

Médiacité – Belgium

Inauguration – 21. October 2009

Médiacité will be a gigantic shopping centre (45,000 m²) in Liège, Belgium, including an Olympic ice rink (7,500 m²) and a cinema (6,500 m²) as well as the new RTBF production studios (10,500 m²). Its complex roof structure comprises a series of compound curves which extend through the whole length of the building creating an undulating form.



The roof was initially intended to symbolize a river, but is meanwhile described as a snake-like construction. Not a single one of all beams is straight. What a challenge to any software and fabrication! How often does it occur that outstanding ideas and designs are technically not feasible? Not in this case! bocad's software met the required demands!

 bocad – Partners to Success



done by  IEMANTS
STAALCONSTRUCTIES BELGIE

www.iemants.com

Médiacité

The roof is a lattice structure of free-spanning steel beams. All beams have rectangular sections assembled from plates by welding (two webs and two flanges, of varying thickness and combinations). The beams are single or double curved, have widths between 125 and 650 mm, and depths from 400 to 1300 mm.

The bocad model was generated on the basis of 62,569 points (x, y, z). They were situated in the centre line of each beam in distances of 10 cm to ensure great accuracy.

The total length of all welded beams is 6.25 km of which approx. 40 % are double curved and weigh a total of 750 tons.



The roof was then covered with panels of EFTE (Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene) which is known from the Olympic Swimming Centre in Beijing or the Allianz Arena in Munich.

The serpent of 350 metres winds itself through the building offering a lot of daylight, warmth and visual delight. It symbolizes not only outstanding design, but also a lot of ecological features that were taken into account when designing this building.



Project – Details:

Programme: 26 months construction, completion August 2009
 Contract Value: \$15m
 Gross Area: 5600m²
 Client: Wilhelm & Co.
 Project Objectives: Design of Shopping Mall, Mall Roof and Piazzas
 Structure: Buro Happold
 Architect: Ron Arad Associates
 Fabricator: IEMANTS, STALL CONSTRUCTIES - Belgium

Mediacite-Authorization:

It's a development and a realization of Wilhelm & Co. Wilhelm & Co gave grand-architect-designer Ron Arad the task to conceive the public areas and buildings with the help of architects Jaspers-Eyers, while architects Chapman Taylor (London) and RTKL were in charge of the original design of this project.

