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GOING UNDER GROUND

HAFENCITY-UNIVERSITY'S NEW U-BAHN STATION

PAUL NULTY INTERVIEWED • PUBLIC REALM LIGHTING
EXTERIOR PRODUCT GUIDE • IGUZZINI LASER BLADE REVIEWED



SUBTERRANEAN BLUES

Hafencity has thrived for nearly a millennium as Hamburg's river port. A new subway lighting scheme by Pfarre Lighting Design honours the area's industrious past.



Hafencity used to be Hamburg's shipping hub, at one time comprised of a rabbit warren of warehouses and storage facilities, it has played a key role in Germany's social and economic history for many years. Sitting on the banks of the River Elbe, for emigrants in the 20th century, be they looking for a better a life, or fleeing persecution, Hafencity was a gateway to the rest of the world. Germany's Ellis Island. Growing out of a lucrative tax exemption Emperor Barbarossa bestowed on Hamburg in 1189, freeing the city from customs duty, the port became a dynamo of activity and development, the money made turning merchants into kings, who built impressive homes with elegant architecture on the canal islands of Brook, Kehrwieder and Wandrahm. The Hafencity revolution was stalled by the Second World War, but it was the invention of the freight container in 1956 that did

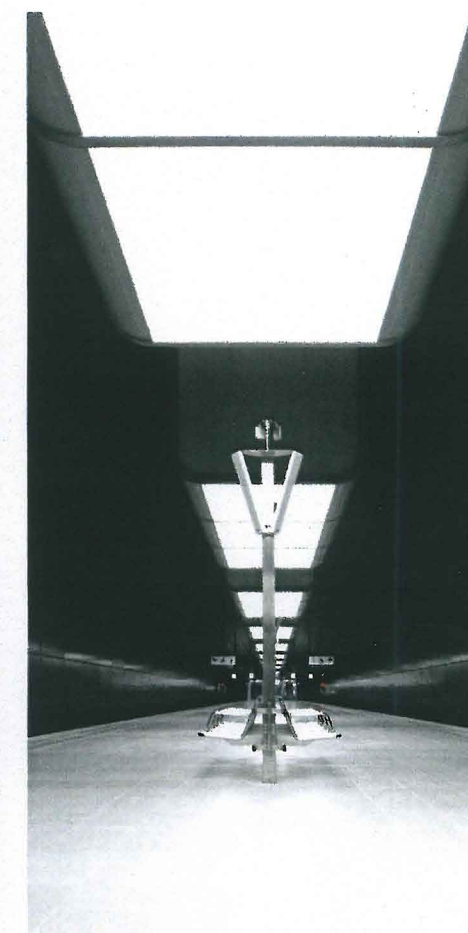
the most damage. The new ships needed to carry the containers were too big for the harbour basin, the dockside facilities too small to be useful and the port duly moved to the south side of the Elbe in response, ending the area's shipping dominance. Since the German senate granted official city status to the area in 1997, the brick warehouses that had started to fall empty have seen a new lease of life, as museums, multimedia agencies and a more creative based industry moved into the area. Today Hafencity boasts the International Maritime Museum of Hamburg and the impressive Elbe Philharmonic Hall, which is currently under construction on top of the red bricks of an old warehouse, past and future beautifully fused together in one building. The same can be said of the new Hafencity-University Subway Station, the design of which was inspired by the shipping container itself, as well as the brick facades

of the warehouses and the cranes and the steel hulls of the docked ships which used to tower over the city. Created by Raupach Architects and Stauss Pedrazzini Industrial Design with lighting from Pfarré Lighting Design, the station's look is heavily rooted in the life of the harbour and the industrial nature of the environment. With a heavy use of steel, light, colour and reflection, a powerful ambience has been created by hanging twelve metal-framed glass boxes in repetition over the middle of the platforms, each weighing six tons and each with the exact dimensions of a standard shipping container (6.5m x 2.8m). The translucent panels between the sharply defined frames are lit with 289 individual RGB LED emitters placed inside each capsule. To illuminate the platform with evenly distributed warm-white light, the underside of each container has been



made of matt-white glass. The units have been designed to change colour en masse and signal the arrival or imminent departure of a train and the colours can be coordinated and controlled in individual sections to synchronise with the seasons. The lights change at a relaxed rate and are engineered so as not to be bombastic and resemble entertainment lighting, yet both the atmosphere and the spatial experience created by the colours is extremely powerful. All the entrance areas to the station and the ticket halls are illuminated with fluorescent cove lighting systems in order to sharpen

their architectural concept and the recessed metal halide downlights in the ticket halls are ERCO Lightcast 35W luminaires. The containers, created by Alexander Weckmer Licht, are custom-made and equipped with 280 LED RGB nodes per container equaling 1100W. "The shipping container perfectly matches the busy harbour above," says Gerd Pfarré of Pfarré Lighting Design who won a competition to take part in the project. "The architect's idea to clad all the walls and ceilings with steel also matched the typical material used in the construction of ships and cranes. We wanted to design a station in correspondence to the site,



PROJECT DETAILS

Hafencity-University Subway Station, Hamburg, Germany
Client: Hafencity
Architects: Raupach Architects, Stauss Pedrazzini Industrial Design
Lighting Design: Pfarré Lighting Design

LIGHTING SPECIFIED

ERCO Lightcast 35W
Alexander Weckmer Licht LED RGB nodes.

not another 'add-on design' to a subway station." Initially Pfarré wanted to design the containers so it was possible, via a catwalk style passage, for commuters to walk through them and experience the light inside. "The colour changing system was from the beginning a key feature of the lighting design concept," says Pfarré. "We wanted to create smooth magical reflections of coloured light on the steel surfaces." The plan was not to devise a lighting design that entertained, but the intention of the chosen colours was to create a calm, relaxed atmosphere, a space for



Left The container-like fixtures offer an impressive contrast to the traditional platform, the coloured strips running in parallel to the concrete, offering an original contrast.

contemplation.”

There is an obvious contrast between the evenly lit platform, its lighting functional and crafted only with the benefit and safety of commuters in mind, and the decorative creativity that can be seen above this. It is a fitting contrast though, an attempt to blend the unusual and the magical with the drudgery and the normality of the everyday. The inter-changeable nature of the colours is an attempt at brightening countless commutes, something to differentiate the ten trips weekday workers will make through the station complex. This lighting design is, in part, best defined as a weekday pick-me-up.

The original brief didn't specifically ask for a show of innovative imagination though. “The design brief was to create functional lighting for the platform, according to German norms for subway stations,” Pfarré says. “There was no other brief or particular interest from the client's side.” After working on Munich's Westfriedhof Station, with Ingo Maurer, during the early 1990s, Pfarré knew from experience what kind of design he wanted to produce. “I wanted to use coloured lighting with a sense, a meaning,” he says. “Light that makes you happy while you are waiting, that reflects the season, or is related to the time of day.”

Once he had produced a scheme that satisfied these aims, all that remained was to sell a vibrant and exciting design to a client who had requested the functional

JAPANESE

2012年、独ハンブルグの地下鉄(Uバーン)に新たな路線が加わりました。新設された数々の駅の中でも、魅力的という点でハーフェンシティ-ユニバーシティの地下駅は群を抜いています。建築事務所Raupach Architektenは、Design Stauss Grillmeierとのコラボレーションにより、地上世界から受けたインスピレーション世界を構築しました。たとえば、港に浮かぶ鋼鉄の船体は、駅に並べられた鋼鉄パネルで再現され、船が運ぶ巨大な輸送コンテナは、プラットフォームに沿って設置された12の印象的な照明オブジェに姿を変えています。天井からは、標準的な船舶コンテナと同じ寸法の照明ボックスが釣り下がり、Pfarré Lighting Designとの共同制作

によるボックスに内蔵された280個の RGB LED照明エミッターが、半透明のサイドパネルにカラフルな輝きを投影します。こうした仕掛けにより、各ボックスは多彩な表情を帯びるだけでなく、次の列車の接近を知らせる役目を担います。白暖燈が均一にプラットフォームを照らすよう、コンテナの下側の素材にはマットな白色ガラスが使われています。

CHINESE

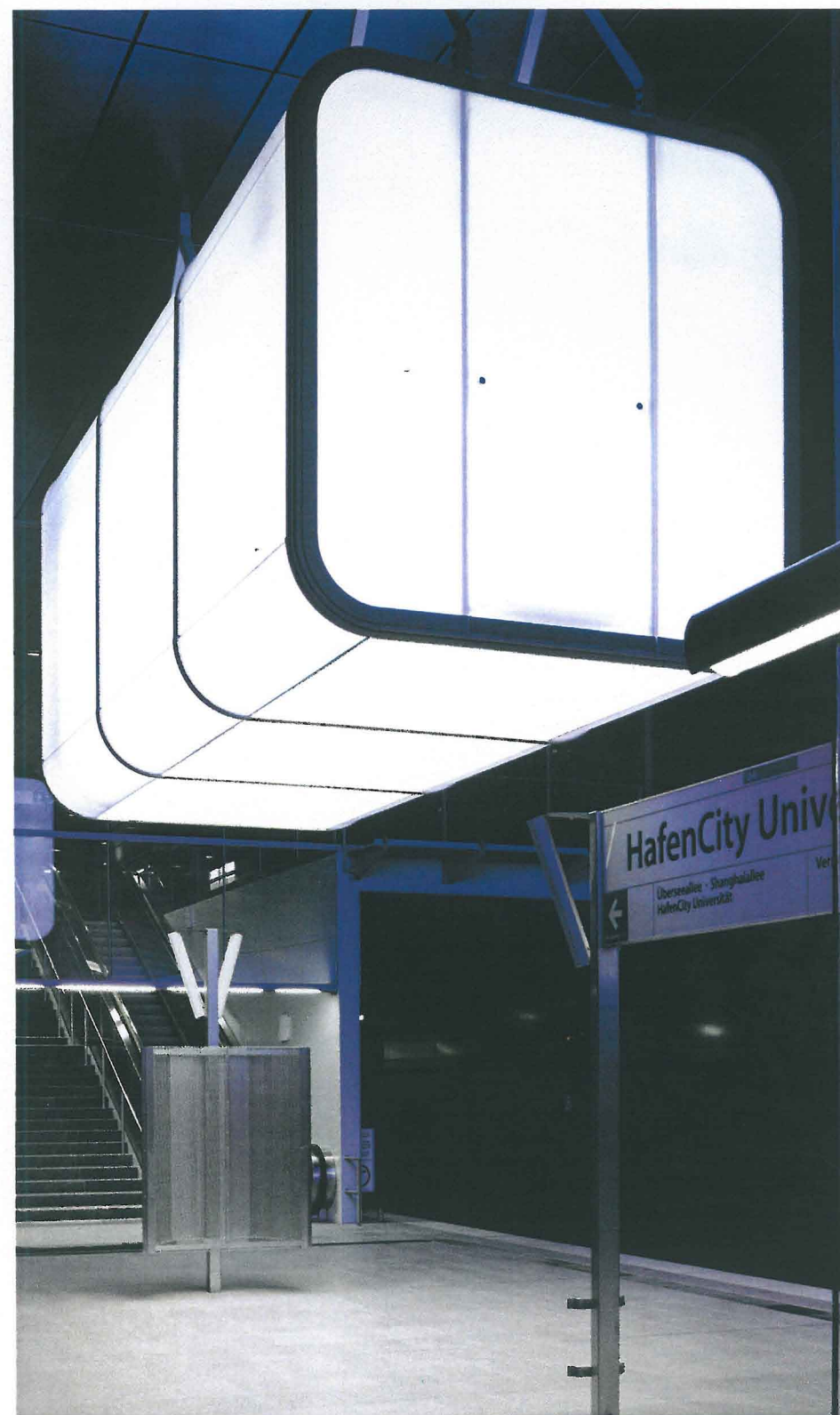
2012年、汉堡地铁系统新增了一条线路。在众多新建车站中，最有趣的可能是算汉堡港口新城大学地铁站。Raupach Architekten 与 Design Stauss Grillmeier设计事务所协作，空间营造灵感源于地铁站外面的世界。例如，安装于车站的钢护板仿效了海港船只的金属壳。沿站台安装的12套照明

设施气势恢宏，重新诠释了船只运载的集装箱。悬挂于天花板的各灯箱与标准船用集装箱规格相同。灯箱设计由Pfarré Lighting Design设计事务所协作完成，各灯箱均有280个LED发射器，使透明的灯箱侧板色彩斑斓。这些灯箱可用于营造各种不同的外观，例如，可用于告知下一班车的到来。为了给站台提供均匀的暖白光照明，灯箱底板材料使用了无光泽白玻璃。

FRANÇAIS

En 2012, une nouvelle ligne a été ajoutée à Hambourg U-Bahn système. Parmi les nombreuses stations nouvellement créées, celle ci-dessous Hafencity-Universität est peut-être la plus intrigante. Raupach Architekten a travaillé avec Design Stauss Grillmeier pour créer un espace qui prend son inspi-

ration dans le monde. Les coques métalliques des navires dans le port, par exemple, trouvent un écho dans les panneaux en acier qui bordent la station. Les énormes conteneurs que les navires transportent ont été réinterprétés en douze imposants objets lumineux qui longent la plate-forme. Suspendus au plafond, chaque boîte à lumière a les mêmes dimensions qu'un conteneur standard de navire. Conçu en collaboration avec Pfarré Lighting Design, les boîtes contiennent chacune des émetteurs 280 LED RGB qui donnent à leurs panneaux latéraux translucides une lueur colorée. Ceux-ci peuvent être utilisés pour créer une variété d'aspects visuels et peuvent être utilisés, par exemple, pour annoncer l'approche du prochain train. Pour éclairer la plate-forme avec une lumière blanche et chaude répartie uniformément, la face inférieure des conteneurs est en verre blanc-opaque.



and accepted norms of previous stations. “The toughest challenge was to convince the client's project manager and the person responsible for lighting,” Pfarré says. “No other challenge in my career has been so tough.”

This problem, of course, was amiably overcome and the project was completed in November 2012, with the station meeting with the approval and appreciation of the commuters who have used it.

“Coloured light is extremely powerful, so you should handle it with great care and sensibility,” Pfarré concludes, summing up the potency of his design. “Dynamic coloured lighting is even more powerful; it is important to create smooth, slow rhythms of colour changes, something akin to the considered approach heard in classical music.”

The creation of a design that is planned and crafted to be an accompaniment to a space, while effecting the senses at the same time, is a tightrope walk. It is very difficult not, in such a case, to produce something that overpowers and dominates in an attempt to succeed in its aims. What is instead achieved here is subtlety and a restrained approach.

“Bridging the gap from entertainment lighting to an overall sensual experience is not easy,” says Pfarré. “We wanted to create an experience which might expand your perception and touch your soul.” This lighting design will attract the eye of the weary commuter away from a tablet screen or a morning paper, but this project is more than that, it is a homage to an industrious past which built a city on the back of a shipping container.

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DEUTSCH

2012 wurde dem U-Bahnsystem in Hamburg eine neue Linie hinzugefügt. Unter den zahlreichen neu errichteten Haltestellen ist die unter der Hafencity-Universität vielleicht die beeindruckendste. Raupach Architekten arbeiteten mit Design Stauss Grillmeier, um einen Bereich zu schaffen, der sich von der darüber liegenden Welt inspirieren lässt. Die metallenen Schiffsrümpfe im Hafen finden zum Beispiel Anklang in den Stahlelementen, die die Haltestelle umsäumen. Die riesigen Transportcontainer auf den Schiffen wurden als zwölf imposante Beleuchtungsmerkmale neu interpretiert, die über die gesamte Länge des Bahnsteigs verlaufen. Jede von der Decke herunterhängende Lichtbox hat dieselben Abmessungen wie ein standardmäßiger Schiffskon-tainer. Die Boxen wurden in Zusammenarbeit mit Pfarré Lighting Design entworfen und enthalten jew-

eils 280 RGB LED-Strahler, die den transparenten Seitenwänden einen farneichen Glanz verleihen. Dies kann benutzt werden, eine Vielzahl von Looks zu kreieren oder aber, um zum Beispiel die baldige Ankunft des nächsten Zuges zu verkünden. Um den Bahnsteig mit gleichmäßig verteiltem warmem, weißem Licht zu beleuchten, bestehen die Unterseiten der Container aus weißem Mattglas.

ITALIANO

Nel 2012 una nuova linea è stata aggiunta al sistema U-bahn di Amburgo. Tra le nuove stazioni create, quella che passa sotto l'Università di Hafencity è decisamente la più intrigante. Raupach Architekten ha collaborato con Design Stauss Grillmeier per creare uno spazio che si ispirasse al mondo superiore. I pannelli di acciaio che percorrono tutta la stazione, per esempio, imitano gli involucri di metallo delle navi nei porti. Gli enormi container trasportati dalle

navi sono stati re interpretati come dodici imponenti punti di illuminazione che si estendono in lunghezza sui binari. Sospesa dal soffitto, ogni scatola di illuminazione ha le stesse dimensioni di un container standard. Progettate in collaborazione con Pfarré Lighting Design, le scatole contengono ognuna un emettitore 280 RGB LED che attribuisce ai pannelli laterali traslucidi un bagliore di colore. Questi vengono utilizzati in una varietà di aspetti e possono essere utilizzati per esempio, per annunciare l'arrivo del treno successivo. Per illuminare il binario con una luce bianca calda e omogenea, il lato inferiore delle scatole è composto da vetro bianco opaco.

ESPAÑOL

En 2012 se agregó una nueva línea al sistema U-bahn de Hamburg. Entre las muchas nuevas estaciones creadas, la siguiente, Hafencity-Universität, es tal vez la más interesante. Raupach Architekten

trabajó con Design Stauss Grillmeier para crear un espacio que tomara su inspiración desde el mundo de arriba. Los cascos metálicos de los barcos en el puerto, por ejemplo, se repiten en los paneles de acero que surcan la estación. Los enormes contenedores que llevan los barcos han sido re-interpretados como doce rasgos impresionantes de luces que corren a lo largo de la plataforma. Suspendidas desde el cielo raso, cada caja de luz tiene las mismas dimensiones que un contenedor de barco estándar. Diseñadas en colaboración con Pfarré Lighting Design, las cajas contienen 280 emisores de LED RGB cada una que le brindan a sus paneles laterales traslúcidos un resplandor colorido. Esto puede ser utilizado para crear una variedad de vistas y puede utilizarse, por ejemplo, para anunciar la llegada del próximo tren. Para iluminar la plataforma con luz blanca cálida distribuida uniformemente, las partes inferiores de los contenedores están hechos de vidrio blanco-mate.