

Chain mail shows its potential

Promesh promotes chain mail as a material for use in innovative interior and exterior designs

Zabeel Hall R101

Promesh is at The Big Five 5 promoting new and unusual applications for a somewhat unexpected material.

Promesh is a subsidiary of Friedrich Muench, a German company that has spent the last 90 years producing chain mail. Cut and stab resistant, but still extremely flexible, chain mail has traditionally been used for safety equipment such as shirts, aprons and gloves – until two years ago, when Promesh was established to promote the material's potential architectural applications.

"It's a very special product. It's a chain mail material or, as we call it, 'ring mesh', because it is made out of rings and these rings are knotted together. We produce each individual ring, which is welded. What is unique is that we are the first in the world that can produce this in very large, very wide sheets," explained managing director, Promesh, Jorg Ritter. "So, it's no prob-

lem for us to produce a 10m wide piece that is 15m or 20m long. This enables us to sell it to architectural businesses," he added. "We established Promesh two years ago to try and reach the architectural and design community."

The material can be used to cover facades or, as demonstrated on the Promesh stand, as an interesting covering for anything from a fountain to a wall. As Ritter pointed out, there are endless potential applications for a material that is so durable.

"It's good for use in interior and exterior designs. You can cover ceilings or walls, or you can use it for producing lamps and illuminations. When you polish the material it becomes very shiny, so you get a good reflection, which means you can get some very nice effects if you illuminate it," Ritter pointed out. "It can even be used for safety fences and for blast protection."

Ring mesh is brand new to the Middle East, making The



Chain mail can make for a striking design feature, says Jorg Ritter, managing director, Promesh.

Big 5 an important forum for the company. "In the end, we need architects to come up with the ideas on how to implement this product in their work. The Big 5 is important for us because we hope to meet a lot of construction

and architecture companies, not only from the region but from all over the world. This is a brand new material. Nobody knows it yet."

The people that are familiar with ring mesh have been quick to embrace it, he

added. "In general, we have received an excellent response from designers. Our first and biggest project was for Swarovski. They installed a wall of ring mesh outside their headquarters, and every night they have a light show.

"This is why we are here. We hope to find people in the Arab world who also like beautiful, colourful, extraordinary things. We hope to find people here that will say: 'This is so beautiful, let's do something together'."