

bLINK in Göteborg: When technology, art, and color merge

What happens when a bright pink beam of light hits a city—or rather, its infrastructure? This is precisely the visionary idea behind bLINK, the large-scale artwork by internationally renowned artist Katharina Grosse, which is currently redefining the cityscape of Gothenburg. At the heart of the work is a seemingly fallen boulder made of steel and aluminum plates, which rests spectacularly on a railway bridge - 14 meters long, 11 meters wide, and 10 meters high. This colorful statement in public space was realized under the direction of Hahner Technik with contributions from specialized partners - including the ZINQ site in Maintal, which provided selected galvanizing services and, like ZINQ Manufaktur, was involved at an early stage as a technical consultant.

The Swedish Transport Agency Trafikverket awarded the contract for the artwork by artist Katharina Grosse to Hahner Technik following a public tender process.

After successfully submitting a bid and winning the contract, Hahner Technik immediately involved all partners relevant to the project in order to define the complex interfaces as early as possible and coordinate the development of solutions.

Long-lasting protection with a system

“The goal was to create a protective system that would function reliably even under extreme conditions,” explains Chris toph Jestädt, Key Account Manager and Project Manager at Hahner Technik GmbH & Co. KG. “Defined in the tender as corrosivity category C5-M. This was a demanding requirement, but we worked with ZINQ and others to develop the right solution at an early stage.” The result: a multi-layer protection system, ideally consisting of hot-dip galvanizing, followed by a double coat of primer applied by two German specialist companies and a magenta top coat in RGB 252/52/203 - for lasting protection in public spaces.

bLINK in Göteborg.
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From design to installation: planning with foresight

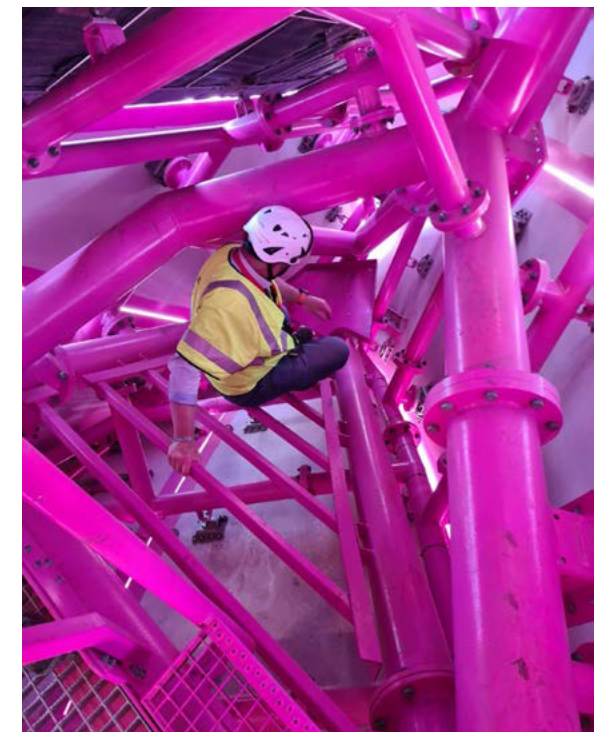
The production of the monumental sculpture at Hahner Technik began in calendar week 13 and took the entire year 2023 to complete. At the same time, logistical planning was carried out to ensure that all components could be processed efficiently and on schedule. Before shipping, the entire artwork was pre-assembled at Hahner to test its fit and stability. The structure was then dismantled into transportable units, taking into account the boiler dimensions for galvanization.

Precisely integrated joints and flanges facilitated the process. Galvanization and coating of the components followed in the first nine weeks of 2024. Many of them had already been tailored in advance to the dimensions of the galvanizing tank at the ZINQ site in Maintal (tank dimensions: 8.50 m x 2.60 m x 3.30 m). All the holes required for hot-dip galvanizing for inlet and venting were concealed, i.e., made on the inside - this was planned in detail in advance together with ZINQ.



Pictures on the left: View of the production hall at Hahner Technik during the development of bLINK and during pre-assembly in Göteborg.
© Hahner Technik

Magenta colors—also inside the boulder.
© Herwig Bretis



This allowed the zinc to run off optimally and resulted in hardly any thickening on the surface. This enabled sustainable, smooth galvanizing with the circular duroZINQ surface and minimized fragmentation. The elements were then swept, primed, and painted. Two specialized coating companies carried out this work under considerable time pressure. The finished elements were then carefully packed in custom-made wooden crates and prepared for transport.

Spectacular installation with precision and technology

Transport to Gothenburg was carried out using 18 trucks, with final assembly on site taking place within 12 weeks. To this end, a 20-ton, uncoated support grid was first erected. Three employees from Hahner Technik then mounted the entire steel structure on this grid in a horizontal position, followed by the aluminum panels. Some plates were initially left out so that the three chains for suspension could later be fed through the structure. After pre-assembly, the structure was tilted 60 degrees and attached to a crane. The sculpture, weighing approximately 31 tons, was placed on the

bridge structure in one piece. All static intermediate construction stages were carefully planned in advance. A total of four maintenance levels were integrated, from which the internal screw connections could also be installed. Finally, the recessed aluminum plates were inserted.

Structurally well thought out down to the last detail

In close cooperation with the engineering firm ArtEngineering, which was responsible for the structural design, Hahner Technik developed a construction that was suitable for both transport and assembly and at the same time could withstand long-term thermal loads. Hahner installed over 600 specially designed stainless steel bearings between the load-bearing steel structure and the aluminum plates. These serve to safely absorb length changes resulting from thermal expansion due to solar radiation - a detail that shows how carefully every component was planned down to the smallest detail. "The logistical coordination across national borders and with several partners was a challenge, but at the same time a prime example of how cooperation works,"



Pink rock on a support grid.
© Hahner Technik

View of the already installed boulder.
© Herwig Bretis



says Christoph Jestädt.

Together towards success

ZINQ in Maintal was part of a precise, technically demanding overall process. Early consultation with ZINQ Manufaktur on topics such as optimal corrosion protection, invisible drilling, boiler geometry, and process coordination contributed significantly to the success of the project. This approach is typical of ZINQ Manufaktur, which was developed in collaboration with ZINQ customers from the metalworking sector and offers an all-round carefree package in terms of protection and design on steel. This meant that the zinc was able to flow ideally in this project too and the surface remained even - adding value for the subsequent coating processes. "With ZINQ, we had a reliable partner right from the start who provided valuable support beyond the pure finishing with the circular duroZINQ surface," emphasizes Christoph Jestädt.

A pink rock for eternity

bLINK is more than just an art project: it is an expression of technical and creative collaboration at the highest level. It combines artistic freedom with reliable execution, precise planning with powerful color effects. Even adjacent areas such as lawns were designed in magenta. And it shows how sustainable corrosion protection in a vibrant form can contribute to the design of public spaces—even when not everything comes from a single source, but is precisely interlinked by specialists such as Hahner Technik and ZINQ. bLINK has currently been submitted for the renowned Swedish Steel Construction Award.

The facts

Project

The ZINQ site in Maintal was involved as a technical partner for corrosion protection in the monumental art installation bLINK by internationally renowned artist Katharina Grosse in Gothenburg (Sweden). At the heart of the project was a 14 x 11 x 10 meter sculpture weighing around 31 tons, which was installed on a railway bridge as a visual statement. The structure consists of 20 tons of steel and 10 tons of aluminum. ZINQ provided selected galvanizing services with the circular surface duroZINQ and was involved in the planning at an early stage through ZINQ Manufaktur - with a focus on corrosion protection in accordance with category C5-M.

Client

Hahner Technik GmbH & Co. KG

The company has been manufacturing sophisticated and complex steel structures for over 30 years. In recent years, its range of services has grown significantly beyond pure steel construction: in addition to metal construction, Hahner Technik is now also a designer and consultant—a full-service provider that plans interfaces and coordinates the relevant trades.

Further information is available at: www.hahner-technik.de

galvanization

ZINQ Beilstein GmbH & Co. KG, Maintal facility

Further information is available at: www.zinq.de