

# BL

**Building for Leisure**

April/May 2003 £3



**Blackpool**  
Launch of £1 billion  
masterplan

**Alton Towers**  
New themed hotel opens

**Plus the latest on:**

- Spas
- Changing Areas
- Building Systems
- Fitness Equipment

# FACT or fiction?

The new FACT arts centre in Liverpool is a building like no other

**G**erman company Rodeca offers a range of glazing systems suitable for applications in the leisure-build sector.

Rodeca glazing materials are produced with polycarbonate, a thermoplastic with characteristics such as light weight, a high resistance to impact, excellent translucency and temperature stability. The firm says its glazing has excellent insulation properties and can even be produced with a heat reflecting surface.

The Multi-Wall-Sheets are mounted with connecting profiles, with a large choice of profiles available for different application needs. The 400mm and 500mm wide Rodeca panels can be produced in up to 24m lengths. The panels use a tongue and groove system to connect to each other, thus allowing for "endless" glazing.

Rodeca's range of products includes

the opal Anti Blind colour, which are often used in sports halls. Due to the special opalic pigments and structure in the panel, incoming light is diffused thus creating a soft daylight with no blinding effect.

Rodeca says its panels are quick to mount and, due to their light weight, they require a correspondingly light under-construction. The firm gives extensive technical support from the planning of the project with the architect to the mounting of the materials with a regional company. Examples of Rodeca's leisure projects include an ice-sports hall, a cinema facade, and stadium roofing.

Rodeca panels were recently used for the Laban Centre in London (pictured below). The building was designed by Herzog & de Meuron, while Ballast Construction was the main contractor.

The 9,000m<sup>2</sup> venue is located at London's Deptford Creek, and is the world's largest purpose-built dance space. The coloured polycarbonate cladding cloaks the structure in semi-transparent shades of lime, turquoise and magenta, punctuated at intervals by large clear windows. Rodeca's panels allow the centre to change appearance according to the time of day, the weather conditions and the activities going on inside the venue. Herzog & de Meuron worked with the artist Michael Craig-Martin on the integrated use of colour and light.

Facilities at the Laban Centre include a 300-seat theatre, 13 dance studios and teaching and rehearsal halls. There is also a 100-seat lecture theatre, library, archive, cafe/bar and a studio for local community groups.

*Enquiry no 324*

# The new ■ face of glazing

A WIDE RANGE OF LEISURE BUILDINGS HAVE BENEFITED FROM A POLYCARBONATE GLAZING SYSTEM FROM GERMAN FIRM RODECA.

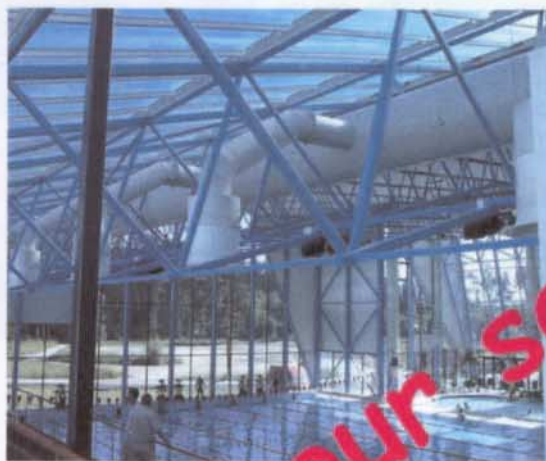
**BfL** LOOKS AT THE BENEFITS.





Laban, Dance Centre

- Excellent insulation and light transmission values
- High impact resistance, optimal glazing for ball and puck sports
- Due to the integrated coupling and alu frame systems, quick and easy to mount
- Rodeca glazing systems can be produced in a variety of colours giving your project an individual touch



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