

European Investment Bank Luxembourg

Location

98 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, Luxembourg

Built

Construction period: 2003–2008 Competition: International competition 2002, 1st prize GFA: 70,000 m²



A horizontal skyscraper on the Kirchberg plateau

In 2002, ingenhoven architects won the international competition for the extension of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg. The main characteristics of this new building, which give the Bank a new identity, are its transparency and awareness of environmental concerns and energy conservation. In addition, the skyscraper system has been reinterpreted in this project. Even though the building that houses the EIB extension has the proportions of a high-rise, it has been placed on its side at ground level and is covered by a large vaulted glass envelope measuring approx. 13,000 square meters. The EIB building at the edge of the Kirchberg plateau, an area known for its European authorities, banks, and cultural venues designed by well-known architects, is laid out in accordance with the urban development plan established by Ricardo Bofill. One of the two straight facades of the new building faces Boulevard Kirchberg, while the curved glass roof links the building with the valley side and its landscape features. The design references the landscape with internal atriums and continues the lay of the land by terracing the halls, restaurants, conference rooms, and public facilities. The glass envelope acts as an umbrella over the dynamic V-shaped office tracts, which are linked via triangular atriums and conservatories. The partially temperature-controlled atriums function as heat buffers and thereby play an important role in the internal

climate concept. The openings in the glass roof help to control the temperature in the atriums. The atriums can be used by staff to relax; they also provide natural ventilation to the offices and thereby contribute to a reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions. With their flexible layout, spaces on the office floors are easily reversible and provide non-hierarchical workplaces. Because no suspended ceilings were installed, it was possible to use the concrete decks as heat storage elements. The use of natural materials such as wood in the interior fit-out underscores the impression of a sustainable and transparent building. Open areas and break spaces encourage communication amongst staff. In spite of its size, the building is characterized by light-heartedness and a human scale. The European Investment Bank, which was founded in 1958 in order to contribute to the funding of the European Union's investments, has expanded its activities from 2000 onwards. ingenhoven architects has succeeded in creating a benchmark extension building to add to the existing ensemble, which was constructed in Luxembourg's European Quarter in 1980 and designed by British architect Denys Lasdun in his later years. The EIB office building is the first building on the European continent to receive the British BREEAM "Excellent" certificate (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). Thus, a unique architectural statement has been added to the Luxembourg Kirchberg plateau.

Awards, Nominations

2013

Emilio Ambasz Award for Green Architecture 2013

2010

WAN Awards 2010, commercial sector

Green Good Design Award 2010

Emilio Ambasz Award for Green Architecture 2010

2009

Europäischer Architekturpreis 2009 Architektur + Energie

International Architecture Award 2009

Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design

RIBA International Award 2009; Concours Construction Acier 2009

Emirates Glass LEAF Award 2009, Best Sustainable Development, nominated

Mies van der Rohe Award 2009, nominated

DETAIL Preis 2009 Sonderpreis Glas, nominated

2007

MIPIM Architectural Review Future Project Award 2007, recognition

Team

Client

European Investment Bank, Luxembourg

Master planner

ingenhoven architects, Düsseldorf

ingenhoven architects team

Christoph Ingenhoven, Ben Dieckmann, Martin Reuter, Barbara Bruder, Hinrich Schumacher, Marc Böhnke, Claus Centner, Anke Koch, Frank Reineke, Roman Gohlke, Götz-Peter Kaiser, Achim Schneider, Ralf Dorsch-Rüter, Maren Holz, Marcus Ellbracht, Matthias Hemmrich, Jan Görgemanns, Imre Halmai, Stefan Henfler, Tina Brinkmeier, Arne Hülsmann, Christian Kawe, Jutta Mengede, Anja Merz, Kirstin Opitz, Jürgen Schreyer, Rainer Binnig, Jürgen Schubert, Takeshi Semba, Maximo Victoria, Prof. Henze, Lutz Büsing

Structural design

Werner Sobek Engineers, Stuttgart

Facade design

DS-Plan, Stuttgart

Fire protection

BPK Brandschutz Planung Klingsch, Wuppertal

Landscape design

ingenhoven architects, Düsseldorf with WKM Weber Klein
Maas landscape architects, Meerbusch

Lighting design

Tropp Lighting Design, Weilheim

Mechanical services installations

HL-Technik AG, Munich

IC-Consult, Frankfurt a.M.

pbe-Beljuli, Pulheim

S&E Consult, forming the M&E consortium

Vertical access design

TAW, Hamburg

Transportation engineering

Durth Roos Consulting, Darmstadt

Conveyor technology
Jappsen-Ingenieure, Berlin

Office organisation
Quickborner Team, Hamburg

Kitchen design
IGW, Walter Engineering Group, Stuttgart