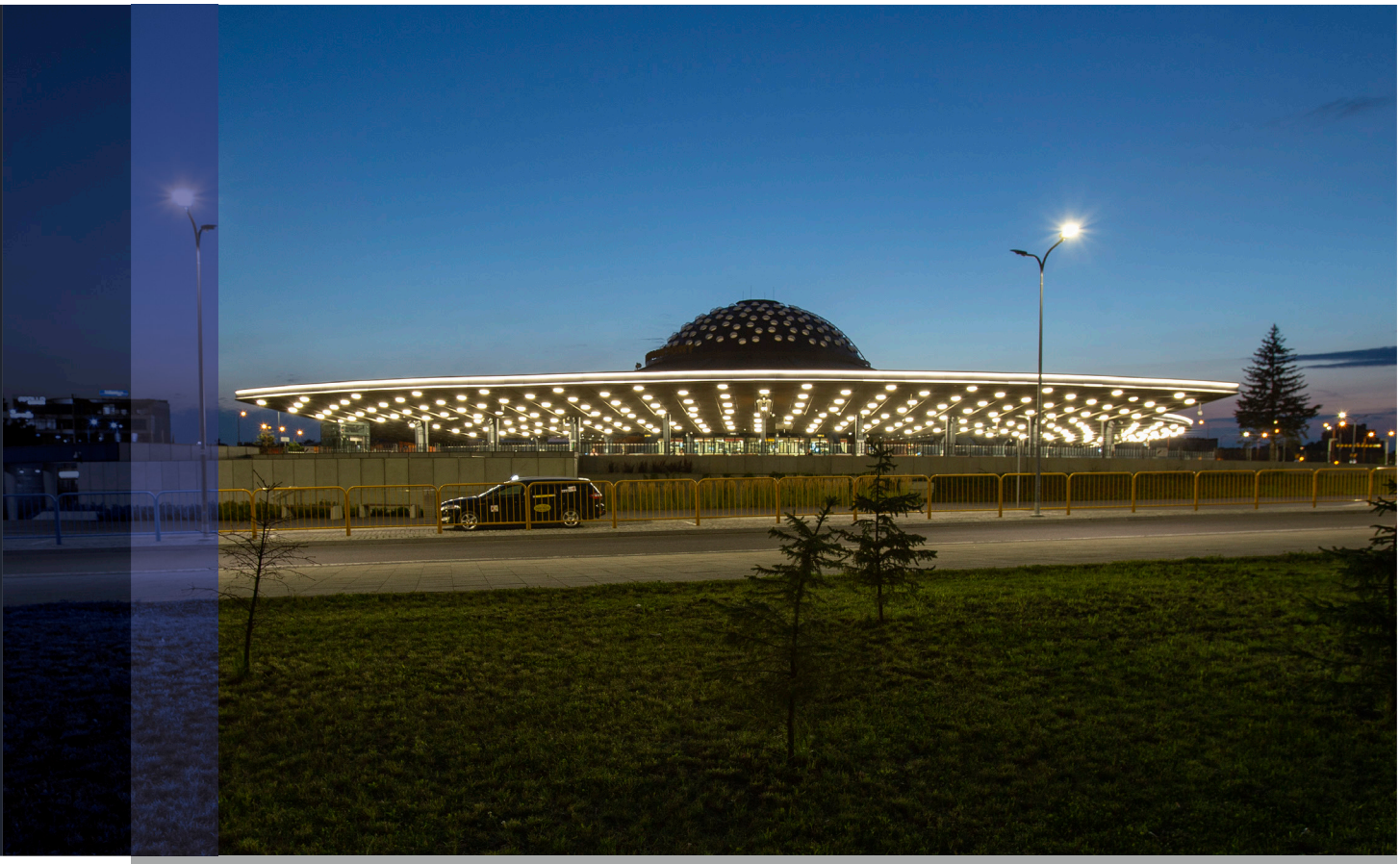
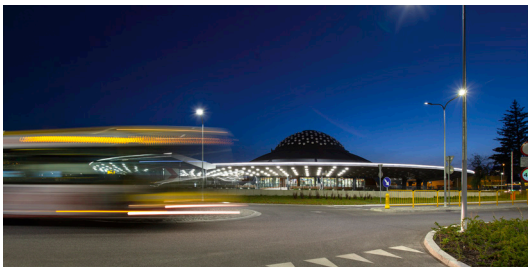
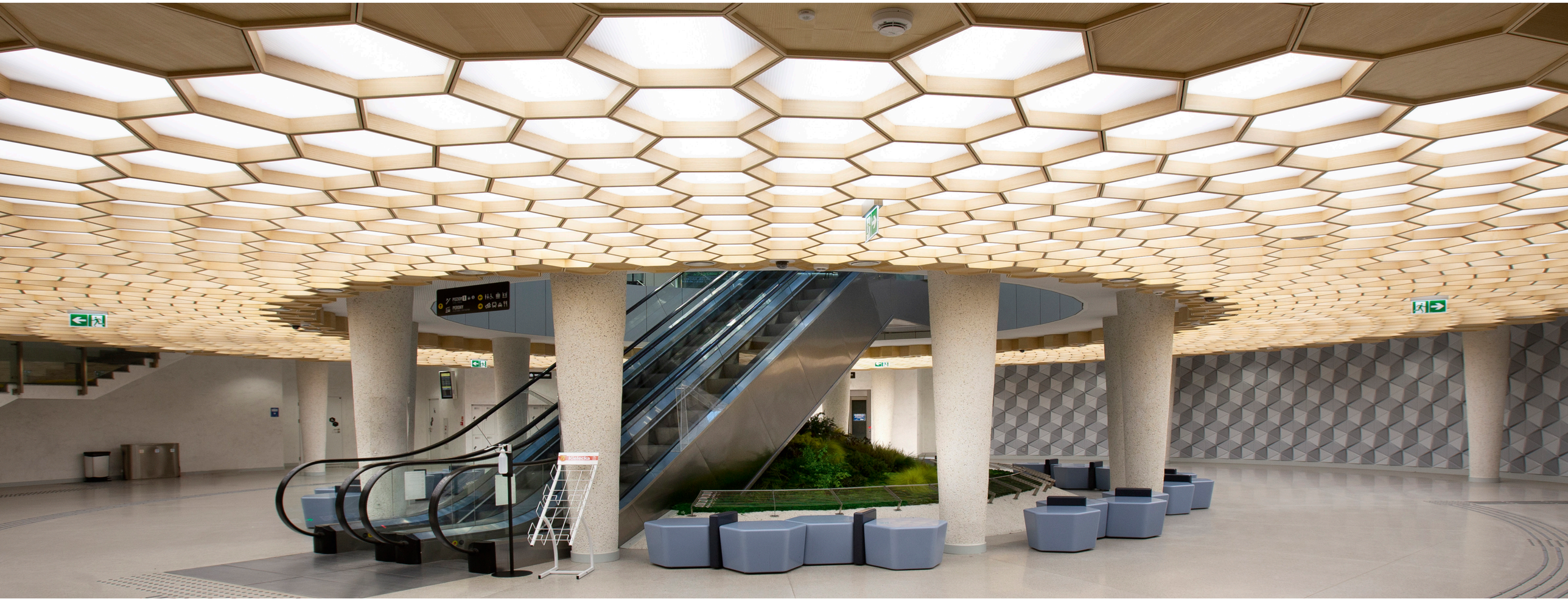


PKS COMMUNICATION CENTRE, KIELCE | POLAND

Already when it first opened in the 1980s, this building was considered an extremely modern piece of architecture. It quickly became the signature building of the city of Kielce. Unfortunately, decades of neglect have deprived it of almost all of its charm.
Thanks to the combined efforts of talented architects and efficient contractors, the familiar, though completely renovated, UFO-shaped building has been restored to its former glory. The renovation project gained global recognition and was nominated for a prestigious award for contemporary architecture. And thanks to our non-standard lighting solutions, the Communication Centre in Kielce can shine its brightest once again, looking out of this world - even after dark.



The design of the station has gained worldwide recognition. It was nominated for the prestigious Mies van der Rohe award for contemporary architecture.



THE SITUATION

The bus station in Kielce was put into use in 1984. At that time, it stood out due to its innovative system of collision-free traffic and one of the first electronic timetables in Poland. However, the masterful design soon collided with harsh reality, and after a few years, the station building began to fall into decline. Instead of successfully serving residents and travellers, it scared people off and began to give Kielce a bad name. Fortunately, things are looking up again. In September 2018, the reconstruction of the bus station building was kicked off. The premises located on Czarnowska Street were handed over to Budimex, a construction company that dismantled the old building and accurately recreated the historic structure using contemporary materials.

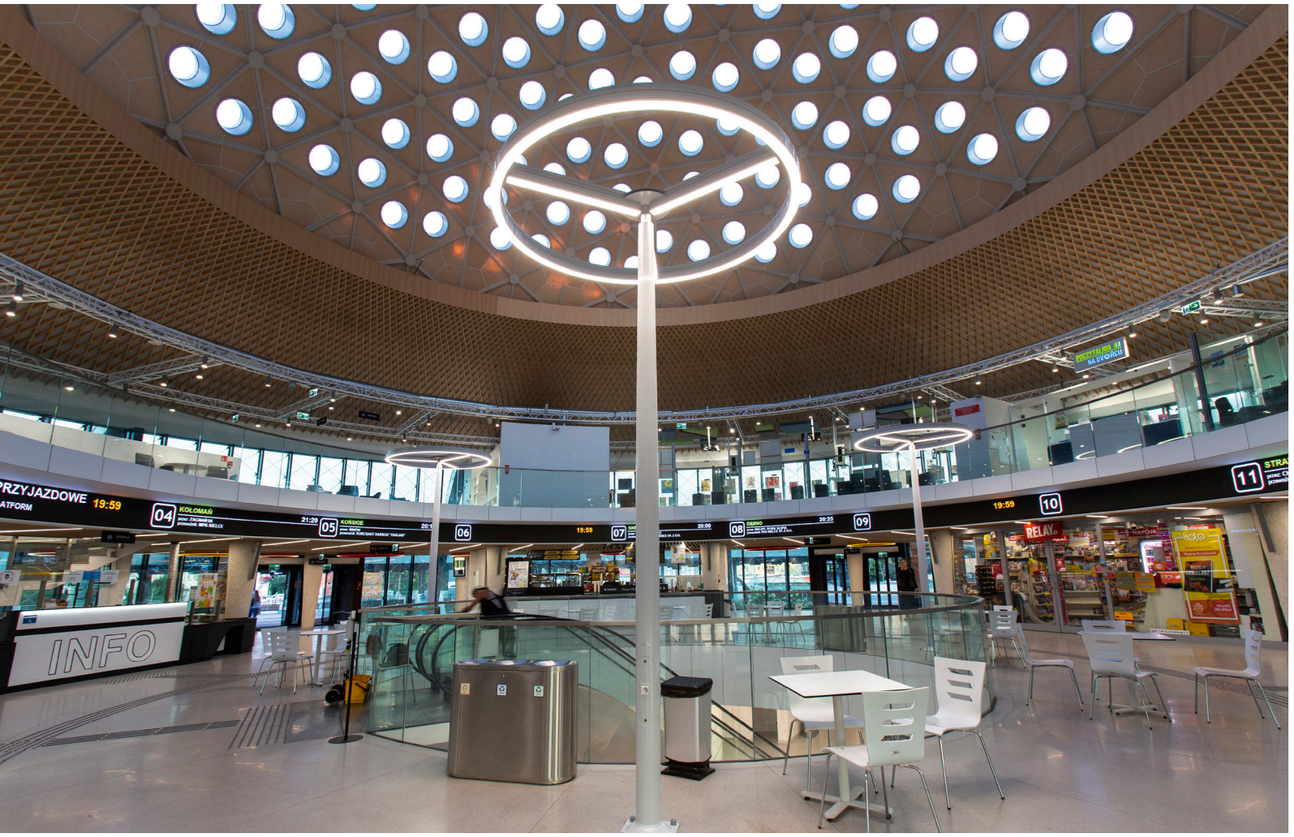
Currently, the new Communication Centre plays an important role not only for travellers, but also for the local community. Entrances to the tunnels can be accessed from Czarnowska Street on level 0, whereas level 1 houses the departing platforms, and level 2 contains a mezzanine with a multimedia library with VR stations called "Poczytalnia na dVoRcu" (which roughly translates to "the traVelleR's reading room").

THE CHALLENGES

Many original features have been preserved in the renovated bus station, including the characteristic skylights that let plenty of daylight into its interior. However, the lighting installation had to be completely modernised to meet the applicable standards. This, in turn, meant that we needed to provide solutions for a number of different spaces and applications – inside and outside the facility.

The building remained under the care of a monument conservator, so that was another challenge we had to face. Amid advanced technologies and modern design, we had to weave in some motifs that were specifically connected to the building's vintage, UFO-like appearance, in order to preserve its original ambience. There was no way we could agree to using any half-measures or compromises at the expense of any of the expectations. We decided to really think outside the box and we offered the customer several non-standard products that would be developed specifically for this project – and it turned out to be a complete bull's eye.

> In addition to creativity and an understanding of customer needs, customised lighting also requires technical expertise, proper knowledge about materials and, above all, extensive production possibilities.



THE PROJECT

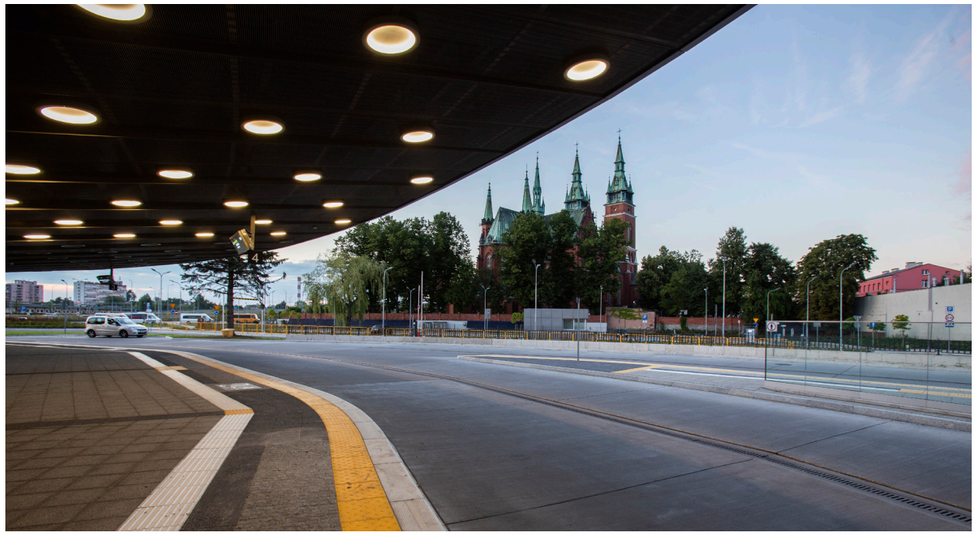
Admittedly, the lighting plan for the new Communication Centre was truly ambitious. But the project itself was only the beginning of the adventure. Developing each non-standard luminaire was a complex process involving the production of prototypes in addition to numerous consultations and tests. What's more, we had to ensure compliance with European standards and fulfil the incredibly detailed requirements of the architects the entire time.

How were we able to overcome these challenges? Above all, thanks to our complete mobilisation and flexibility. The customer could count on our full support every step of the way. ES-SYSTEM specialists regularly visited the construction site, checked the progress and conducted lighting tests. This allowed us to quickly react to changes and prevent complications.

This is what working on a particularly eye-catching element of the communication centre's interior looked like – the decorative ceiling installation in the form of a honeycomb. Its impressively large surface and shape made it difficult to evenly illuminate all its compartments. We performed many tests on site to find the right luminaires for the job. Ultimately, the FLAT LED system with an opalised diffuser proved to be the best choice.

Custom-made solutions made it possible to highlight perhaps the most recognisable symbol of the bus station – the PKS (the Polish state automobile transport company) logo. We used System 6000 luminaires to create a fixture in the shape of the characteristic steering while motif in the logo. We placed them on the top floor on 5-metre columns. This way, despite their large size, they don't seem overwhelming and create the impression of a bright sky overhead.

> One of the custom-made solutions we delivered was a construction made out of our luminaires in the shape of the PKS (the Polish state automobile transport company) logo.



> The circle motif appears in many elements of the bus station design, including the lighting, which creates a very consistent effect.

The circle motif can also be noticed in many other places. At the entrance you can see System 6000 FLOW luminaires with vividly coloured housings, whereas the modified TITANIA ceiling luminaires without diffusers are deceptively similar to the glass skylights in the building's dome. In addition, elegant PACO floodlights were mounted on a steel structure to illuminate the mezzanine and cash registers.

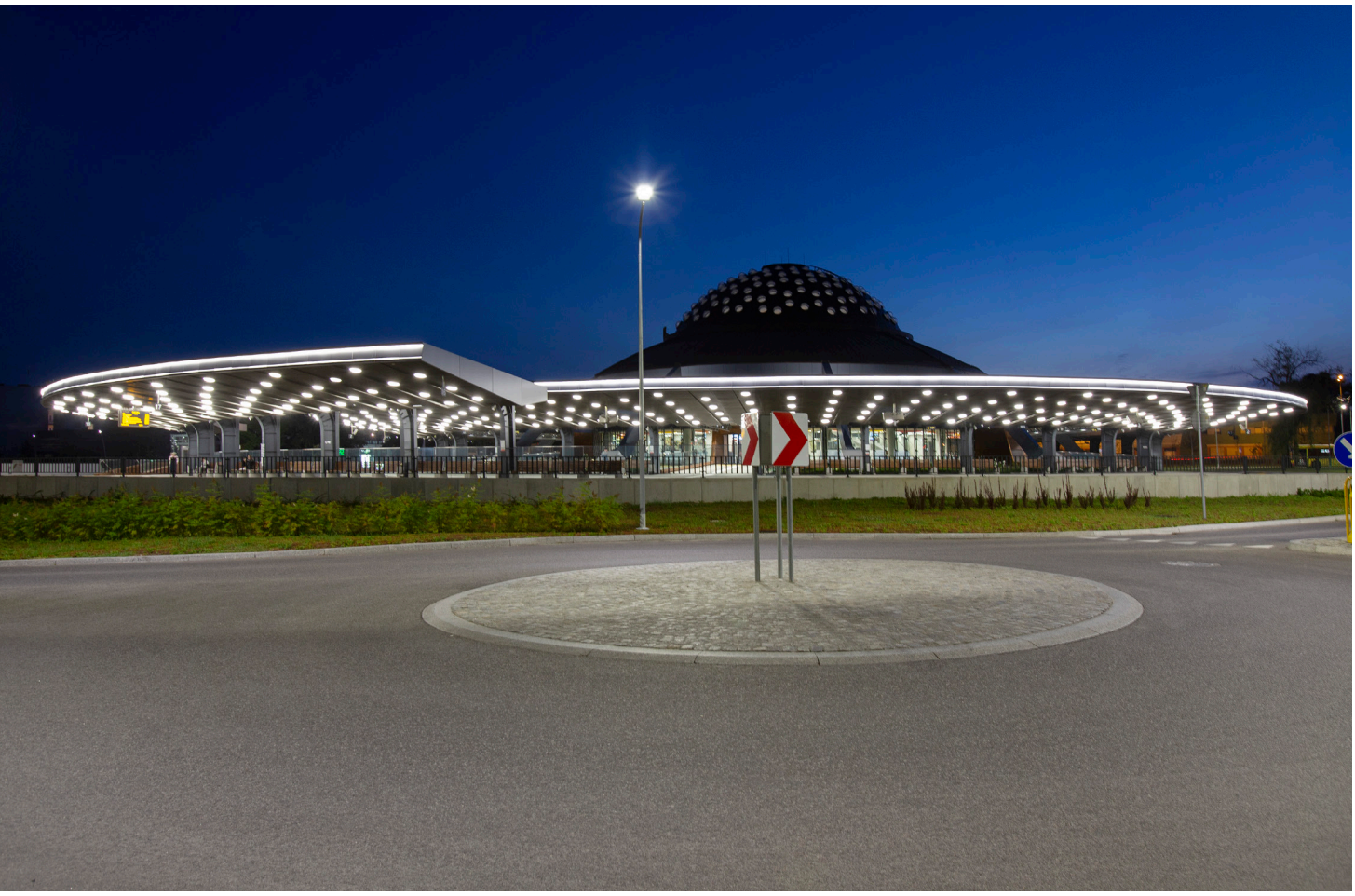
Practicality and high protection against moisture and other weather conditions were particularly important for the lighting used on the outside of the station. We illuminated the outdoor spaces with street luminaires from the SPRINTER family. The roofed bus platforms were equipped with another product that was developed especially for this project. The HALO luminaires in a version with the DALI protocol were equipped with multi-sensors, allowing them to adapt the lighting intensity to the traffic intensity and the time of day.

Did you know that...

outdated or improperly used lighting leads to high maintenance costs and excessive CO_2 emissions?
Modern LED lighting control systems save even 80% or more energy and reduce our carbon footprint.

Throughout the process of renovating the Communication Centre, great emphasis was placed on energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies. And since lighting is often responsible for most of the energy consumption in large buildings, we have made sure to include improvements in this regard.

We have integrated almost 100% of all luminaires supplied by us with modern lighting control systems equipped with multi-sensors and the universal DALI protocol. We connected the emergency lighting to the Central Battery System. This allows complete control over the lighting installation, which directly translates to lower energy consumption, reduced maintenance costs and lower CO_2 emissions. Such a solution not only benefits the city of Kielce and its residents, but above all – the natural environment.



THE RUNDOWN

Project name:	**Kielce Communication Centre**
Investor:	Public Transport Authority (PKS) in Kielce
Location:	Czarnowska 12 a, Kielce
Business sector:	public utility buildings
Project start date:	2019
Project completion date:	2020
Project value:	850 000 pln
Usable floor area of the building:	3 577 m²
Contractor:	Budimex S.A.
Architect:	Kamiński Bojarowicz Architekci
Project coordinator:	Grzegorz Nalepa
Products:	ca. **5000**pcs. of luminaires, including COSMO LED, HALO DALI, FLAT LED, S6000 FLOW, PACO, S6000, SPINTER and TITANIA