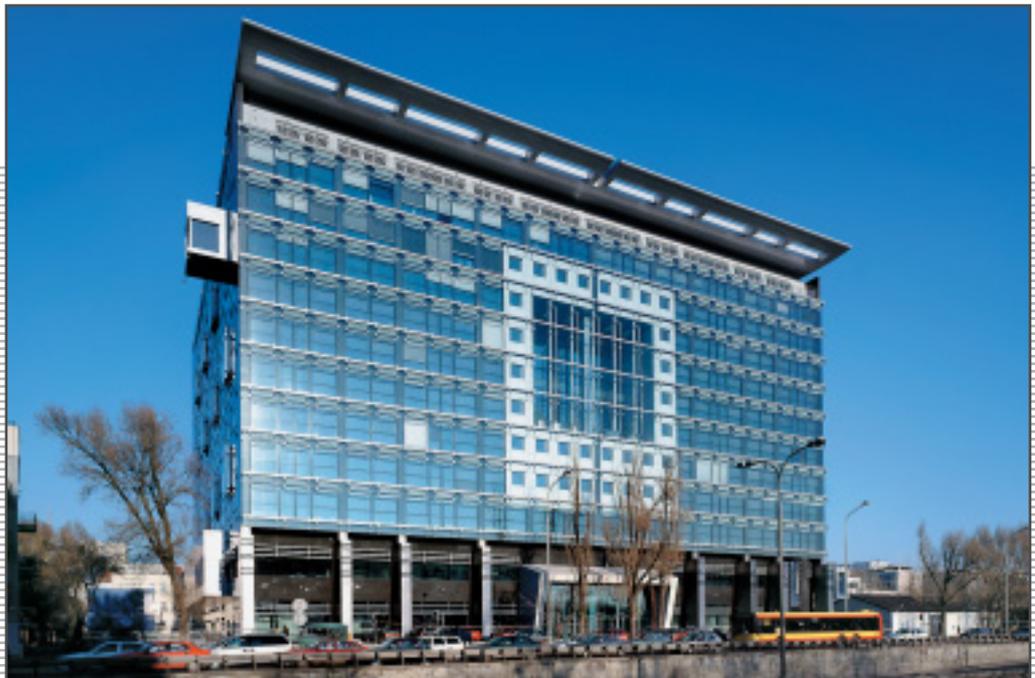


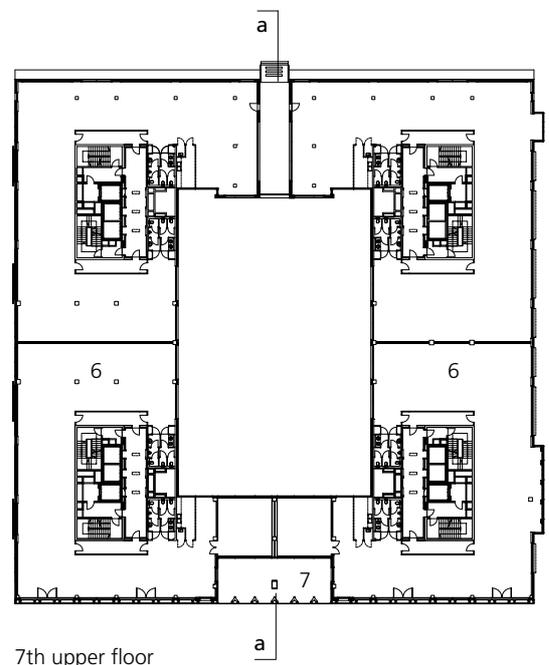
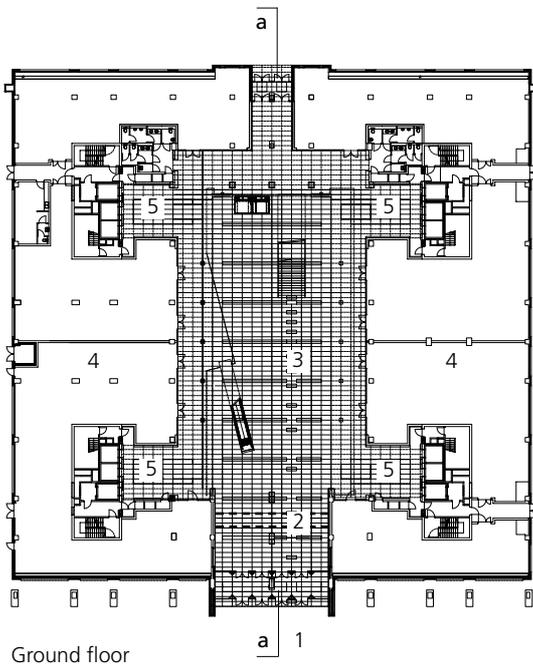
Office Building, Warsaw, Poland



Democracy, a market economy and a mood of optimism have turned Warsaw into one of the fastest developing cities in Europe. New shops and office complexes are springing up all over the Polish capital. The Focus Filtrawa building provides 62,000 square metres of office space and is located right in the centre of the city. It has good transport links and is just ten minutes away from the airport. From the outside, the new building stands out from its surroundings because of its simple cuboid shape. Each of the four façades of the twelve-storey block is different in design. The main façade, on the south side, is a double-skin curtain wall, with a distinctive raised roof.



Each of the four façades is different in design, in response to the surrounding development and orientation.



Floor plans scale 1:1000

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Main entrance | 5 Reception |
| 2 Connecting bridge | 6 Office space |
| 3 Atrium | 7 Winter garden |
| 4 Restaurant, café, shops | |



The main entrance on a busy main road is set below the double-skin curtain wall on the south side.

Despite the size of the façades, segmentation helps set up a relationship with the neighbouring development. Inside, too, it lends a more human scale.

When designing the building, it was not known who would ultimately be using it, so care was taken to ensure maximum flexibility of the facilities. Space is cleverly arranged and compactly organised to suit a variety of uses. And a high-specification interior creates a pleasant working environment that also fits in with the image requirements of investors. Judging by the prestigious international firms that are now tenants of the building, these calculations have certainly paid off.

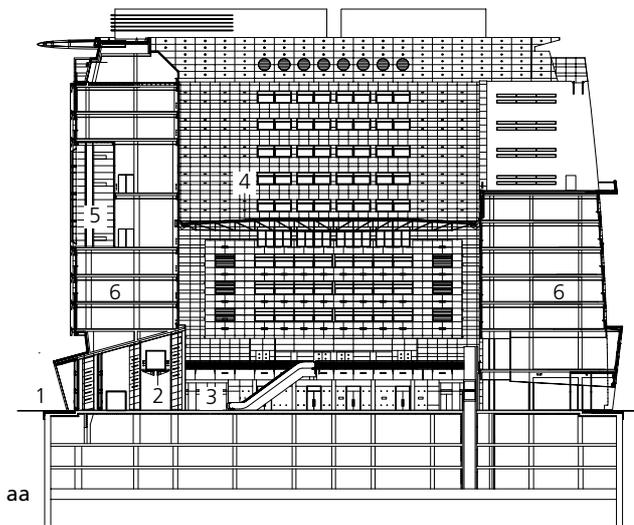
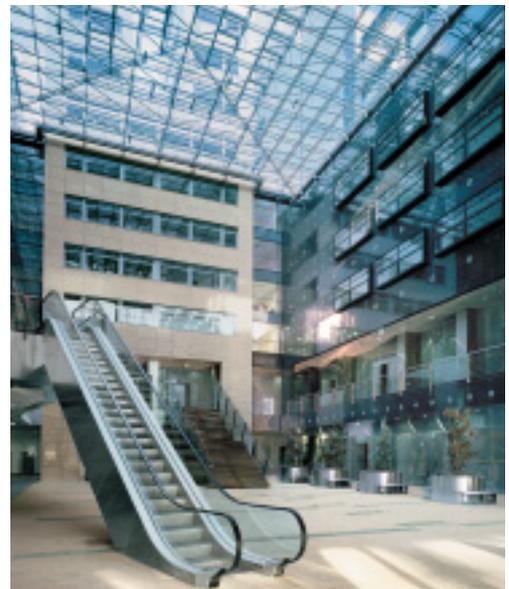
The four-storey winter garden integrated in the south façade looks over an adjacent park.





The material and textural quality of each atrium façade echoes that found on the outside.

The entrance to the building, on a busy main road, is marked by a large portal of pale stone, leading into a central atrium lit by natural daylight. Grouped on the first two levels of the atrium are a restaurant and café, shops, conference rooms and a health and fitness centre. Symmetrically arranged around this shared market-square-like space are four separate office complexes. The tenants share the building's three-storey underground car park and technical infrastructure. Access to the offices is through one of the four reception areas with circular counters.



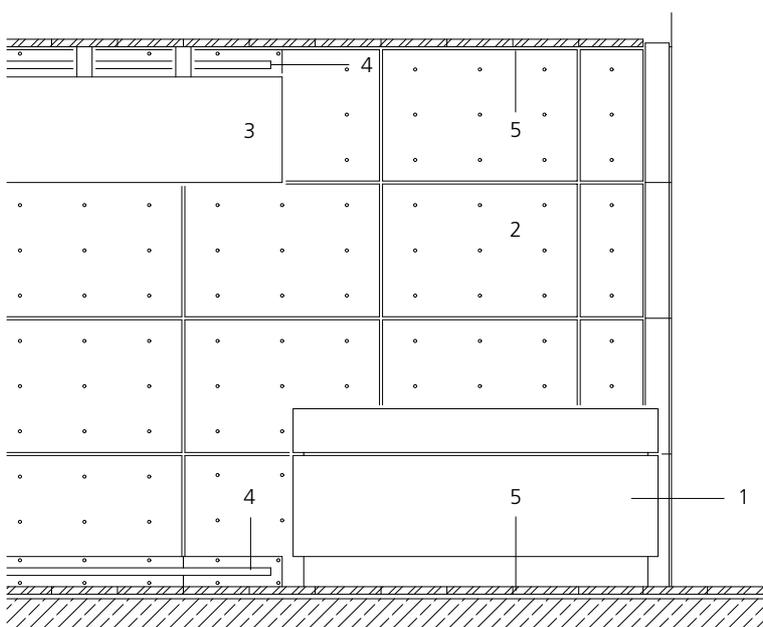
Longitudinal section
scale 1:1000

- 1 Main entrance
- 2 Connecting bridge
- 3 Atrium
- 4 Glass roof
- 5 Winter garden
- 6 Office space

A certain sparseness in design continues through the public areas to the offices. Details found on the façades are repeated on lifts, staircases and wall finishes. White plastered walls and warm wood tones in the offices create a pleasant working atmosphere, while glass, natural stone and stainless steel dominate in the public spaces. By concentrating on just a few materials, quality workmanship and a variety of surface finishes, the overall effect, boosted by appropriate lighting, is very understated and sophisticated.



Access to the various office levels above is via one of the four reception areas located in the atrium.



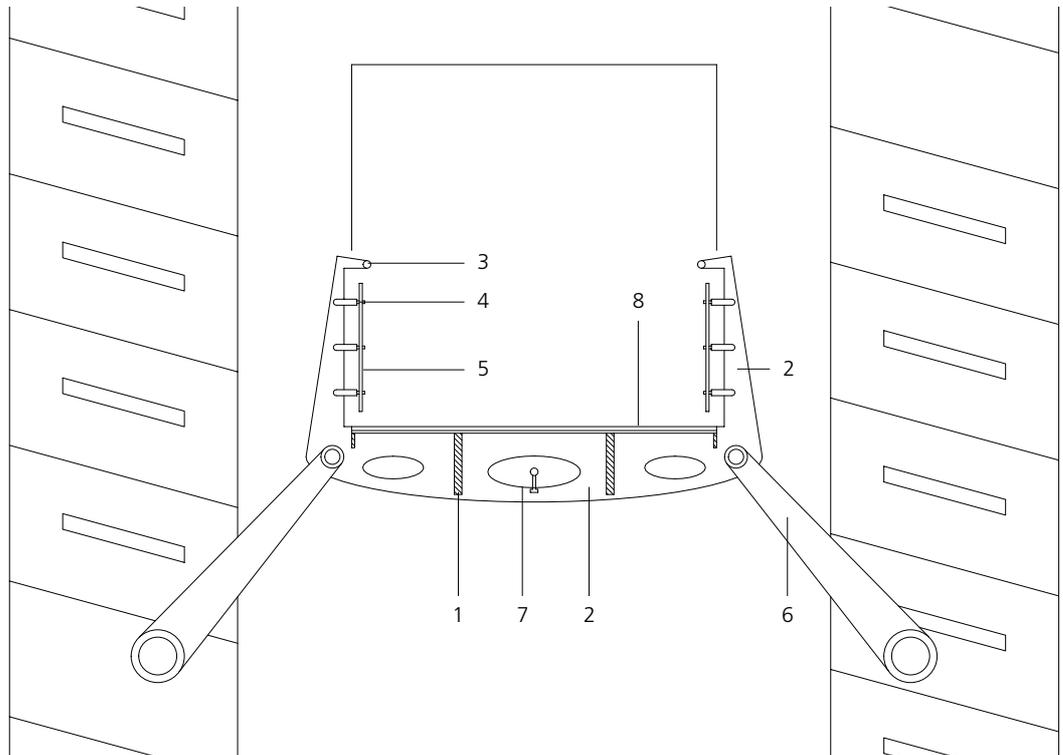
- Section through reception area
scale 1:50
- 1 Cladding of reception counter
1.5 mm stainless steel,
material grade 1.4301
 - 2 1.5 mm stainless steel panels,
material grade 1.4301
studded with hexagon bolts
 - 3 Suspended lighting
 - 4 Fluorescent tube behind
translucent glass
 - 5 Ceiling panels and flooring,
20 mm granite (Nero impala),
fitted without gaps



Cross-section and longitudinal section of bridge
scale 1:50

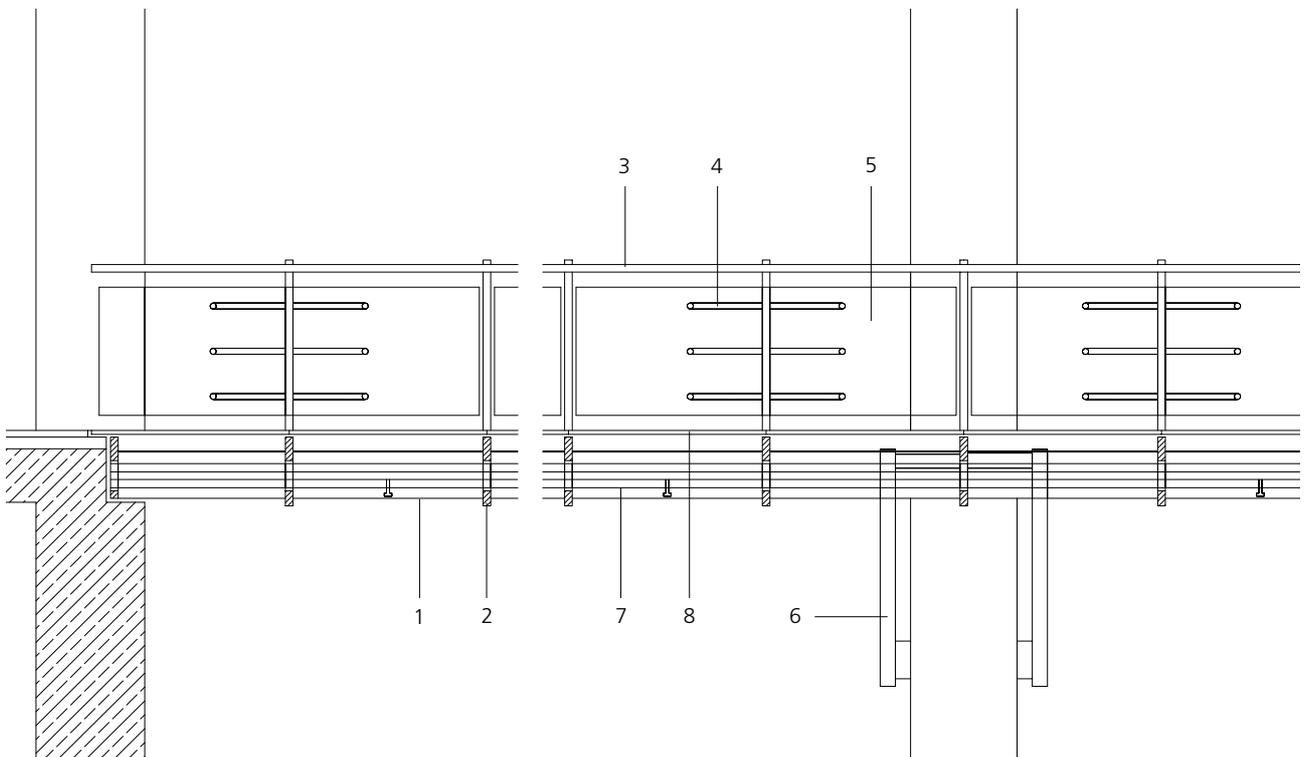
- 1 Longitudinal girder, d=50 mm,
welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet,
material grade 1.4301
- 2 Transverse girder, d=50 mm,
welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet,
material grade 1.4301
- 3 Handrail, 50 mm dia. stainless steel tube
- 4 Railing attachment,
40 mm dia. stainless steel tube
- 5 Railing panel,
20 mm laminated safety glass, colourless,
fixed with stainless steel screws
- 6 Central bearer, d=100 mm,
welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet
- 7 Cladding for sprinkler system,
perforated stainless steel sheet
- 8 30 mm laminated safety glass, sandblasted

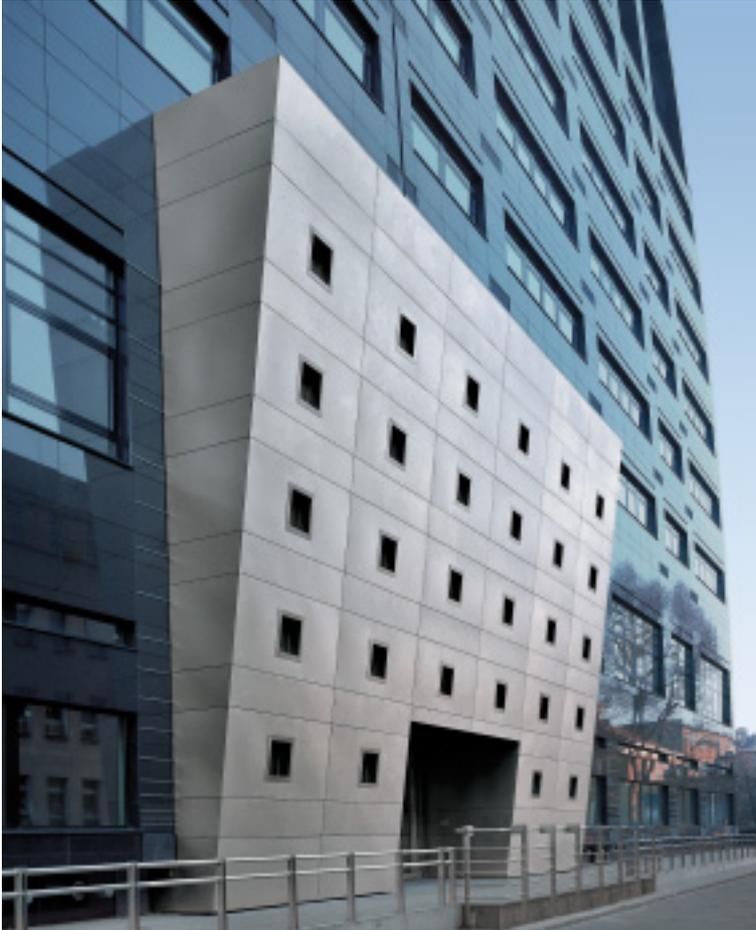
*The stainless steel and
glass walkway above
the main entrance
links the two sides of
the building at first-
floor level.*





At the mid-point of the walkway loads are directed down into the stainless-steel-clad columns.





The north façade, clad with polished black stone, is tilted backwards slightly from the vertical, in deference to a nearby lower building. The two-storey entrance façade, however, juts forward. Its pattern-rolled stainless steel cladding adds to the monolithic effect, and sets up another interesting contrast in terms of design and surface finish between stainless steel and stone and glass.

The entrance area on the north side, clad with pattern-rolled stainless steel, contrasts interestingly with the polished stone façade.

Euro Inox
Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
1030 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 706 82 67
Fax +32 2 706 82 69
E-mail info@euro-inox.org
Internet www.euro-inox.org

Client: Centrum Budownictwa Filtrowa SA,
Warsaw, Poland
Architects: Autorska Pracownia Architektury
Kurylowicz & Associates, Warsaw, Poland
Text, layout: Martina Helzel, circa drei, Munich,
Germany
Translation: Ingrid Taylor, Munich, Germany
Photos: Wojciech Kryński, Warsaw, Poland
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p.7 centre, bottom)

