

Rambøll head office in Copenhagen

Architects: DISSING + WEITLING architecture, Copenhagen

Project data:

Function:	Office
Structure:	Reinforced concrete
Dimensions:	105/125 m × 21,5–41,8 m
Clear room height:	2,6 m (ground floor)
Gross volume:	210,000 m ³
Gross floor area:	6,400 m ²
Office floor area:	19,000 m ² (useful floor space)
Construction costs:	€ 134 million (gross)
Year of construction:	2010
Construction period:	30 months

Light, air and open spaces – concealed behind a glazed facade is a multi-space-concept conducive to communication.

Compared to the open-plan office, an office type favoured in the English-speaking world that promises high efficiency in terms of use of space – the multi-space-office combines the benefits of cellular and open-plan offices. This concept offers a combination of few individual work rooms and shared multi-function zones for communication – although it does require more floor space. The new head office of the Danish engineering company, Rambøll, is of a truly opulent size and dimensions. As one of the biggest multi-disciplinary and international engineering firms in Denmark, the company has made a visible statement with its head office in the new Copenhagen district of Ørestad on the island of Amager. At the beginning of the planning phase the employees were able to contribute their personal ideas for their future work place. The design was to be defined by “Nordic qualities” such as a high level of daylight and expansiveness. The architects’ solution is a 40,000 m² reinforced concrete skeleton structure with a fully glazed 5,000 m² curtain wall to the north-west facade. The complex rises out of the new quarter like a solitaire and clouds appear to slide across its facade.

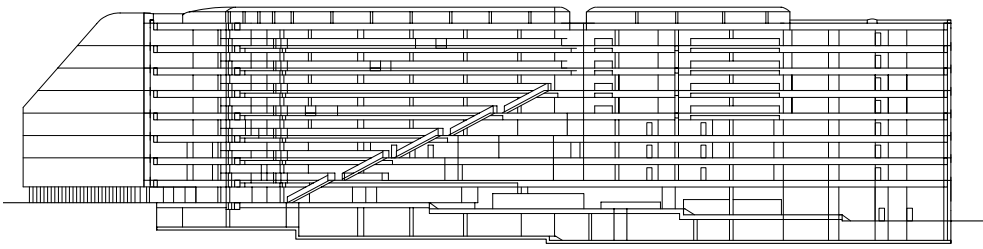
Open floor plan

The floor plan was largely predefined by the location, directly at the metro crossing, as well as road and rail links to the airport and the Øresund bridge that crosses to Sweden. The building is shaped like a boomerang. The rounded corner is where the main entrance is located, and around which all public areas, such as the canteen, fitness rooms and large conference areas, are arranged.

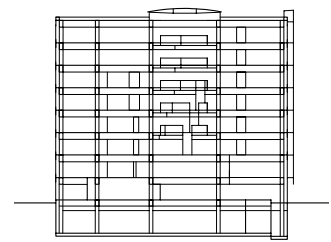
The eight office storeys vary in depth between 8 and 14 m. At the widest point they open centrally for the “La Rambla”, a central, 80 m-long atrium that features continuous balconies and a cascading staircase. The walls that run perpendicular to the external facade and the “La Rambla” open up countless sight lines.

With the exception of the cores and individual office clusters, the floor plan is open. The different working areas are aligned towards the external facade. Several meeting rooms, lounge areas and kitchenettes separate noisier areas from the more privat quieter working areas (fig. B, p. 100).





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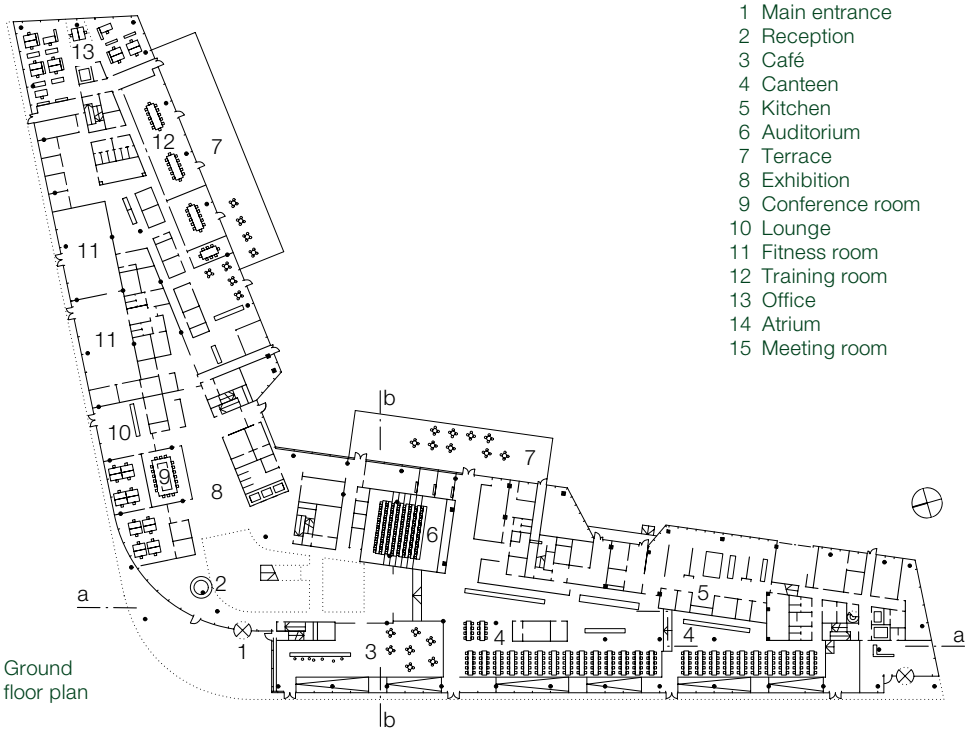


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Sections
Floor plans
Scale 1:1250



Second floor plan



Ground floor plan

- 1 Main entrance
- 2 Reception
- 3 Café
- 4 Canteen
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Auditorium
- 7 Terrace
- 8 Exhibition
- 9 Conference room
- 10 Lounge
- 11 Fitness room
- 12 Training room
- 13 Office
- 14 Atrium
- 15 Meeting room





Office concept

When developing the interior design concept for Rambøll's head office, it was particularly important for the office planners to involve the future users in all planning phases. To this end various groups made up of managers and employees met together to look at different, precisely defined topics and issues. These included, for example, the audio-visual equipment with flat-screens, projectors and speaker systems, IT systems, access control and, above all, the corporate identity and furnishings. In these meetings the participants compiled a series of concepts and values that were to play a key part in the design vocabulary and atmosphere of the new office building for users and visitors (fig. A).

Furnishings

The members of what was termed the "inventory group" initially defined the requirements for the function of the furnishing, visited suppliers to assess quality, and finally selected furniture on basis of the agreed concepts.

As a result of the large surface area that required furnishing, the office planners opted for several different designs to create a degree of variety. An outline plan in which the prescribed furnishings for each storey were entered served as an overview. In order to create vertical coherence and facili-

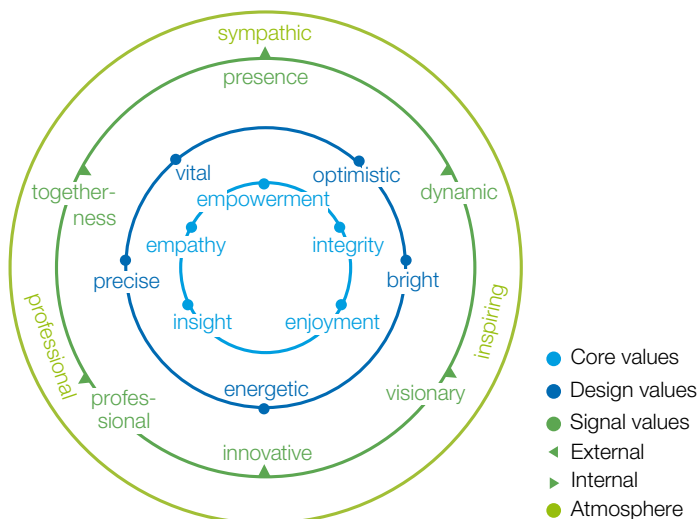
tate orientation, rooms with the same functions are always located above one another on the individual floors and fitted with the same furnishings.

Whilst the planners selected the interior design of the common areas in close consultation with the groups that had been set up, the design of the working areas was undertaken in dialogue with the individual departments. A manual was used to present various principles and ideas to the users. Each department was able to familiarise itself with the available options and express wishes for the respective working areas (fig. C).

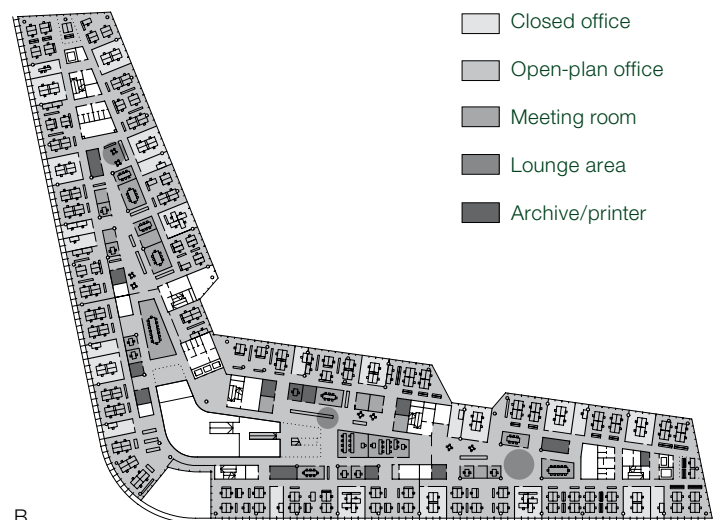
Colour concept

In conjunction with an artist the groups also developed a colour concept that stipulated that only the walls in the common areas or the furnishings were to be brightly coloured. Whilst the working areas along the facade and the meeting rooms are decorated in subdued colours, the intensity of the colours gradually increases from the kitchenettes through the café and library up to the lounge areas.

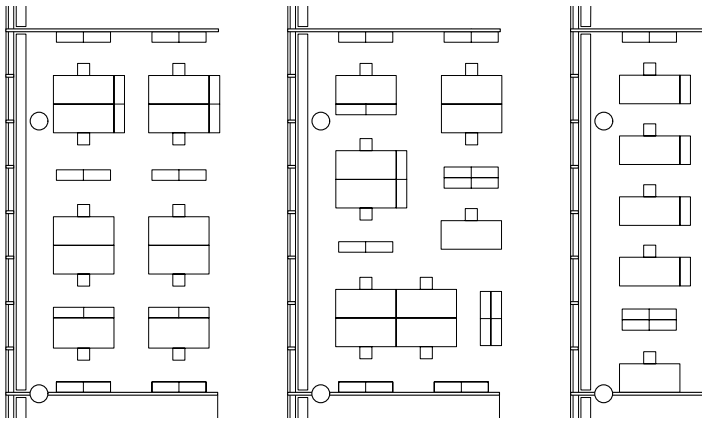
Translucent films on glass partition walls serve to shield working areas and meeting rooms and to give them privacy. In order to maintain the maximum possible transparency, however, films were applied initially only to a minimum of surfaces, later to be expanded or intensified as required.



A



B



C

Floor plans
Scale 1:250

- 1 Open-plan office
- 2 Individual office
- 3 Multiple person office
- 4 Meeting room for 1–2 people
- 5 Meeting room for up to six people
- 6 Meeting room for up to eight people
- 7 Conference room
- 8 Kitchenette/café
- 9 Printer station/archives
- 10 Utilities

A Interplay of corporate values
B Ground plan layout: surface distribution
C Variants of workspace allocation

