

## PRESS RELEASE

### Grimshaw and MDT-tex launch tessellating canopy system at Frankfurt design festival Wednesday 23rd March, 2016

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A successful collaboration between architects and tensile designers reached its final stage last week at Frankfurt's Light + Building festival and trade fair, where MDT-tex launched the final Tensilation Type EV canopy system. Grimshaw has been working with MDT-tex to develop a product that offers both the flexibility that comes with modular canopies and the engineering advantages of a unified structure.

The resulting design created a dramatic display at Light + Building, and delighted design-savvy spectators, while situated in the courtyard of the grand Palais Thurn & Taxis in the heart of Frankfurt. Projections by photographer and light artist, Laurenz Theinert, brought the canopies to life.

Grimshaw Associate, Jorin ten Have said, "Grimshaw and MDT-tex have been designing, testing, prototyping and enhancing the Tensilation canopy system for the past 12 months and it was great to see the final product showcased in a public celebration of design and creativity."

While design is a key feature, ensuring the robustness of the overall frame and materials was an important part of the process and final product. Each canopy unit is structurally connected to its neighbours, creating a unified form strengthened by its components. Drainage takes place via a series of central supporting columns and each canopy piece is connected with a watertight capping to produce a weather-protective system.

Standing at a height of nearly 4 m, each canopy unit is under 30 kg making Tensilation one of the lightest structures in its class. Through innovative tensile design, and lightweight fabrics and cables, the product requires no special lifting equipment and only three people to erect.

Tensilation's overall form is comprised of tessellating diamond and square-shaped canopies that fit together in a variety of configurations, while creating an elegant overall impression. The flexibility in its shape means the canopy system can be used independently, or annexed to buildings or marquees to deal quickly with changes in crowd size, seamlessly connecting fixed and temporary spaces. Its vaulted form provides an expressive structure designed for events and pop-up spaces, as demonstrated at Light + Building.

Speaking of the partnership with Grimshaw, Enlai Hooi, Creative Director at MDT-tex said, "We have never had such a productive and intense collaboration as with Grimshaw Architects. Every part of the product has been created with equal input and enthusiasm from both sides, and it has been a fantastic experience."

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#### Notes

- High resolution photographs can be downloaded via ftp:  
<https://grimshaw.ftpstream.com/17902/fc14831f44aba044bedd03d8c0824b4c/Tensilation%2blaunch%2b%25c2%25a9BECKERLACOUR.zip>  
©Becker Lacour
- An animation of the product is available to view on Grimshaw's Vimeo page: <https://vimeo.com/160104680>
- Tensilation is available for sale online: <https://www.MDT-tex.com/en/products/membran-structures/tensilation-type-ev/>

#### About Grimshaw

Grimshaw is an award-winning, international architectural practice with offices in New York, London, Melbourne, Sydney and Doha, employing over 400 staff. The practice's international portfolio covers all major sectors, and has been honoured with over 170 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize. Committed to providing architecture of the highest calibre, Grimshaw's work is characterised by strong conceptual legibility, innovation and a rigorous approach to detailing. The practice's industrial design projects for the built environment range from macro to micro, including seating for the award-winning EMPAC auditorium in New York, the Elements table and bespoke architectural components for the Crossrail project. [www.grimshaw-architects.com](http://www.grimshaw-architects.com).

#### About MDT-tex

MDT-tex specialises in the design and manufacture of membrane canopies and collapsible structures, specifically tailored to architectural schemes. The company can deal with complex architectural concepts using industry-specific engineering software, rapid prototyping, as well as conceptual design/engineering development. [www.MDT-tex.com](http://www.MDT-tex.com)