

NEW ECB PREMISES PROJECT OFFICE

ECB-UNRESTRICTED

04 August 2014

NEW ECB PREMISES

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

DESIGN PROPOSALS
(FIRST PHASE)



101

Murphy/Jahn, Inc.

Chicago, United States

Helmut Jahn

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“The proposed building is of a strong, visible identity for the European Central Bank and of a scale which can compete with the existing Grossmarkthalle. It reaches out over the Grossmarkthalle to the city in the north and to the south over the Riverside Park to the Main. The adjoining office and expansion modules transform the scale to the proposed adjoining city blocks. Beginning with the curved entry drive the complex offers a successive spatial and visual experience onto the covered Entry Court in the Grossmarkthalle, to the Central Hall in the new structure and further to the Riverside Park and the Main.

The garden is proposed as a great lawn, bordered on the east and west by significant woods. Towards the river are four reflecting pools that penetrate the new building with circular sky lights that allow light through the water down into the conference room and other below ground functions. 2 slabs of office space are connected by a covered Central Hall. At the south the slabs cantilever over the river. At the north they cantilever over the Grossmarkthalle connecting the buildings visually without touching.

The sequence of spaces changes from open to covered to enclosed. The offices offer views over the water, the river Main and the skyline of Frankfurt.

In the Grossmarkthalle, the Auditorium and the Visitor’s Centre are placed east and west of the Entry Court. The office modules are in the linear slabs, accessed by 4 elevator cores which front on to the Communicative Forum at every floor.

Modular expansion is accomplished by adding office slabs to the east end of the site, similar to the IT-modules on the west end, mirroring the bookends of the Grossmarkthalle head buildings.”



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NOX,

Rotterdam, The Netherlands,
Lars Spuybroek

Outline Concept

“Our design strategy is threefold:

- a. To design a sustainable building with a high standard of comfort that requires minimum energy use and is environmentally friendly.
- b. To respect the existing Grossmarkthalle both as a historical monument and as a material structure.
- c. To design architecture with a contemporary monumentality: a strong expression of wholeness and pluriformity at the same time.

For this we developed a design strategy that can absorb the old, but also extend the old to become new and innovative. Our design methodology is based on a concept of variable modulation: all architectural types that are needed in this program (halls, towers, slabs, etc.) can be made into a family of continuous relations.

Beginning with the Grossmarkthalle, our approach was to treat it as a structure that can be continued in both directions, North and South to facilitate a dense program of office slabs with glass atriums in between. This same structure was then varied in the vertical direction to transform the typology of ribbed vaults into either the smoothly curved roof of a large hall or a smooth parabolic tower.

This type of tower does not require any columns. All loads are transferred downwards through both the tripod core and the structural skin.

The uniformity of the concept is strengthened by the uniformity of the skin: a steel honeycomb structure filled with large glass panels at the outer skin and a second glass skin on the interior ensuring natural ventilation in between.”



103

Helin & Co Architects

Helsinki, Finland

Pekka Helin

Outline Concept

Architecture: A strongly identifiable symbol of the ECB for both all Europeans and the cityscape of Frankfurt, a cultural monument of our times. A carefully designed composition including two dominant towers, creating a visual image and a basis for a functionally efficient layout. A combination of the rational order of Functionalism of the late 30s (Grossmarkthalle) and the dynamic flow of 21 century Modern. An inspiring environment for work, conferences and other activities of the ECB.

Urban Context: A generator of the new growth of Ostend. The presence of the history of the site: Grossmarkthalle, riverbank, old cranes, Deutschherrnbrücke. A new spatial organisation in the line of the city plan: a green belt from Ostpark, the new riverside park. A new remarkable landmark and a new urban nucleus with increased human activities instead of wholesale market and heavy traffic. Water as the main gentle borderline between secured private and open public spaces.

Offices: The general office area, IT-offices and decision making bodies are located in the two towers to obtain efficient inner connections and economical sector solution. Curved forms are used to create inspiring atmosphere and interesting views; the basic frame allows all layout variations of the brief: cellular, combi- and open-plan-offices. Both multizone- and communicative-forum-principles can be applied.

Construction and Materials: Reinforced concrete is used for the framework of the buildings. Advantages of the new glass technology are utilized especially in energy saving. European natural materials, stone, wood and metals are used as authentic surfaces according to environmental considerations."



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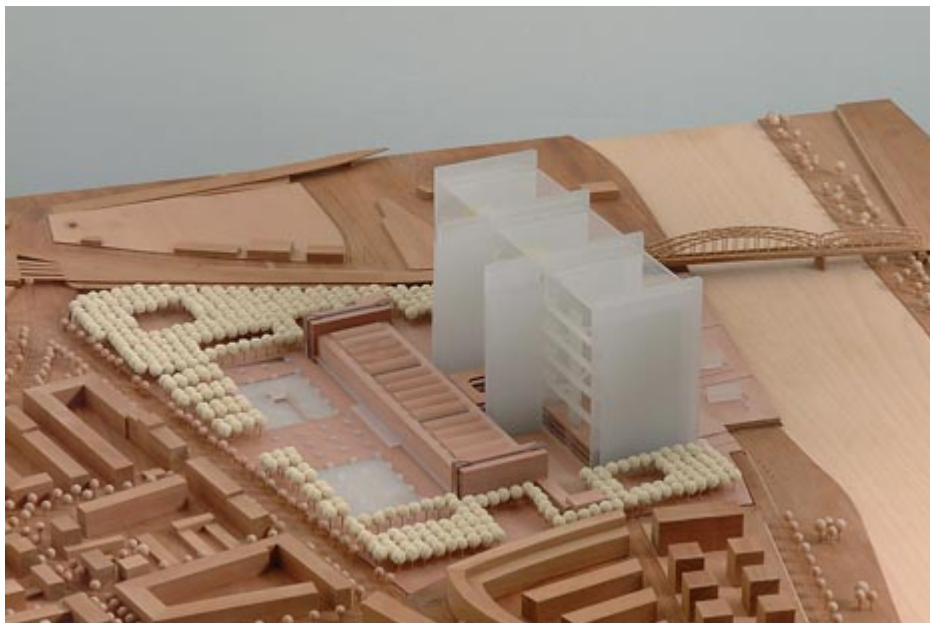
Valode et Pistre

Paris, France

Denis Valode

Jean Pistre

No author's description available.



105

gmp - von Gerkan, Marg und Partner

Berlin, Germany

Meinhard von Gerkan

Volkwin Marg

Hubert Nienhoff

Markus Pfisterer

Outline Concept

“The ECB presents itself as solitary entity in the public park of Main. It symbolises an architectural landmark through: The exposed, political location in the centre of Europe. The European synthesis between tradition and technology. The willingness to assume responsibilities for the economic common good of the citizens of Europe.

The solitaire ensemble of the ECB allows for the creation of a new public park, fostering quality to the entire "Oststadt" (East City) through the connection from the "Ostpark", Zoo and "Mainpark" and enclosing Frankfurt's "Grüngürtel".

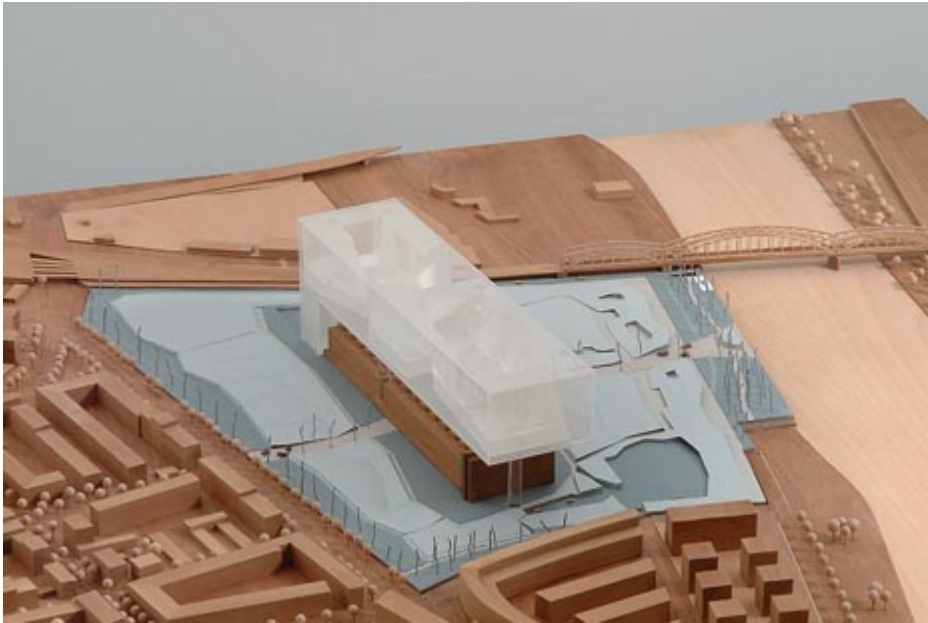
The interior of the "Grossmarkthalle" remains preserved in its scale but becomes enriched with spatial qualities: Through the extension of the gallery level and what used to be the „Cafe'-bridge" leading to the visitor's centre.

Taking the floor out on Level 0 opens up spatial and visual connections to the sports and leisure facilities as well as the parking areas.

An optimal work environment will be created through natural lighting and ventilation as well as through the east-west orientation for all the office spaces. The 2,500 workplaces of the first phase as well as the 500 additional spaces of the subsequent modular expansion receive a visual and spatial connection to Main and to the northeastern city area.

The highest flexibility to the office module and varying room depths allow for future modifications of the entire office area.

The Glass Halls offer thermally protected rest and communication areas for all employees on all levels.”



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mecanoo architects

Delft, The Netherlands

Francine M.J. Houben

Outline Concept

“The ECB-site, with the 250 meter long existing Grossmarkthalle, is horizontally orientated in contrast to the vertical inner city. A horizontal building will hover above the Grossmarkthalle, separated by a 20 meter high void. The building touches the ground incidentally by using round frames for structure and circulation. A small part of the building volume will be continued vertically on the east side of the Grossmarkthalle and is connected to the underground floor levels. The steel and concrete frames will perforate the vaulted roof of the Grossmarkthalle and provide access from the spacious entrance hall to the floating office floors.

The new ECB building expresses itself as a compact and autonomous building. The compact organisation of the program allows for a green park space around the building. The borders of the park are landscape designed physical barriers, which provide the first security level of the bank.

The spacious Grossmarkthalle is part of the park level and will function as the entrance hall. The existing basement will be used as main entrance level and accommodates public facilities.

In the heart of the building the Decision Making Bodies will be vertically located on all floors.

Using structural façades every floor has a free span which offers maximum possibilities to organise different office concepts and interiors.

A glass roof and façade cover the building and expresses its horizontal orientation. The building mass is transformed into a z-form through which 40 meter high voids are formed between the mass and the skin. The voids provide daylight and fresh air into the building.”



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T P Bennet

London, United Kingdom

Richard Beastall, Christopher Bennie

D. Granville Smith, William Soper

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“Our proposal is founded upon a unifying framework representing the community and its future growth, stabilised by the ECB. This framework inspires our design, with the influence of the ECB symbolised by the unifying impact of the Grossmarkthalle on the overall scheme. The sculptural decision-making-chamber, supported in the centre of the Grossmarkthalle, is physically and symbolically both at the heart of the Bank, and at the heart of Europe.

The building does not sit in a parkland setting but itself unfolds the earth. Out of this parkland emerges the familiar form of the Grossmarkthalle. Two distinctive linked towers that accommodate most of the office space rise on the river frontage of the site. Placed on the axis of Oscar-von-Miller-Strasse and of Grusonstrasse, they sign the location of the bank from all major approaches, alluding to its power and influence and yet still exhibiting a strong continuity with the landscape from which they emerge. The forms of the towers create an ever-changing aspect. The processional route into the building creates a rising sense of anticipation punctuated by physical and visual events in the form of the Entry control points, the Promenade and the ‘Sentinel’ entry building. The route culminates with entry into the Grossmarkthalle at first floor level.

From the point of entry the three main strands of entry circulation fan out to the visitor centre, the press and conference facilities and to the operational areas of the building.

At the heart of the operative part of the building is the ‘Hub’. This multi-storey, multifunctional space is the circulation link between all the major departmental subdivisions of the organisation and is supported by the main catering facilities.

The office spaces are clear of structure, on a consistent module and are completely flexible to a variety of alternative modes of office spatial layout.”



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ABB Architekten

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

H.D. Scheid

M. Beye

L. Scheid

Outline Concept

“Integration of the Grossmarkthalle into the Outline Concept: Implanting of elements inside, like conference rooms, library, auditorium etc., in east and west with gallery-like entrances, preservation of the existing structure in the middle, in front and in the sides and new structure as gallery with exhibition areas on ground floor.

Creating of a central entrance zone with direct link to the office tower in the south and the growth modules in the north, short ways to all facilities inside and outside the hall.

Creating of urban spaces in addition to existing through positioning and dimensioning of social areas and IT-service buildings with glasscovered courtyards. Therefore a generous entrance space is created with new high lightening of the main entrance with an entrance structure in front of the hall with adequate design.

Preservation of the annex buildings of the Grossmarkthalle for spaceforming and structuring, orientation of a double high-rise building (1st phase) to east and west, with structure and grid similar to parts of the existing hall, in the gravity point of the southern urban space creation of a transparent loggia including cafeteria, employees restaurant and terraces, design of a unique, strongly horizontal and vertical structured image of the ECB without future change through additions.

Creating a parklike, suspenseful landscape with integration of the river Main and the borderline. Extension for further workplaces with the conception of a double high-rise building in the north with similar structure and organisation as the main building, orientated in the same way with a lobby towards the city in the west.”



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RHWL Architects

London, United Kingdom

Peter Shaw

Outline Concept

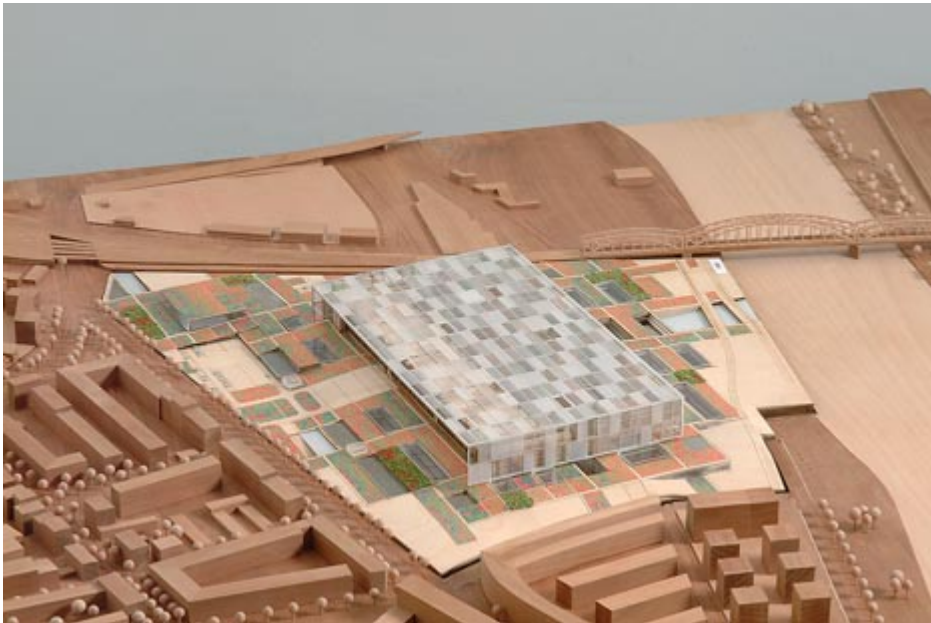
“Considering the givens led us to believe that a tall building is neither what the ECB want nor what is appropriate for the site, but rather the desire for the iconic value of a tower.

The secured office space is located in what can be seen as a horizontal tower. A pair of floating glass beams, raised above the Grossmarkthalle, which span from endblock to endblock. Free from noise and air pollution from the adjacent railway, afforded good daylight, good orientation to prevailing winds aiding natural ventilation, fabulous 360° views, relationship to the city, efficient security management, elevated from blast dangers and landmark status from the city and surroundings.

Public Spaces are located off Sonnemannstrasse. Semi-public spaces are located in the Grossmarkthalle, easily accessible, manageable and they give the grand space life and activity. Private spaces for ECB staff are leading to an elevated street, along which the two beams of office space are orientated. The Street sets up an axis from Ostend to the Financial District and visually maintains the relationship between the two. The Street with cafés, points of interest, meeting places and landscaping along its length.

Ancillary buildings are located under the landscaped berm, allowing access for both the public and the employees of the Bank and its visitors.

With security a high priority, integration of a physical barrier and its impact visually is integral to the scheme. A ring of roses is seen as ideal. The roses grows to a height of 2 metres, are hardy and vigorous growing and requires no maintenance. Densely planted they are impossible to walk through.”



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Skidmore Owings & Merrill / NHT + Partner

New York 10005, USA

Roger Duffi

Hans-Ulrich von Mende

Outline Concept

“An immense flower garden is the setting for a new European Central Bank headquarters.

Symbolically, the garden acts as a metaphor for the work of the ECB. Member countries jointly participate in the planning and planting of the garden to ensure continuous blooming.

Cooperation and national representation are integral to the image and maintenance of the garden environment, echoing the collaborative nature of the ECB. The incorporation of the national flowers of the member countries into a cohesive garden celebrates cultural identity, cooperation, and natural variety.

This new garden also links with the existing green belt that weaves through the city. The ECB building is a transparent, luminous glass shell that incorporates the historic Grossmarkthalle and new office structures.

The office program is located primarily in two main stacks, equal in height to the bookend towers of the Grossmarkthalle, that rise from the surface of the flower field. Two adjacent lower stacks, situated below the flower field, allow the building to flow down toward the Main River. The interior of the preserved Grossmarkthalle returns to public use. The symbolic flower garden continues on the interior of this important public space.

The glass skin of the building's outer shell gives literal form to the ideal of institutional transparency. Within the building's ephemeral glass case exists a self-contained office complex - visible, yet fully protected by the necessary levels of security.

Office blocks are designed to maximize modularity, flexibility, and expandability.

This design for the new European Central Bank combines nature and architecture to create a flexible, serene, and highly comfortable office environment for the new European Central Bank.”



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Dominique Perrault

Paris, France

Outline Concept

"A World in Motion: The new ECB premises take its physical form in four distinct elements.

ECB plaza: Located in the northeast corner of the site, it opens outwards towards the city, enlarging the existing triangular space across Sonnemannstrasse. This space forms an open public plaza, grand and noble, which descends gently downwards towards the public building entry in the Grossmarkthalle. It is a space to be shared by the ECB, all the members of European Community, and the general public.

The Grossmarkthalle: Taking advantage of the historical, symbolic, and spatial significance of the Grossmarkthalle, the interior has been reconfigured to create the most public spaces - the entry hall, the visitor centre, and the conference centre. The ground floor has been removed enhancing the drama of the space upon entry. A series of volumes, floating, projecting, and freely placed, animate the vast interior.

The "Energy Lake": The "Energy Lake" unites the Grossmarkthalle and the ECB tower, defining their position on the site. It is a multi-functional and active surface, contributing to the ecological nature of the project. Exterior gardens are located under the surface of this lake, bringing light and air to the surrounding spaces.

ECB tower: Its striking profile on the Frankfurt sky creates a recognisable landmark, moving and changing, different from all sides. Its composition of independent and unique blocks, united in perfect equilibrium, project the diversity and complexity of the European Community and its member states."



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Paul Andreu Architecte in association with ADPI

Paris, France

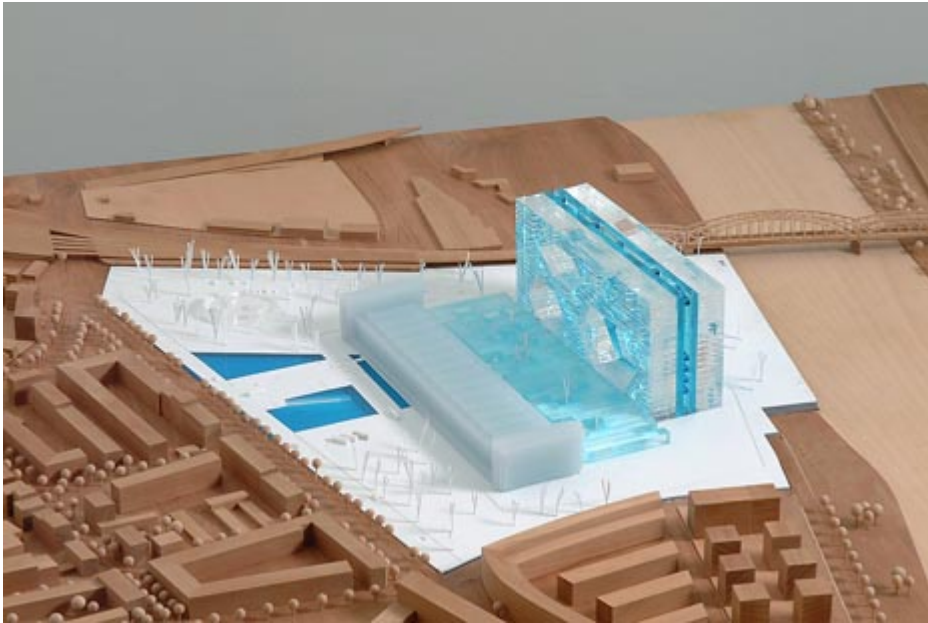
Paul Andreu

Outline Concept

“The site is considered as an extension of the Main river geography, providing the city a new urban forest: the ECB park. Green corridors link these parks and create a promenade near the Main river.

Planted areas have lots of advantages like filtering toxins from the surrounding air, increasing humidity and reducing temperature in the immediate area. Water surfaces near the buildings create temperature reduction.

The ground has two slopes, one towards north, one towards south. The rain water flows to the two canals, which run along the base of each slope, delimiting the ECB’s site.”



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aN+

Rome, Italy

Carmelo Baglivo

Luca Galofaro

Stefania Manna

Outline Concept

“The contact between the building system of the new ECB site and the town is made possible through two main plazas; one plaza, enclosed within the area, is covered by water. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic is channelled under this monumental water plaza, hosting the memorial site. The main building will be developed along the riverside, in order to preserve the sight of the Grossmarkthalle from the town. The other plaza, external, will be running along the Sonnemannstrasse.

The Grossmarkthalle is organised into three parallel strips containing both public and semi-public activities.

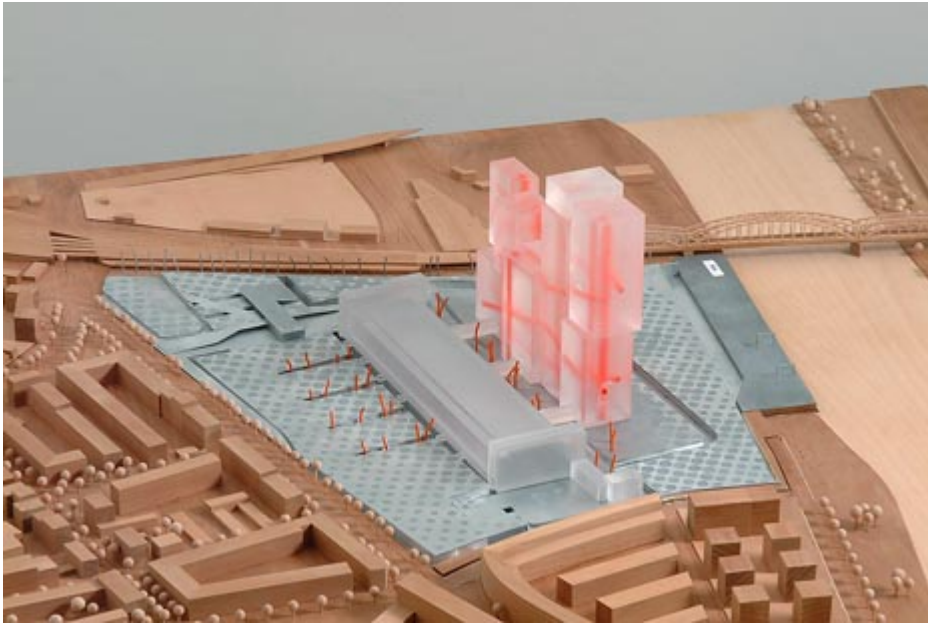
One strip links the existing building to the new one and the office system will be developed around patios.

The main building, located on the riverside, is a composition of two thin structures, separated by a central void, visually connected to the city in a dynamic way.

According to this scheme, there is an equal hierarchy between solids and voids. The holes (voids) opening on the buildings are intended to become a place for visual contact between the town and working spaces, within the main building.

The relationship between the Grossmarkthalle and the surroundings is preserved by these voids presented in the main structure.

There are two main workplace types: the box and the open office, each one organised around a particular landscape. The relationship between work and environment is in constant integration and inversion. The horizontal platform is organised around external patios, while the space inside the main building is organised around a vertical void system. Both these systems follow the same aim: to bring light and natural environment deep into internal space.”



114

de architectengroep

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

D.E. Van Gameren

M. Loos

D.H.P.M. Huls

F. Loos

Outline Concept

“The European Central Bank is the main hub of an extending European and international financial network. Therefore, the ECB building is not conceived as a solitary object, but as an open and non-hierarchic network. It allows a free and clear flow of people, data and material; it enables new and constantly changing connections, confrontations and associations.

The form of the building results from this concept. It is an assemblage of functional entities in one organism, whose appearance is determined by the processes taking place inside. Therefore the building is a bold and clear expression of the networks within and without, standing in relation to the daring and strictly functional architecture of the Grossmarkthalle and to the surrounding (post-) industrial area. At the same time, the site's landscape is an open and transparent surface that regulates accessibility as well as safety.

The ECB's logistic flow of people, cars and trucks is seen as an industrial installation. The landscape is designed as a single coherent surface that organizes efficiently both connection and disconnection.

The Grossmarkthalle keeps its original function as a large distribution space and has been changed as little as possible. The hall is the public square of the building: a civic hall where staff and visitors meet. Three bridges lead to a series of foyers which constitutes one of the collecting points of the network building.

The different parts of the „working“ programme are forged together into one articulate composite volume. By this means, programme parts cannot become isolated, but always constitute elements of a larger network within the building.”



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Studio Valle Progettazioni

Rome, Italy

Tommaso Valle

Outline Concept

”The formal urban organisational generator for the New ECB Premises has been found in the identification of a visual and functional urban-scaled axis, which is established, from Danziger Platz through to the competition site and beyond. This axial organiser is recognised and defined in Danziger Platz through its physical expression as a dense orchard of large trees through which, an important diagonal cut has been made. This organisational axis then proceeds down from Danziger Platz as a double row of trees that lines Hanauer Landstrasse and concludes in front of the elliptical traffic plaza located directly in front of the Main Entrance to the New ECB Premises. The selection of this particular diagonal axis has strongly suggested an urban planning and an architectural design solution that minimises the overall visual impact of the New ECB Premises. In addition, the site organisation takes full advantage of the existing microclimate and prevailing wind directions that are in turn maximised upon for the overall economy and benefit of the competition solution.

Water, which is brought into the composition of the entire project, is used to integrate and soften the impact of the Architecture and characterise the continuity of the principal compositional axes while giving form and structure to the entire riverside park system.

Greenery is utilised along the perimeter edges of the new pedestrian bridges and along both sides of the riverside promenades as well as on the roof gardens and in the winter gardens that make up both ends of the new office buildings.

The diagonal axis, already developed on the opposite side of the Main River adjacent to the Oval Arena, is used and repositioned in the direction of the New ECB Premises. The proposed orientation for the pedestrian-bridge-link between the two riverside promenades is used to frame and focus the viewer’s attention upon the geometrical organisation of the New ECB Premises from both the river and its adjacent landscaped parks.”



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Grüntuch / Ernst Architekten

Berlin, Germany

Armand Grüntuch

Almut Ernst

Outline Concept

“The new ECB building symbolises the strength of joined power in many aspects. The building is not a solitaire, but an ensemble of elements that form a significant silhouette. As a building for a supra-national Institution it symbolises the emerging new challenges and dynamic energies of the future in the common European market.

The building and the activity with[=of] the ECB communicate physical phenomena of eruptions and shooting spouts emerging from more than one source of energy representing the cultural diversity of the people co-operating.

The new buildings are integrated in the free flow of a homogeneous landscape and dissolving the borderline between landscape and architecture.

The existing ‘Grossmarkthalle’ is hit by the wave of new energies, like "driftwood" in the sea.

The new, contrasting buildings frame the old market hall, yet retaining its original character. The charm of the enormous open space within the existing brick building is used as the inviting foyer into the building cluster. The reception centre and the generous exhibition area on the ground floor will supply visitors with information material. When passing the security point on the first floor people access the base of all five towers directly.

While security requirements call for a secure boundary along the property, the strategy of the landscape is to minimise its presence of a boundary by employing various, yet seamless elements such as embankments, walls, plantings and water. For instance: Although the restaurant area is visually connected with the public life on the riverbanks the restaurant terrace is protected by a water barrier. The landscape sensitively integrates with the riverside promenade directly to the south and the ‘green belt’ pedestrian path on the east edge of the site.”



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HPP Hentrich - Petschnigg & Partner

Dusseldorf, Germany

Joachim H. Faust

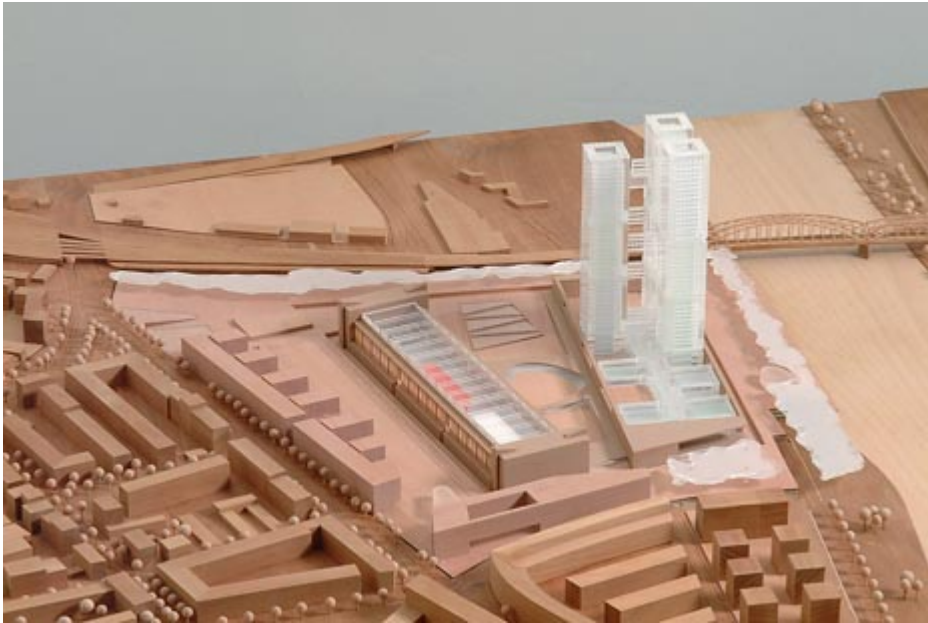
Outline Concept

“The protected monument ‘Grossmarkthalle’ is integrated within the building concept. An expressive special form acts as a symbol in representing the exceptional position of the institution European Central Bank.

Communication and work areas are clearly defined by the structure of the building. Between the work areas are various public parks and green recreational areas which are interconnected.

Office area: Every workspace has a direct reference to the outside green areas. The building is transparent to the city and allows views into the glazed courtyards.

Energy: The building concept enables an exceptionally efficient energy balance. The glazed shell minimises the loss of heated air during the cold season, while natural convection supports cooling during the summer months. The glazed skin shields all areas of the building protecting it from unauthorised entry.”



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KSP Engel und Zimmermann

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Jürgen Engel

Outline Concept

“City of solitary objects: The current situation around the wholesale market hall will be transformed and placed into a new context. The city floor plan of the Ostend will be completed along the Sonnemannstrasse by a building group (for ECB uses, i.e. apartments, kindergarten) thus emphasising the entrance situation for ECB.

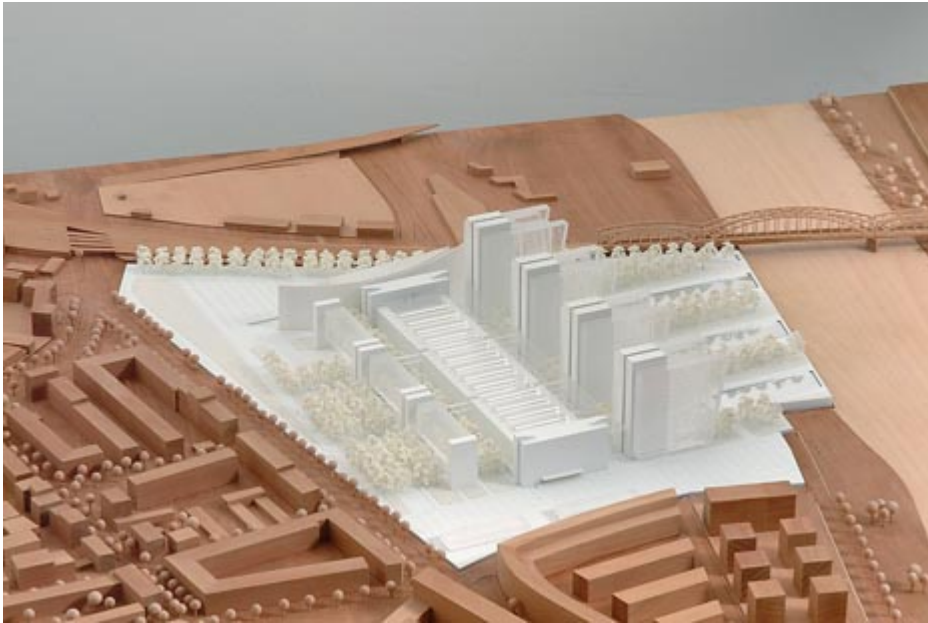
The wholesale market hall will be freed as a solitary object within the block, and be made visible in its entire length from the street, through gaps between the single building flights. The mass of the hall will be completely incorporated by the ECB pedestal-construction, which stretches out along the Main river.

The thin, vertical steles of the high-rise will protrude from the building, creating a field of tension contrasting with the horizontal forms of the wholesale market hall.

The ensemble of the solitary objects will be framed by landscape elements, furthering the green belt alongside the Ostpark, the Alleenring and the Main river.

Zoning – Onionskinprinciple: The area of the wholesale market hall offers the possibility of connecting high-security demands with urban planning and landscape elements. The operational area will be consolidated into a compact construction along the Main river. The wholesale market hall, placed toward the north, will be filled with public and semi-public areas.

This ECB core will be surrounded by a sunken, easily visible, open space, 15 meters in width. A further layer, the hedge wall, will define the actual area of the ECB and prevent unauthorized penetration into the facility. While green areas in the south and the east create distance, buildings toward the north and west will provide protection.”



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Vasconi Associes Architectes

Paris, France

Claude Vasconi

Guy Bez

Outline Concept

“A metamorphic trajectory begins, expressing a dynamic that will inevitably grow and change the hall in decades to come. The proposed architectural creation demonstrates the dynamic evolution of the ECB for next generations.

Forming in the east of Frankfurt, this urban scheme counters the city in the West, without looking like it, without miming it. This is the reason why our project does not affirm any tower, but moderate high-rise buildings (15 to 16 levels) that punctuate, giving rhythm to the banks of the Main. It is from the connection between the banks of the river that reinforce and reaffirm this dialogue.

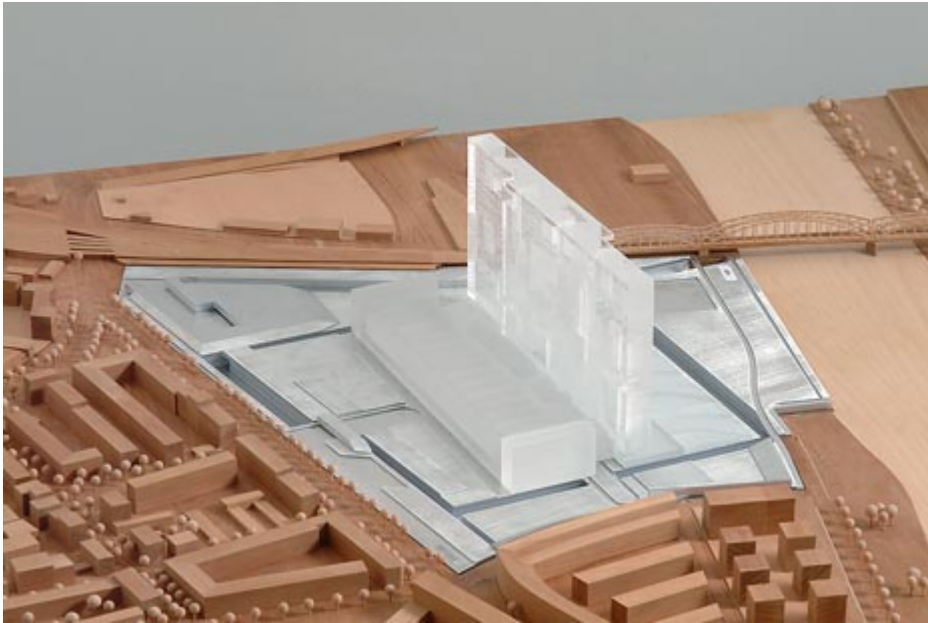
Included in a large, rectangular network, the geometry based on the Grossmarkthalle which remains the heart of the project containing many common spaces.

In the south of the Grossmarkthalle, a glass nave, “the Galleria”, becomes the major axis of distribution for the entire project. The Galleria, dispersed on levels linked by escalators, connects the lower level, the garden level, and the Conference and modular rooms. It links the four Office buildings oriented with the river and the gardens.

The extensive glass nave opens to the gardens, representing the main distribution and meeting point for the European Central Bank Premises.

The main entry is contained in a curved building against the east gable wall of the Grossmarkthalle including the spaces open to the public. This building represents a window as the eastern façade of the ECB.

The addition of buildings in the future is proposed to the north. The potential north façade of the ECB will be parallel to the Grossmarkthalle and open to a large green space.”



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Barkow Leibinger Architekten

Berlin, Germany

Regine Leibinger

Frank Barkow

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“A compact vertical office tower is bound to the Grossmarkthalle, which serves as an entrance threshold. This combined building form is woven together to provide a distinct building for the bank. The remaining site is given over to landscape and infrastructure facilitating security. Selective programming (library, visitors centre and auditorium) allows the hall to retain its open volumetric identity while inserting appropriate security program-types into this significant space. Articulation of building mass (openings) creates transparency thus mediating scale. These cuts in the building provide a reverse figure-ground where they are in scale with adjacent buildings. Reflective surfaces (skin) versus materially opaque surfaces (cuts) provide an ephemeral effect on the skyline.

Two growth modules have been located within the overall tower mass.

The perimeter landscape is formed by a series of large-scale lawns and tree groves, which work with sculpted berms and dense plantings to create a secure zone around the building.

Sectionally the ground plane rises through the building providing an entrance platform underneath the office tower. This surface then ramps down to the river into a series of fingers, which contain support program including sport-fitness, classrooms and the chapel. A series of moats articulate and further isolate the bank grounds.

Split-level is conceived as a structural means to improve communication between working groups. Groups have the ability with a split-level configuration to grow or reduce in both east-west long direction of the building or in the short north-south direction. The office tower block is organised with office spaces on the outside walls and multi-zones or conference areas in the centre.”



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EEA - Erick van Egeraat

London, United Kingdom

Michael Rushe

Outline Concept*“landscape:* the site is a park connecting the new promenade with the city’s green belt*urban:* the landscape is the connecting fabric*security:* a hierarchy of security from the north to the river with clear public zones*access:* the main visitor access is from Sonnemannstrasse, with service access from west*pedestrians:* encourage movement across the site through the landscape*public:* public and social facilities within the Grossmarkthalle*appearance:* presenting a traditional and contemporary outlook*form:* the new building volume separates and complements the Grossmarkthalle*gardens:* within the building form create inner gardens, courtyards, terraces and patios*context:* the site of the building integrates with the surrounding*multiplicity:* a multi-façade treatment to represent the multi-national occupancy*history:* respect the site heritage by integrating the existing elements with the landscape*river:* create a visual link from the Grossmarkthalle to the river by raising the building off the ground”



122

Bolles + Wilson

Munster, Germany

Peter Wilson

Julia B. Bolles-Wilson

Outline Concept

“Concept = Grossmarkthalle:not to compromise but to iterate the clarity and scale of the Grossmarkthalle as mega – object landed in the surrounding urban fabric.

Two iterations of the Grossmarkthalle merge with the cleared and landscaped ground plane, the third hovers above, incredibly, dramatically - a landmark and counterpoint to Frankfurt downtown towers.

Trussed Columns – 2,5 X 2.5 m and 4 lifts/stairs cores support the Transfer Carpet. 6 diagonal columns provide lateral stability.

These are clad in glass and internally illuminated both within the atrium and externally.”



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Jourdan & Müller PAS

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Jochem Jourdan

Bernhard Müller

Benjamin Jourdan

Outline Concept*“Performing Landmark*

The essence of the design proposal - an assembled shape of different bodies echoes the multiplicity of the member's identities. Not a monolith, not a gigantic super-symbol but a complex composition, a cluster comprising different volumes: Lying - Flying - Rising, reaching in different directions while focussing on an inner rotation within an overall formation of ‚bodies in balance‘.

The historic Market Hall building and the sculptural shapes of the ‚flyscraper‘ and skyscrapers form a condensed Euro-City including distinctive in-between and void spaces.

In times of dissolving borders the urban landscape evolves as a model for cohabitation and mutual support. The rhythm and the folds of the ground relief create a generous public space concept, reinterpreting the landscape along the banks of the river Main.

The visible parts of the new ECB City form a high-rise cluster adjacent to the Market Hall. The Market Hall acts as a filter, a transitory element, incorporating semi-public uses. A ‚flyscraper‘ and three skyscrapers are arranged as a group on a platform. The ‚flyscraper‘, allocated to the board, and the cluster dock like spacecrafts. The other high-rise buildings contain office spaces. These urban blocks have been arranged to form a collective shape, creating an independent cluster as a distinctive landmark building.

Inside / Outside

The space sequences inside the buildings correspond to the rhythm of the landscape outside. The main entrance hall promotes a spectacular view of the river Main. The southern platform building acts as a garden of light from which the lift towers of the high-rise buildings rise like tree-trunks. Ramps and staircases lead to the garden levels and to the landscape park outside.”



124

Schneider + Schumacher Architekturgesellschaft mbH

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Till Schneider

Michael Schumacher

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“Our scheme reacts to the environmental conditions of the site and its urban surrounding, thus promoting the ECB’s commitment to the City of Frankfurt and its inhabitants. The new ECB building balances the historic landmark of the Grossmarkthalle, acting as an architectural counterweight. At the same time it forms a characteristic landmark which once may become an icon, known and associated with this institution all over the world – the ‘new home’ of the ECB. Our aim is to retain the listed Grossmarkthalle as original as possible and to create minimal interference with the magnificent old structure. Taking full advantage of its spatial quality, the Hall acts as an interface between the ECB and various external bodies it stands in contact with. Single units are joined to form the overall shape of the building, which becomes more than just an addition of elements but a ‘super-motive’. All required office floor space is condensed into a centralised volume acting as a vertically stacked city. Separate six-story-high units are linked into a modular structure. This will always appear ‘complete’ allowing for growth at any time. The curved shapes of the single units achieve a quality working environment for employees, joining the benefits of smaller units with the advantages of a tower scheme. The scheme combines spatial efficiency, short distances, good orientation and natural ventilation. Further, the shape of the units allows for all staff to enjoy great views over the city. The composition of various types of spaces, offices, sky-gardens and multizones creates an inspiring atmosphere and fosters interaction and communication between people.”



125

RKW Architektur + Städtebau

Düsseldorf, Germany

Friedel Kellermann

Outline Concept

”The outdoor design has their own organization being co-ordinated with the building complex. By means of clear, simple draft elements such as water, lawn and trees also all safety requirements are considered to such a free space.

Significant and connecting element is the water surface between the buildings. In the rather public area the bar forest forms a green scenery and creates thus its own area.

The approach roads are aligned axial to the respective entrances.

Along the Main develops a public bank place with gastronomy.”



126

Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner

Stuttgart, Germany

Günther Schaller

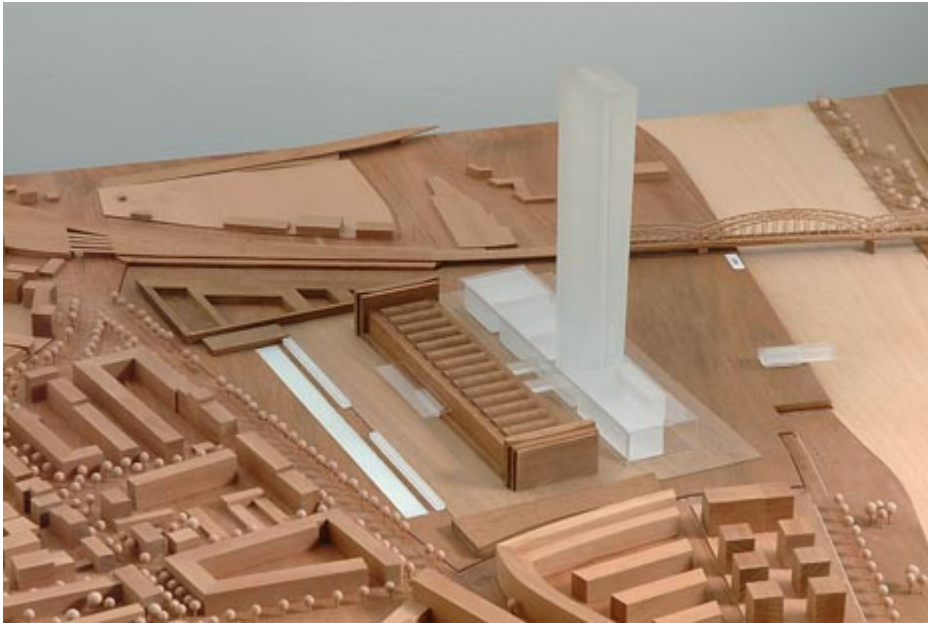
Günter Behnisch

Stefan Behnisch

Outline Concept

“The dimensions of the site do not necessarily require slim, vertical high-rises. Especially because zoning requirements limit building heights to 150 m, such a solution would not be sensible anyway. Another important objective was to set the new building in stark contrast to the typical German Central Bank building. Because of the ECB's symbolic importance, we tried to avoid using architectural features of existing institutions, especially other financial institutions. We therefore propose an unusual building form which develops freely, and which is able to accommodate all the required functions of the European Central Bank under one roof. The form of the building is in no way related to that of the market hall, avoiding any kind of concurrence or attempts to place either building in the foreground or background. Instead, the new ECB building allows the market hall to physically assert itself as an independent element on the site. The central element of the new structure is a ribbon, sometimes widening, sometimes narrowing, which extends from the northern part of the site through to the southern part on Level 1, and through the existing market hall to constitute part of the "Visitor Area". On the south side of the market hall underneath the organically curved form accommodating the offices, the ribbon acts as entrance foyer with reception, visitor centre and other central functions, before continuing to meander through the park and reaching the bank of the Main River where it ends in a pedestrian bridge with adjacent public cafe. The entire ECB premises could be designed as a landscaped English park, in which the building structure, various paths, groups of trees and other elements can be linked in diverse ways, producing a variety of ‘ensembles’.

The layout of the office floors conforms to the required layout depths of 14.20 m wherever this appears to be sensible. In some areas the building is more voluminous, accommodating both access and special areas. Generous winter gardens extending over several stories are connected via vertical stairs.”



127

van den Valentyn
Cologne, Germany

Outline Concept

“The City of Frankfurt is the only city in Europe where urban development is determined by high-rise buildings contained within the historic city centre. In Frankfurt this construction type resembles the term ‘bank’ per se and, in the past, helped the city to be internationally perceived as an important financial centre. On considering the adequate building height we realised that the possible height of 150 m mentioned in the tender is too low in the face of the dimensions of the covered wholesale market, the building proportions and the significance of the institution. It appears to us that a height of approx. 200 m for this location would meet ideal proportions. The high security requirements for the ECB spaces allow leaving the areas between the covered wholesale market and Sonnemannstrasse as well as the immediate vicinity surrounding the market free from buildings. Thus, it is possible to retain the historic impression of a solitaire on a wide square. Supplementary buildings and the linear design of the square areas are also orientated to this generous historic appearance. Additional, collateral construction elements have been designed in an unobtrusive manner and shall enclose the composition of the new and the historic main structure body.

In order to retain the particular character of its impressive interior we intend to leave the structure body so that it can still be experienced in its entirety in the future. The new functions are therefore incorporated as suspended structures which remain without connection to the outside walls. The sinking of the main room of the visitor centre expands its exhibition possibilities and increases the three-dimensional effect of the room. The gangways to office areas and conference facilities can be reached by escalators from a platform placed inside the market.”



128

Neutelings Riedijk Architecten

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Willem Jan Neutelings

Michiel Riedijk

Outline Concept

“Open views to the River

- Panoramic views frame the ECB from the Sonnemannstrasse.
- The ECB projects uninterrupted views towards city centre and river.

Program: A Vertical City

- The program is layered in a vertical stacking of 40 stories.
- Communal facilities are on the lower floors, special units in the towers.
- An open plan and several stay lobbies give light and splendid views.

More Green Areas

- Green space is maximized by using high-rise and underground building.
- Open green spaces along the river bring fresh air into the city, improve climate.
- Trees in winter gardens and roof terraces to absorb dust and CO₂.
- Direct infiltration of rainwater in open soil to avoid river flooding.“



129

Dissing + Weitling arkitektfirma a/s

Copenhagen, Denmark

Daniel Hayden

Stig Mikkelsen

Outline Concept

“The new ECB is built up of three principal architectural elements: a landscaped Base, the Forum (Grossmarkthalle) and the Towers. The project concept strives to establish one centre, a Forum for which the various activities associated with the ECB can be focused. The Base and Towers are then linked to the Forum vertically and horizontally assuring a smooth flow of people, goods and services throughout the entire site.

The Base can be thought of as a solid mass, two stories high, which has been placed around the existing Grossmarkthalle. The Base integrates a wide variety of building functions such as parking, loading docks, as well as high security offices and technical space. Conceptually, the Base has been lowered down into the ground so that the top of the Base is flush with the surrounding terrain. This gesture puts focus on the Grossmarkthalle and maintains clear views to and from this beautiful old building. Unlike the general office space in the towers which is very regular, this area provides the possibility to fit very different types of office space, computer facilities, restaurants, and archives into building volumes which can be optimized to fit their function.

The market hall is, as an existing spatial event, even more impressive. The market hall functions as the main reception hall and incorporates the visitors centre/Euro shop and exhibition areas. The conference facilities meeting and press rooms are incorporated in glass covered boxes which are placed at various levels throughout the market hall area. The tops of the boxes are used as lobby/waiting/dining space for the conference facilities while the spaces below are used for flexible exhibition space.

Circulation to and from the four Towers and the individual functional areas is through the main hall. A system of new walkways and bridges are placed along the north and south facades allowing access to all levels without compromising security zoning. These walkways will also provide a fine overview of the hall and spectacular views to the riverfront.”



130

SIAT GmbH

Munich, Germany

Rolf-Harald Erz

Dieter Heigl

Outline Concept

“The area around the ECB is seen as the "sub-centre of the financial world" with its own, independent appreciation in the cityscape of Frankfurt (a city in a city).

The ECB building complex has its precise place in Frankfurt's skyline, as a landmark along the Main.

The composition arises through a correspondence of the individual elements in terms of content, form and significance:

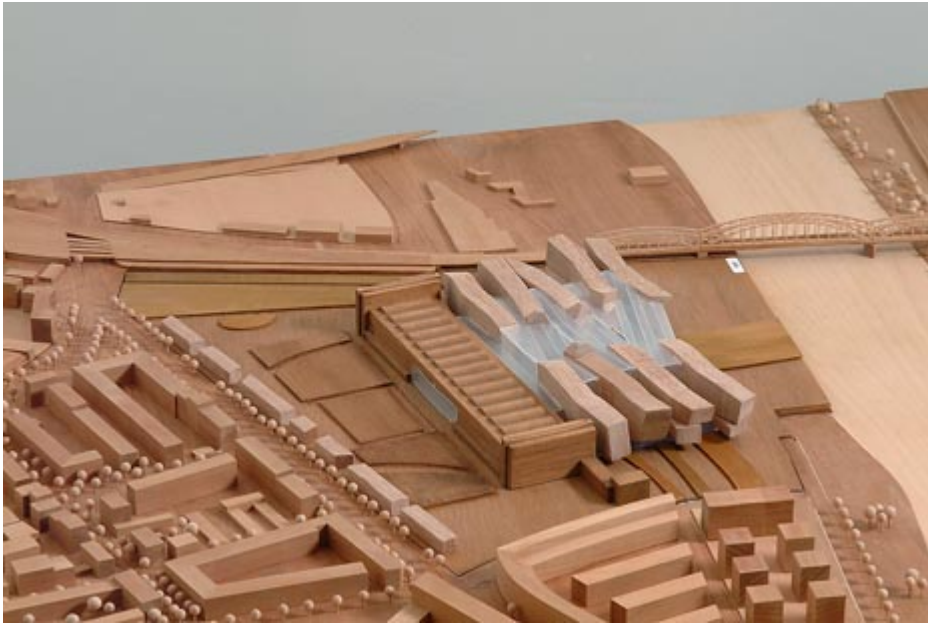
The Grossmarkthalle as a partly ,open market place‘ in the centre is the meeting point between the ECB and the public, the structure platform acts as ,serving element‘ and distributor, the high rise buildings as ,workplace‘ in a rather reserved area.

Each of the three parts of the building (Grossmarkthalle, infrastructure platform, high rise buildings) has a clear, geometric force in its formal structure. It can be clearly seen that the Grossmarkthalle remains at the centre of the new ,complete building‘ so that it can be seen from all sides.

The rooftop landscape: Clearly structured in stripes with 3 to 4 elements: utilization fields (for sports and games), action fields, green roof surfaces and green recreation-areas (for rest and leisure time).

The inner courtyards: Different topics in the courtyards, with free forms. Two different types of courtyards:

- Shady, quiet courtyards, with grove-like treetops, interplay between shadow and light
- Sunny inner courtyards with basins and disk-like shadowing elements.“



131

Allan Murray Architects

Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Allan Murray

Alexander Fairweather

Outline Concept

“The ECB occupies a pivotal position within the tensions between European countries: their politics, economics and differing views. The new building should be a forum to bring together these views, offering a range of ways to exchange information, explore the tensions and create solutions.

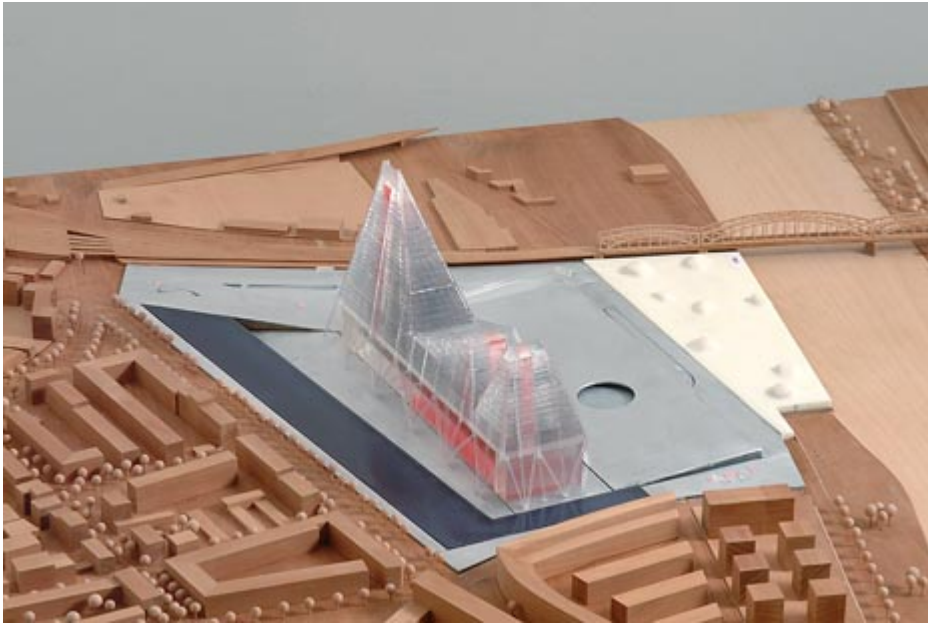
Knowledge and information have become the new currency of decision-making, and there are interesting parallels between the information superhighway and the way commodities were unloaded from railway lines, to be traded at the Grossmarkthalle.

If the offices were put into a tower, it can't rival those in the central business district and most people would be too removed from a central gathering space. A more interesting idea is to arrange garden courts - some glazed, some open - around a great hall which looks out to the river. Everybody feels part of the great hall.

The great hall is the heart of the building: an enclosed forum, agora or meeting square. We envisage it as part of a vast, flexible “plan libre” area to accommodate a huge variety of ways of meeting - from informal cafés to formal meeting rooms, overlooking the site. Above this, wings of office floor plate, 15m wide follow the lines of force, so that they relate to the central space and to raised courts which look outwards. These benefit from both natural ventilation and the daylight a richly varied series of landscaped courts can offer.

The site organisation is developed from this simple construct. By extending the edges of the great hall from the street to the river, and using the zone within the Grossmarkthalle as a grand entrance, we create a simple and clear organisation.

An inhabited wall on Sonnemannstrasse provides functions like the gym, chapel, training centre, crèche and entry control points.”



132

OMA Office for Metropolitan Architecture

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

David Gorin

Outline Concept

“Public buildings are conveyors of meaning and this one in particular will symbolize the European Union and its currency, the Euro.

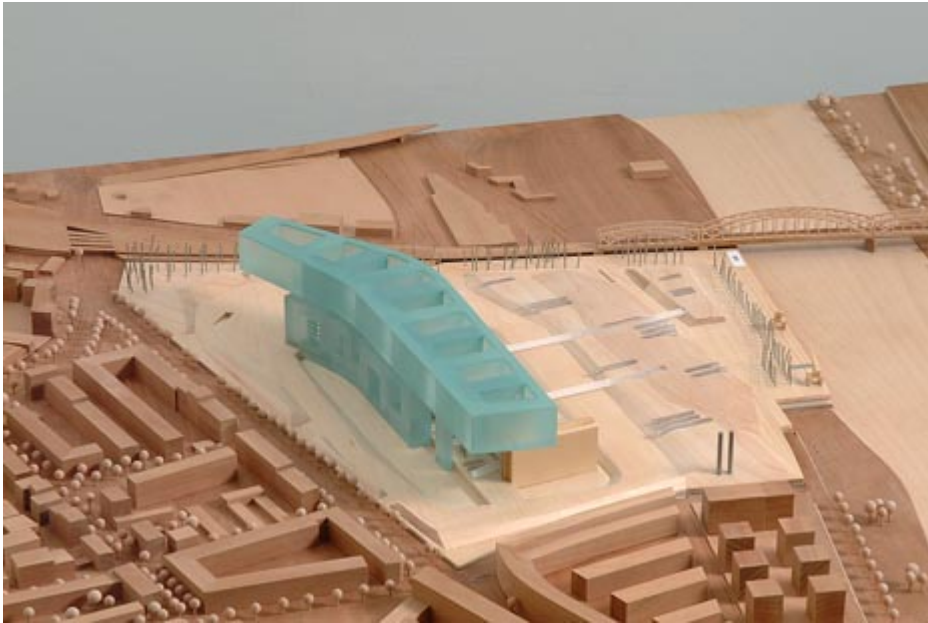
The European Central Bank is a bank without tradition, presiding over a currency with no history. The Euro is the only money not backed by a state. Like Europe itself, the ECB is modern by default, simply because it is unprecedented in its effort.

Conceiving a building for the European Central Bank is like flying blind: venturing into a “doesn't” with no clear references. So far the question of a European style or iconography to accommodate Europe's increasing integration has the usual habitat or business: a high rise tower clad in beige marble with brown mirror glass window. Besides the building's name “Eurotower”, no effort has been made to present the bank as one of the symbols of a unified Europe.

Eurotower nearly blends in with the 17 other high-rises that have crossed the 100-meter-barrier to form the skyline of “the city” of Frankfurt. In height, it is casually surpassed by the German Commerzbank. So far the identity as the ECB has successfully been submerged into the overall ambition of Frankfurt to be a financial centre.

The move to the site of the Grossmarkthalle located in Frankfurt's Ostend marks a significant shift: a new purpose built accommodation, set apart from the skyline of Frankfurt's financial district, is an endorsement of the ECB's importance and marks an important step in its emancipation as a European institution.

From quietly performing its tasks for years, the ECB will suddenly find itself in full limelight. The new ECB building will be a monument, if only because of the expectations it invokes.”



133

Estudio Lamela S.L.

Madrid, Spain

Carlos Lamela de Vargas

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“The Grossmarkthalle is not preserved in order to be exposed as an old glory, its positioning and architectural nature allows us to provide an ideal space that agglutinates all public and access areas of the proposal. Therefore the interior space of the Grossmarkthalle becomes the first image perceived by the visitor of the institution.

Being a relatively young institution with an unconventional and yet dynamic, advanced and progressive way of working, the new building for the ECB should have a powerful image; abstract and modern, away from fashion but original and daring.

The predominant horizontality of the new building contrasts with the image of the skyscraper, it does not want to be a symbol of power but of efficiency, transparency and democracy. It avoids any clear scale or rhythm on the façade abstracting its architectural language and contrasting with the Grossmarkthalle presenting itself as a unitary element instead of programmatically segregated and fragmented architecture.

The new office building is based on a flexible and modular scheme that responds to an institution reliant on teamwork and constant change. The adaptability of the institution is clearly reflected in the modular proposal in our scheme.

The most emblematic perception of the building would be from the river side. The image of an volume floating and sheltering the Grossmarkthalle would be the most iconic and representative view of our proposal. On the other hand the North façade is more responsive to its urban surrounding. It acts as a perforated wall allowing framed views into the renovated Grossmarkthalle.

The spatial disposition of the new building protects and shelters the Grossmarkthalle, the new building reaches towards the market hall but they never actually touch. The interstitial space creates a clear access point between the two elements. The close volumetric relationship represents the complex symbiosis between the past and the future of Europe, where one cannot exist without the other.”



134

Neumann & Steiner

Vienna, Austria

Eric Steiner

Heinz Neumann

Outline Concept

“The floating offices of the ECB take on the horizontality of the river basin and the market hall, asserting itself in dialog with the Frankfurt skyline.

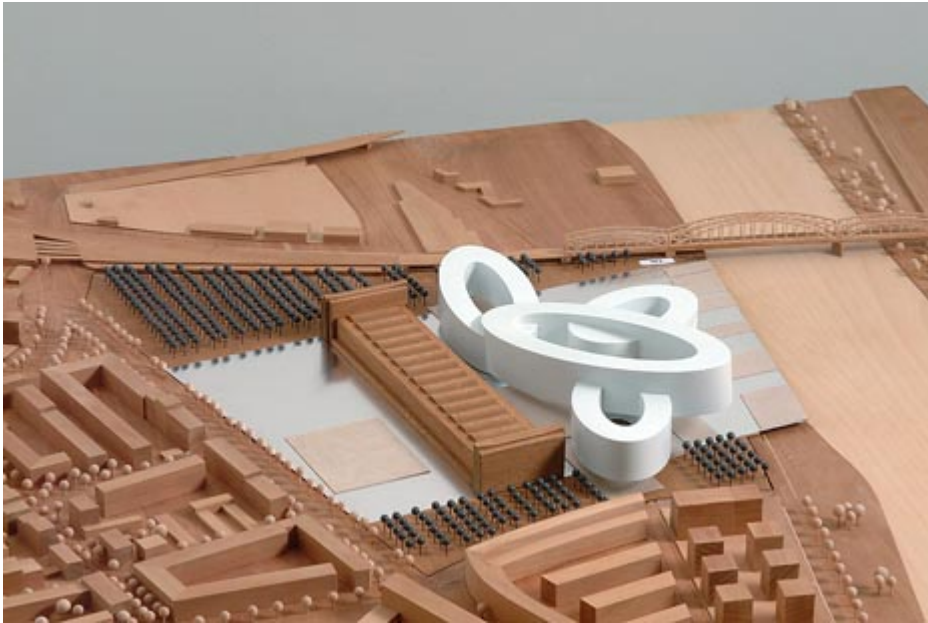
The hall, which is to be thermally renovated, will be wrapped in a glass skin and glass roof.

Hung from the contours of the floating ECB office disk (single-pane glass) in a way which treats the historical heritage respectfully, and yet self confidently.

Good communication, large departments on a single level possible, floor plans offer greater flexibility than in high - rise typologies, internal stairs in the flexible central zone possible / optional.

Recreational zone as natural landscape: level changes, expanses of water divide different security zones, rainwater collection in reservoirs (ponds) for irrigation of green spaces, waterfalls at level changes produce cooling through evaporation (microclimate) and water stimulation (oxygen enrichment).

Terrace gardens as arcade, splashing water, geometrically arranged vegetation.”



135

3XNielsen

Aarhus, Denmark

Kim Herforth Nielsen

Outline Concept

“Openness is the basic philosophy behind the proposal for the new European Central Bank. In a democratic, organisational and visual sense.

The new building is a striking – but welcoming – landmark. It comprises a series of interwoven ellipses. These symbolise individuality and unity – while at the same time forming inspiring and efficient spatial enclosures for the functions within.

But not symmetrical or monumental – the form concept is open to additions, not finished or closed. Precisely like the EU itself.

At ground level, the building is laid out as separate islands in a large pond. Each island has its own well-defined function. This establishes clear and safe pedestrian traffic and quick, easy orientation.

The building is not a high-rise structure. The ECB calls for more than mere integration into Frankfurt’s skyscraping downtown area – the bank is a building which has to relate not just to a particular city but to the whole of Europe.

Grossmarkthalle will be furnished with vegetation – blooming like a botanical garden – and will incorporate such external facilities, accessible to all.

The new bank differs significantly from Grossmarkthalle in form and materials. In this way, the two buildings accentuate and complement each other. The shape of the building creates a long outer surface, supplying the many offices with daylight. The various office departments can be grouped horizontally or vertically. Open, visual links between the floors also enhances community and knowledge-sharing.”



136

Rocco Design Ltd.
 Hong Kong, China
 Sen Kee Rocco Yim

Outline Concept

“Just as the European institution owes its strength and inspiration from centuries of fine tradition, ECB's architecture is anchored by the old Grossmarkthalle, around which it grows and seemingly explodes.

The design strategy is to wrap the new Office complex around the east wing of the existing Grossmarkthalle with two office towers located directly behind addressing the north-east-corner of the site.

The main idea is that by wrapping the new buildings around the end of the Grossmarkthalle allows for its major frontage to remain open from obstruction and thus can be viewed from both the street side and the river.

The wrap is of a similar scale to the existing building and is intended to give a balanced harmony between the two. It also aims to bring a seamless connection to both the north and south sides of the site without adversely affecting the Grossmarkthalle.

The towers denote the major entrance to the bank while the existing Grossmarkthalle is used to contain all the larger semi-public spaces such as auditorium and press rooms. The restaurant spaces are located at various levels within the east of the Grossmarkthalle and are literally at the heart of the design being at its very centre and are easily accessible for staff and public alike. The overall design is intentionally compact in order that access between the different areas is convenient and interaction between them, both visual and physical, is optimized.

An additional idea is that a public access route passes directly through the site giving the public an open dialogue with the workings of the bank. This link connects the corner of Grusonstrasse and Hanauer Landstrasse directly with the river promenade and incorporates the proposed pedestrian bridge allowing connection directly with the opposite bank of the river.”



137

Pysall-Ruge Architekten
Berlin, Germany

Outline Concept

“The theme of the design is the interdependency of urban, European and global passions today. In times of globalisation we care 4 you.

We care for the ground layer: the existing Grossmarkthalle. The history and the conditions of the site. The city structure and the regional climate and setting.

We care for the top layer, the global predicament, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd worlds. The environmental linkages, the global bondage.

We care for the European layer, the European Spirit, which means interdependency between individuals, the voids in the city and the long-term invitation to economic globalisation.

Interdependencies mean responsibility: to optimise the usage of land for further demands, to reserve and enhance, the voids in the city, to infuse the empty spaces with natural life.

To use the existing places in the urban structure: the hall is the base for the new building, the boxes that formerly stood alongside are the basis for the lines and the grid of the landscape design.

The New European Central Bank has no other footprint than the existing Grossmarkthalle: The new building mirrors the old building vertically on the line of the horizon. The interdependencies between the old and new are made apparent in multiformity: various vertical voids flow through the suprastructure.

The landscape concept enhances and strengthens the "green belt" of the surrounding city. The site's structuring into parallel bands evokes the former urban pattern of the Importhalle, the sales booths and the rail lines that served them.“



138

Heinle, Wischer und Partner

Stuttgart, Germany

Thomas Heinle

Outline Concept

“The basic idea of the design: The ECB receives information from the European national banks. This information is processed and evaluated.

The serving base carries the towers and encloses the Grossmarkthalle.

In the EZB-board decisions are made in the heart of the building-complex- the conference centre in the Grossmarkthalle.

Those recommendations will be passed on to the members of the EZB - the towers stand for "senders" and signals.

Philosophy building interpretation:

transparency / tower / no core no wall / common values / base / all together service interactive

The ECB building represents: ECB unique building composition, a symbol for plurality based on common European values. The always inspiring environmental context of the building with its transparency will positively influence the efficiency of the staff.

Grace and Commitment to the City of Frankfurt by:

- ECB park as link between the riverside park and green belt
- Revitalisation of the Grossmarkthalle in the spirit of the origin design (lightest weight structure of its time) and as being major part of the ECB function and design.

The Tower allows any kind of plan organisation and rapid response to permanent changing working methods. The twin computer guided elevators allow fastest access. The elevator battery allows a transparent tower plan and by this a maximum flexibility.

The created park enriches the direct environment. The transparent buildings allow the urban environment to be part of atmosphere.”



139

Ortner & Ortner Baukunst

Berlin, Germany

Manfred Ortner

Laurids Ortner

Outline Concept

“The concept for the new headquarters of the ECB in Frankfurt aims to lend appropriate urban and architectural form to this European conception. The model draws its inspiration from the Greek agora and the Roman forum: together with the existing hall individual building types and buildings with unique characteristics constitute an ensemble loosely grouped around a square. Slightly raised above city level by a plinth in the south and a water basin in the north, the ensemble appears to be set out on a plateau: the model ECB.

The Large Foyer, the existing hall, forms the centrepiece. Splendidly superelevated by the ,outlying‘ water basins, this former industrial building aptly presents the ECB's momentous significance to the north. It is here that the main entrance and approach, which cut through the reflecting water surface, are located. The agora begins inside the hall, creating an open Large Foyer looking out onto the square. Small buildings form the transition to the diverse secured areas and to a large building, designed to create a profound impression of depth, for visitors: the treasure chamber. One side of the hall will contain shops and a large restaurant for visitors; the restaurant looks out onto the water and the New Park.

The complex creates a very different impression from the south - the main side. Here, different types of buildings are placed alongside and behind one another. And although they create a very heterogeneous impression, they nonetheless form a coherent whole. The existing hall creates a backdrop against which the new buildings dominate:

The buildings speak a common architectural language. And even though their ,dialects‘ vary, they nevertheless communicate through their shared materiality – the glass and concrete linking the new buildings with the hall.”



140

ASP Schweger Assoziierte,
 Berlin, Germany
[submitted to second phase](#)

Outline Concept

"Location: A partly abandoned industrial region inside of a grown neighbourhood with the grand monolith of the Grossmarkthalle as memory.

Subject: Create a unique building inside this area as a symbol and an integrative part of the city. Frankfurt presents itself as the Finance City, symbolized by an agglomeration of high-rises. The European Central Bank has to be more than an important authority in a huge building. The symbol transmits to the same extent the variety and the unity of Europe. More than just a formal building it implies the social components to the staff of the European Central Bank as well as to the public. The market hall as a unique place of meeting and memory originally used to storage and sell fruits and vegetables transforms into the main foyer - a glasshouse planted with palm trees. It is unconditioned; conference hall, restaurant and shops are designed as house-in-house. The separate towers are optimized for the requirements of different office layouts. They are connected through a shared entrance plaza and the skybridge, which houses the conference and restaurant area. The possibility of distance and approach is an important element in the social attitude of humans, why not creating a space of freedom at a unique place?

Landscape: The buildings stand on a big landscape sculpture, which is divided into two parts. A thin water layer, which is permanently in movement by the winds. This water surface is sloping to the Main and changes into a very fine water curtain. An earthform, with embuilt buildings, courts and groups of trees. This form is covered of steppe grass, which permanently moves in the wind."



141

de Architekten Cie

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Pi de Bruijn

Branimir Medic

Pero Puljiz

Outline Concept

“The Landscape of Encounters will enhance European traditions of transparency and communication, and promote social responsibility on the part of economic authorities. It reflects our values and our identity.

The bank’s traditional windows are gone, replaced by electronic communication, leaving only a cold, reflective, hermetic wall, the symbol of economic success. Public buildings convey meaning - this one especially symbolises unification, heritage and evolution. This particular medium should reflect our values and our identity through a new concept of public service.

Den Graham is one of most influential artists and social surveyor: ‘Removing the wall bares the underlying construction. When the barrier is removed, elements are revealed that were previously hidden from view, its structure becomes visible - not its physical but its social structure. It ceases to be private and becomes a public presentation of the interior’.

Three vertical elements are inspired by Constantin Brancusi’s ‘endless column’, the greatest visual metaphor for the transformation of cultural heritage into modern form. There is not only a symbolic connection to the work of the great artist; the actual shape of the tower has been created to provide flexibility, to cater for diverse working styles and to foster interaction and communication.

Inspiration for the outer surface has been found in Isamu Noguchi’s work with lighting. The traditional Japanese architectural material, paper, has been transformed into double translucent membrane, allowing both light and sound to permeate.

Grossmarkthalle is a covered landscape, something comparable to a rain forest. A place where the climate changes naturally. The temperature is more constant and the light controlled. As a result visitors and spectators entering from an open landscape will not be confronted with a radical climate change.”



142

Herzog + Partner

Munich, Germany

Thomas Herzog

Hanns Jörg Schrade

Outline Concept

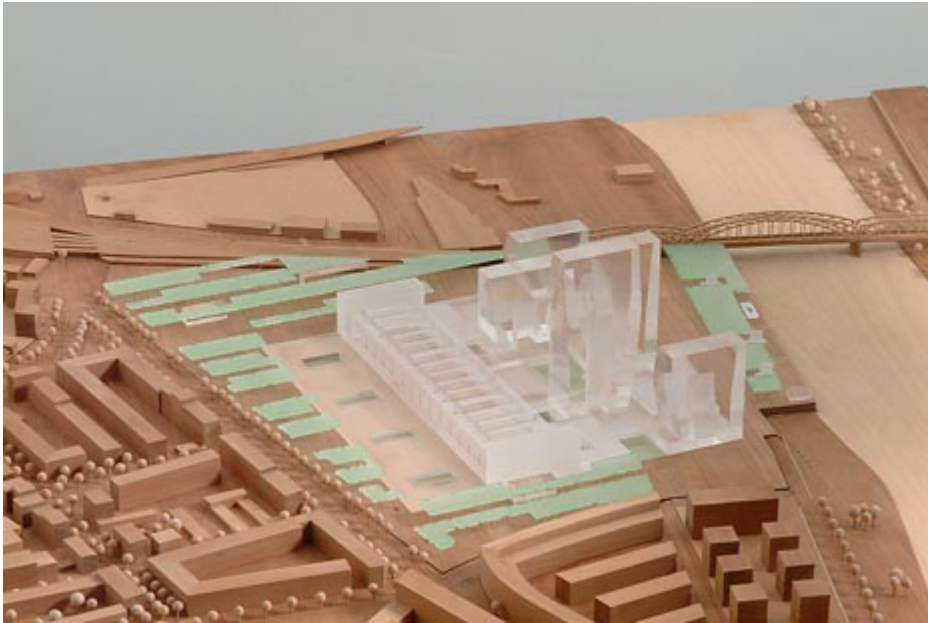
”The base construction recapitulates the consecutive security levels of the building complex. High security areas are situated in the centre. Functions of lower security demands are at the perimeter. They allow public interaction and signify transparency and openness of the ECB. Security barriers in the west and east of the site consist of concrete walls with cover layers of vegetation. The combination of both forms a ‘green wall’.

The impressive interior of the ‘Elsaesser Halle’ is utilized as a controlled public space, which serve visitors as a central location for gathering, shopping and information.

Reflectors under the skylights in the semicircular vaults of the ‘Elsaesser Halle’ provide excellent illumination through indirect natural lighting. Local interventions in the vaults for lighting and improvement of insulation are consistent with the static system of the hall. A central open space with large ponds provides adiabatic cooling as well as cooling through vaporization. The space is directly connected to the adjacent halls/conservatories at the south side and the base of the main tower.

Large multistorey conservatories between the high security base and the office towers function as gathering points with restaurants and cafés. In addition they act as thermal buffers between the exterior and the office spaces.

80% of the office space is situated on a west or east facade. Through this a reduction of the demand for solar cooling can be achieved. Most offices offer a view to the parks and River Main in the south. The office floor space of less than 400 sqm also reduces the expenses for fire protection significantly.”



143

Albert Speer & Partner

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Gerhard Brand

Outline Concept

“An architectural frame for growth and change

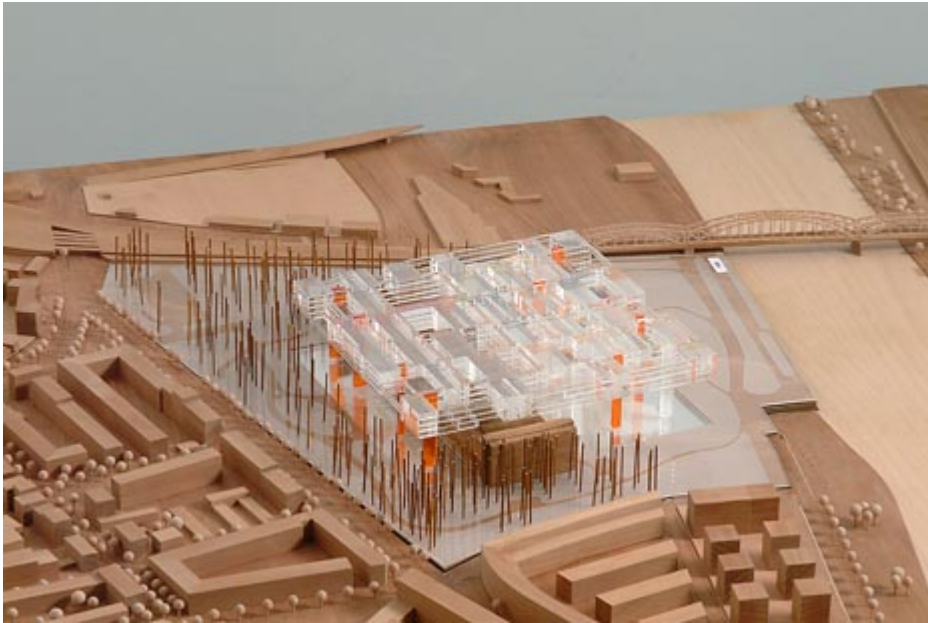
The most significant demand for the new premises of the European Central Bank ECB are the requirements of a growing and emerging young central bank. In particular, the attempt is to ensure architectural coherency throughout the various phases of development of the Bank:

‘Facing Skyscrapers’ will distinguish the new ECB premises from the traditional banking district of Frankfurt within the urban landscape. Step by step extension and completion of this sculptural building will render it an attraction for staff, visitors and citizens of Frankfurt.

‘Bankscape’ is how we interpret the complexity of the huge building program. Our design is based on morphological changes. The main characteristics are a carefully conceived ensemble of similar building types of different heights.

‘Talking Towers’ is used as a synonym for communication, following one of the central requests of the competition brief, namely the “promotion of teamwork” and the “likelihood of personal interaction”.

‘Unified Variety’ will be achieved by a base structure that relates the reorganized Grossmarkthalle with the five towers. These reflect the underlying theme of Europe’s diverse regions, cultures and languages.”



144

BRT - Bothe Richter Teherani

Hamburg, Germany

Hadi Teherani

Kai Richter

Jens Bothe

Outline Concept

“The location of the new ECB premises on the site of the former ‘Grossmarkthalle’ creates a link between the history of trading and the new financial heart of the European Monetary Union. The new landmark is an elevated platform floating above the green belt around the city of Frankfurt.

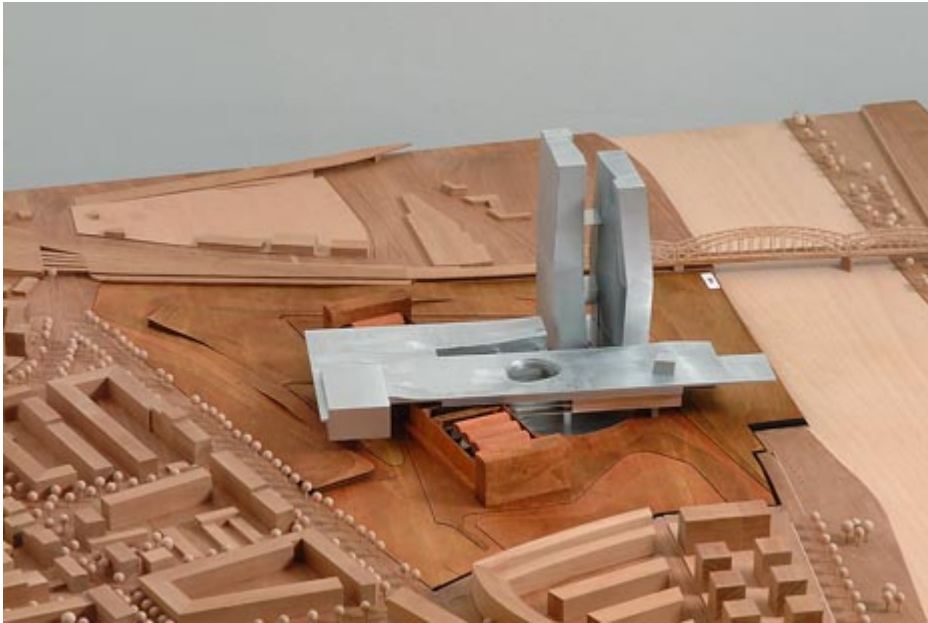
The flexible modular structure enables communication and short connections within a horizontal hierarchy, open for future expansion.

A forest of pine trees is the connecting elements between the urban edges, the river and the new solitary building. Slender pines (*Pinus silvestris*), typical for the European forest carry their translucent canopies 25 to 30 meters above the ground, leaving light enough for flowering plants to grow underneath them.

The perforated shadow of the ECB building wanders across the circumscribing fields and the reflecting pool beneath it. So do the shadow of the surrounding pine forest.

For acoustic, climatic and security reasons the building is contained within a glass skin.

The offices are located at the outer double facade or to the winter gardens. This enables a considerable degree of natural ventilation within the office: a reason why the heating and ventilation costs will be less than conventional office buildings.”



145

Coop Himmelb(l)au,

Vienna, Austria

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

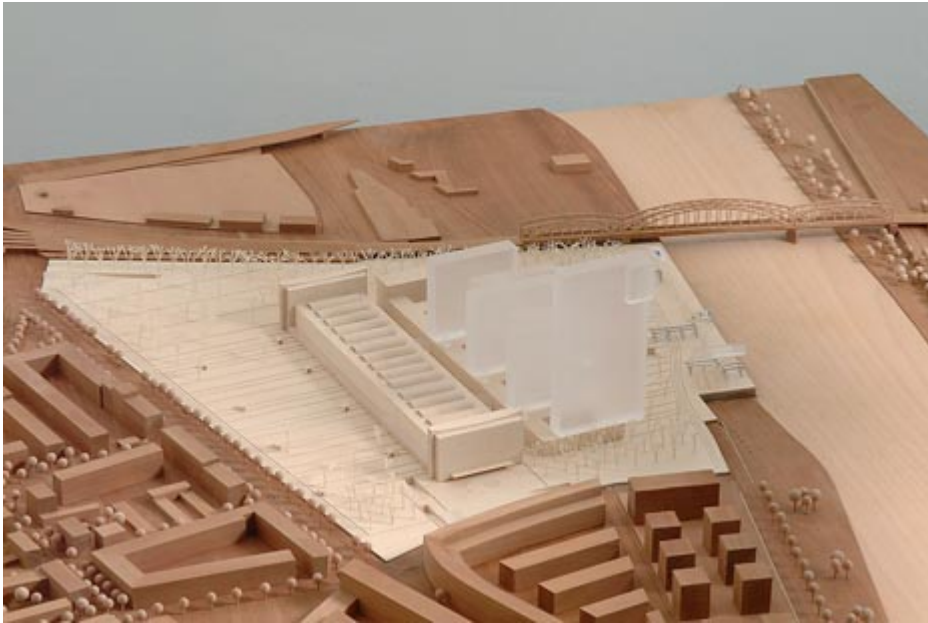
“The site for the new European Central Bank Headquarters in Frankfurt ‘Ostend’ has the conditions to create a visible icon, despite the height limitation of 150 meters compared to the Frankfurt skyline.

Starting from a research base of urban sight lines and cones of vision, we propose a double slab tower with a polygonal/amorphous form in the east-west orientation. The narrow side of the tower profile is a solitary figure seen from all of the important views of downtown Frankfurt and along the river Main.

The horizontal body of the ‘groundscraper’ contrasts the verticality of the tower and is simultaneously the urban/functional connection between the Grossmarkthalle and the local urban context. The body of the ‘groundscraper’ on one hand transforms the strong horizontal space of the river, and on the other creates an artificial horizon for a transition from downtown to the developing areas of ‘Ostend’ and the park area along the Main. The combination of the horizontal structure and the verticality of the double towers express the functional program of the ECB.

The Grossmarkthalle contains the entrance lobby and all public and semi-public functions, such as exhibition space, visitor center and library. The ‘groundscraper’, which is the horizontal connection to the office towers, holds in two levels the conference centre and the main IT services combined on a third level. The towers provide the large amount of office space, including internal meeting spaces and recreational hanging gardens for informal meetings in the atrium.

The floating volume of the multi-functional auditorium for press conferences and other events is a special space in the body of the horizontal structure, cantilevering over and acting as a symbol for the main entrance from the city, while from inside a large window frames the view from the auditorium back to the Frankfurt downtown skyline.”



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Gössler / Haberland Architekten

Berlin, Germany

Daniel Gössler

Jost Haberland

Outline Concept

“The proposed concept for the building involves stacking the towers of the ECB on a long plinth in much the same manner that containers are stacked on the deck of a modern freight ship. Like the European Union itself the design idea of this new European Central Bank is one of expandability through addition.

The footprint of the existing ‘Markthalle’ is exactly replicated by that of the new building. Through this doubling of the plan dimensions, a new integrated whole is created.

Additionally the stacked rows of the office towers pick up and reinforce the industrial character of the old ‘Markthalle’. While the towers contain the office areas, the plinth accommodates the security functions of the complex. The tower ‘slices’ are arranged at right angles to the river Main, and thus preserve the visual contact between the river and the old ‘Markthalle’. The stepping back and forward of the towers combined with their vertical modulation allows for optimal daylighting of the interior spaces.

The tallest of the towers is orientated as a gesture towards the centre of Frankfurt; its upper stories accommodate the decision-making bodies. The requirement for flexible extendibility of the complex is met by the possibility of stacking extra towers on the plinth, which already contains the necessary circulation and service cores for such a development.

The ‘Markthalle’ becomes an integral part of the new concept. The new spaces are set independently into the existing interior volume as box like islands which clearly allow a distinction to be drawn between old and new - as well as leaving the entire original internal volume spatially and visually intact.”



147

Hascher Jehle Architektur

Berlin, Germany

Rainer Hascher

Sebastian Jehle

Outline Concept

„The composition, open and transparent, containing historical elements and new structures, demonstrates that the future can only unfold in a human manner with a reflection of history and a conscious perception of our origin.

The flowing lines of the new, elegant office environment on the Main side embody the dynamics of the decision-making processes - of a changing Europe widening its perspectives - which take place throughout the structure. In the middle of this vibrant office environment, the new main structure is anchored with weight and mass. The soaring large-scale form resembles the huge calyx of a thriving flower shooting upwards. A symbol of a common, prosperous future. In the interior of the calyx an exciting, communicative meeting room opens upwards as a metaphor for the joint trading, communication and decision-making room.

European culture has always had a strong connection to the “genius loci” - here, too, the banks of the Main have become an important integrating and determining factor of this design. Once a new arrival has passed through the security check, the he or she is afforded a representative, spaciousness and open view of the Main river from the interior of the historical hall before their attention is drawn to the upward-opening atrium of the main structure. The lower building, designed as a green terrace has a circulation space that connects all the areas and functions.

Winter gardens house communicative islands for informal exchanges in the office environment. A differentiated basic approach becomes evident in the varying characteristics of the shell: the rough surface of the existing monolith contrast the technically perfected, filigreed and highly-precise structure of the facade of the new building. At the same time, repeated zones of communication in the protruding winter gardens form a living green contrast to the perfection of the surface.”



148

K+P Architekten und Stadtplaner

Munich, Germany

Wolfgang Voigt

Susanne Burger

Outline Concept

“In our opinion, the ECB, as the top monetary controlling body in Europe, should not compete with private institutions to have the tallest headquarters. The central role played by the ECB - responsible for monetary policy and price stability at the interface between the political and economic realms - should find expression in striking, modern architecture that will provide the appropriate democratic basis for the future development of this European institution.

The theme of the design complies with the urban planning constraints imposed by the City of Frankfurt for the central market hall area. The historical market hall - a listed structure and a unique symbol of trade and commerce in the city - forms the focus and functional spine of the entire ensemble. The dynamic lines of the new structure, accentuated by the rising and falling movement of its low-rise, fan-shaped, rotated layout, accentuate the visual interplay between old and new as well as the symbolic importance of tradition and progress. Through a combination of high points (the entrance hall and sky bar on the Mainkai) and low points, fascinating views into and out of the building are achieved.

The functional concept is distinguished by its clarity, comprehensibility and a high degree of flexibility.

The comb-like layout of the office zones and a transparent distribution level ensure easy orientation within the complex. This distribution “seam” also houses infrastructure facilities for employees, and a large restaurant, which is linked by a diagonal route with the entrance hall.

Discussion gardens establish a spatial rhythm in the rising face of the building and afford views to the River Main. Sliding roofs, rather like those in convertibles, help to create high-quality leisure spaces beneath the sloping outer enclosure.

General facilities such as conference spaces, the press zone and the library have been inserted or suspended within the extensive volume of the historic market hall.”



149

Samyn and Partners

Brussels, Belgium

Phillippe Samyn

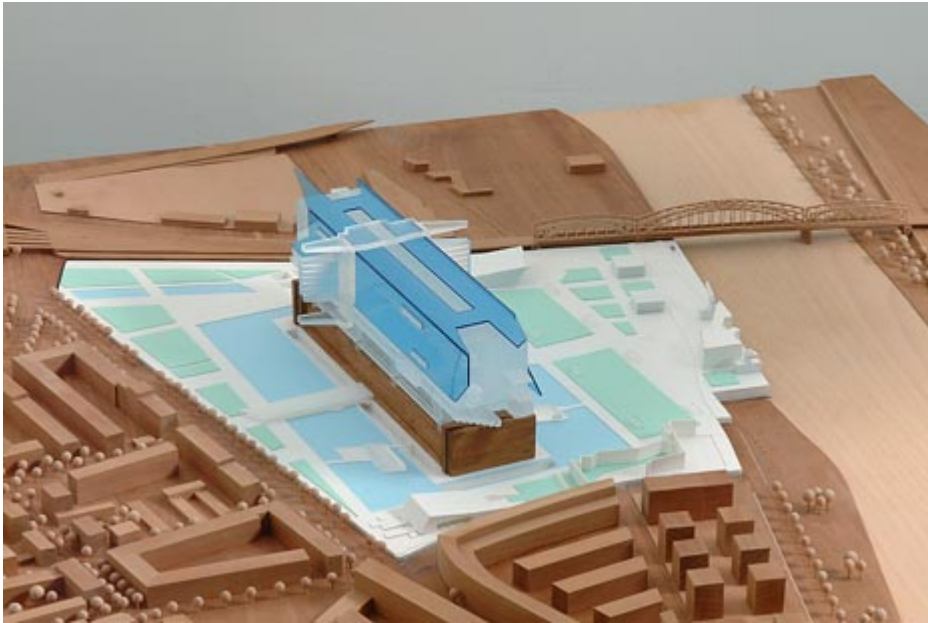
Outline Concept

“An L-shaped horizontal and vertical European village: An integrated, dynamic complex, consisting of a base and a tower, both provided with atriums distributed at regular intervals. The Grossmarkthalle: linking the new ECB premises to the centre of Frankfurt. The main entrance to the new complex is through the main facade of the Grossmarkthalle, facing the city centre. The Grossmarkthalle, which will be kept entirely in its current form, will become the new Communication Centre of the ECB.

The very extensive base area incorporates a large part of the workspace required, thus reducing the necessity to develop the complex in terms of its height. The edge of the base of the complex is designed to respond to the various elements that surround it, thus integrating it within the urban fabric. The tower is located on the south side to ensure a smooth translation into the low-rise neighbourhood, without casting a shadow on it.

The fluidity of the original fluvial landscape is reflected in the plant cover of the base as well as in the relief and vegetation of the riverside parks. A new public square in front of the entrance will form a link between the city and the Main. A new public square in front of the entrance will form a link between the city and the Main. It reinforces the transversal direction given by the linear elements, such as bridges and preserved tracks of port cranes.

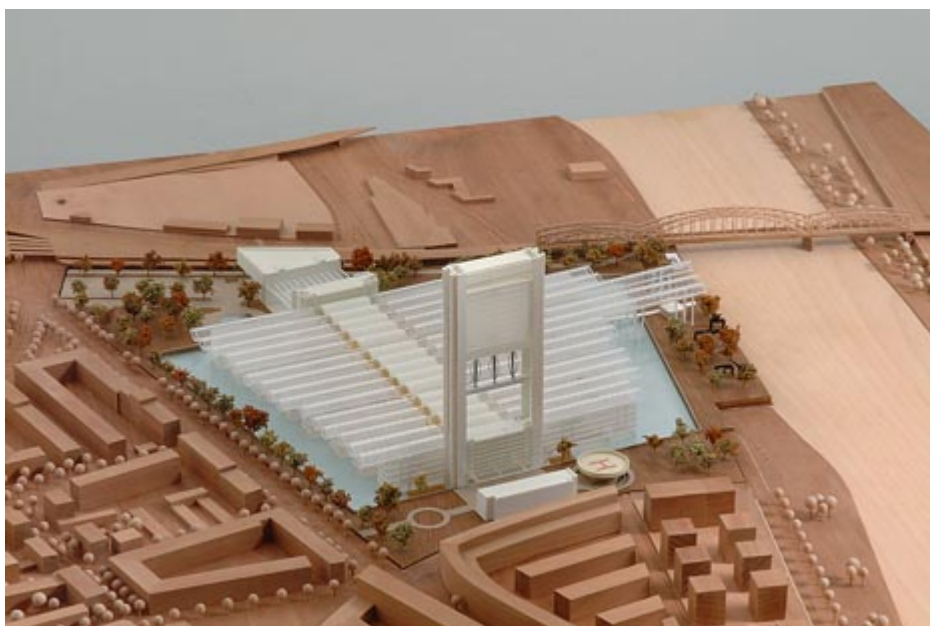
Standard office spaces are best located in the tower. The base area allows for a high degree of layout flexibility. The most secure areas are to be located in its centre. The largest and most public functions are to be housed in the Grossmarkthalle.”



150

Llewelyn Davies Ltd
London, United Kingdom
Bert McCabe

No author's description available.



151

Rafael Vinoly Architects
New York, USA

Outline Concept

“More than just an object of historic preservation, the architectural structure of the Grossmarkthalle is adapted to provide the spatial and organizational basis for the development of the new Premises for the European Central Bank.

The central space of the Grossmarkthalle allows it to serve as the facility’s circulation spine and contains the program’s special functions including conference rooms, auditorium, library, and dining facilities.

An alternating series of bar buildings and landscaped areas, based on the spatial module of the existing building’s barrel vaults, create a flexible matrix of loft spaces that accommodate the program of general offices to the north and south of the Grossmarkthalle.

A double glass roof, whose geometry is generated by a horizontal extrusion of the Grossmarkthalle’s vault sections, extends over the entire complex affording natural light and serving as the primary component in an advanced sustainability strategy.

A vertical element above the West Wing of the Grossmarkthalle contains the administrative offices and deliberative facilities for the ECB’s Decision Making Bodies and projects the institution’s presence on a regional scale.

Clear site, keep historic building. Extend low-rise 15m wide floor plate office blocks out from the historic building, while transforming it into the communicator and social heart of the building. Bring landscape, gardens and water in between floor plates. Wrap entire building with efficient, transparent thermal envelope, reducing both total building envelope area and subsequent energy transfer through envelope. Roof designed for both passive thermal heating and efficient thermal barrier. Roof glazing brings light into gardens and offices.”



152

Frank O. Gehry Associates

Los Angeles, United States

Frank O. Gehry

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

“The architectural concept originates from the Market Hall treated as a found object in the centre of the composition, framed by water retention ponds and large transparent glass roofs that gently slope towards it.

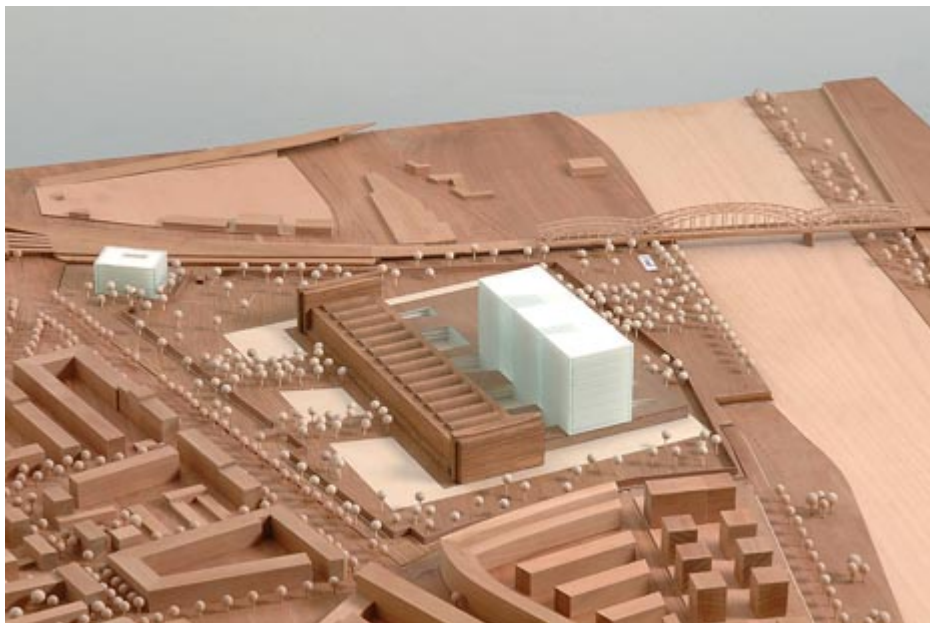
The Market Hall is surrounded by office buildings and social facilities to the south, the Congress Hall and the future office growth module to the north. The office complex is formed of low-rise buildings on which stand three mid-rise office towers. The towers emerge from under a clear transparent glass roof, a European umbrella that covers a large part of the site.

The office buildings are placed in a series of gardens covered by the transparent roof and enclosed by a glass fence which moves in and out blurring the line between the ECB and the outside world.

The public entrance of the ECB is through the existing openings at the western end of the Market Hall. The western portion of the Hall contains a reception area and exhibition spaces. From this large public space visitors see the volume of the Conference Centre located at the eastern end. The public zone ends where a large opening has been cut through the Market Hall in the north-south direction.

The Congress Hall is located north of the Market Hall, creating an architectural dialogue between the old rectangular hall and the new shaped building clad in metal.

The office buildings are organised around a pedestrian and multifunctional street that visually extends the city grid. A pedestrian plaza connects this street to the Market Hall and the heart of the ECB. The typical tower floor plan has three office wings organised around a central core. The wings are proportioned to create smaller scale office zones and oriented to provide views of the river. North-facing meeting rooms (Forum) are located in front of the elevators at the crossroads of the internal circulation paths to promote communication.”



153

Baumschlager – Eberle / Itten + Brechbühl

Lochau, Austria

Dietmar Eberle

Karl Baumschlager

Gartenmann Nick

Outline Concept

“The new ensemble is integrated into the urban scheme through the sensitive handling of the existing building. The latter, to the north of the site, will be renovated and rehabilitated. Thus, the immediate urban space and its relationships –although now at a higher standard - remain unchanged.

On the south side, towards the Main River, a symbol for the new development of East Frankfurt is set against the background of the refurbished listed building. This new intervention in Ostend does not try to compete with the Financial District; we propose an integrational approach.

Thanks to their prominent location on the banks of the Main and to their proximity to the city centre, the premises are a landmark in the cityscape, which is now enriched by the exchange between old and new.

Several layers of complexity are created through the interaction between different heights, transparency and opaqueness, closeness and distance, and perspectival displacement.

The new premises for the European Central Bank are conceived as a contemporary interpretation of a castle fortification protected by water. Berm and moat protect the building complex from the lingering danger from the area. The berm acts as primary boundary whose edge is softened with the planting of irises, while the moat acts as secondary boundary and surrounds all the buildings. The purpose of this secondary boundary is twofold: it protects the ensemble while conveying and granting a feeling of openness.

The theme of water is set forth in the interior of the new building: water of different iridescent colours washes the surface of the interior courtyards.

The volumes of the towers are incised with hanging gardens. A braided mesh serves as the planting armature for the vertical spaces.”



154

Maki and Associates

Tokyo, Japan

Maki Fumihiko

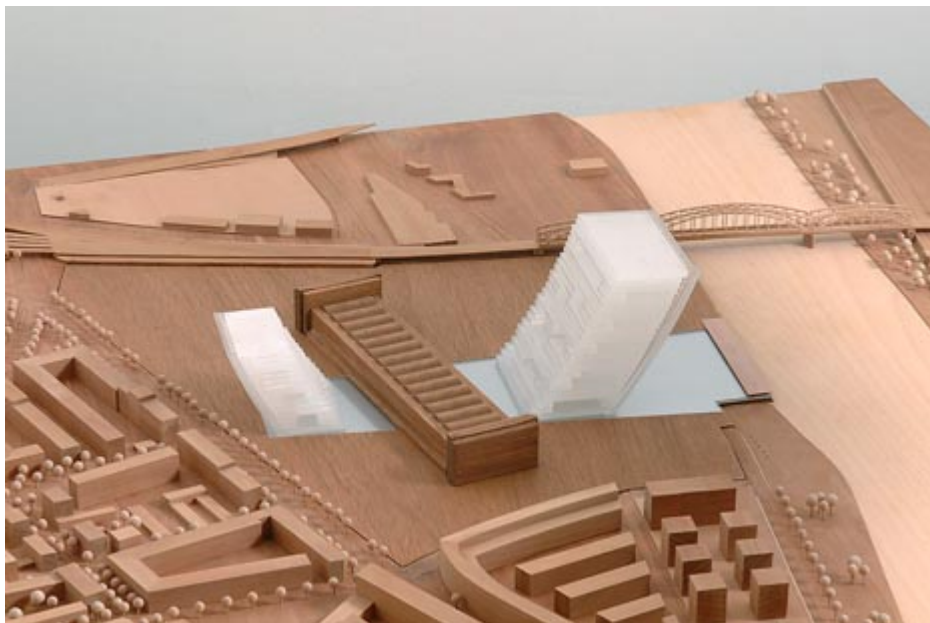
Outline Concept

"Transparent and ephemeral qualities contrasted against the opacity of Grossmarkthalle. The waterfall is used as the image for the tower; the iceberg for the low East Wing block.

All functional areas except for social / sports facilities and parking areas are organized along the two main axes, creating a variety of in-between spaces with the ambience of a microcity.

Elevated plaza (open and covered) -- sunken courtyard -- enclosed glass corridors and bridges -- canopied walkway - reflecting pool

The main restaurant is the focal point of this public domain and offers panoramic views of the surrounding area; the city skyline, the Main River, and to the distant beyond."



155

Friis & Moltke a/s and Bystrup Arkitekten

Brabrand, Denmark

Martin Wienberg

Outline Concept

“The new form embraces the old, lifts it, and fills it with significance even in union with the drama of the Grossmarkthalle - like a hand given something to grasp. These two forms, the old horizontally-oriented and architectonically valuable, and the young, flexible, highly organic and vertical, enter into a tense interplay and become organised into a single, new structure, a single sign - a line that is supported and half enclosed by an underlying arch.

Dynamism and poetry arise in the confrontation between these two forms, it is a dialectical work which provides inspiration for untried opportunities for working and living.

The original expression of the Grossmarkthalle will not be changed. Out of respect for the building's aesthetic qualities and its history, which is both cheerful and terrible at the same time, we incorporate it into a new, extensive dialogue with a luminous partner. And where the Grossmarkthalle has stood as a wall by the river and contributed to the separation of the northern and southern areas of the city, the transverse orientation of the new building will partly dissolve this barrier. There will be an expectation of something »on the other side«.

When visitors move around the finished project, the two building corpuses, with their internal arch connection, the two opposite ends of the ship, so to speak, will move dramatically in relation to each other. This will be an original work, a sculpture, which will not resemble any other building in Frankfurt.

The contrast between the two enormous buildings and the sculptural appearance created by their meeting requires an extensive open space surrounding them, which will enter generate an interplay with this sculpture. The extensive space and the new ECB also constitute an important factor from the point of view of security.”



156

Meyer en Van Schooten Architecten

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Roberto Meyer

Jeroen Van Schooten

Outline Concept

“The vision for the new premises embodies that of the ECB’s, for a living growing organism that is rooted and grows out of history.

From there a new outward-looking network is formed that is able to grow and adapt to harmoniously absorb new entities. Despite fully integrating into the organism, the entities still retain their own identities.”



157

54f architekten / T. R. Hamzah & Yeang,
 Darmstadt, Germany / Selangor, Malaysia
[submitted to second phase](#)

Outline Concept

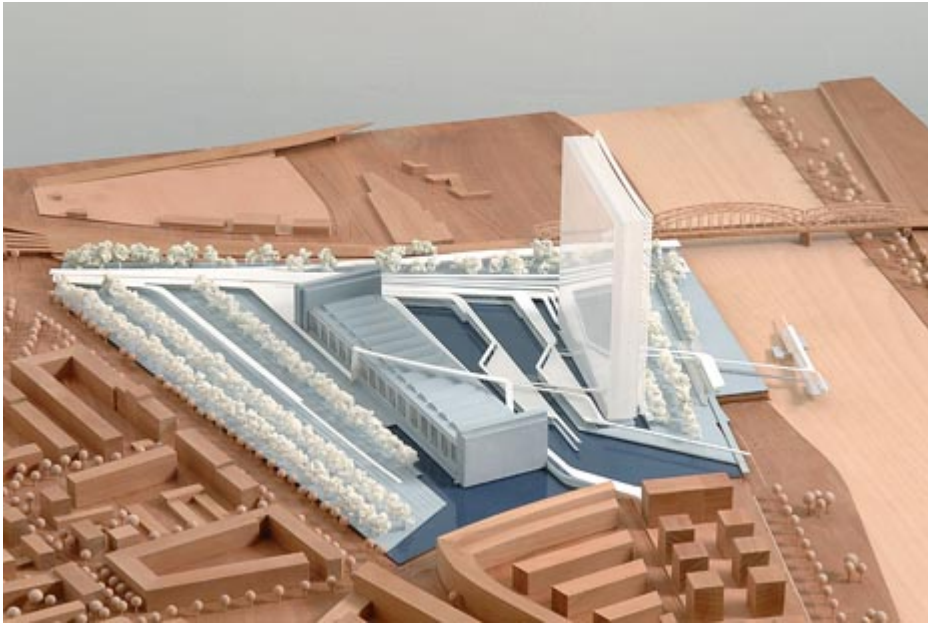
“The concentration of the new buildings on the south side does not disturb the ordinary view of the city on Grossmarkthalle. Nevertheless the ECB is clearly visible by the high-rise behind the Grossmarkthalle. The high-rises are oriented towards the Grossmarkthalle with their narrow sides, the broadside is facing downtown. Thus the high-rise are not blocking the view on Main-river, acting like a filter, between the Grossmarkthalle and the skyline of Frankfurt.

The entrance of the ECB is the Grossmarkthalle: a long ramp leads into the first floor. The arrangement of these functions leaves the space character of the Grossmarkthalle further noticeable: the view in longitudinal axis is almost not disturbed and shows a unique space. A vis-à-vis to the town centre and its high-rises is achieved by the formation of several high-rises: a counter pole to the bank high-rises thus the ECB is supplemental to the skyline and enriches the existing city shape.

Being a landmark itself the buildings adjust themselves into the city. The extensive property is also a part of the surrounding, via the admission of urban guidelines. A sewing of the urban side with the river side takes place, by generous connections for the public, and sewing lines covering the site, harmonising the urban guide lines. Patches, dropping or rising up, design buildings or landscape-architectural elements

The high-rises are cut diagonal in the upper floors. These surfaces are reflecting the sky in different ways, thus the buildings seem to be slimmer and lighter.

In order to prevent a complete reflection, open spaces are arranged at both faces: the north sides takes up most of the elevators and the south sides are combined into four levels, each case; giving room for the meeting-points.”



158

Arup Associates

London, United Kingdom

Nick Suslak

Outline Concept

“The new ECB slab faces the city of towers in Frankfurt as a thin blade of glass, but faces the main river as a large window revealing the varied activities within the bank. The idea of the new ECB is to arrange the functional requirements on an ordered plan, which is then flipped up to form a vertical city slab.

The scheme unites the two flows across the site; water and nature. The river Main spills onto the ECB site creating a natural secure barrier. Likewise, Frankfurt’s proposed extension of the green lung wrapping the city will feed its way through the ECB site. It interweaves between the fingers of water, creating a new ecological zone. The buildings become the interface between forest and over.

The layout of the new vertical city slab is arranged as if it were a plan, vertical, diagonal and horizontal circulation routes connect various zones together. Each zone is treated as a micro-city with its own security requirements and functions. Offices, meeting rooms, restaurants are dispersed evenly within the micro-cities to allow ease of movement and add diversity. The purpose and activity of the bank is revealed in the facade.

The tower is strategically placed to take full advantage of the best location on the site. Flying into Frankfurt, the overwhelming impression is the forest of green foliage that hugs the river. Positioning a thin slab building fronting this view gives the occupants an immediate relationship with the longer views and the river. This strategy frees the Grossmarkthalle from attachments and respects the scale and profile of the building.”



159

Morphosis

Santa Monica, United States

Thom Mayne

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

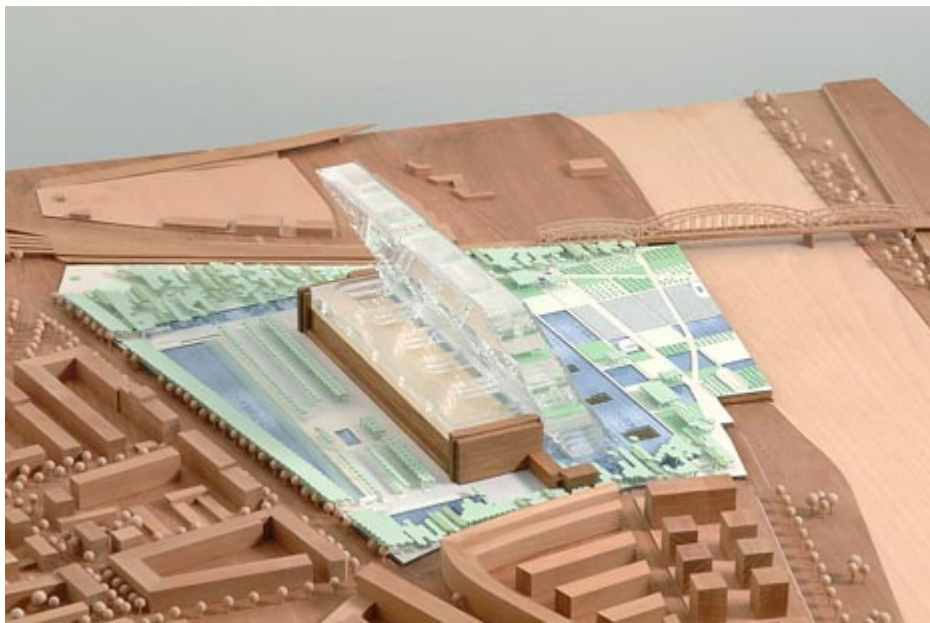
“This scheme is not about a single monolithic entity, but about a campus of integrated pieces that mediate between the autonomy and privacy of the ECB as an institution and its connectedness to the social and cultural fabric of the city. It involves the creation of a complex of buildings and interstitial spaces that are resolved through the mediation of landscape so that the final design has a sense of inextricability from the urban fabric of Frankfurt.

Grossmarkthalle is the central organizing focus of the new complex. Reconfigured, the transformed interior allows visitors a perceptual connection between old and new.

The south façade of the Grossmarkthalle is restored to its original state and forms the edge of a new interior garden court. A curtain wall is placed in front of the north facade to create a single monolithic surface that expresses, literally, the transparency and openness of the new economic state in Europe.

Visitors and employees pass through a security checkpoint to enter into the Grossmarkthalle, which provides public services. The market hall also provides access up one level to a secondary security checkpoint to the library and large conference and press area. Those with business in the five towers pass through a separate security checkpoint to reach a large interior concourse at the 3rd level functions as a distribution network to each of the five towers.

The reconfigured Grossmarkthalle is the primary and largest open public space in the complex. The augmented landscape of three levels provides a powerful yet invisible level of security. Five towers encompass and distribute the departments outlined in the program. A singular pedestrian concourse ties the 5 buildings together while the intrinsic footprint of each building supports optimal spatial planning.”



160

Kengo Kuma & Associates

Tokyo, Japan

Kuma Kengo

Outline Concept

“The newly added building will have the necessary floor areas layered one on top of the other, and slanted to the north at a 30-degree angle as if being moored to the Grossmarkthalle. The design juxtaposes the two volumes in a mutually dependent form.

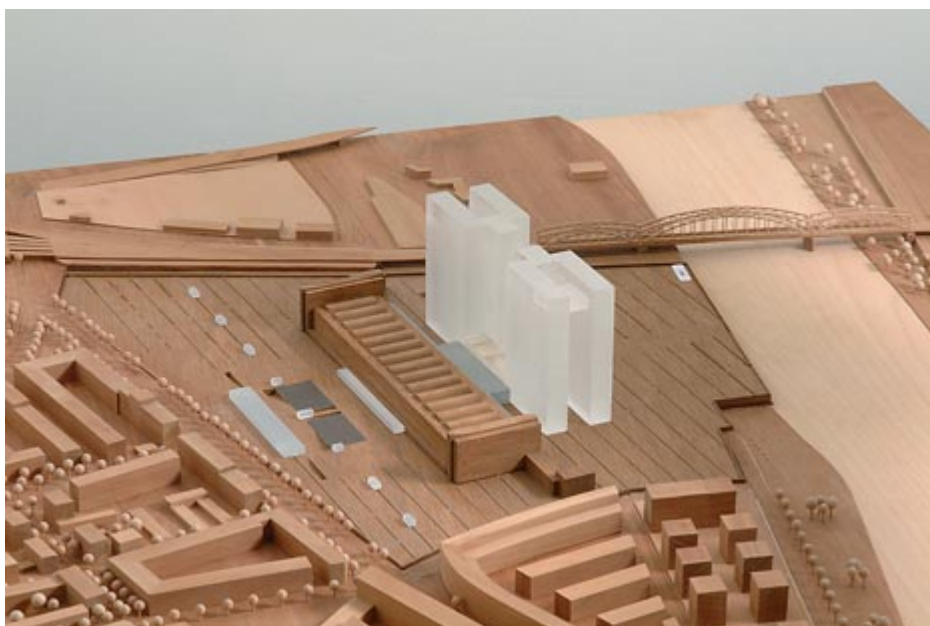
The form thus created strongly resembles the Chinese character hito. The character hito means “human being”, and can be traced back to a pictogram of two people standing side by side and supporting each other. A shape featuring two objects standing but leaning at an angle to each other would disappear if either of the lines were removed. In terms of this particular project, the Grossmarkthalle and a new additional building can maintain their original form only in an interactive, linked context. This relativity represents the union of the past and the future that forms the basis for the creation of a new European community facility.

By remodelling and reinforcing the structure, the Grossmarkthalle is rejuvenated as a building equipped with contemporary functions and features. On top of this remodelled building, a “sky library” will be added to link the original section with the new slanted section.

The Grossmarkthalle functions as a major entrance hall to welcome visitors without losing its original image of a huge continuous space.

The “sky library” and the entrance hall are assembled as a unified space. Light falling from the top through the opened halls provides the space with a sense of serenity and grandeur.

The landscape takes the form of a single axis line that stretches as far as the river and a myriad of rectangular shapes. By having water act as a physical barrier, the inside will be separated physically from the outside.”



161

VIIVA arkkitehtuuri

Turku, Finland

Maki Pekka

Rauno Lehtinen

Outline Concept

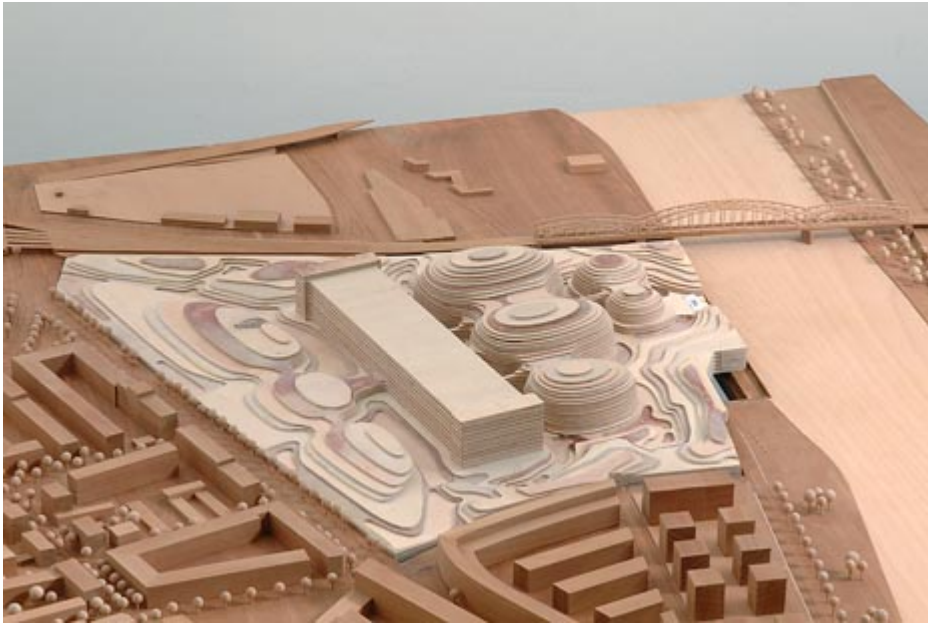
“The New ECB Premises are divided into three functionally separate parts. Press, conference and visitor facilities are located in the Grossmarkthalle. Social and sports facilities along with some supporting offices are located in the end wings of the building and the main operational facilities and secondary spaces are located in the new building volumes.

The central services and library are located between the old Grossmarkthalle and the new buildings. A glass courtyard is located between the new building volumes, enclosing sloped, sunken restaurant finished in wood panelling. The restaurant also serves as a ,stage‘ for public events and displays. The view from the courtyard opens out onto the river.

A new glass volume is built inside the Grossmarkthalle. Natural light, flooding in from the large windows, and the internal façades of the old building are reflected off the glass surfaces, achieving a light, subtle character. The glass walls of the meeting rooms are equipped with electronic dimmers allowing the walls to be either completely clear or opaque according to need. A typical office floor plan comprises two office zones with a centralised communicative forum and elevator shafts located in between.

The site is also bounded by low stonewalls, which prevent unnecessary traffic entering the site while allowing the site to open out into the surrounding cityscape.

The site is articulated by low, approximately thirty centimetres high, dark grey stone walls, embedded in surrounding lawns. The walls are illuminated by sunken up-lights, creating a strong visual element on the site that extends beyond the riverside promenade to the riverbank. The stonewalls on the site reinforce the main building mass composition and vice versa.”



162

Jakop + Mac Farlane

Paris, France

Dominique Jakob

Outline Concept

“We propose to make the new architectural intervention create a continuous building and landscape combination, in this way making an overall topographic proposition.

A primary question that we asked ourselves was how could the Central Bank of Europe be represented architecturally? Our response was to develop the above elements, woven and synthesised into a non-hierarchical, rich fabric of diversity, of transparency; this is our metaphor for Europe.

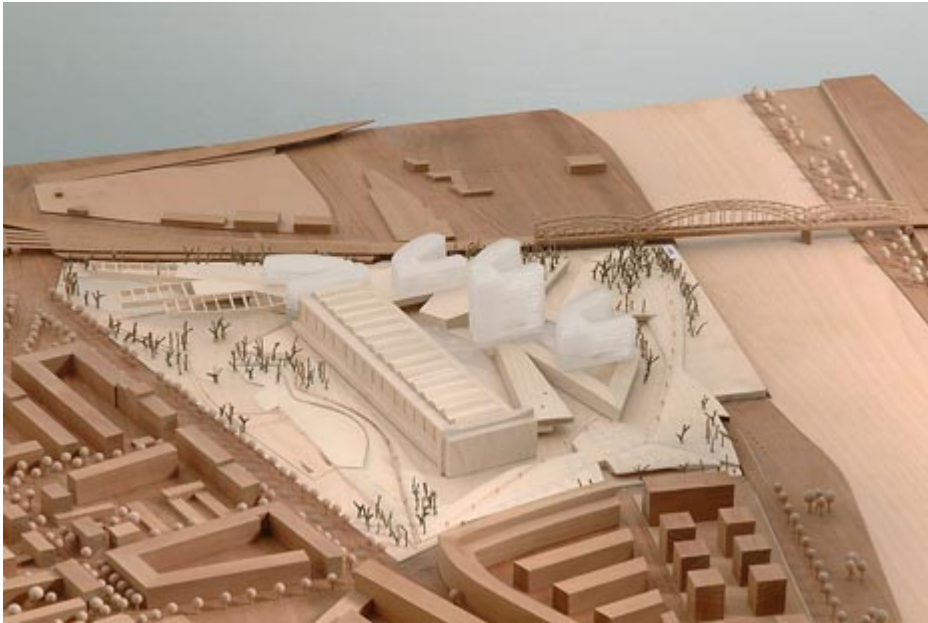
Symbolically one enters the site through the architecture of the old market building, through history to discover then a new entrance into Europe and the 21st century, and the heart of the new central European bank.

The site is essentially a strong horizontal platform, for this reason we proposed to explore two aspects, first of all we developed the site into a series of horizontal layers that merge inside space with outside, where floors are spatially read as being extended into the landscape and vice versa. And secondly we developed the landscape to meet the specific requirements of security required by the program.

By taking the attitude towards security as a series of circles within circles we proposed also to use this landscape terracing as a strong but subtle way to stop movement into and out of the site and at the same time to direct this movement towards the specific openings between security zones.

From an urban point of view we can now propose this project as an important link or green piece in a series of links along the Main river, a green necklace that holds together already a rich heritage of cultural institutions along its chain.

Thus in this architectural proposition we have tried to convey a series of implicit messages for the Central European Bank, those of stability, simplicity, continuity, transparency, with those of prosperity through a renewable and sustainable future.”



163

Enric Miralles Benedetta Tagliabue

Barcelona, Spain

Benedetta Tagliabue

[submitted to second phase](#)

Outline Concept

“The bank as a market place - The building is a landscape

The project completes the green belt connecting countryside, city and river.

A common base

The ECB is the base/landscape for the different/individual pavilions/countries.

Fences are landscaping

The security elements are mixed with landscape elements (Different levels in the ground water, fences with trees).

The centre of the building are oriented to the new internal garden and the river.

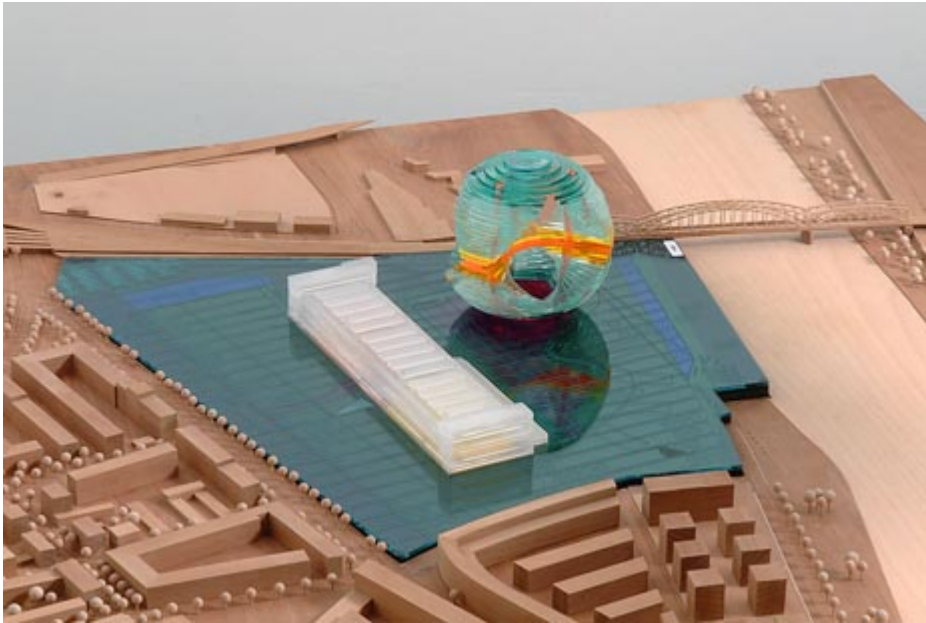
(Decision making body, computer centre, vault)

The markethall is now part of a conglomerate of building.

It becomes part of the landscape of the city without losing its presence.

The interior of the Grossmarkthalle works like the market [that] used to work in this space.

The activities take place on the floor and the volume of the building is kept empty.”



164

United Architects / UN Studio

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Ben van Berkel

Greg Rynn

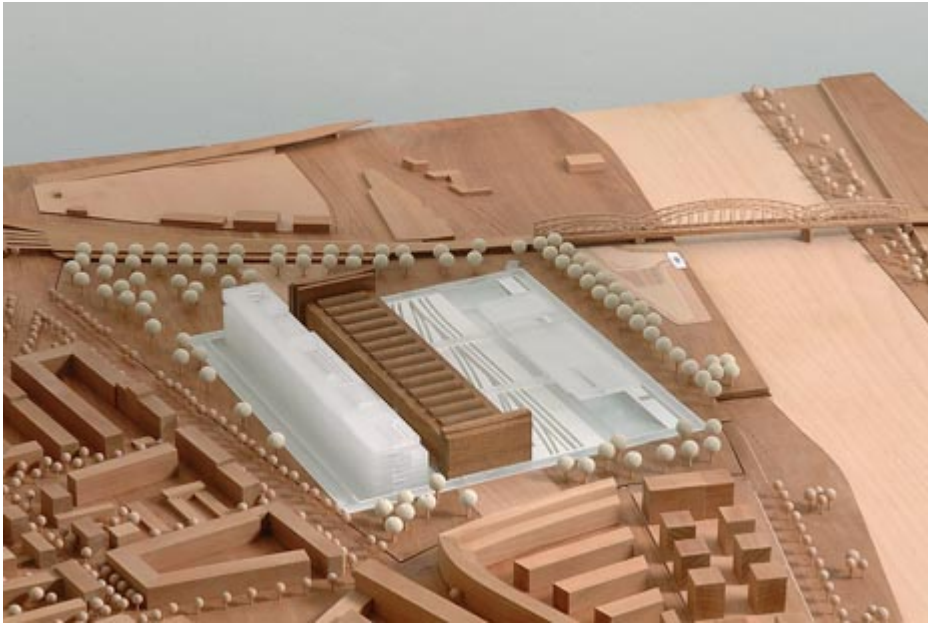
Kevin Kennon

Outline Concept

“Our proposal leaves the monumental industrial spatial quality of the existing Grossmarkthalle intact while exploiting its volume to great use for ECB lobby and public functions. Since these programs are restricted to the lower levels, a large volume of space is kept open. Here we envisage a planted indoor park consisting of fruit trees from all over Europe. This reference to both the diversity of Europe and the history of the Grossmarkthalle can also be enlisted to contribute to a sustainable environment.

The core ECB activities are housed on the riverfront in a new office tower typology that is both centrally and vertically organized. The landmark design is instantly recognizable as a collective unified space due to its spherical massing. It symbolizes communication and exchange with both the open multi-story atrium gardens on its perimeter and its voided centre across which there is unprecedented literal and visual communication between office plates. The sphere, with a diameter of 120m and a height of 100m, has 30 office layers. The spherical massing makes the building omni-directional as it is composed of vertically stacked floors that pinwheel around vertical cores making discrete internal atria and public courtyard spaces in the sky. As a result of the concave outline of the building and the framing of these internal voids, each floor plan is different. Yet, because of the symmetry of the system, there is a high degree of repetition in elements, providing a strong structural logic and functional feasibility for the building. The design expresses the ECB values of transparency, integrity, excellence, solidity and efficiency. The sphere, placed in the southeast corner of the site, presents a bright, translucent image of wholism and communication. A future oriented nerve centre organized around a central core of open transparent exchange. The sphere expresses integrity and completion. The central void expresses openness and a public gesture of embrace and enclosure. The vertical building complex organized as a sphere provides possibilities for combination, unification, solidity and integrity while remaining clear, iconic and open.

On the European stage, the sphere provides a unified, yet changeable, subtle and flexible representation of a strong whole, made out of different components.”



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Bentham Crouwel

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Mels Crouwel

Jan Bentham

Outline Concept

No isolated fortress

Yes contextual sensibility

No monofunctional status symbol

Yes interactive community

No stand-alone highrise monument

Yes reuse of historical zoning structure

No rigid fixed solution

Yes future flexibility

No private

Yes public



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Stephenson / Traynor / O'Toole

Dublin, Ireland

Sam Stephenson

Outline Concept

“The listing of the Grossmarkthalle as a building to be preserved emerged as the major element in the development of our design proposals for this site.

This building, remarkable for its time, designed by Martin Elsaesser over seventy years ago, has in the grid of the façade an architectural form very adaptable to a modern office building. We found approximately half of the required accommodation, 50,000 squaremeters, could be accommodated in this building alone by inserting five floors inside the existing structure.

The plan of the Grossmarkthalle has been divided into four office units each approximately 49 x 45 meters and five stories in height. These would be separated by three glazed atria rising the full height of the hall with glazed roofs similar in shape to the curved shell of the original roofs.

These atria would be paved and landscaped as internal streets with planting of trees and shrubs, water features, fountains and paving making interdepartmental communications possible in a pleasant indoor environment.

The roofs of this low-rise part of the development would be landscaped with trees, shrubs and pathways to provide a formal garden setting to the main view of the Grossmarkthalle. The remainder of the site being landscaped to complete the concept of buildings in a parkland-setting along the riverside.

The Decision Making Bodies will be housed in the three storey circular building on top of the two storey offices at the southern end of the site. These will have direct access from the secure carpark below and also to the roof helicopter pad. The Entrance Reception and Visitors' Areas are on two levels connected by an open atrium with the visitors centre on the lower level.”



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Bucholz / Mc Evoy Architects

Dublin, Ireland

Merritt Bucholz

Jana Scheibel

Outline Concept

“The Green Belt is taken across the entire site to form a continuous landscape. The landscape connects the city to the river. The banks of the river – a new curved pedestrian bridge is proposed. Extension of River park as a series of fields.

The landscape contains large gardens relating directly to these facilities. The landscape slopes down to the edge of the Main River, bringing cool air from the surface of the water into the lower levels of the building. The landscape moves through the Gross Market Halle and the new buildings to knit them together into a coherent landscape reading.

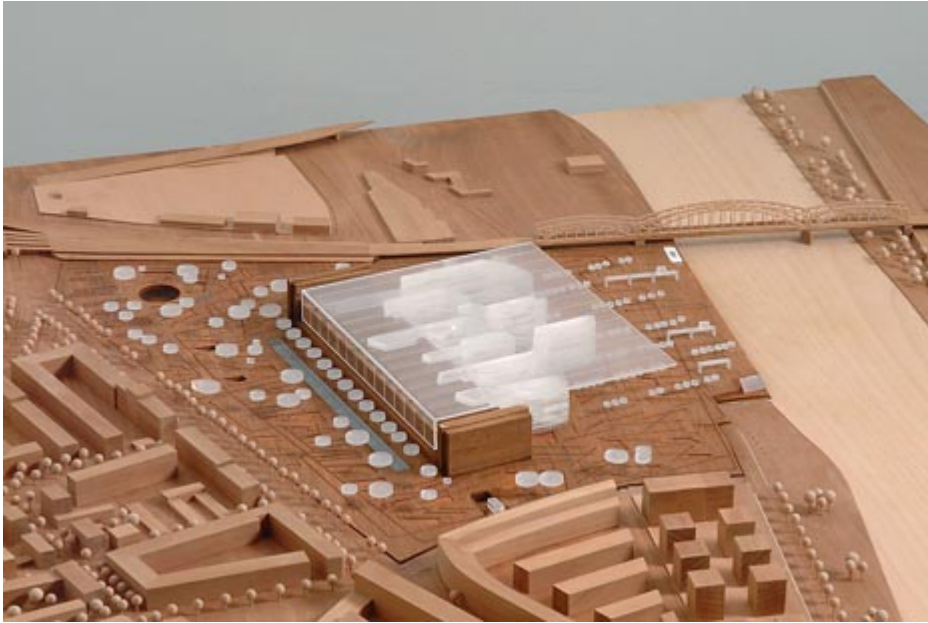
The Gross Market Halle is restored for use as the principle entrance for the ECB. From the Gross Market Halle, all visitors and staff are filtered through security control points discretely housed within the entrance.

The visitor’s centre, exhibition area, public café, euro shop as well as entrance and security control points are contained within the main volume of the Gross Market Halle. The restaurant is located at the level of the coffee bridges, on a curved platform from which the atrium of the new building will be visible.

The garden permeates the Gross Market Halle at its west end.

The new office building is organized along a central atrium „lung“ which acts as the principle vertical circulation space, communicative space, and ventilates all of the office space.

The typical office is placed in a single curved block, the Decision Making Bodies and other Security Zone 4 offices are placed in a shorter curved block at the end of the atrium.”



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KHR arktekter AS

Virum, Denmark

Peter Leuchsenring

[submitted to second phase](#)**Outline Concept**

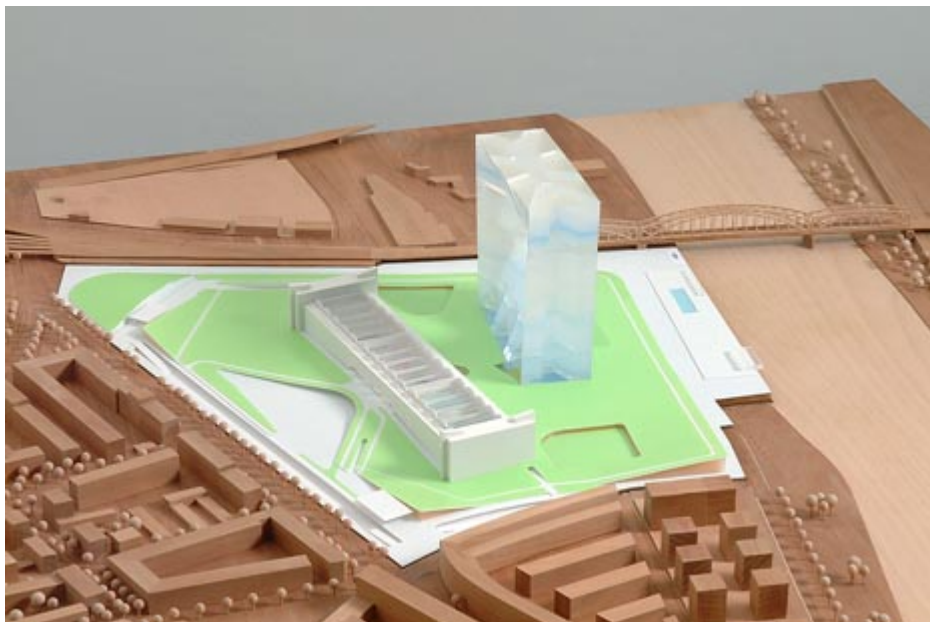
“The existing Grossmarkthalle serves as the entry point and will act as the official foyer. Inside the hall one can feel and see the working structure of the bank. As a ‘Mindship’ the conference areas of the decision-making bodies will be visible within the hall. The old coffee bridges will be transformed into ‘art bridges’.

The bank is laid out as a unifying transparent roof structure, a counterpoise to the strong financial district in the west. The roof structure is the icon of the assembled Europe. It will act as an envelope and give a new façade towards Sonnemannstrasse. Transparency versus the river and the sky is the key word when you are in and outside of the ECB building itself.

The offices beneath the roof have the same scale as the surrounding city. The offices are placed with the thoughts of having great interaction and communication between different office sectors and to promote teamwork. It is an open environment where people can meet, work and have dreams. Everyone will have a view towards the Main and the feeling will be as if you were working almost at the quay. The open communicative forums/multizones offer the possibility to interact between the creative working in groups and personal concentration.

The staff enters constantly into different project and working relationships. The interchange of ideas and inspiration is essential. The resources are utilized optimal and the knowledge is spread around in the house when you have this flexible and interactive environment. There will be no organisational barriers. We want to make it into a place where every thing is simple and unpretentious.

The landscape of the ECB site is thought as The Garden of Europe. Species from all over Europe will be surrounding the bank. The site itself will retain its character as a former industrial ground and the existing cranes will be the image of the past.”



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LOVE architecture and urbanism

Graz, Austria

Herwig Kleinhapl

Outline Concept

“By its supraregional meaning the project does not follow conventional samples concerning urban planning, but refers rather to the European context and places itself into a number of important European buildings.

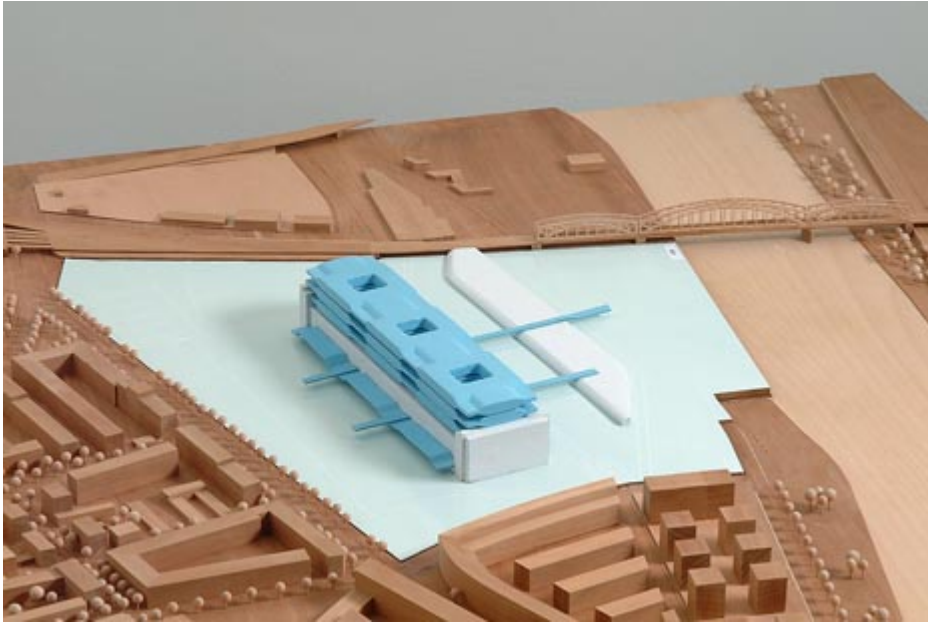
On regional level the building forms a visible point of reference in the urban structure of Frankfurt, which creates a balance between the already existing high-rise buildings of Frankfurt. The new ECB consists of three parts:

Hall: On the ground floor the library and the press area are located. Above this layer there is the central entrance with reception, visitor area and a restaurant. The existing roof of the hall is replaced by a glass construction, so the qualities and impression of the hall is maintained and at the same time the visitor and staff gets a great impression of the new ECB.

Office Tower: a 125 m high ring-tower accommodates the main office parts of the ECB. In the upper part of the complex the decision making bodies are located, on ground level and hence integrated in the landscape a restaurant is situated, below the secured office area and IT services.

Landscaped hill: throughout the whole site the landscape hill connects all parts of the ECB. The hill accommodates the conference area with the IT services below, upward folded parts of the hill contain the parking area, the logistic and FM services, the hill also includes the entry control points and the sports and social facilities which are based in the south west corner.

All these areas are embedded in the landscape hill. The foldings and cuts, which form gardens, terraces and light inlets for this communication platform create a diversified and exciting working environment.”



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Leeser architecture

New York, USA

Thomas Leeser

Outline Concept

“The embodied energy of the successive constructions of the Grossmarkthalle is a foundation for the new premises of the ECB. It is given new significance and the opportunity for new histories by the insertion of the public and conference functions of the ECB into its volume. The circulation of the visiting public and conference activity will animate its large volume and enhance the visual power of its structure and enclosure. Its structural organization is extended upwards to shape the pods -modular double storied office units- designed to be expanded upwards as the ECB growth needs demand.

The new ECB premises is conceived of a horizontal skyscraper. The functional program dictates a large scale construction which is housed in a dominantly horizontal structure. Unlike the self-contained autonomy of a vertical skyscraper, this horizontality better serves the circulation and security of the ECB premises, and provides a iconographic presence of the ECB by its juxtaposition with the vertical Frankfurt skyline.

The new ECB premises extends into the landscape as a nodal point at the junction of the green belt and the planned riverside park. Existing large expanses of paved land have been planted over, while parking is provided under this greenscape. A south annex building is planned as a covered landscape, shaped by the site access roads and the modularity of the pods. The east coffee bridge directly connects the premises with the Main River and a new pedestrian bridge. A cafe and park space is planned for the bank of the river.”



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Prof. Boris Podrecca

Vienna, Austria

Outline Concept

“Implementation of a heterotype skyline as an outstanding landmark between riverbank and metropolitan urban modules: typological image of a structure in-progress, statue-like and emblematic, yet at the same time animated and open (in contrast to the free standing Frankfurt high-rise buildings).

Monochrome glass composition like spatial band, with polychrome insertions providing the scale on a terraced landscape plinth.

Urban layers with the functional integration of the Grossmarkthalle by means of bypasses in a site-specific core and shell, parallel to the axis of the river Main.

Circulation hall as a green promenade cutting through all functional layers, honeycomb-like shell, ecological and climatic umbilical cord, conceptual planted connection of the north-south axis between Frankfurt’s green belt and the riverside open space.

Tripartite architectural layering of the functional and security sections between Sonnemannstrasse and Main-parkpromenade.

A passe-partout for the urban landscape; building plinth, security distance.

Cyclical planting: winter: rape / yellow – spring: phacelia / blue - summer: sunflowers / golden-yellow - late summer.”