



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK  
EUROSYSTEM

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## **NEW ECB PREMISES FACTS AND FIGURES**

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## ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN



- Architect: COOP HIMMELB(L)AU, Vienna
- Construction works completed in 2014; relocation of staff in November
- Approximately 2,900 workplaces in the high-rise and the Grossmarkthalle for ECB staff, staff members from national central banks, external consultants and trainees
- Special features: fully renovated and restored Grossmarkthalle; back-up infrastructure systems to ensure business continuity

### Office tower



- Height 185 m (201 m including the antenna)
- North tower: height 185 m (45 storeys)
- South tower: height 165 m (43 storeys)
- The two towers are joined by an atrium, with four interchange platforms on levels 03, 15, 27 and 38. These connect the towers structurally and divide the atrium into sections of varying heights (between 45 m and 60 m).
- The four interchange platforms are served by lifts, enabling people to move between the towers. They also serve as informal meeting points for staff.



- **Office floors**

- Structural and spatial design of the new premises creates working environment that meets various functional requirements.
- Modern workplaces facilitate open communication, thus promoting teamwork and interaction at every level.
- Flexibility of the design means that changing requirements can be adapted to with little effort.
- The walls of the offices facing the corridor are made out of glass.
- Furniture meets stringent requirements in terms of eco-friendliness and health, as well as current standards and requirements for office workstations.
- Desks are equipped with electric height-adjustable desks; ergonomic chairs ensure back support; sideboards and filing cabinets complement the office furniture.
- Each office floor has a colourful, open-plan kitchenette; colours differ throughout the office tower.
- Office floors are fitted with grey carpet, while the kitchenettes have steam-treated false acacia parquet flooring.
- Natural ventilation of offices and meeting rooms is possible by means of vertical, floor-to-ceiling opening mechanisms. Offices are situated along the outer facades, while meeting rooms may also face the atrium.

- **Council meeting room**

- Top office floor (41st floor) – remaining floors above house the technical installations.
- Round table installed in the middle of the room, around which the Governing Council convenes.
- The chairs are ergonomic and covered with beige leather.
- The room has windows on three sides: one looking out towards the river Main and the south of Frankfurt, one towards the city centre and one towards the north.
- The ceiling of the room is unique: the architects call it the “Europe ceiling” – the aluminium elements depict a map of Europe (as shown on the euro banknotes) in an abstract way. The ceiling itself meets all the acoustic requirements and integrates all light and other technical fittings.

- The floor fitted with a dark carpet, while the lobby area outside the room has steam-treated false acacia parquet flooring.
- As in the Eurotower, the Executive Board's offices, offices for members of the Governing Council and meeting rooms are located on the top floors of the high-rise.

## Grossmarkthalle



- Architect: Martin Elsaesser, Director of Town Planning for the City of Frankfurt am Main from 1925 to 1932.
- It was built between 1926 and 1928.
- The Grossmarkthalle consists of the main market hall and two wing buildings.
- It is a typical building of the modern industrial era. Its concrete roof shells were constructed using a new architectural technique, which is why it has been a listed building since 1972.
- Overall, the Grossmarkthalle is 250 m long, 50 m wide and 23.5 m high.
- The original appearance of the building has been retained after cost and labour-intensive restoration works.
- Concrete surfaces within the Grossmarkthalle have been restored to their original appearance and again covered with an eggshell-coloured coating.

## New usage

- The market hall now houses the more public areas of the ECB, i.e. the main lobby, visitor centre, conference area, cafeteria and staff restaurant.
- The conference area (east of the entrance) and staff restaurant (west of the entrance) have been integrated into the hall as separate steel-glass structures on the basis of a "house-in-house" concept.



- Conference area:
  - Houses ten meeting rooms over two floors, some of which can be divided;
  - Carpet of blue, grey and beige tiles in a distinct and unique design created by the architects of COOP HIMMELB(L)AU;
  - Meeting rooms are equipped with modern and functional tables, with eggshell-coloured surfaces, and black ergonomic chairs.



- Staff restaurant:
  - Seating for around 500 people on two floors that face south;
  - Food counters are stainless steel, making them easy to clean;
  - Chairs and tables are light in colour.



## Entrance building



- Marks the main entrance to the ECB premises.
- Provides a visual and functional link between the Grossmarkthalle and the high-rise.
- It is located in the part of the Grossmarkthalle that was damaged during the Second World War, which is why the historic preservation authorities agreed to this building element.
- It connects the Grossmarkthalle and the high-rise via glass-steel structures on the ground floor and via a walkway called the "loop".



- Houses the **press centre**:
  - The press conference room has a large panoramic window that is curved in two directions.
  - Only this window has glass panels with a shell-shaped curvature instead of flat glass panels.
  - The parquet flooring is made of steam-treated false acacia.
  - The chairs in the auditorium are dark blue, while those on the podium are covered with grey leather.
  - The tables on the podium are grey-silver in colour.

## Energy concept

The building will be 30% more energy efficient than stipulated by the *Energieeinsparverordnung* (German Energy Saving Directive) of 2007. The energy design has the following features:



- rainwater harvesting;
- recycling of heat generated by the computer centre;
- highly efficient insulation;
- use of geothermal energy;
- efficient sun protection (blinds in the offices) and smart use of natural light (daylight sensors, automatic dimming of lights);
- ventilation of the offices with fresh air via openable facade vents
- No air-conditioning in the atrium of the office tower and open spaces in Grossmarkthalle – instead these areas are fitted with underfloor heating/cooling to provide comfortable temperatures at floor level, so that minimal energy is required to heat or cool the occupied spaces.

## Parking

- Underground staff car park
  - Adjacent to the high-rise and south of the Grossmarkthalle
  - Space for approximately 630 cars on two levels
  - Entrance on south-eastern side of the site on Mayfarthstrasse
- Visitor car park
  - Located on Sonnemannstrasse in the north-western corner of the site, directly next to the main entrance
- Bicycle stands
  - Around 150 bicycle stands in the basement of the western wing building
  - A further 250 bicycle stands form part of the landscape design

## LANDSCAPING



- Architects: Vogt Landscape Architects
- The river Main was a major inspiration for the landscape design.
- With regard to the softscape, the basic idea was that of abstracting the typical terrain of natural flood plains: the particular topography of a river landscape with its clefts and plateaus, backwaters, undercuts and slopes is abstracted to geometric forms. The result is a parkland area consisting of a stylised river landscape that follows the contours of the river Main and incorporates the market hall, high-rise and other essential facilities, while retaining all the qualities of a park.
- The vegetation both enhances and questions the idea of a river landscape with a combination of typical river plant life and exotic plants that appear strange in such a habitat. Most of the trees are deciduous, enabling people to experience the different seasons. Meadows with widely spaced trees are interspersed with dense woods, natural hedges, typical riverbank formations and rows of trees that reiterate the form of the river valleys.
- More than 700 trees of 25 different types have been planted.
- Vogt Landscape Architects have created a park that appears to have grown naturally, although everything has, of course, been planned and thought through in great detail.
- This also applies to the necessary security features, which are incorporated into the landscape as walls and fences. These are embedded in layers in the park so that, wherever possible, the green space is not perceived, either from the outside or from the inside, as enclosed, but primarily as an open park landscape.
- The fence, which partly follows the undulation of the landscape, consists of vertical metal rods that are close enough together to stop anyone from climbing over or squeezing through them. The aim is to reduce the impact of a visual barrier and not to cut the ECB off from its surroundings, thereby allowing pedestrians to see the Grossmarkthalle and the site through the fence.

## MEMORIAL

From the very start of its new premises project, the ECB, together with the Jewish Community Frankfurt and the City of Frankfurt am Main, was committed to establishing a memorial commemorating the deportation of Jewish citizens from the Grossmarkthalle.

- Even before the ECB purchased the site, ECB President Wim Duisenberg and Dr Salomon Korn, Head of the Jewish Community Frankfurt, met in December 2001 to discuss how to deal with the darker aspects of the Grossmarkthalle's history. They agreed to launch a separate competition to design a memorial to commemorate the deportation of Jewish citizens from the Grossmarkthalle.
- Experts from the Jewish Museum were part of the working group and their detailed research was essential in developing the framework for the competition.
- The experts' research helped to identify the main authentic places on and around the site, i.e. the basement of the Grossmarkthalle's eastern wing building, as well as the signal box and pedestrian bridge close by. The ECB has ensured that the basement has been preserved as an "authentic place".
- The international design competition, conducted by the City of Frankfurt in close cooperation with the Jewish Community Frankfurt and the ECB, resulted in a wide variety of proposals. The jury, which included Jean-Claude Trichet, Petra Roth and Salomon Korn, unanimously decided in March 2011 on "a remarkable memorial that will take full account of the location's characteristics and reflect the drama of deportation and the holocaust".
- Based on the architects' final design, the ECB adjusted its plans for its new premises to facilitate the construction of the ramp elements.
- The realisation of the winning design is the now visible outcome of a long and fruitful cooperation between the City of Frankfurt, the Jewish Community Frankfurt and the ECB.
- The design enhances the site by making this aspect of the Grossmarkthalle's history visible and tangible for passers-by, as well as for ECB staff and visitors.

## Description of the design for the memorial



The winning design, developed by architects KatzKaiser, successfully homes in on available fragments of history, creating a story that symbolises the complexity of the deportations without diverting attention from the actual site. This holds true both for the bureaucratic process behind the crime and the crime itself, i.e. the deportation.

### *Pathway, signal box and railway tracks on public land*

The part of the memorial accessible to the public lies in the strip of land to the east of the Grossmarkthalle where a pathway for pedestrians and cyclists has been created between the Ostend district and the river Main. This new public pathway, together with the old railway tracks and a signal box that stands beside it, serves as a reminder of the deportation of Jewish women, men and children. A stepped footbridge has also been preserved. Here, people bade farewell to their loved ones or simply looked on with idle curiosity.



### *Ramp and basement rooms on the site of the ECB*

A concrete ramp runs from the eastern border of the site down to the basement rooms in the Grossmarkthalle, demarcating the old basement entrance and forming a break in the landscape. The ramp is flanked by two concrete walls. A pane of glass at the site border enables people to look down to the basement entrance and peer into the “depths of history”. The basement room in which people were held before being deported has largely been left in its original condition to form an authentic part of the memorial.



To give visitors and passers-by an insight into the deportations from a range of perspectives, the various components of the memorial are engraved with testimonies from victims and observers. The aim is that people will chance upon this information on a walk through the green belt, without making a special trip to see the memorial.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

Facts and figures		Comments
<b>General</b>		
Entire site area	Approx. 120,000 m <sup>2</sup>	
Gross floor area	Approx. 185,000 m <sup>2</sup>	
Number of workstations/desks	Maximum 2,900	In the high-rise and Grossmarkthalle
Number of trees planted on site	Over 700	
Capacity of the rainwater cistern	Approx. 500 m <sup>3</sup>	Rainwater for flushing toilets and irrigating parkland area
<b>High-rise</b>		
Height of the north tower	Approx. 185 m	Northern edge of the tower
Full height of high-rise (including antenna)	201 m	
Height of the south tower	Approx. 165 m	Southern edge of the tower
Number of floors in the north tower	45	Including upper floor, ground floor and services floors
Number of floors in the south tower	43	Including upper floor, ground floor and services floors
Area per floor in each tower	700 m <sup>2</sup> to 1,200 m <sup>2</sup>	
Number of foundation piles under the high-rise	97	
Length of the foundation piles under the high-rise	Up to 37 m	
Number of steel trusses in the atrium (between north and south tower)	14	
Weight of steel in the high-rise	4,300 tonnes	
Number of bridges	10	
Number of interchange platforms	4	On floors 03, 15, 27 and 38
Weight of the antenna	23 tonnes	
Number of facade elements	6,000	North and south tower, excluding the atrium
Width of the north tower	Approx. 57 m to 80 m	
Width of the south tower	Approx. 57 m to 60 m	
Width of the atrium	Approx. 18 m	Distance between the north and south tower
Height of individual sections of the atrium	45 m to 60 m	
Number of lifts in the high-rise	16	
<b>Grossmarkthalle</b>		
Dimensions of the market hall	Approx. 220 m x 50 m	
Height of the hall (inside)	Up to 23.5 m	In the middle of the concrete shells
Dimensions of the wing buildings	Approx. 65 m x 15 m	
Height of the wing buildings	Maximum 32.5 m	
Overall length of the Grossmarkthalle	250 m	
Ground floor area of the market hall	Approx. 12,500 m <sup>2</sup>	
Number of meeting rooms in the market hall	10 to 14	Depending on layout; including the press centre in the entrance building
Overall length of restored joints in the Grossmarkthalle's facade	73 km	
Number of glass panels in the concrete grid facades	Approx. 7,700	