

Grounded

Photo: EPS

Events are becoming ever more spectacular, which is making greater demands of stable substructures. Innovative systems mean that subflooring and stages can bear increasing loads.

The requirements of a stadium needed to host big productions have changed enormously. Venue operators and organisers are confronted with ever more gigantic stage constructions and correspondingly high point loads.

But stages, decks and podiums are not only used for big open-air concerts. In the past months the curtain has been raised on

system solutions and special made-to-order constructions at a raft of very diverse events. For instance, architects at Schmidhuber + Partner, Munich, created a 2,300 m² exhibition area for Audi resembling a theatre stage. Visitors to the Geneva Motor Show in March 2010 experienced a visual arc from the carmaker's compact series to its premium models linking the

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Photo: Schmoehuber & Partner

world premiere of the Audi A1 to the big Audi A8 Hybrid. Designed as a modular showcase, the stage interlaced media-generated and real spatial segments with each other. Presentation boxes for vehicles in the wall at the back of the stage alternated with square areas for media productions. The architecture drew the stage space upwards, creating the effect of distance while itself becoming a playable area. Additionally, the A1 stand, as the bridging element to the separate A8 presentation, gave the observer an overview of the whole exhibition appearance.

Object-System-Floor, Naumburg / Kassel, offers a flexible floor system to rent and buy. In the rental version the floor panels are delivered in a transport box. The individual elements come in many different sizes up to an area of 1.5 m². Carpet or stone floors, for instance, can then be laid on the underfloor. "Interesting effects can be ob-

tained by using glass combined with underlighting or sunken spots," the company says. What is more, special designs can be made to order.

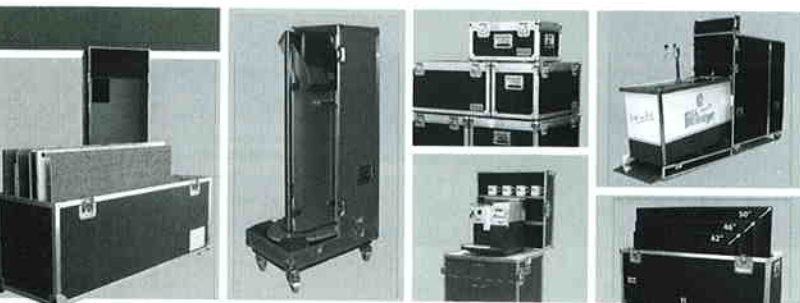
In March 2010 EPS, Cologne, set the infrastructural scene for the WBO World Heavyweight Championship fight at the Esprit-Arena in Düsseldorf. 5,400 m² of the Terraplas natural grass protection system

Visitors to the Geneva Motor Show experienced an arc

und 2,700 m² of its heavy-duty aluminium Arena Panels were delivered and assembled for the purpose. After all, sensitive stadium grounds need special protection if they are to sustain stage constructions weighing several hundred thousand kilograms in total. Additionally, heavy-duty floors must cope with the weight of trans-

port vehicles weighing tons. During ProLight+Sound this March in Frankfurt, Layher/Güglingen-Eibensbach, displayed its new product programme of event stages, FOH towers, camera towers and PA wings. Layher also presented the prototypes of a plug-in leg solution for the new generation of decks. The swift installation of leg holders for leg insert podiums means they can also be used in future for event constructions with a substructure made of Allround Scaffolding. Layher's programme furthermore comprises podiums, stages, grandstands with seats and no-seat stands as well as weather protection solutions, special supporting structures for light and sound engineering and scaffolding systems for the construction of towers or as a substructure for hall buildings.

For the medal presentation ceremony at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler Village north of Vancouver in British Colum-



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Photo Nüssli

bia, Nüssli, Hüttwilen/Switzerland, built a 720 m² podium that could also accommodate handicapped medallists. The complex podium further comprised a 150 m² annexe for interviews. Twelve grandstands for altogether 40,000 spectators, more than 600 commentator positions and press seats were also the work of Nüssli. Upwards of 600 camera platforms and other smaller constructions including eight pedestrian bridges, 30 cable bridges, 150 staircases and ramps and some 200 platforms were built as well. Nüssli's own Combi-Stage system and a CD support system were used. Health and safety regulations meant that work could not be carried out directly in the structure, necessitating the use of additional work platforms.

For the 60th anniversary of the Berlin International Film Festival in February 2010 Stageco Business Partners, Berlin, con-

structed a scaffold for the installation of a symbolic cinema curtain. Korean-American artist Christina Kim produced The Curtain, a huge work of art consisting of film posters and hung at Brandenburg Gate. Together with truss manufacturer Camco, Wenden-Gerlingen, the company 2M The-

A scaffold for the installation of a symbolic curtain

ater-&Veranstaltungstechnik, Wülfrath, has constructed a new open-air stage for the City of Essen. Measuring 16 x 13 m, it can be raised by up to 12 m. During the 2010 European Capital of Culture 2010 project it will be used as a floating stage on Lake Baldeney. It is fitted with big side wings to house video screens and line arrays.

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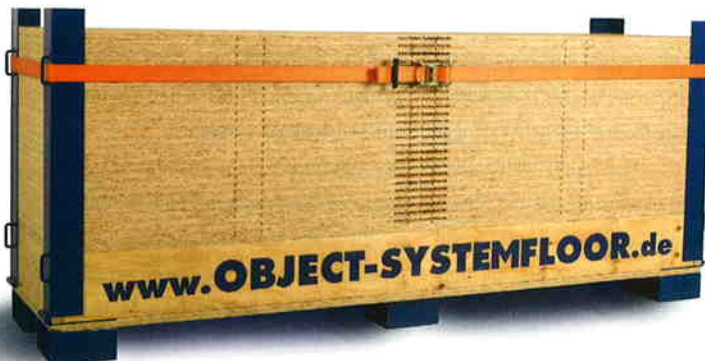


Photo Object-System-Floor