

For immediate release

July 4, 2014

Lighting concept by Ingo Maurer for a newly developed quarter  
Inauguration on July 4, 2014 in Esch-Belval, Luxembourg

A complex network of cylinders, tubes, pipes, stairs and beams is rising up to the impressive height of 82, respectively 94 metres. The two disused blast furnaces are towering over „Place des Hauts-Fourneaux“, a square in Belval, Luxembourg. It is the core of the new quarter. Over the ground, five large white disks seem to hover, lighting it up. „Standing in front of the furnaces is a very moving and emotional experience. They are the ‘cathedrals’ of the new part of Esch-sur-Alzette“, said Ingo Maurer in 2008 during a test lighting. „It was a huge challenge to provide a fitting lighting concept, and of course it is also a challenge to conserve them.“

On July 4, 2014 his lighting concept for Esch-Belval will be inaugurated. It consists of the lighting of the blast furnaces and ‘street lights’. Already in 2006, he was commissioned to design the concept, and decided to use mainly white lights in various nuances. The widespread use of coloured illumination of landmarks did not seem appropriate. Instead, he uses distinct contrasts of bright and dark areas, inspired by movie directors as Sergej Eisenstein. Large parts of the furnaces are left in darkness; others seem to be lit up randomly. Their shadows appear on large tubes behind. Some parts of the rusty pipes seem to glow, but only glimpse of them is visible between other dimly lit pipes. Here, he uses some orange lighting, to emphasize the rust. A searchlight is part of the installation, to be used on special occasions. For Ingo Maurer and his team, it was essential to capture the spirit of the place and to underline the role of the furnaces in the newly built surroundings.

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Ingo Maurer also provided consulting for the colours and varnishes used on the tubes. Many of them have been painted in a warm grey tone. To conserve the rusty tones of other pipes, a specially developed clear varnish has been used.

The lighting concept offers several settings. Apart from the festive lighting, there is a slightly reduced ,everyday‘ version. A third one for national holidays is being planned.

A second, stunning part of Ingo Maurer’s concept are the objects that will light up the square between the furnaces and the area in front of the ‘Maison de Savoir’, a central building of the new university. They are the first ‘street lights’ designed by Ingo Maurer. But the word falls short of their extraordinary shape. The white disks have a diameter of 420 cm. They are kept above the ground at a slight angle by three slender, mat black poles with a length of approximately 5 metres. The opening in the middle has a width of 115 cm. On the bottom side, several curved openings of various lengths are equipped with recessed LEDs. This design provides light-ing for the floor and avoids unwanted upwards scattering of light. Additional spotlights brighten up the disk themselves, which are hovering in the air like shining UFOs, creating bright pools of light below. Ingo Maurer named his design ,*GuddeVol*, (luxembourgish for ,Have a good flight‘). The circular shape and the bright white colour introduce two new and distinct elements, adding a friendly, positive and dynamic touch to the surroundings.

Five *GuddeVol* will be lit up on July 4, 2014, more will be installed in the following months.

Belval, the new quarter of Esch-sur-Alzette is located on the site of the state’s biggest ironworks, operating until the late 1990s. An extensive urban regeneration programme has been carried out to transform it into a large scientific and cultural centre. The masterplan for the development was kicked off by a competition in 2001, won by the Dutch architects Jo Coenen & Co.

Technical data:

Lighting of the blast furnaces:

High power flood lights, 36 x 400 W LED, 30 x 600 W HMI metal halide lamp,  
13 x 1200 W HMI, 160 x LED lines, each 120 W,  
1 x 7 KW search light

*GuddeVol*:

Downlight 12 x LED 40 W, total of 480 W, 3600 K.

Uplights, one per pole, 3 x 27 W, 61 W, weight 1,5 t per lamp

The urban planning concept is available as animated movie on [www.fonds-belval.lu](http://www.fonds-belval.lu), including renderings of *GuddeVol* in daytime. In 2008, Ingo Maurer organized a lighting test. Photo material of the test is already available, other images will not be available before July 8 at the earliest.

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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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