

Fascinating Colour Effect Glass:  
**Playing with Colour and Light for the New Airport in Mumbai**

With the new airport in Mumbai, the New York star architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) have created a structure, which in contrast to conventional airport architecture – more comparable to a modern museum building – not only creates space for art, but becomes itself an art experience. In this particular case, as a landmark and a spectacular symbol of the history of India and its character.

The traveller, who has now been promoted to a visitor, is received in a monumental room, supported by thirty mushroom-shaped pillars. Thanks to the sun's beams, this spacious hall, flooded with light, offers a magical interplay with colour and light. When they fall through the six thousand circular panes of Colour Effect Glass (which have been embedded into the coffers of the ceiling and pillars), they conjure up coloured patterns into the hall: circular projections in various sizes. Six vivid colours - three shades of blue, two of green and a vibrant yellow – are reminiscent of peacock feathers, India's national bird and at the same time the emblem of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

By using -Colour Effect Glass in the design of the facade, various points of emphasis cannot be overlooked. Made by the company Prinz Optics, this dichroic glass uses light to generate chromaticity. On the one hand, the glass has a neutral colour which allows light to be transmitted almost without any restriction at all. On the other hand, it's seen 'in colour', because the thinly applied interference coatings make each glass pane only permeable by a specific wavelength spectrum of light. The remaining part of the colour spectrum is reflected, thus becoming visible. The colour effect of these glass panes varies according to direct sunlight and/or the location of an artificial light source and also depends on the angle of vision and background.

With its changing chromaticity and almost unrestricted light translucence, this dichroic glass opens up lots of room to play with for impressive architectural solutions.

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More information:

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