The visitors can personally experience how their perception, awareness, conscious and sub-conscious are affected by the media in fifteen different pavilions.

For example, there is the glamour pavilion about showbiz and the world behind the scenes. There is a high-tech studio where young and old can close the door behind them and make their very own show. There is a pavilion where you can get lost in a labyrinth of special effects; the theme is illusion and the theatrical aspects of the media. There is another pavilion with an overview of all news and sport programs and the underlying journalistic principles. The pavilion presents an impression of the current news flow transmitted to our country on a daily basis by the various television and radio studios.

Opening

The work on the NIB building has reached the completion phase. The same applies to the paintwork. Everything must be finished on 3 December, as this is the date of the official opening by Queen Beatrix. The relocation of the content of the audio-visual archive started in June. More than 700,000 hours of television, radio, music and film material, 20,000 objects and 2 million photograph negatives are currently being stored in the new subterranean depots. The kilometres of CDs, historical tape recordings, LPs, photographs, film containers and objects represent the 20th century, in audio-visual recordings. ■