

## Ingo Maurer designs seven new stations along the Karlsruhe Underground – completion of the city rail tunnel in Karlsruhe

Seven substations were moved underground with the implementation of the city rail tunnel in Karlsruhe. Ingo Maurer GmbH was responsible for the lighting concepts at the stations, whereas the design for the overall project was done by Allmann Sattler Wappner Architects. Architecture and lighting complement each other here in a holistic and coherent aesthetic.

The lighting concept of Ingo Maurer creates an atmospheric accent in the bright, soothing spatial architecture of the seven stations. A myriad ropes, clamps, isolators and stays are guided over a steel cable construction in a condensed, well-organised overhead cable system. This system carries tubular LED linear lights. In an arrangement of three ropes lying next to each other and two ropes lying above each other, the light constructions seem - depending on the angle from passengers view it - like subtly arranged notes of a symphony. “Subconsciously, the visitor has always been aware of the complex network of overhead lines. For the construction of the underground substations we wanted to keep this stylistic element in the shape of a web of light,” says Sebastian Utermöhlen about the design concept. Sebastian is the person responsible for macro projects in the project division at Ingo Maurer.

To create a special lighting effect, the Ingo Maurer Team built in RGB spotlights at irregular intervals. These spotlights bundle red, blue and green light into white light cones and initially create bright accents on the station floors. But when a passenger walks through the spot, the person casts colourful shadows as if by magic. In this way, passing passengers become participants in the lighting design. Entrance areas are illuminated by cone-shaped spotlights recessed in the ceilings. The seemingly random placing of the spotlights creates a deliberate contrast to the net-like rope structure that carries the lights on the platform level.

## **Allman Sattler Wappner Architects about the Karlsruhe city rail tunnel:**

With the realisation of the city rail tunnel Karlsruhe there are now seven underground stations. The external conditions of their respective locations in the city's structure is reflected in their different geometries. A uniform and restrained design connects the interiors to form a self-contained sequence of rooms, which stands in contrast to the density of optic and acoustic stimulants of the places and streets above it.

The stations generally consist of two spacial categories, which follow their own design principle respectively. The transfer space comprises the entry area from above ground via the in-between level to the base point of the staircase on platform level. The configuration of the civil engineering structure is directly visible, as structural cladding was mostly dispensed with. With its rough wall surfaces and light that does not focus on it directly, the effect of the transfer space is noticeably underplayed as transition to the actual station area on platform level. Here a white spatial shell covers the engineering structure all around like a sheath. The rounded transitions from floor to wall to ceiling and the uniform colour of the surfaces create an almost meditative effect in the space in which the many impressions of the hustle and bustle of the city are neutralised and absorbed. The spatial sheath is executed in two ways: Large building blocks are used on the floor and halfway up the walls. A drywall construction with acoustically effective surfaces form the top part of the wall surface and the ceiling. The joint pattern accentuates the seamless joining of the cladding, for which the same material as for benches and additional fittings was used.

## **About Ingo Maurer**

Ingo Maurer GmbH is an owner-managed company which has developed and produced extraordinary designer lighting for the last 50 years. Apart from that, the company has gained public as well as international recognition with the execution of design assignments. Some of the most well-known designs for series production are Bulb (1966), the low-voltage system YaYaHo (1984) and the Flügellampe Lucellino (a bulb-with-wings design) (1992). The lighting and interior design of the Radisson Collection Hotel in Tsinandali, Georgia, the lighting at the subway stations 'Westfriedhof' (1998), 'Münchner Freiheit' (2009) and 'Marienplatz' (2015) in Munich, as well as the pendulum 'Flying to Peace' for the Frankfurt trade fair (2018) and the 'Silver Cloud' for the Munich Residenztheater

(2019) are just some of the highlights on a long list of commissioned projects and spectacular individual pieces created for private clients and public buildings.

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