



The Grimaldi Forum Monaco, 10 years on

A makeover all in light and transparency

As keen as ever to enhance its appeal, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco is seizing the opportunity offered by its symbolic 10th anniversary to modernise its appearance. Natural light, transparency, glass, fine materials and new furnishings are being employed so that the public areas will reflect even more strongly the full modernity, warmth and conviviality of the Principality's Congress Centre. This ambitious €15 million project made possible by the Monegasque government is scheduled over three years so as not to inconvenience the Grimaldi Forum's clients.

Level 0: "A beacon inviting visitors of the future"

That is the ambition for the new main foyer and more particularly the reception area, to make them more personal and more emblematic of the Grimaldi Forum. The double-door entry lobby is to have a new ceiling of changing colours, defining the space like the light of a beacon.

The Grande Verrière with its eye-catching roof lantern, still be the heart of the building and the gateway to all four floors, is to be reconfigured, refitted and structured. Although not being replaced, the main escalators will be modernised and revamped by incorporating LED lighting, a subtle means of blending them in and updating their appearance, which is to be used for all the escalators in the building. The balustrades in the atrium will be replaced by illuminated decorative glass panels surmounted by an extruded aluminium handrail.

In the foyer, the ticket office is being completely redesigned along with the cloakroom, shop and information desk, the basic idea being to group all the services together so visitors can access them easily. Glass partitioning and glossy surfaces are to replace the present facings of grey stone.

The roof lantern will also enhance the elegance of a lounge area furnished with seating that has built-in climate control, while further rest areas are to be created around the atrium so as to liven it up. The light well will live up to its name as never before since it is to house a central light installation composed of a multitude of vertical tubes of dichroic glass, guaranteed to catch the eye by day and night.

To make it easier for visitors to find their way around the Grimaldi Forum, the access routes to the different parts of the building will be more clearly defined. The access to Salle des Princes will be indicated from the foyer by specially made decorative glass panels and the staircase will be given a glossy finish to match the foyer's new styling.

The staircase itself has not been forgotten: the underside is to be faced and lit and the wooden treads replaced with terrazzo ones (resin and powdered marble).

Levels -1 and -2: "A welcoming transition"

Level -1 will unquestionably gain in warmth and functionality through the creation of a lounge area, so creating a more convivial environment around the Salle des Princes balcony.

The big walkway crossing the atrium on level -1 is to exchange its metal balustrades and wood facings for glass walls with illuminated edges and a soft tiled floor, forming a stylish, luminous bridge suspended between two parts of the building.

Level -2, where the breakout rooms and auditoria are located, is sure to delight and attract visitors with its new seating areas created around revamped and extended bars.

On the lower level of conference rooms, backlit onyx panels and glass-framed openings will create considerably more light so as to make this area warmer and more modern.

In addition, glass-partitioned entrance lobbies for Salle Camille Blanc and Salle Prince Pierre will guide visitors more naturally to them.

All in all, the entire building is being overhauled to create a free-flowing ensemble, the sole aim being to further enhance its events.

The architects masterminding the project

This make-over programme has been entrusted to the partnership of Czech architect **Eva Jiricna** (conception and design) and Monegasque architect **Christian Curau** (coordination and project management).

Café Llorca Monaco opens

One of the first high points of this makeover will be the December 2010 opening, on the Grimaldi Forum Monaco's first floor, of star-studded chef Alain Llorca's brand new Café Llorca. This Mediterranean brasserie serving a menu focused on southern cuisine will be open every day until 6pm, then for private functions only in the evenings. Its 220m² terrace with a panoramic view over the sea will be just one of the many assets of a restaurant that should soon become a must.



NIVEAU -2 BAR DE L'ATRIUM DETAIL



NIVEAU -2 FOYER II



NIVEAU -2 - VUE VERS LE BAR DE L'ATRIUM