



Girbau-Jean Michel in Grenat Laundry

Teamwork

A conveyor, a batch washer and a press will enlarge the activity of the Grenat Laundry in La Farlède. This installation, the first in France, highlights the complementary nature of Jean Michel and Girbau companies. During the inauguration, the past 17th of June, satisfaction could be seen on everybody's faces.

“**A** total solution for a global market”. The slogan of Girbau Group was made evident the past 17th of June, during the inauguration of the Grenat Laundry in La Farlède, at the gates of Toulon. Thanks to the recent acquisition of a new conveyor, a batch washer and a press, this independent Laundry has acquired the means to increase its capacity. At the same time, this first installation of new generation equipment illustrates the success of integrating Jean Michel products into Girbau products, as well as the complementary nature of the two partners in the industrial market. With its new Girbau washing system, its sparkling, functional 2,500 m², plus its motivated personnel, the Grenat Laundry clearly announced its

ambitions. “*The industrialization of treatment processes for clothes allows us to enter large markets*”, affirms Gérard Cerruti, president of the Grenat Laundry SAS and the Cerruti Group. Making use of this impeccable installation, the president plans on increasing the production from 9 to 14 tons shortly, and the invoicing from 1.5 to 2.7 million euros from here on out in 2005.

The washing system is mainly based on Girbau equipment. The masterpieces of this system aimed at productivity are the batch washer and the press. The TBS-50 batch washer by the Girbau Group with 12 50-kg compartments can wash up to 1.8 tons of linen per hour, within a cycle of 20 minutes. These modular systems, due to the

manufacturing concept that looks for advanced technological solutions, are adapted to all kinds of washing: hotels, hospitals, industrial laundries, etc. The concept of global solution is true for all the clients! At the batch washer outlet, the SPR-50 press waits for the clean clothes. It has great extraction capacity (the pressure can reach 40 bars) and it optimizes the later drying and ironing processes. The chain continues with the ST-100 dryers. The 100-kg capacity of dry linen plays its part in handling large volumes and the Spirotilt-Girbau system not only facilitates drying, but also unloading the linen. Thanks to the feeding machine by Jean-Michel, the ironing has not been forgotten. On the other hand, the Minimax functions with manual feeding in 1 to 6 stations or in assisted mode (feeding with clamps) in 1 lane.

Now, the volumes do not frighten the Grenat Laundry anymore. An important piece of information for the company, which has just signed a promising agreement with Pierre et Vacances! The fruits of the investment have not had to wait. The Grenat Laundromat announces the beginning of

collaboration with the Hotel Radisson, one of the prestigious 4-star hotels in Nice. Mr. Charpail, director of the Radisson, does not hide his satisfaction. He has taken advantage of renovating his 400-room establishment to look for another collaborator, and end practices incompatible with the quality expected of a 4-star hotel (delivery delays, dirty linen piled up in the parking lot, etc...)

Grenat Laundry:

Invoicing 2003: 1.5 million euros
 Workforce: 30 people in winter, 60 in summer
 Production: 9 tons currently, 14 tons very soon
 Equipment:
 -1 Alsthom boiler
 -1 Johnson Diversey detergent center
 -1 Girbau TBS 50/12 batch washer
 -1 SPR-50 press
 -2 Girbau ST-100 dryers
 -1 Girbau conveyer
 -3 Girbau flatwork ironers equipped with Jean Michel feeders and folders
 -2 Jean Michel folders
 -1 Jean Michel Saturne-Tri towel folder
 -1 Lapauw garment finisher
 -4 new trucks.

Control over the volume

Apparently, Mr. Charpail has found the service he has been looking for at the Grenat Laundry. An example? *“The Grenat Laundry has accepted to treat my cotton pillowcases,”* he explains, *“Unlike other laundromats that only chose the easiest linen...”* Certainly, the double thickness of the pillowcases makes feeding more difficult and slows down the speed. Not to mention the need to deliver the cases clean on the inside.

The complete Girbau-Jean Michel equipment has been installed in the Grenat Laundromat



In this case, the Minimax feeder and well-planned collaboration facilitate the task. *"The hotel staff receive the pillowcases on the side they gave them on,"* continues Mr. Charpail. It seems like the formula works: each day, the Radisson Hotel, which gradually opens after the renovation, entrusts 3 tons of linen (towel, uniforms....) to its supplier, who nonetheless is 120 km away... For this reason, Grenat has been equipped with a truck dedicated to the task.

The Girbau TBS 50/12 batch washer

Mechanical process. Very strong and simple construction. Structural rigidity at flexion through longitudinal bars and at torsion through perimeter rings. The innovative solution by Girbau to support the batch washer is one of the keys that explain its infinite versatility.

The TBS-50 batch washer by Girbau is held by support bearings at the sides. All the modules are the same. No model needs support wheels and there is no captive module. As a consequence, the configuration of the batch washer can always be modified when necessary. The versatility is infinite.

Efficiency. The load is transferred through the central opening. Ø maximum of the transfer opening. Important mechanical action obtained by 4 beating shovels in each drum. Total separation of the baths through a double joint between each module. Direct heating in each washing module.

Washing. Each module is equipped with inner and outer drums, with capacity of 50 kg.

Management. 99 wash programs and 999 client codes. PC in the central circuit board. Viewing and control in real time of every batch of linen. Alarms and messages on screen.

We could say material adapted, client satisfied. Listening to the needs of the Grenat Laundry, knowing the volume and quality, Jean Michel has been able to supply appropriate equipment for conquering new markets. Equipment that, as we have seen, not only satisfies clients but employees of Grenat. The washing system has changed the work habits and has contributed to motivating personnel. Angélique, head of expedition service, appreciates the change as being well worth the cost.

"Before, folding was done by hand," explains the young woman, impeccable in her white blouse with the company logo on it. *"With the folders, we have gained in both work conditions and productivity alike!"*



From left to right: Pere Girbau, Gérard Cerruti, Nicolas Baboz and Patrice Mettetal, in front of the Girbau TBS 50/12 batch washer.

The installation in Toulon is the first one completed in France by the Jean Michel technicians, who have been trained in workshops (Portugal, Russia, Korea...). The inauguration not only marks the growth of the Grenat Laundry, but also demonstrates the complementary nature and cohesion of the Girbau Group equipment. *"The synergy desired initially between Pere Girbau Bover, president of Girbau Group and myself,"* affirms Nicolas Baboz, *"has become reality. The Girbau equipment is not only complementary to the products, but also to the sales organization."*

Marie-Suzel Inzé