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H I G H G L A S S S O L U T I O N S



Glass déco **references**

news

FC Bayern München

in a league of their own



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H I G H G L A S S S O L U T I O N S

Never change a winning team

FC Bayern Munich relies on tried and tested products for its walls

The interior of FC Bayern Munich's new Service Centre is decorated with a proven product: Glass déco fabric. The high-tech wall covering has been used virtually everywhere inside the football club's new building in Säbener Strasse – an area which is equivalent in size to about 5 football pitches – but it is not only size which makes the project »FC Bayern« one of the most outstanding examples of glass déco fabrics in practice.

FC Bayern Munich has long relied on the hard-wearing wall covering, with the record winners of the Bundesliga having used the material in nearly all areas of its »old« offices in Säbener Strasse.

Now the club has used the high-tech material, which is made of woven glass, in its new Service Centre, which opened in June this year. The building's 250-sqm fan shop, medical centre and the new executive

floor – which is home to the offices of President Franz Beckenbauer and general manager Uli Hoeness – were equipped with more than 20,000 square metres of finely-structured glass déco fabric.

In addition, **it used one of the latest innovations on the market – a fabric which has the FC Bayern club badge specially woven into it.** An eye-catching feature, the fabric shows that FC Bayern is in a league

of its own **when it comes to wall design and proves once more that glass déco fabric is not only functional, but also looks good.**

The project, which was completed in just 14 months, was managed by Manfred Angermeyer, an FC Bayern employee who is a particular fan of glassdéco fabric – and who had no hesitation in using it again.



A defence to rely on

Manfred Angermeyer is an avowed fan of glass déco fabrics.

Mr. Angermeyer, in your position as Director for Internal Services you also are responsible for building maintenance. What are your experiences with glass déco fabrics?

Twelve years ago we equipped our offices in Säbener Strasse with glass déco fabric and most of the walls there still look as good as new, with only very little external damage. Even the cracks that would usually appear in the plaster are avoided, thanks to the fabric. **The wall covering is very hard-wearing, which makes it durable and cost-effective.**

How much stress do the »FC Bayern walls« have to take?

On peak days, up to 10,000 fans come to our office to buy tickets or FC Bayern merchandise and building managers know what that can mean for walls. It's perfectly normal for visitors to lean against the walls while they are waiting for their tickets and make marks on the wall with their shoes, often without noticing. That happens quite frequently.

What effect does this have on the walls and what can you do to prevent it?

Naturally, the walls become dirty, but thanks to the glass déco fabric, they stay in good order. That's the big difference – you only have to paint the walls once and they look as good as new again. If you've used a latex coating, the dirt can often be wiped off. It's vital that you carry out these sort of small cosmetic repairs regularly, because otherwise people will become more and more careless with rooms. Unfortunately, that's only human.

It is striking that you use the fabric throughout the entire building and not only in the »functional« rooms...

That's right, we have also used glass déco fabrics in our meeting rooms and management offices. And why not? That way, everything matches. When we had to make a decision on the wall covering for the new building, we wanted all department heads to be involved. **Glass déco fabric was chosen by common consent.** Incidentally, we have also discovered that the fabric has some sound-insulating properties, which can contribute to pleasant acoustics in the offices.

A classic fabric was used in the main offices, but in the Service Centre you opted for one of the new jacquard fabrics...

Quite a lot has changed in the glass déco fabric sector in the past few years. When we equipped the old offices, the product range wasn't so extensive and we had to use standard fabrics. **The new patterns are woven much more finely and they are perfect for the kind of sophisticated environment we are trying to create here.**

And there is the logo fabric you have used in addition to the regular fabric in the new Service Centre...

Yes, we have used that type of fabric in the more spacious areas such as the staircases. **What appealed to us was that we can use the covering to present our corporate design in a way that is subtle and elegant.**

Do you like the way the walls have turned out?

Yes, very much so. We have a consistent wall covering that meets all our requirements. The material is sufficiently hard-wearing – for example, in our fan shop – yet it looks good at the same time and the logo fabric gives our building a unique feel. **I don't think there is any other wall covering that is so versatile.**



Manfred Angermeyer,
Director for Internal Services

The best wall of the league

Tom Ferster relies on glass déco fabric.

FC Bayern Munich's Service Centre is 95 metres long, 16 metres wide and three storeys high. It was designed by Tom Ferster from Wolfratshausen. By striking a perfect balance between functional and representative features, the architect's design concept outshone all other suggestions. He, too, recommended using glass déco fabrics.

Mr. Ferster, what was the architectural challenge in designing the FC Bayern Service Centre?

The challenge was that we have to accommodate many areas of club life in one building. The Service Centre is a workplace for about 100 FC Bayern employees and, at the same time, it is a meeting point for fans who buy tickets and FC Bayern merchandise on the lower floors. The top floor accommodates the Marketing and Merchandising departments and management offices while a surgery spans all three storeys. All this had to be accommodated.

What role do wall coverings play in an architect's plans?

Wall coverings are becoming more and more important. Modern architecture supports the light construction of buildings, so contemporary show-case buildings don't consist of massive mineral walls. Today's look is characterised by glass, stone and steel, materials which are mainly combined with plasterboard panels. Glass déco fabrics are ideal for these purposes. Fabrics are ideal for these purposes.

Why?

Because glass déco fabrics reinforce the surfaces of walls. The walls in the Service Centre consist partially of concrete and partially of a metal frame construction with double-planked plasterboard panels. Not only did we have to homogenise the surfaces to create a uniform appearance, they also had to be stabilised. Glass déco fabrics allowed us to do both – **they have excellent wall-reinforcing properties and, in conjunction with the correct paint, have enough elasticity in them to mask any differences.**

How can the wall-reinforcing properties of glass déco fabric be explained in numbers?

Tests prove **that no other wall covering can compete with glass déco fabric when it comes to wall surface reinforcement.** A five centimetre wide strip of a high-quality glass déco fabric has a tensile strength of 704 newtons. Vinyl wallpaper bears 308 newtons – less than half the tensile strength of glass déco fabric. The tensile strength of conventional woodchip wallpaper is only 98 newtons.

Which is why these wall coverings also are so shock-resistant and impact-proof...

In a highly frequented building such as the Service Centre, the stress placed on a wall covering is high. Just think of the fan shop on the ground floor. Because of the enormous number of customers who visit it, **it constantly has to be redecorated and redesigned. With glass déco fabrics, much of the everyday damage and wear can be avoided.**

How important do you think non-wovens are? Were you always clear about the need to use glass déco fabric?

Absolutely. FC Bayern Munich already uses the material in its other building in Säbener Strasse and **has always been very happy with it.** We wanted the same level of durability in the Service Centre, and when it came to considering the appearance, there was a wide range of patterns to choose from, many of which emphasise this modern kind of architecture excellently.

During which building phase were the glass déco fabric compound structures installed?

Right after the walls were planked with the plasterboard panels, the base was primed, the fabric sheets were applied and the walls were painted with latex paint. **This gave workers walls that could already take more stress than the pure plasterboard panels could,** so any work, such as installing electrics or retrofitting doors, could be carried out much easier.

A quick statement about the costs: how economical are glass déco fabrics, particularly when compared to other wall coverings?

Compared to conventional wall coverings, the price for glass déco fabrics is a little higher. **But when it comes to the price/performance ratio, they win without any doubt.** Unlike wallpaper, glass déco fabric protects the building from damage and cracks, meaning the walls remain permanently intact. A new layer of paint from time to time, and the walls look as good as new. FC Bayern's main offices in Säbener Strasse prove this.



Tom Ferster,
responsible architect of the
new Service Centre





A painter takes the measurement.



The fabric is applied in a trice.



After the adhesive has thoroughly dried apply a good and even coat of paint.



The result: an individual touch for any wall.

A neat product

Glass déco fabric, the perfect combination of aesthetic design and functionality.

Decorating company M. Fassnacht GmbH, based in Martinsried, near Munich, was chosen to design the interior walls. Here, decorator Thomas Liebl speaks about his experiences with glass déco fabrics and the »Bayern Munich« challenge.

Mr. Liebl, FC Bayern isn't just any every-day customer, is it...?

That's right. Since we're based in the region, we have quite a few FC Bayern fans on our team, so it was great for them to work for the club. We even saw more famous players or representatives than I'd first expected which, although it wasn't a big thing, made a nice change. In addition, FC Bayern doesn't only have great people on the football pitch, it has them everywhere else too. Behind the scenes, for example in building management, they have real experts who identify completely with the club. It was very nice to work with these people.

Mr. Liebl, your task was to install more than 7,000 square metres of glass déco fabric. You were scheduled to do this in about two weeks. Was that very ambitious?

We knew what we were in for and so had prepared well for the challenge. We also have an experienced team, because we use glass déco fabric quite frequently. So we were able to assess the building process quite well and were able to make good progress.

What are your personal experiences with glass déco fabric?

Glass déco fabric is, for me, the perfect combination of aesthetic design and functionality. There is no other wall covering that offers such a high standard in fire protection, wear resistance and durability.

Can you understand why some decorators do not want to work with the material?

No, not at all. Glass déco fabrics are unrivalled in many areas and I can't think of a better alternative for this current project.

Aside a finely-structured pattern, which you applied in all areas of the new Service Centre, you also used a special logo fabric in some places...

Yes, thanks to state-of-the-art jacquard technology, it is now possible to weave virtually any pattern into the fabric. Many companies make use of this by getting their own glass déco fabric produced with their own logo, which is great for a football club.

How did you convince the decision-makers at FC Bayern of this innovation?

That wasn't difficult at all. We showed FC Bayern several versions, including various logo sizes and various types of fabric. In the end, it was a group decision, involving executives at FC Bayern, the architect and the site manager.

They decided to use a fabric that only shows the logo once, measuring about 80 centimetres. Why was this version chosen?

It was to be used mainly in the spacious staircases and foyers. A smaller logo would have »disappeared« in those rooms, while, according to the experts, a larger one would have been too much. In theory, it is possible to realise all logo sizes on one fabric, including even across several sheets of fabric, but I think we have found the happy medium here.

Are there differences when it comes to handling or applying these fabrics?

The logo fabrics are made of exactly the same material as the regular fabrics, so the application properties are completely identical. It helps to define the position of the logos in the respective rooms and mark the corresponding positions directly on the wall with a pencil. These markings can be seen through the uncoated fabric, making it possible to install the fabric in the correct position.

So a sheet of logo fabric is simply applied at the marked positions instead of a normal sheet of glass déco fabric?

That's right. You mark the position, coat the wall evenly with dispersion adhesive, press the fabric sheets edge to edge into the adhesive bed, cut off the ends with a knife and then apply the desired paint system. That's the general process – professionals can do all that in less than one minute.



Thomas Liebl,
Decorator

Usually, the coating is renewed by a new coat of paint, but how can larger damage be mended?

Simply by peeling off the damaged section and applying a replacement layer. To do that you prime, apply adhesive, press glass déco fabric into the adhesive bed, cut it and apply the paint over the top.

In extreme cases, the damaged top plasterboard panel is removed and replaced and new fabric is applied, bringing it into line with the rest of the wall. Then, the entire surface is painted from side to side and from floor to ceiling.

It's very unusual that wall coverings would be so badly damaged in rooms like the ones in the Service Centre. Our surfaces last 10, at best even 20 years, without having to be repainted. Compared to conventional wall coverings, you save at least one refurbishment cycle in 30 years.