

Lufthansa Aviation Center Frankfurt

Location

Hugo-Eckener-Ring, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Built

Construction period: 2002–2006

Competition: International competition 1999, 1st prize

GFA: 124,800 m²



Transparency, communication, and cosmopolitanism

With its transparency, the new Lufthansa head office conveys the open-mindedness and cosmopolitanism of one of the best-known German companies. It is not by accident that the design by ingenhoven architects has received numerous awards, including the 2008 RIBA award, the International Architecture Award of the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, and an EU GreenBuilding partnership certificate. With its uncompromising ecological construction and elegant office design, the Düsseldorf architectural practice has found a solution for this building that matches the importance of Lufthansa. The main challenge of the project was to create a high-quality and communicative office and working environment while, at the same time, isolating the building from its busy surroundings. Owing to the proximity of Frankfurt Airport, the company's most important transport hub, the Lufthansa head office is ideally connected in terms of transport, but is exposed to significant noise and emissions pollution. In response to these conditions, the architects designed a 180 meter long and 90 meter wide building which, in its layout, is reminiscent of a double-sided comb with ten teeth. The offices are protected from ambient noise by gardens between the respective teeth. The offices and eight gardens are covered by elegant concrete

and glass roofs. All 1,850 office workplaces enjoy a view to the landscaped gardens and have the benefit of natural ventilation. The landscape design of these open spaces represents typical landscapes from the five continents. They symbolize the global reach of Lufthansa—from a white sandy beach to the Australian outback and a Japanese Zen garden. The gardens are freely accessible and can be used by staff to relax during breaks, or for small meetings. In addition, these outdoor spaces serve as heat and sound buffers and improve the microclimate. Overall, the property comprises seven floors above ground and four below ground. The floors below ground accommodate plant rooms and underground parking garages, whereas the offices are located on the floors above ground. In order to create a pleasant working environment that supports communication, there are bright and fully glazed offices as well as glazed atriums between the office tracts. All offices have been arranged to face the atriums. To suit various requirements, the offices are designed in modular units that can be adapted according to need. A central concourse is formed by the five- or six-story office wings, which gives staff the opportunity for informal encounters and meetings. The communication requirements that are typical of modern office work are met with 36 open meeting rooms, seven large conference facilities, and smaller meeting areas within the offices. Each floor has three dedicated meeting points as alternative working environments and places for informal communication. With its easy reversibility and absence of a hierarchical order, the flexible office structure creates inspiring and team-oriented working conditions. The ecological building concept favors a healthy working environment. The wooden windows and floors make for a warm atmosphere. By omitting suspended ceilings, it was possible to use the concrete decks to activate thermal mass. Any malfunction of the air-conditioning system is corrected by a sophisticated control system. Located in the midst of one of the most efficient transport intersections in Europe, the new Lufthansa headquarters impresses with its simplicity, clarity, and uniqueness.

Awards, Nominations

2008

Hypo Real Estate Prize 2008

Wüstenrot Stiftung Design Award 2008

International Architecture Award 2008

RIBA European Award 2008

Premio Internazionale Architettura Sostenibile "Fassa Bortolo" 2008

2007

IF communication design award 2007

mfi-Preis Kunst am Bau 2007

Team

Client

MARDU Grundstücks-Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, Grünwald represented by Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Frankfurt a.M.

ingenhoven architects team

Christoph Ingenhoven, Klaus Frankenheim, Thomas Höxtermann, Götz Peter Kaiser, Gabriele Apel, Christel Bauscher, Rainer Binnig, Tina Brinkmeier, Ortwin Burkheiser, Marc Böhnke, André Burkhard, Ralf Dorsch-Rüter, Uwe Eiffert, Marco Glashagen, Roman Gohlke, Xiao Ping Guo, Imre Halmai, Martin Herbrand, Manfred Junghans, Marcus Kraemer, Andreas Kramer, Christiane Luiz, Anja Merz, Kirsten Opitz, Peter Jan van Ouwerkerk, Peter Pistorius, Jan Quadbeck, Michael Reiß, Udo Rex, Stefan Rhein, Manuel Ruf, Ulla Schoemakers, Hendrik Schumacher, Hinrich Schumacher, Robert Schwalm, Andrea Timmermanns, Peter Jan Vanek, Maximo Victoria, Herbert Voss, Harald Wennemar, Regina Wuff, Lutz Büsing

Project management

AYH Homola GmbH & Co., Frankfurt a.M.

Structural design

Werner Sobek Ingenieure GmbH, Stuttgart

Facade design

DS-Plan GmbH, Stuttgart

Fire protection

BGS Consulting Engineers, Bonn

BPK Brandschutz Planung Klingsch GmbH, Düsseldorf

Pabst and Partner, Bonn

Landscape design

ingenhoven architects, Düsseldorf and WKM Weber Klein

Maas landscape architects, Meerbusch

Lighting design

Tropp Lighting Design, Weilheim

Mechanical services installations

HL-Technik AG consulting engineers, Munich

Brendel Ingenieure GmbH, Frankfurt a.M.
Ebert Ingenieure, Frankfurt a.M.

Energy concept
Baumgartner & Partner AG, Dübendorf, Switzerland

Facilities management
Schuster business consultancy, Bad Homburg

Expert soil report
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Katzenbach consulting engineers, Darmstadt

Survey
Flughafen Frankfurt Main AG, Frankfurt a.M.

Building physics
DS-Plan GmbH, Stuttgart
Institut für Bauphysik Horst Grün GmbH, Mülheim a.d.Ruhr

Security design
K.F. Rotzler GmbH & Partner, Wiesbaden

Industrial aerodynamics
IFI Institut für Industrieaerodynamik GmbH, Aachen

Expert radar report
EADS Deutschland GmbH, Bremen

Interior design
ingenhoven architects, Düsseldorf

Office design
Quickborner Team, Hamburg

Kitchen design
Niedermeyer & Partner, Bad Vilbel

Vertical access design
Thomas A. Weisse & Partner, Hamburg

Transportation engineering
Durth Roos Consulting GmbH, Darmstadt

Conveyor technology
appsen & Stangier GmbH, Oberwesel

Artistic consultancy

Max Hollein
Nicolaus Schafhausen
Michael Neff