

Canary Wharf's laminated glass canopies: maximum daylight – maximum safety



CANARY WHARF: TURTLE-SHELL GLASS CANOPIES

Three dramatic, elliptical domed canopies of laminated glass incorporating DuPont™ Butacite® PVB and steel (resembling giant, transparent turtle shells) serve as passenger entrance and exits to London's Canary Wharf underground station.

Architects Foster and Partners told LGN: "The laminated glass structures prevent rain and wind from entering the station, while admitting generous amounts of daylight deep into the station's interior." Paolo Consigli of Italian laminator SPS explained: "All the panels were designed using clear float glass, 12 mm + 12 mm, curved and tempered without tong marks and laminated with 1.52 mm Butacite® PVB. The operations and production cycles were carried out in conformity with BS EN 9002, UNI 6487 and DIN 1249-12 regulations."

Public Safety Enhanced

In a dramatic and potentially dangerous incident on New Year's Eve 1999/2000, debris was thrown from a nearby building site by revelers onto Canary Wharf's glass roof. However, since it was laminated, the glass cracked but stayed in the frame thus assuring the safety of the public, according to sources at architect Foster and Partners and confirmed by Roland Paletti, chief architect of London Underground's Jubilee Line.

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