

Project for EXPO 2000, Hannover: Rainforest House



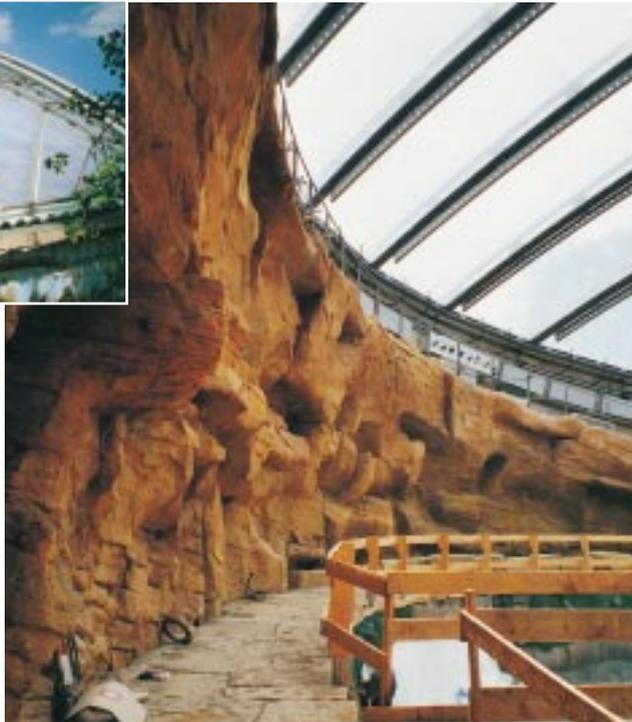
A hanging film roof construction stretches over the partially embedded dome of the Rainforest House, Hannover's new attraction at EXPO 2000.

The visitors to this house find plants up to eight meters high and orchids from the tropical mountain rainforest on Brazil's Atlantic coast. Opening day will be in December 1999.

PFT G 4 mixing pump sprays artificial rocks

The EXPO 2000 World Fair is casting its shadow over Hannover long in advance. Springing up here are perhaps the most unusual buildings in Germany. But then, building firms are accustomed to customers making extravagant demands. No one at Wilhem E. Beckmann & Co., Hannover, a PFT dealer, was surprised when in May of this year the French firm "Atelier Artistique du Béton" made a special order for a plaster mixing pump.

"Atelier Artistique du Béton" specialise in the design of artificial "rock" landscapes and concrete sculptures. They were working on the construction site of the "Rainforest House" in Herrenhäuser Berggarten, a sub-project of the Hannover "City in the Garden" project for EXPO 2000, and they needed the machine for the interior of the rainforest



dome. In the full-scale, detailed simulation of the mountain rainforest on the Atlantic coast of Brazil, the differences in altitude, rock walls on one side of the glass house and a waterfall were intended to evoke the impression of a mountain region.

The "creative plasterer"

The designer of the exposition, from "Créamuse" in Straßburg, designed the artificial landscape. "Créamuse" brought the "Atelier Artistique du Béton" from Mormant into the project. This firm uses a special kind of concrete which is only available in France. "Thixopierre" – is the brand name of the product – and it contains an admixture which allows the material to be pumped and keeps it elastic for a long time, so that it can be refinished.

In Hannover, the plaster specialists had problems with their French machinery and

needed an immediate replacement. After consulting with the PFT Regional Sales Director Nord Klaus Uffrecht, Thomas Klaas of Wilhem E. Beckmann & Co. recommended a PFT G 4 mixing pump from the rented machinery. Although the PFT classic seemed quite small in comparison to their silo pump combination, a test of the machine quickly convinced them of its effectiveness. And during the three weeks in which it was used, the tried and tested mixing pump demonstrated its advantages: extensive conveying length, flexible output from 6 to 55 l/min, the reliable compressor with automatic



The artificial "rocks" are made from thick layers of plaster.

pressure release, comfortable operability and convenient cleaning.

PFT G 4 has outstanding pumping capacity

The PFT G 4 was loaded with bags of "Thixopierre" in the Rainforest House.

The thickly applied special plaster was then touched up with brushes to simulate a natural stone surface. After it was dry, the "stone wall" received a precise paint job. At places especially vulnerable to blows and breaks, the coloured "Thixopierre" was applied in such a way that the interior layers would also be the same colour.

The French plaster experts were extremely impressed by the capacity and easy handling of the PFT G 4 Mixing Pump. This was demonstrated by the fact that they ordered another Fa. Beckmann PFT G 4 at the beginning of the next construction phase. To optimise the mixing pump for the work to be done, this time an additional pump was installed. The machine once again mastered the task, in the words of Thomas Klaas, "without a hitch".