Project

Platform Office Building, Maag-Areal, Zurich, Switzerland

In the immediate vicinity of Hardbrücke railway station, the seven-story office building called Platform completes the ensemble comprising the high-rise Prime Tower and its annexes Cubus and Diagonal. The building’s volume, with various angles, reacts to the urban situation, providing a coherent link between the station and the new central square. A two-story-high passage through the building connects the square with the public pedestrian and bicycle path along the side of the tracks as well as with the new pedestrian underpass to Hardbrücke Station. In addition, the passage acts as a generous covered area outside the entrance foyer.

With its pronounced horizontal and layered design, the building contrasts with the Prime Tower nearby, effectively forming its reclining counterpart. As in the tower, the stories increase their floor area as the building rises, made possible by various projections. The volume of the building is also subdivided by courtyards that cut into the west and south sides and ensure well-lit office spaces within, as well as by the angular projections in the façade.

The central, prestigious entrance foyer forms an additional internal open area. A tall atrium flooded with natural light links the entrance level with the office floors above. Its function as a hub that lends the building its identity is additionally underlined by the open staircases and adjoining seating areas on the office floors. Dark glass balustrades mirror the space and the light in multifaceted reflections, creating a kaleidoscope effect.

Next to the entrance foyer on the ground floor are a restaurant, a cafeteria, and an auditorium. A wide, inviting staircase leads from the entrance level to the customer lobby on the first floor, from which the various conference rooms can be accessed. The levels above provide office space for around 1,000 staff. Although the building has been conceived as a corporate headquarters, the positioning of core facility areas permits a variety of office typologies if required in the future, including the division of each floor into a maximum of four separate rental units. Wall and ceiling paintings by Nic Hess, wallpaper and drapes by Lachmayer/Nobis and a textile sculpture by Ernesto Neto complete the interior.

To be able to meet changing spatial needs or different uses without radical structural alterations, the building has been designed as a load-bearing skeleton structure with reinforced cores.

The glazed façade is articulated by horizontally layered bands of parapets and windows. The double windows hold sunblinds in between and help reduce noise from outside. The inner windows can be opened for ventilation purposes toward the interim space of the double-skin façade. The slightly reflective outer glazing shell and parapets accentuate the building’s folded structure.

G/G, December 2011
Credits

Project: Platform Office Building, Zurich
Tenant Fit-out for Ernst & Young Ltd, Platform, Zurich

Address: Maagplatz 1
CH - 8005 Zurich, Switzerland

Spatial Programme: seven storeys office building, atrium as central entrance hall;
restaurants, shops and auditorium on ground floor; office space
containing 1000 workplaces; tenant fit-out by Gigon/Guyer

Commission: 2007
Client: Swiss Prime Site AG, Olten
Main Tenant: Ernst & Young Ltd, Zurich

Architecture: Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer, Architects, Zurich

Collaborators:
Christian Maggioni (Team Manager),
Franziska Bächler (Project Manager from 11/ 2007),
Stefan Thommen (Project Manager until 06/ 2007),
Christoph Rothenhöfer (Project Manager until 05/ 2007);
Planning/ Construction:
Markus von Dellinghausen, Philippe Volpe, Karla Pilz,
Armin Baumann, Pieter Rabijns

General Contractor: HRS Real Estate AG, Zurich

Gross Floor Area (SIA 416): 28‘853 qm

Volume (SIA 416): 105‘617 m³

Landscape Architecture: Schweingruber Zulauf Landschaftsarchitekten, Zurich

Structural Engineer: Planning:
ARGE Dr. Schwartz Consulting AG, Zug,
Dr. Lüchinger + Meyer Bauingenieure AG, Zurich,
and Freihofer & Partner AG, Zurich
Construction:
Ribi + Blum AG, Romanshorn

Façade: Planning: gkp fassadentechnik ag, Aadorf
Construction: Fahrni Fassadensysteme AG, Lyss

Electrical Engineer: Planning: IBG B. Graf AG, St. Gallen
Execution: Herzog Kull Group Zurich, Schlieren

Ventilation: Planning: Waldhauser AG, Münchenstein
Construction: Lippuner Energie- und Metallbautechnik AG, Grabs

Heating/ Cooling/ Building Automation: Planning: PB Peter Berchtold, Sarnen
Execution: Lippuner Energie- und Metallbautechnik AG, Grabs
Lighting Consultant: Planning: Ernst Basler + Partner AG, Zurich  
Execution: Regent, Zurich  
Atmospheric Lighting: Planning: Gigon/Guyer, Studio Hannes Wettstein, Zurich  
Execution: Fluora, Herisau  
Plumbing: Planning: PB Peter Berchtold, Sarnen  
Execution: Huustechnik Rechberger AG, Zurich  
Fire Safety Engineer: Planning: Makiol + Wiederkehr, Beinwil a.S.  
Execution: AFC Air Flow Consulting AG, Zurich  
Sprinklers: Planning: PB Peter Berchtold, Sarnen  
Execution: GRP Ingenieure, Rotkreuz  
Building Physics Engineer: BAKUS GmbH, Zurich  
Furnishings: Gigon/Guyer  
Work Places, Internal: Off Consult, Zurich  
Art: Nic Hess, Zurich  
Herbert Lachmayer and Margit Nobis, Vienna  
Ernesto Neto, Brazil  
Photography: Walter Mair, Zurich  
Thies Wachter, Zurich