

World Architecture Festival 2011



Described as a highlight in the architectural calendar, the World Architecture Festival (WAF) is the largest, interactive architectural event in the world, hosting up to 1,300 delegates each year. The 2011 awards were held in Barcelona, with architects from across the globe competing for a variety of prizes, none more prestigious than the event's finale, the 'World Building of the Year' award.

AkzoNobel has had the honour to have been involved with two of the prizewinning projects which received special recognition from the esteemed panel of judges, including the winner of the event's most coveted prize.

World Transport Building of the Year

Kurilpa Bridge, in Brisbane, Australia, is the world's largest 'tensegrity' structure in existence today. Tensegrity is a structural principal based on the various component parts of the structure either being in a state of pure tension or pure compression. The word is derived from a contraction of 'tensional integrity'.

At 470 metres in length, the Kurilpa Bridge spans the Brisbane River, connecting South Brisbane, the major cultural precinct, to the city's central business district. The balance of the tension and compression within Kurilpa Bridge allowed the architects to create a structure

which was incredibly strong and yet comparatively light, a key requirement of the project.

The sophisticated design, along with other features, such as a lighting system that can be supplied predominantly by solar power, led to the bridge being named World Transport Building of the Year at WAF 2011.

The project team relied on AkzoNobel's Protective Coatings business to provide the corrosion protection for this innovative structure. A three coat system was chosen, including a finish coat of Interfine® 878, a high performance, patented

acrylic polysiloxane which will provide the long term aesthetic performance this iconic landmark requires.



World Building of the Year

Situated in the centre of Barcelona, the Media-TIC building is a futuristic mixed-use development, designed to be a meeting point for companies and professionals in the technology industry to share knowledge, ideas and training.

Originally a warehouse, it had stood abandoned until it was commissioned to be redeveloped to fit its current use. Now thanks to a ground breaking exterior facade and various other energy efficiency measures, the structure boasts close to net-zero carbon emissions.

The building's facade utilises an ethylene tetrafluoroethylene

(ETFE) 'skin', which can inflate and deflate in order to regulate the temperature inside the building. This 'skin' works as a sun filter, opening in winter to allow light in and aid collection of solar energy, but closing in summer to shade the building, therefore limiting the use of heating and air-conditioning. Additionally, rainwater is collected and recycled for use in the building's non-potable plumbing system.

These innovations were among the reasons that the judging panel at WAF 2011 awarded the Media-TIC the title of World Building of the Year 2011.

To protect the structural integrity of this valuable asset in the case of a fire and to meet the rigorous fire safety standards placed on modern buildings of this type, the project team turned to AkzoNobel for a solution. Interchar® 404 intumescent fire protection was chosen for its excellent aesthetics whilst still providing optimum passive fire protection for the structure. Interchar 404 carries the CE mark, demonstrating it has been tested extensively to meet the highest fire protection industry standards across Europe.

