

Shop in Barcelona

Architects: EQUIP Xavier Claramunt, Barcelona



Chameleon-like appearance through play of light Translucent polycarbonate web panels

This diminutive shop for bathroom accessories is located in the elegant shopping area Passeig de Gràcia in the centre of Barcelona. It is not easy to find, however, being hidden away deep in one of the blocks of the "Eixample"; that is the name used by the people of Barcelona for the grid-like quarter, designed by Cerdà at the end of the 19th century, at the edge of the old town centre.

Material and lighting concept

To distinguish it from other premises in the same arcade, the shop undergoes a three-phase lighting change in the course of the day. The light spectrum ranges from a serene, white

mood in the morning, through delicate pink on to the vibrant red of the evening atmosphere.

These effects are achieved by a modular system of translucent polycarbonate panels fixed to aluminium framework. The panels act as both ceiling-cladding system and free-standing partition walling. Red and white coloured fluorescent tubes are located behind the translucent panels and are operated by a time switch that combines the colours in different ways. The rear-lit panels envelope the retail areas of the shop, both on the ceiling and on the walls while storage space and change rooms are concealed by the partitions. The lighting concept, together with the glass furniture, is intended to become the hallmark of the company and, as such, will be incorporated in the design of other branches.

material properties of walls and ceiling

material: thermoplastic polymer

product name: polycarbonate web panels
 stability: E modulus 2,000–2,400 MPa
 weight: 1.2 g/cm³
 fire protection rating: V0–V2
 abrasion value: 10–15 mg/1000 vibrations
 melting point: 267 °C
 water absorption: 0.16–0.35%

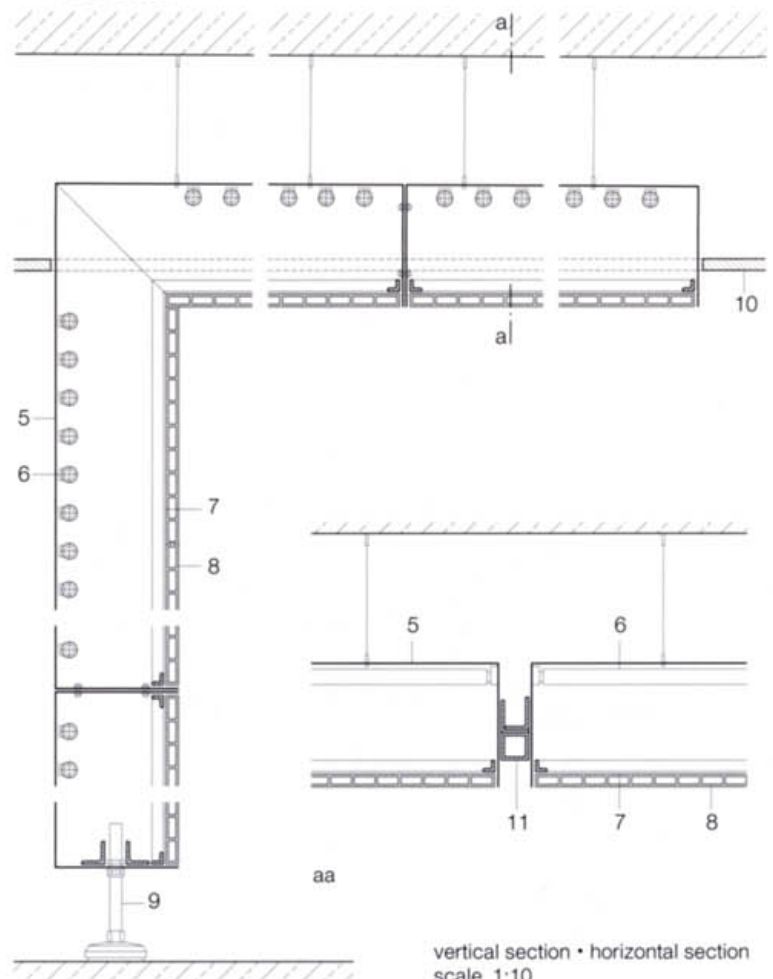
colour: white, translucent
 light permeability: 90%
 tensile strength: 55–75 MPa
 compressive strength: > 80 MPa
 impact resistance: 600–850 J/M
 hardness: M70
 gloss grade: medium
 surface structure: smooth

material properties of counters and shelving

material: glass

stability: E modulus 7,400 MPa
 weight: 2.53 g/cm³
 fire protection rating: V0
 abrasion value: 100–125 mg/1000 vibrations
 melting point: 1,000 °C
 water absorption: 0.08%

colour: transparent
 light permeability: 99.9%
 tensile strength: 290–395 N/mm²
 compressive strength: 340–395 N/mm²
 impact resistance: 490–690 J/M
 hardness: M110–120
 gloss grade: high
 surface structure: smooth



vertical section • horizontal section
 scale 1:10

floor plan • section
scale 1:200

- 1 shopping arcade
- 2 illuminated sales area
- 3 change room
- 4 illuminated partition
- 5 2 mm aluminium sheeting bent to shape
- 6 Ø 20 mm fluorescent lighting tube (white/red)
- 7 15 x 15 mm steel angle framing
- 8 16 mm polycarbonate hollow cellular slabs fixed to steel framing with Velcro strip
- 9 aluminium base plate, adjustable in height
- 10 15 mm plasterboard
- 11 35 x 35 mm steel SHS



project details

usage: retail
construction: polycarbonate web panels on aluminium framing

internal ceiling height: 2.30 m
total internal volume: 134 m³
total built area: 58 m²
date of construction: 2004
period of construction: 3 months

