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A sedak insulation glass pane measuring 3.2 x 15 meters distinguishes the Grand Park Hotel in Rovinj (Croatia)

## **Idyllic vista on a transparent screen**

The view over the picturesque historic town center of the Croatian seaport of Rovinj, with the Mediterranean and St Catherine's Island in the foreground, was the central focus for the architects from 3LHD when planning the new "Grand Park Hotel Rovinj". Therefore, the north-west side of the central ballroom opens out with a 3.2 x 15 meter insulation glass window from sedak (Gersthofen) and provides a breathtaking view of this idyllic Adriatic scene. Because the five-star hotel's new building nestles against the natural hillside of the harbor bay in an understated series of terraces, a fascinating interrelationship is created between the historic town and the modern hotel. "For us, the reflective nature of glass is a very important characteristic of this architectural element that is often underestimated", explain the architects. And thus a dialogue unfolds in the reflection of the town's scenery, which looks back on almost 2000 years of history.

FüFor the architects it was immediately clear that the exceptional panorama would play a decisive role in the design, so all the rooms were planned with unobstructed views of the bay and the town. For the large ballroom – at the heart of the hotel – they had something special in mind: "We asked sedak what the maximum possibility would be in this case. We planned the

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ballroom using this information – both its appearance and its position”, report the architects. To facilitate an uninterrupted view and to provide the scenery with a suitable frame, the room was skewed in relation to the rest of the building. “Such large glazing causes the boundary between interior and exterior to completely disappear. This allows us to create breathtaking, almost unreal effects”, say the architects, emphasizing that the result justifies the effort.

In order to achieve the desired effects, the glass needs to fulfill the highest quality requirements. The 3.2 x 15 meter insulation glass was manufactured fully automatically at the sedak production facility. The five-ton glass pane arrived in Rovinj well-packed. There, it was lifted over the hotel to its intended location by a crane with a 50-meter boom. With the help of guide rails, the flawless glass pane was inserted into its laboriously planned mounting, which in addition to the glass supports a balcony, which overhangs the glass by five meters, enveloping the window in shade. This increases its transparency. At the same time, right in front of the ballroom is a large area of water, which reflects the historic town centre, also when viewed from indoors, and passes on this reflection to the observer. The many-faceted influences on the transparent building component make the artificial object in dialogue with its surroundings an intermediary that not only has a fascinating story to tell but is also magnificent in itself.

*45 lines / around 2,400 characters*

### **Credits board**

**Project:** Grand Park Hotel Rovinj (Croatia)

**Planning phase:** February 2015 – July 2018

**Construction phase:** March 2017 – April 2019

**Architects:** 3LHD (Zagreb)

**Interior design:** Lissoni Architettura

**Insulation glass (3.2 x 15 meters):** sedak, Gersthofen

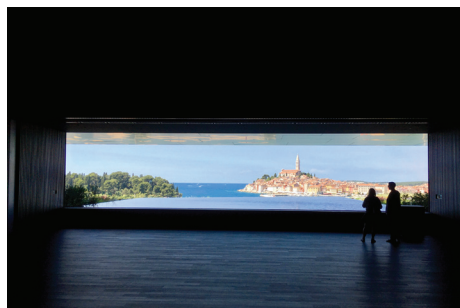
**Composition:** 2 x 2-layer laminates out of 2 x 10mm und 2 x 12mm TVG

### **Pictures**

*[19-11\_Ronvinj\_1]*

*Looking out from the central ballroom reveals the picturesque landscape.*

Photo: sedak GmbH & Co. KG



*[19-11\_Ronvinj\_2]*

*The reflections in the glass create a dialogue between historic and modern – with the old town at the center of the debate.*



[19-11\_Ronvinj\_3]

*With the onset of darkness, the radiant power of the romantic surroundings unfolds and is transmitted multiple times by the reflections in the body of water in front of the window.*



[19-11\_Ronvinj\_4]

*The Grand Park Hotel Rovinj nestles in a series of terraces against a natural hillside with the marina at its feet.*



Photos: Jure Živković

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### **Leading glass**

sedak, the glass manufacturer in Gersthofen, Germany, was founded in 2007. The company and its 170 employees have developed into the world's technology and innovation leader for large insulating and safety glass. With a ten-year experience of manufacturing oversize glass and after having increased the level of automation continuously, sedak is regarded as a specialist in this know-how intensive segment. The glass units reach dimensions up to 3.51 m x 20 m - processed, tempered, laminated, printed, coated, and cold bent. The core capabilities are the lamination of glass, edging, and the company's special knowledge of producing glass components with additional functional and decorative elements. sedak's production has been optimized for extraordinary glass sizes and weights; all finishing steps are highly automated and handled in-house. As a full supplier for glass up to 20 m, sedak sees itself as a partner for architects, designers, and façade constructors. Outstanding references are for example the House of European History in Brussels, the Faculty of Medicine in Montpellier, the Torre Europa in Madrid, Brookfield Place in New York City, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Apple Cube in New York City, the science center experimenta in Heilbronn, as well as numerous premium flagship stores worldwide.

### **Application**

- glass façades
- glass roofs
- glass stairs
- glass balustrades
- ship building
- safety glazing
- all glass constructions
- interior design
- custom-made glass units