

WIPO / OMPI – ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 2000-2011



The new administrative building for the World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO, is located in Geneva's international district, immediately adjacent to the European Headquarters Building of the United Nations, the Nation's Plaza and the existing WIPO Headquarters Building. The site is located close to the lakeshore and is surrounded by mature trees, established gardens and small-scale residential buildings.

The new building is to house about 500 workspaces in a highly flexible layout. Cellular offices are gathered around three generous glass-roofed atria and alongside the external facades. Common areas such as the double-height internal gardens and atria stairs enrich the circulation system. Together with the informal meeting areas distributed on the office levels, these common areas play an important role in promoting communication and interaction among employees.

A cafeteria with a 300-seat restaurant area is located on ground floor. The WIPO library sits on the first floor, easily accessible from the reception area. The lower levels of the building include a delivery yard, underground parking, space for storing archives and technical plants.

The ground floor also houses meeting facilities with interpreter booths. A spacious hallway on the first basement level with illuminated mirror-walls and glazed skylights will connect the new administrative building with the existing WIPO building complex.

Five basement levels for additional parking have been built between the new building and the main WIPO building.

The new building employs a variety of sustainable design principles to reduce its overall energy consumption including the use of Lake Geneva's water for cooling, the use of thermally activated concrete slabs at the building's ground floor, the natural extraction of air via the stack-effect, and the optimization of natural light in all offices and ground floor areas. In addition, devices on the glass-roofs redirect daylight and highly insulated glass facades with daylight-optimized blinds naturally control heat and glare.

The new administrative building was completed in the first half of 2011. Behnisch Architekten has also designed a new 900-seat conference hall for WIPO including modifications of the existing foyer and mezzanine level of the main WIPO building. Construction work began

in August 2011 and is expected to be completed in 2013. The new conference hall gives priority to sustainability, using local wood, natural light, hybrid ventilation combining natural and mechanical means, and a cooling system using water from Lake Geneva.

Client

WIPO / OMPI
World Intellectual Property Organization

Architect

Behnisch Architekten, Stuttgart

Executive Architect:

Behnisch Architekten, Stuttgart
with Hofmeister Architekten

Competition

2000, 1st Prize

Planning and construction

2000-2011

Gross

47.140 m² / 507,411 sq.ft.

Volume

190.253 m³ / 6,718,720 cu.ft.

Address

34, Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

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