Stainless-steel cladding for escalators

Escalators and moving walkways are efficient, convenient people-moving systems in public and commercial facilities such as airports, railway stations and department stores. In designing an escalator system, not only do aspects such as safety, reliability and ease of use play a part but so does visual appearance. Stainless steel is now seen everywhere in such applications, and is thus a regular feature of our public spaces. Ground or brushed stainless-steel sheet clads the balustrades and the trusses of escalators; panels with acid-etched structured surfaces are used for the floorplates, the entry and exit points. And of course stainless steel appears as part of the steps themselves.

The advantages provided by stainless steel are its easy maintenance and cleaning, and its durability. A wide range of surface designs – from matt to mirror-polished, patterned or perforated – gives architects and designers plenty of scope for integrating these important features attractively into the particular situation and meeting all the technical requirements.

Client: Vesna Shopping Centre, Moscow, RUS
Photo: Schindler Aufzüge und Fahrtreppen GmbH, Berlin, D

In highly frequented areas, like here at this metro station in Milan, stainless steel is a popular choice as it is both robust and easy to clean.

Client: Azienda Trasporti Milanesi S.p.A., Milan, I
Photo: Kone GmbH, Hanover, D

Perforated stainless-steel cladding keeps the mechanism of this escalator on view, as a visual symbol of movement and mobility.

Client: Flughafen Köln/Bonn GmbH, D
Architects: Murphy/Jahn, Chicago, USA
Photo: Kone GmbH, Hanover, D

The mirror-polished stainless-steel sides of this escalator in a Moscow department store further enhance the high-class, exclusive ambiance.