

COLOUR IS KEY

With the view to introduce some poetry and fun into the often vandalised subways of Brussels, lighting design studio Radiance 35, the Sibelga Capital region and LEC Lyon have developed a vandalism-proof lighting solution.

Isabelle Corten of lighting design studio Radiance 35 and the Sibelga Capital region, Belgium are attempting to reinvent the lighting in subways in Brussels. As part of the lighting plan for the municipality of Jette, Sibelga and LEC Lyon have developed a technical solution to light the subway linking the Cardinal Mercier square and the train station. Too often vandalised, subways are a “recurrent theme in our cities,” stated Corten who is trying to add a bit of poetry and fun to these locations. “The challenge in these places is to find vandalism-proof installations and equipment. As it is often within reach.”

To light this unappealing passageway, the vision of the lighting designer was to make a work of art, create a fun passageway between these two entities and to make these often difficult and forgotten places seem shorter by playing with colour. Colour is key, it transforms the space and even gives graffiti another dimension, making it appear as part of the work. The reduced height of the subway and its exposure to vandalism led Sibelga and LEC to develop a technical solution in line with the lighting designer’s artistic objective. For this project, 80 5633-Arches LED linear lights, with - L4 optics, 40 warm white and 40 amber, light the subway alternately with

bands of coloured light.

To make the subway more user-friendly and secure, by day and night, it was essential to provide special vandalism-proof lighting. Custom-built stainless steel casing protects the LED linear lights as well as electric and electronic equipment (supplies, drivers, connections and cables) from possible vandalism.

The small size of LEC’s LED linear lights, 5633-Arches, and their adjustment capacity allows “easy integration within the box and provides the alternate lighting effect we were looking for,” said Madjid Teklal of Sibelga.

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