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THE SPIEGEL CANTEEN

_Ippolito Fleitz Group

In October 2011, the Spiegel Group moved into its new publishing house in Hamburg's HafenCity. The structure was designed by Danish architect Henning Larsen. Ippolito Fleitz Group was commissioned to create a new employees' canteen for the building. The legacy building's famous canteen was designed in 1969 by Verner Panton and has since been placed under heritage protection.

The employees' canteen was and is a calling card of the Spiegel Group, reflecting its journalistic philosophy as much as its culture of dialogue – not only because of its prominent position in the building, but also its high visibility from the exterior. The floor plan of the canteen defines a large, polygonal space whose strong horizontal emphasis is further highlighted by the uninterrupted row of windows on two sides.

Ceiling and Lighting

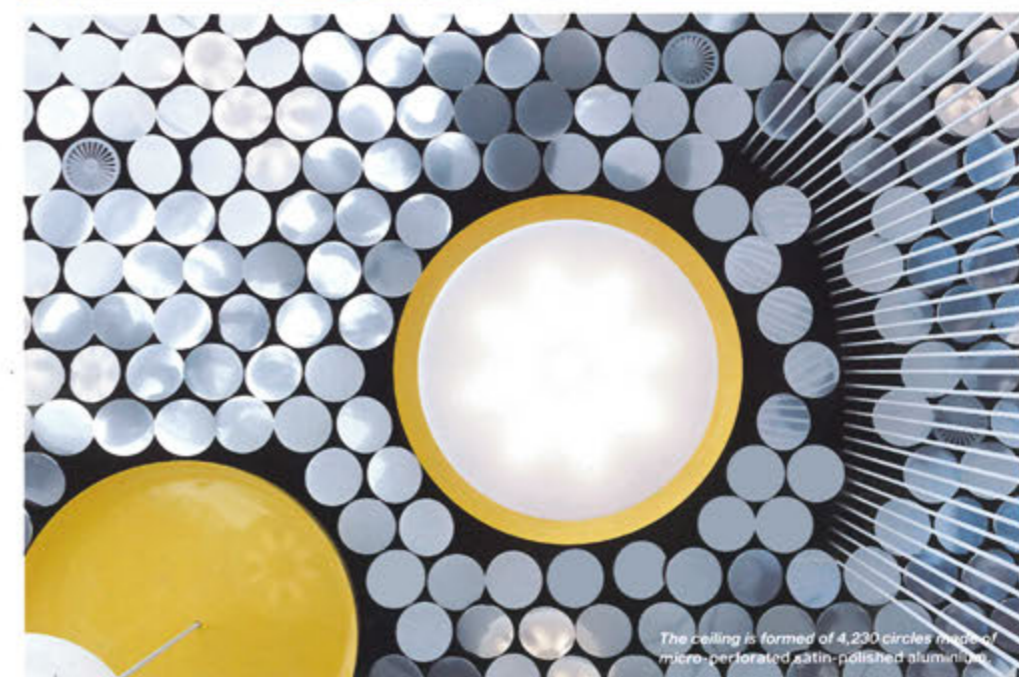
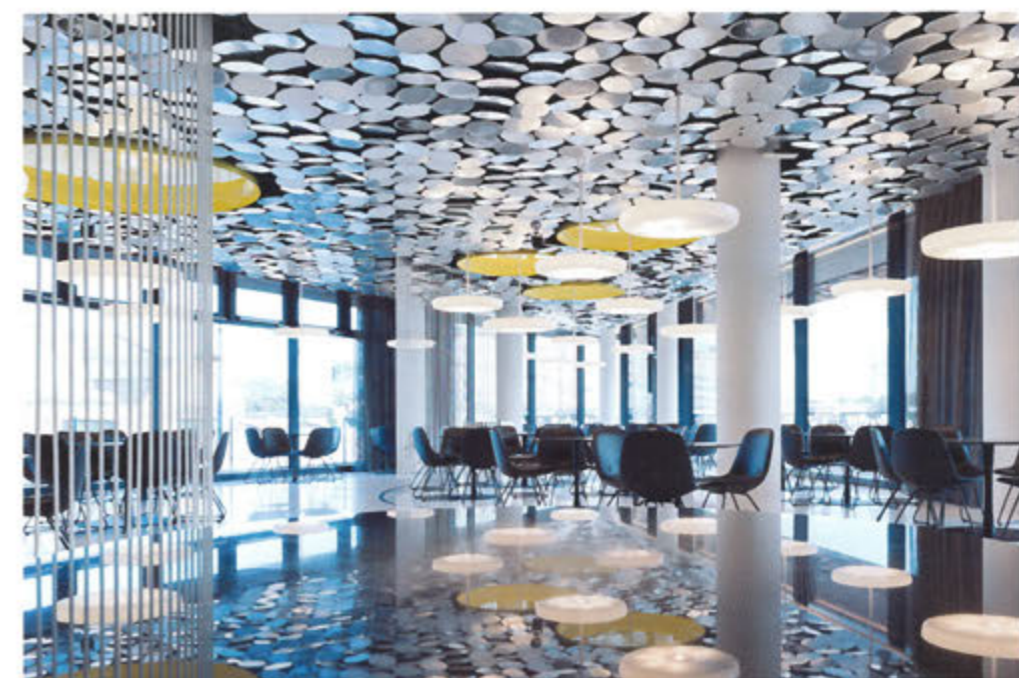
Reflecting the harbour location, we developed a matt shimmering ceiling which reflects light in much the same manner as water. It is formed of 4,230 circles made of micro-perforated satin-polished aluminium, laminated onto noise-absorbing supporting material and set at slight angles to each other.

During the day, the matt shimmering 'plates' absorb daylight and turn the roof into a lively, gently reflective complement to the water surface of the Ericusgraben canal. Large-scale light dishes use intense colour to divide the space into zones. Dimmable lamps suspended directly above tables ensure that light levels are infinitely variable.

In the evening the dishes are transformed into indirectly-lit light objects. Indirect light in selected

suspended lamps discreetly illuminates the ceiling discs. Focused downlights, hidden in the ceiling, complement the nuanced sophistication of the overall mood with light accents. Wallwashers integrated into the ceiling cast an even light on wall surfaces, which create a balance between horizontal and vertical illumination.

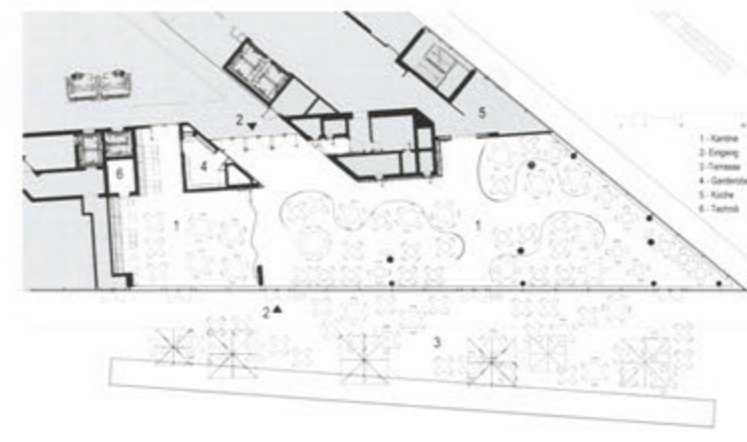
The ceiling also has functional advantages: the area above the ceiling plates is painted black, along with the mandatory technical fittings, rendering them invisible. Ceiling diffusers and sprinklers effectively disappear. In addition, the upper ceiling was configured to be noise-absorbent, complementing the acoustic properties of the micro-perforated plates.



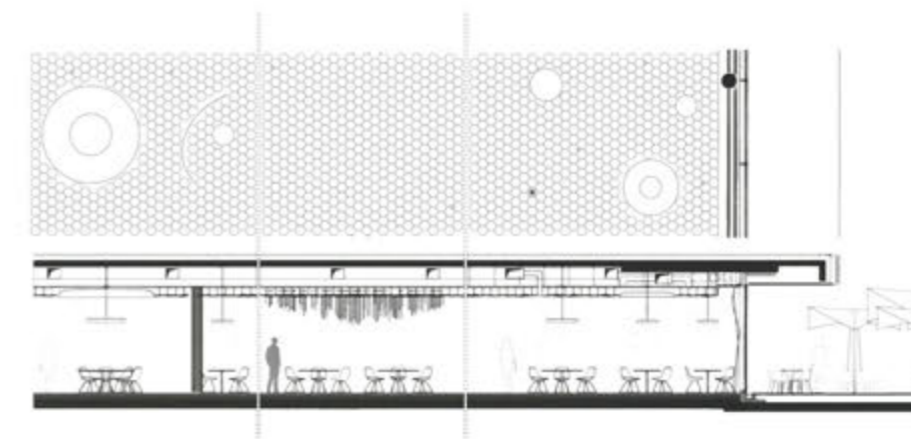
The ceiling is formed of 4,230 circles made of micro-perforated satin-polished aluminium.



A separate area is behind a zigzagging glass facade for discrete events.



Three lines are set into the smooth and white terrazzo floor, along which four areas are arranged.



Large yellow light dishes support the zoning of the space just as the hanging lamps locate tables within the space.

The Space and Its Divisions

The employees' canteen is a meeting place, a place of culture and informal exchange of opinions. At the same time it should fulfill functional obligations such as accessibility and spatial clarity.

The round tables are made from black coated steel frames which seem to grow from the floor in a graceful motion. Granite plates serve as table tops, the lasered surfaces of which work with the ceiling lights to create glare-free light. The tables are placed in three large groups in loose arrangements: movement zones are thus clearly delineated. Wood panelling lends a sense

of depth to structural hubs. The whitewashed surfaces appear even deeper thanks to a vertical and wavy relief which gives a textile-like effect.

The Glass Façade

A separate area can be formed at one end for discrete events or for use of the canteen late at night. The glass façade between this area and the canteen is formed of doubly reflective glass. So at times when both areas are in use, the separation is almost immaterial. However when the canteen is closed and thus darker, the façade appears half-mirrored and half-transparent.