

## AN INSTAGRAMABLE SHOPPING CENTRE WITH A SPECIAL FACADE – MALL OF THE NETHERLANDS LEIDSCHENDAM

For the reconstruction of the shopping centre in Leidschendam, MVSA Architects Amsterdam were tasked with creating a truly Instagram-worthy building with a striking façade design. The inspiration for the façade optics came from a picture of Naomi Campbell, which shows her draped with a scarf. So was the façade supposed to be draped over the entire shopping centre with openings at the various entrances. Unibail Rodamco Westfield commissioned the reconstruction of the Westfield Mall of the Netherlands with the goal of creating a new Dutch shopping, dining and entertainment destination. TGM BV Asten built the entire new construction with HUECK façade elements. The complex façade profiles bend in two directions and hold large glass surfaces, which required a lot of development work. The construction is based on the HUECK Trigon 50 façade system with integrated HUECK Lambda DS 075 door solutions.

“The existing shopping mall consisted of a large group of different blocks with different identities. Our vision was to unify them by smoothly draping over the façade like a second skin”, states architect CharlotteGriffioen, MVSA Architects. In a seven-year process, 30% of the existing shopping mall was renovated and 70% newly constructed. With its 200,000 m<sup>2</sup> space, the Mall of the Netherlands displays a large, organic shape. Officially opened in March 2021, it now holds nearly 300 stores, restaurants and entertainment. With its iconic, 7.5 meter-high shopfronts, the mall is just as impressive on the inside as it is on the outside.



Figure 1: Unibail Rodamco Westfield commissioned the reconstruction of the Westfield Mall of the Netherlands with the goal of creating a new Dutch shopping, dining and entertainment destination (source: Hueck)

In cooperation with the architect and metalworker, HUECK created special aluminium profiles to facilitate the design vision for this construction. "The facade is curved on two sides, which means that the profiles have to bend in two directions, which makes it more complex than a standard curtain wall", explains Rob van Bree, project Manager at TGM.

Furthermore, the profiles needed to be able to hold large glass surfaces, which required extensive development work. In total, the façade consist of 2900 elements with a total surface of 9300m<sup>2</sup> and an accumulated length of 1.3km. The closed parts of the façade were arranged in a gradient pattern on aluminium plating to add texture, dimension and scale to the project and to allow the integration of ventilation grids where required.

In order to envision and plan such a unique façade design, the HUECK team created 3D models in coordination with the architect and metalworker. The Building Information Model (BIM) facilitated the integration of all components, aided in up-front troubleshooting, and served as an aesthetical guideline during the construction phase. "It was a challenge to meet the architects' request for cover strips that were as low as possible, as well as invisible screw connections. Due to the minimal height of 10mm, the screw connection of the pressure strip slips into the glass rebate, which is why we developed a special seal for the outer seal," explains Udo Heisener from the HUECK development department.

Other peculiarities were experienced with the invisible fastening of the attachment structure on steel and wood, in which the transom should run into the mullion and the inner attachment structure should also be as low as possible. Heisener reports further: "This has the consequence that the screw connection lies in the water-bearing level, so that we had to pay special attention to the sealing of the screw connection and the expansion of the different components."

Before the actual construction, mock-ups were built to test the practicality of the special façade solution. Rob van Bree, project Manager at TGM is satisfied with the collaboration between the parties: "We work closely with HUECK on several projects, who is our regular supplier for facade projects for which their system is suitable."

All the involved parties are very proud of the result. Due to its complexity, the project required extensive efforts and collaborative teamwork on all fronts. In the end, the finalized building speaks for itself. Architect Charlotte Griffioen resumes: "The result is of course fantastic. You can see people stop and take photos. Our job was to create an Instagramable building and I think that certainly worked."

Object report:

[https://hueck.blaetterkatalog.de/app\\_documents/?catalog=Objektbericht\\_MotN\\_EN&lang=en\\_GB](https://hueck.blaetterkatalog.de/app_documents/?catalog=Objektbericht_MotN_EN&lang=en_GB)



Figure 2: The construction of the Mall is based on the HUECK Trigon 50 façade system with integrated HUECK Lambda DS 075 door solutions (source: HUECK)



Figure 3: As with various preceding successful projects, TGM realized the extensive aluminium curtain wall with inserted aluminum with HUECK facade solutions (source: HUECK)



Figure 4: The closed parts of the façade were arranged in a gradient pattern on aluminium plating to add texture, dimension and scale to the project (source: HUECK)