SPAIN, Barcelona

DISSENY HUB

BARCELONA

by MBM Arquitectes
SPAIN, Barcelona

DISSENE HUB BARCELONA,
A NEUTRAL BUILDING WITH GREAT VERSATILITY

The Disseny Hub Barcelona building is located in a district that is undergoing a complete transformation. It is one of the new faces of the Barcelona of the future and was designed by the studio run by Oriol Bohigas, MBM Arquitectes. The Disseny Hub Barcelona is unrotatable due to the upper part of the building, which is crowned by a parallelepiped structure. It was designed for public use and transit and blends into the surrounding area.

Why a parallelepiped?

Francesc Gual: The Disseny Hub Barcelona had to make a radical, forceful statement in such non-urban surroundings as our present-day Plaça de les Glòries. But there are other reasons too: on one side the building shuts off the views of Calle Ávila from Poblenou, without obstructing the lateral views on to the square; in addition, it had to take up minimal space at ground-floor level, accommodate the exhibition halls on the various floors and be situated on the rings road. So I had to look to the motorway, and lastly we had to make the core of stairways and lifts integral with the main body. In order to overcome all these factors and at the same time give the building a rational and identifiable form, we thought the best solution would be a planes and edges design.

As far as possible, to avoid altering the character of a neighbourhood, a building has to be in harmony with the rest of the buildings in that neighbourhood. The design of the building was also conditioned, in this case, by the nearby Agbar tower; in response to the evident verticality of the tower, this building is remarkably horizontal, establishing a dialogue with it as opposed to competing with it.

Besides being different from everything around it, this building unites everything around it... F.G: This desire to unite different parts of the city is a premise of the project. The difference in level between the Plaça de les Glòries and Poblenou is resolved by the actual building itself, by making the roof of the quasi-subterranean area part of the square, duly landscaped and treated like a public space. The vestibule can be considered a covered square where the facilities that house the network’s most public activities come together – the cafeteria, shop, main exhibition room, library... and it is part of an urban itinerary.

The full interview in www.figueras.com

“...The seating, very much in keeping with the style of the building, helps to reinforce its neutrality and industrial character”
Francesc Gual
UNITED STATES, Washington D.C.

CONSTITUTION CENTER: THE LARGEST OFFICE BLOCK IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Constructed in 1960 by renowned architect Edward Durrell Stone, the David Nassif Building had become the most emblematic office block in Washington DC for 40 years. In 2003, its private owner and Kramer Consulting implemented a 10-year modernization and redevelopment process. The building, which was renamed the Constitution Center, now houses some offices of the US government. The building has a useful surface area of 130,000m² and a private garden occupying 4,000m² with the LEED Gold certification. The auditorium, by DBI Architects, has 835m² and holds 350 people. It is elegant with an important image in terms of design and technology. It was fitted with the 6040 Flex and 6035 Flex models, which are both spacious and comfortable seats.

FRANCE, Paris

A BOARD ROOM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION UIMM

The French Union des Industries et des Métiers (UIMM) is currently modernising its facilities. This operation is being carried out by the architect Christophe Dujancourt. Designing the Board Room of one of the most important employer organisations in France was no easy task. An oval table with tables encircling it was installed in an elegant, modern space. The structure required comfortable seats that would allow freedom of movement for users, with a fixed base to improve the neatness of the layout. The solution used was the spacious 6033 Flex with an RT pedestal, which allows users to twist the seat 360° and also move it gently backwards and forwards. When the chair is empty, it returns to its original position, ensuring the room always has a neat appearance.

PERU, Lima

NEW MAIN BUILDING OF UNIVERSIDAD DEL PACÍFICO

Universidad del Pacífico is one of the most reputed educational institutions in Peru. Its main building in Lima was designed by José Orrego from Metrópolis architect’s studio, in collaboration with Milagros López Concha. Its facade is of special relevance: it is formed by a large glazed panel with a programmed light system which transmits the technological character of the studies. The new building is laid out around a central space with multiple levels, which connects all the floors. The University has an auditorium which seats 277 people, in which the 5032 TOP seat was used because it blends in well with the interior design, comfort and economic value.

TOGO, Lomé

THE ECOBANK FUTURIST STYLE CORPORATE COMPLEX

The Pan-African bank Ecobank has a new corporate complex in the capital of Togo. The complex, which has a total surface area of 42,000 m² and five buildings with different functions, was designed by the architect Ibrahima Konaté based on the highest levels of efficiency and technical standards. The versatile auditorium which seats 480 people is formed by a telescopic bleacher and a Mutaflex system which allows for the room to be converted into a clear space in minutes for multi-use programs.
Qatar’s new stadium, the Lekhwiya Sports Stadium, was designed and built by Perkins Eastman architects in collaboration with Al Khayyat Contracting & Development. It is the stadium of Qatar’s first team, the Lekhwiya Club, and stands out because of its size, clean lines and functional design. The stadium forms part of a sports complex that will also include other amenities, making Doha the sports capital, especially with a view to its hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

When finished, the complex will be comprised of a hotel and mosque, as well as entertainment areas and other facilities, and will occupy an area of 700,000 m² in all.

The stadium had to be identifiable with the character of the club and its fans, but also adaptable to suit the variety of uses and experiences open to patrons. One of the greatest challenges of this project was finding the appropriate model for each area, to make the stadium aesthetically pleasing and ensure optimal visibility throughout.

**Project details**

**Name:**
Lekhwiya Sports Stadium

**Location:**
Doha, Qatar

**Architects:**
Perkins Eastman

**Contractor:**
Al Khayyat Contracting & Trading

**Consultant:**
Engineering Consultants Group

**Total Area:**
15,000 m²

**Seating capacity:**
10,000 seats

**Products:**
- Stadium TP
- 5036 TOP
- 9110 Megaseat
- 6400 Royale
- 6036 Flex F45

**Royal Lounge:**
The Royal Lounge, for the Emir, has several 6400 Royale armchairs, which are extraordinarily comfortable.

**Players’ benches:**
The 9113 Megaseat armchair, with headrest, was chosen for the players’ benches, and the press conference area was fitted with the elegant, compact 6036 Flex model, together with the F45 table, to provide journalists with comfortable workstations. The seats for the interviewees include the exclusive RT system which allows for 360° rotation, permitting free-flowing communication.

**General stands:**
The stands are fitted with the Stadium TP sport model in different finishes. The exterior press area was equipped with the comfortable 5036 TOP; the same model as that installed in the exterior VIP area. This stadium has a VIP tribune where occupants will enjoy the generously dimensioned 9110 Megaseat, a simple, spacious, top quality armchair finished in leather. The Royal Lounge, for the Emir, has several 6400 Royale armchairs, which are extraordinarily comfortable.

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**Ground plan for the stadium**
These chairs can be stored out of sight, fully or partially deployed, and rotated through 360°. The entire process is completely automated.