

# Palace of Gymnastics shines with Novelis Aluminium

*Architectural landmark for the Olympic idea*



Rolled products manufacturer Novelis has supplied premium J57S UP and J73A UP aluminium façade to the 'Palace of Gymnastics', the latest addition to Minsk's landmark facilities located in the sports district of the capital of Belarus, near the Minsk Arena, the country's main sports hall. Its unusual architectural design attracts attention from afar with striking and dynamic façade design reminiscent of soaring gymnastic ribbons set in a variety of colour shades.

With a total area of 14,860 square metres, the new centre

is setting all space limitations from the past aside and gives the Belarusian rhythmic gymnastics team a new home with ideal training conditions that includes a number of training halls, gym, recreation room, swimming pool, rehabilitation centre and an administrative unit.

The creative and innovative architectural concept, designed by UP MinskProekt, is mainly characterized by a groundbreaking façade design – rich in variety, striking but nevertheless dynamical and light.

Irina Skorabogataya, chief architect of the project, emphasizes that there have been many creative ideas for the design concept. Today the training centre is both a symbol of the hard daily work of the athletes and their patience and courage to overcome limits, as well as a symbol for the true beauty of the sports as shown in the final freestyle. In order to create an apparently flexible and floating façade which represents the lightness and movements of gymnastics ribbons they chose aluminium cladding.

“The façade design is diversified and impressive. Each panel is unique – there are no repetitions within the patterns,” states Norman Reiter, director sales, Painted, Anodized and Plain Specialties Novelis Europe. “Our anodized aluminium products proved to be an excellent choice of material – durable, with permanent metallic gloss enabling brilliant color accent in various shades,” he stresses.

Around 10,000 square metres of Novelis



J73A UP coil anodized aluminium, natural anodized color, were used for the dynamic design. The 2.0 mm thick aluminium panels, perforated with hole diameters of 20, 25 and 37 mm, which were processed and installed by RannBuilding OOO, give the façade a certain lightness.

Another 10,000 sq. metres of the façade were clad with cassettes made with Novelis J57S UP anodizing quality – ideal material for batch anodizing – in 2.0 mm thickness.

JV KTM-2000 LLC, the only company with Sandalor-license in Eastern Europe, produced aluminium cassettes that were batch anodized in Sandalor-process, which gave them their bright colours: dark blue, various shades of red, orange and gold and a unique wood structure (ArteIox) giving the building an eye-catching and splendid appearance.

The extremely weather-resistant J57S UP und J73A UP have already been proven in various architectural projects worldwide. The

high-quality Novelis aluminium surfaces impress with their ideal colour uniformity and meet the necessary safety requirements due to their non-combustibility: fire rating class A1 according to DIN 4102 resp. 96/603/EG.

The great co-operation between KTM-2000 and the facade installer RannBuilding was the key to success to realize a short installation time of only 70 days, in spite of the complexity of the façade. They made the Palace of Gymnastics ‘let dreams become true’ – and created a façade that embodies and transports the beauty of gymnastics outside the building as well. ■

