

Press release
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Staedel Tower – lighting art recycled

Architects created monument from “formwork modules” used for Staedel extension



B1 | The gentle giant. The new Staedel Tower clearly reflects the design language of the renowned schneider+schumacher architects' studio. The tower was made of 15 formwork modules which not long ago were used for casting the concrete ceiling during construction of the Staedel Museum.

As of recently, visitors at Frankfurt's Schaumainkai have been fascinated by an almost 20 m high tower made of concrete formwork modules. At night, delicate light lines immerse the so-called Staedel Tower located directly in front of the Staedel Museum in warm white light. A spellbinding, almost mystical aura is conjured up around the tower by a mix of what appears to be cool concrete – although the formwork modules are actually made of wood and polystyrene and covered by a glass fibre surface – and warm light, accentuated by subtle, barely perceptible brightness changes.

According to Michael Schuhmacher, the architect in charge, the so-called Staedel Tower originated in sentimentalism, for the tower – a genuine recycling project – is made of 15 formwork modules which not long ago were

used for casting the concrete ceiling during construction of the Staedel extension. In total, the tower consists of five levels, each made of three square panels with a side length of approx. 3.7 m. Completion of the structure was made possible owing to joint support by the planners and the companies executing the Staedel extension, among them Zumtobel. In the context of the Staedel Museum's conversion, the luminaire manufacturer is playing a major role in implementing the lighting concept.

For the recycled tower, Zumtobel has developed an energy-saving lighting solution that makes the plain structure come alive at night. This is done by 24 LED light lines with 14 W each, whose light is emitted to the outside from various openings in the modules, while light is also radiated from the outside to the inside, to make

the structure visible. These LED lines are individually controlled and orchestrated via DMX. Alternately, the luminaires are slowly dimmed, which gives the structure a fascinating appeal that makes visitors stop and look. The subtle lighting scenes turn the three-dimensional quality of the structure into a special experience: in the process, the Staedel Tower's seemingly solid appearance is mitigated and the tower itself is transformed into a slender object of lighting art.

With their new work, architects schneider+Schumacher – in charge of the Staedel extension – have already established a

monument to the conversion of the museum building. "We simply wanted to create a landmark", explains Schuhmacher. "In the Staedel, we build into the ground, while this structure rises upwards."

For the time being, the Staedel Tower is intended to stay in place until the end of August, serving as an additional structure to enhance this year's Rhine-Main Architecture Summer in Frankfurt. Meanwhile, extensive construction work is busily under way at the site on Schau-mainkai: the extension to the Staedel Museum will be completed in early 2012.



B2 | At night, an almost mystical aura is conjured up around the Staedel Tower. LED light lines installed by Zumtobel turn the monument into a unique lighting art installation.

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