

Façade in Esmeraldas, 2016



Client:
Flopec

Design:
Marlon Guillén

Manufacturer:
Preysi, Quito



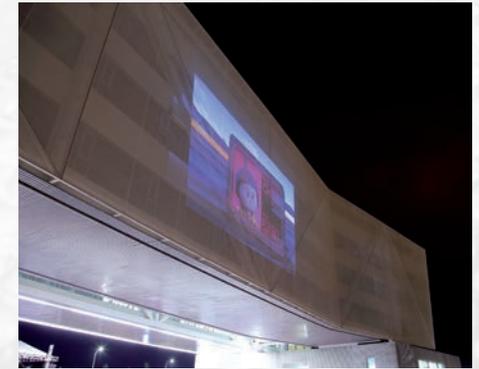
Textile architecture in Ecuador

Project Name: Façade in Esmeraldas
Material: VALMEX® TF 400
Quantity : 16,000 sqm
Concept & Design: Marlon Guillén

Completion: 2016
Location: Esmeraldas, Ecuador
Building: Flopec (client)

The city of Esmeraldas on the west coast of Ecuador is mostly known for its port and the head office of Flopec, the national petrol company. Till now, the city's seaside was dominated by industrial sites.

There was hardly any access to the sea for the citizens of esmeralda. That changed significantly this year. After Flopec decided to build a new head office, the local municipalities succeeded in combining this with a development of urban landscaping.



More than just a tensile wrap for the new headquarter

The architect Marlon Guillén used a steel construction which was first filled with the primary façade. In front of this climatic envelope lies the secondary façade: a 16.000 sqm. textile wrap.

The façade smoothly integrates into the colour of the sky.

A huge gap in the building's ground floor plan serves like a frame for the views on the ocean. At the same time it is a doorway for the people to the beach huts which lay directly behind the paved area.

In order to avoid mechanical and individual sun shading systems the architect chose universal wrap for the whole building. At the same time the mesh structure of MEHGIES® VALMEX® TF 400 fabric reduces the wind loads significantly. Half of it is carried by the primary, the other by the secondary structure. In combining these two functions, the architect introduced a unique appearance with the white coloured mesh to Esmeralda's coastline.

There is yet another side effect which comes on top of the functions mentioned above: During night time the TF400 façade serves as a cinema screen. Buildings with an equal added value for a citizens outside and the office personnel inside are rare!

There is now not only the new office building but as well lots of recreation space, restaurants and little shops. In order to give a unifying appearance to all these structures the designers used tensile structures as common element. There is the prominent wrap of the office building on the one hand and a prismatic roof above the restaurant and shop structures on the other.

