



Underground station “Burjuman”

## Enamel Art in Dubai’s “Red Line”

### Omeras

*Art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes visible. Paul Klee*

Enamelled surfaces in the underground stations of the “Red Line” of Dubai bring the values of the past into the present by a perfect implementation of this art. The modern traffic artery of the city connects not only urban districts, but also creates a high-contrast connection between tradition and the modern age.

In September 2009, the first sections of the newly built Dubai underground line, the “Red Line”, were opened after a only four-year construction period. Today, the longest underground line of Dubai runs through 26 stations along a total length of over 52 km.

### The project

Omeras was commissioned with the manufacturing and delivery of 27,000 m<sup>2</sup> of enamel panels, which are given a decisive design task in addition to the cladding function. Due to their particularly high resistance compared with external influences,

enamelled panels are used primarily for cladding of façades, underground stations and road tunnels. Here the focus is on their UV, climate and corrosion resistance in the use in the outdoor area. Furthermore, temperature resistance, non-combustibility and easy cleaning are among the decisive criteria that are also of great importance for the function as inner wall cladding.

With 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the printed panels represent a large share of the overall project and are subject to the same requirements on the cladding material. A special method developed in the company Omeras for image printing on enamel panels ensures excellent image quality with constant material properties.



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## The material

The fact that the enamel surfaces are dirt-resistant, graffiti-resistant and easy to clean is extremely important for an application in the underground area. These extremely durable surfaces are ensured by the use of only quality-tested and high-grade steel. A special material suitable for enamelling is subject to strict quality requirements and guarantees a constantly reliable starting material for enamelling process.

## The manufacturer

Omeras operates one of the most modern enamelling factories worldwide. The new production facilities with ultra-modern production lines built in 2003 enable the manufacturing of first-class cladding panels for a wide variety of application areas. The quality assurance in the overall manufacturing process is coordinated by the internal quality management system and monitored by external testing institutes at regular intervals.

The greatest capital of the company is the expertise of all employees who—based on comprehensive consulting in the run-up to a project by Omeras’ own design and construction department, complex manufacturing process and proper installation—enable the company to realize a top-quality project processing.

## The art

Overcoming of the project-specific challenges requires work based on key aspects. In the project “Metro Dubai,” a particular task was the manufacturing of 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of image printed panels with demanding individual motifs in a relatively short time frame. Furthermore, large prints had to be transferred onto several enamel panels and required a special technical implementation to achieve the intended effect of the images.

Two of the 26 stations of the “Red Line” contain the largest portion of the printed panels. The scenes from strongly contrasting living environments dominate in both stations. The images of the “Union Square” station with their warm brown and sepia tones bring desert scenes to life, while the images of the station “Burjuman” are maintained in cool blue and white and create parallels with life by and with the sea. Both stations are the main intersections for the two most important underground lines of Dubai. Here the “Red Line” and the “Green Line” intersect and the décor of the underground stations artistically illustrates the significance of the past in the modern life of the world metropolis.



Underground station “Union Square”

## Station Union Square—the world’s largest underground metro station

A particular emphasis is on the station Union Square in Deira, which with a size of 230 x 50 m on 3 levels is the worldwide largest underground metro station in terms of surface area. Representations of life in a desert region where hospitality had enormous importance, pictures of camel races, images with falcons and photos of historic architecture set up not only a monument for the past, they stage the vibrancy of traditions in the modern Arab world. Using special methods, Omeras has succeeded in precise implementing of the image scenes in the enamel art, which spread for the most part over several panels. The size and the perspective of the images create an expressive and authentic effect.

This is brought into focus with an additional version of the enamelled panels that have been used, among other things, for the cladding of the escalators, information centers, columns and ceilings. As a suitable background for the images in earth tones, wood structures should have served. They again could be realized in enamel. Here as well, Omeras could present a convincing result using its own methods and dotted by enamelled lamp cladding an “i” for a conclusive overall concept for the enamel cladding of the important underground station “Union Square” Dubai.

## Metro intersection “Burjuman”

In a color contrast to the wood structures and images in sand and brown tones, the second metro intersection “Burjuman” presents itself with cool blue and white. Colors, wave structures, glass accents, and transparencies create a spatial perception of an underwater world and emphasize the effect of the enamel images. Sailing and fishing boats, harbor and sea scenes reflect the people’s past, which was determined by fishing and trade, with convincing liveliness.

In the cladding of this station as well, the value of the material enamel and its convincing properties are put under test again. The various images are effective not only through size and motif. A decisive effect is the clarity with which the prints on enamel are shown to their advantage. This convincing result was achieved by precision in the print performance and pro-

Administration building Omeras



cess safety of the enamelling process in the company Omeras. Just as the monochrome enamel panels framing the image scenes, the printed panels also ensure a long service life of the cladding due to their exceptionally high mechanical, thermal and chemical resistance.

### Making history visible

In the Dubai's underground, the success in presenting tradition and preserving Arab identity has been achieved in an exemplary way by stylistically appropriate selection of perfect materials. Image scenes from the past in one of the most modern, driverless-operated transport systems worldwide are not a contradiction. It is an art to make history visible and underline its significance for the present it deserves.

The general management and employees of Omeras are proud to have participated in the implementation of this extraordinary project with expertise and experience of many decades of enamel art.



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Underground station "Union Square"

