

# CASE STUDY

## AFRIKA MUSEUM

### APPLICATION

External Façade

### ARCHITECT

Stephane Beel Architects

### PRODUCT

TESS™440

### LOCATION

Brussels, Belgium

### BUILDING TYPE

Museum



### Innovative external tension blinds provide a discrete system with great wind resistance

The redevelopment of the site of the Afrika Museum in Tervuren includes the existing museum building being restored and extended. This reorganization and the extension of the museum building were conceived in such a way that the direct environment of the museum building was preserved as much as possible.

The exhibition rooms are subtly equipped with new technologies that bring the museum building up to date. Those technologies are highly sophisticated and have been integrated almost seamlessly: improved thermic isolation and airtightness, management of incoming light, air-quality control embedded invisibly in the new exhibition platforms.

The TESS™440 external wire-guided tension system was specified to provide sun control at the museum.



In total 45 tension blind systems were fitted to the south and west façades of the building.

Stephane Beel Architects wanted the blinds to be as close to invisible as possible when retracted.

**Visit us:** [www.guthriedouglas.com](http://www.guthriedouglas.com)

**Talk to us:** +44(0)1926 310 850

**Email us:** [projects@guthriedouglas.com](mailto:projects@guthriedouglas.com)

**Guthrie Douglas**



# CASE STUDY

## AFRIKA MUSEUM



Slimline mullions in the façade meant that there were however minimal fixing points.

Guthrie Douglas worked with the design team to integrate the roller mechanisms into the façade structure. Stainless steel cables were used to guide the blinds, and a bespoke return

pulley arrangement was designed to give the blinds additional wind resistance.

The success of the project was shown when the Afrika Museum won the first prize and the public choice award in the category 'Heritage & Architecture' of the Publica Awards 2019.



**Visit us:** [www.guthriedouglas.com](http://www.guthriedouglas.com)  
**Talk to us:** +44(0)1926 310 850  
**Email us:** [projects@guthriedouglas.com](mailto:projects@guthriedouglas.com)

**Guthrie Douglas**