

Marco Polo Airport

Architect: Giampaolo Mar
Lighting designer: TIFS Illuminotecnica, Padova
Photographer: Thomas Mayer
Project location: Venedig

Motorway connections and rapid train terminals are standard features for airports these days. But having your own quay for ferries and water taxis on the other hand is something really special - as special as the city to which this airport belongs: Venice. The airport, located on the mainland this side of the lagoon, is named after the venetian businessman Marco Polo - forefather of all of today's long-distance travellers.

This is not only the centre for the traditional trade and commerce region of Veneto but also the destination for millions of tourists from all over the world every year. The operator company SAVE is enlarging this role even further by expanding the airport with a new 60,000m² terminal.

Parscoop washlights provide indirect illumination in the terminal hall, being aimed at the gloss-white wood panelled ceiling. Various types of ERCO downlights are used in the rest of the building. They are fitted with lamps appropriate to their situation and desired beam characteristics.

Instead of the techno-look, gable roofs in uncovered timber construction, and featuring a quotation from the 'Arsenale' of Venice, form the end of the airy terminal hall. The hall's glass front affords the airline passengers a view across airfield and lagoon to the distant 'Serenissima' towers.

The terminal was designed by architect Giampaolo Mar and pleasantly deviates in its aesthetics from the rather 'technoid' appearance of many other airport constructions of recent years - where it seems more value is being placed on urban qualities than on echoing the forms and technologies found in aviation.

Parscoop washlights with 250W metal halide lamps are used as ceiling washlights in the departure lounge. Their asymmetric light distribution, giving maximum intensity at a beam angle of 20°, make Parscoop washlights an ideal tool for indirect illumination. The housing is designed to high protection mode and protects the lens systems against dust and dirt.

Lightcast downlights for fluorescent lamps provide economical general lighting in the transit zones. Cut-off angles of 40° ensure high visual comfort.

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The new airport hub will cater for 6.5 million passengers; constructed on a total floor area of approximately 60,000m² at a cost of 110 million euros, it forms part of the airport's larger 260 million euro investment program.

Arrival area

- Arrival hall 4,500m²
- Baggage claim 4,000m²
- Baggage terminal 5,500m²
- 5 luggage belts
- Retail area and amenities 1,000m²

Departure area

- Checking-in area 5,600m²
- 62 check-in desks
- Piers 4,200m²
- Retail area 3,500m²
- Restaurants 1,000m²
- 28 piers
- 6 departure gate tunnels



