

Press release

November 11, 2015

Subway station Marienplatz in Munich reopened – lighting concept by Ingo Maurer

Walk down a few steps to the mezzanine level below Marienplatz, Munich's central place to see what a fresh lighting and colour concept can do to one of those difficult space with low ceilings so common in public transport. In the centre of the mezzanine level, warm orange-red light that seems to be glowing adds a unique touch to the level which provides access to two subway lines and all of Munich suburban trains.

In a central, rectangular area, the ceiling is covered by large metal sheets lacquered with a slightly reflecting finish in a red-orange tone. Lines of LEDs, arranged in groups of three with differing lengths are integrated and are placed irregularly. The LED modules have been specifically designed for this project by Ingo Maurer GmbH. Over the corridors leading from the entrances to the central area, the ceiling sheets have a matte stainless steel finish; lighting is provided by integrated fluorescent tubes – a type of light source that used to be standard for Munich subway stations until Ingo Maurer introduced LED lighting at Münchner Freiheit in 2009. Along the staircases leading up to Marienplatz, LED lighting has been integrated in the hand rails. The floor on the mezzanine level is made from natural stone material and has been chosen to reflect the light in an ideal way.

Marienplatz has fully reopened on October 26, 2015. Together with Allmann Sattler Wappner Architects the German lighting designer had been awarded the competition for the redesign of the mezzanine level in 2011. The refined final proposal was presented in July 2012. In the second proposal, Ingo Maurer introduced the vivid red colour. The colour picks up on the original colour on the lower levels of Marienplatz, opened in the early 1970s as part of Munich's first subway lines, but is also inspired by Munich artist Rupprecht Geiger. To convince the responsible members of the city's commission, he and his team created a mock-up room where the stakeholder could experience colour and lighting effect.

As expected, after the official opening the vivid colour was debated in local newspapers and other media. The planners as well as the city officials present at the opening are very satisfied with the result and their decision to go ahead with a bold design concept.

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As in all public buildings, the realization of the lighting fixtures as well as the whole construction work has been awarded through a tender. The “light signs” in the central area have been developed by Ingo Maurer GmbH and are made by Osram. They are equipped with LEDs (105lm/W, 4000 K, CRI 85) and a diffusor lacquered in the same orange-red as the ceiling.

In Munich, Ingo Maurer has provided lighting and colour concepts for three subway stations in Munich: Westfriedhof, Moosfeld and Münchner Freiheit. After Marienplatz mezzanine level, Ingo Maurer and Team are working on a fifth lighting concept for Sendlinger Tor. Lighting planning for several subway stations in Karlsruhe, Germany, are also in progress.

Brick, a linear lighting fixture in vivid colours, presented by Ingo Maurer in 2013, is a spin-off of the “Light Signs” Marienplatz project, providing excellent lighting quality with very efficient LEDs.

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About Ingo Maurer

Ingo Maurer, born 1932, started to design exceptional lamps and lighting systems in 1966, which his company, Ingo Maurer GmbH, produces and distributes worldwide. Among his best-known designs for serial productions are Bulb (1966), the low-voltage system YaYaHo (1984) and Lucellino (1992), the winged bulb. The lighting for “Westfriedhof” subway station in Munich (1998), the LED-lit atrium of Lafayette Maison in Paris (2004), and the UNICEF Crystal Snowflake for New York (2005) are just a few items on the long list of commission works and spectacular one-offs for private clients and public buildings. Maurer has received a number of renowned design awards, among others, in February 2010, the Design Award of the Federal Republic of Germany and in 2011 the Compasso d’Oro.

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