

Figure 1. Inflatable globe

BUITINK TECHNOLOGY FABRICATES AND INSTALLS TRANSPARENT INFLATABLE GLOBE AND GIANT LIGHTWEIGHT MIRRORS IN THE ATRIUM OF THE JUSTUS LIPSIIUS BUILDING IN BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)

Buitink Technology fabricates and installs transparent inflatable globe and giant lightweight mirrors in the atrium of the Justus Lipsius Building in Brussels (Belgium)

Since July 2008, France has the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. For the design of the interior of the EU building Justus Lipsius in Brussels, the French government contracted the well known French architect agency "Dubuisson Architectes" in Courbevoie (France).

An important part of the design is a huge transparent globe (15m diameter) in the middle of the atrium that is printed with the different flags of the members of the European Union. This globe is hanging in the middle of the atrium, with at both sides a giant mirror with a size of 12m x 10m.

The transparent exterior features 28 coloured strips which reflect the flags of the Member States and the European Union. These suspended strips, which twist in spirals around

the globe, have been printed in translucent inks (except the white which, for technical purposes, is more opaque) to enhance the globe's transparency and heighten the overlay effects. They not only reflect the individuality of each country, but also create an overall harmony through the combination and juxtaposition of the colours in an upward movement. The reason for placing the two huge inclining mirrors on either side of the globe becomes apparent at a key point at the very heart of the foyer. Anyone crossing the foyer who stands at this point under the globe, can glance up and see the logo of the French Presidency

reflected in the mirrors against the coloured strips. From this focal point, the globe fills the whole space of each mirror.

In the top of the globe, a ring with LED lighting is installed, that lights the different flags in different colours.

The globe is made from a strong and transparent ETFE film. The globe is kept under pressure by an automatic air system.

The two mirrors of 10m x 12m are made of aluminium frameworks, which are clad with a lightweight (80g/m²) mirror film.

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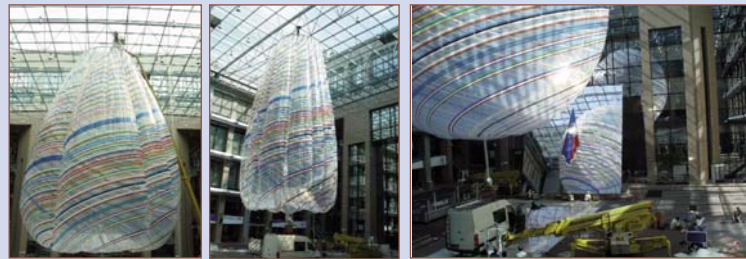


Figure 3. Installation of the globe and mirrors



Figure 2. Reflection of the globe in lightweight mirror

Name of the project:	transparent inflatable globe and giant lightweight mirrors
Location address:	EU building Justus Lipsius, Brussels, Belgium
Client:	Secrétariat Général de la Présidence Française de l'Union Européenne
Year of construction:	2008
Architects:	Dubuisson Architectes (Sylvain Dubuisson), Courbevoie, France (www.dubuisson.fr)
Engineer for the globe:	Tentech BV, Utrecht, The Netherlands (www.tentech.nl)
Manufacture and installation globe and mirrors:	Buitink Technology, Duiven, The Netherlands (www.buitink-technology.com)
LED Lighting:	Preview Lighting, France
Material inflatable globe:	transparent ETFE film (from Nowofol, Germany)
Materials mirrors:	Aluminium frameworks and tensioned mirror film
Dimension of the globe:	15m diameter
Dimension of the mirror:	10m x 12m