



Mutated Panels, for surprisingly mutant architecture



Natural light is the most fundamental element central to **Richard Meier**'s work. It is manipulated to shape space, mark the passage of time and reveal the presence of the sky. Italcementi Group works with architects, contributing its materials and know-how to work on innovative high-tech projects.

The Group's partnership with Richard Meier & Partners dates back to the construction of **Dives in Misericordia** church in Rome in the late nineties, and continues with the **i.lab** project, the Italcementi Group's new Research and Innovation Center, offering the best of "green" construction technologies. The synthesis of this partnership also appears in **Mutated Panels**, an installation perfected by Meier's studio using new environmentally compatible products developed by Italcementi researchers: **i.light**[®] "transparent" cement and **TX Active**[®] "smog-eating" cement.

Concept

The **Mutated Panels** consist of a series of walls whose geometries gradually distort in one dimension: their material – concrete – is itself an expression of this plasticity. As the observer moves around the installation, the piece emulates the different planar, volumetric, temporal and spatial qualities. First as an inert white concrete square; second as a volume formed by the square and a translucent concrete wall; third as a sequence of distorted panel edges that process behind the square; and last as a linear space, animated by the twisted panels' interaction with sunlight to one side, and the delicacy of the transparent wall to the other.

Project

The installation is made up of 2-3m x 3m panels produced using **TX Active**[®] photocatalytic cement, a self-cleaning and pollution-reducing material used in Richard Meier's Dives in Misericordia church in Rome. In addition to this quality material, Styl-Comp precast concrete technology uses fiberglass formworks for a smooth, flawless finish. The panels are arranged in sequence – from flat to twisted to flat – supported by a raised plinth, in a series about ten meters long.

i.light[®] transparent cement panels run along a wall behind the **TX Active**[®] panels supported by a steel frame. Visitors can walk through a corridor adjacent to the installation to view the **Mutated Panels** through the transparent cement panels beyond them; the view through the transparent panels will be enhanced by an opaque roof overhead.