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New lobby of the Torre Europa: custom-made on the limit of possibility

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## Individual glass diversity with extreme special sizes

The Torre Europa in Madrid reaches an impressive 121 metres towards the sky. The 33-year-old building in the Spanish capital has just been extensively renovated and modernized: at its foot a new glass cube made from 55 sedak glass elements forms the prestigious entrance to the office tower. The 10 x 10 x 12 metre cube nestles against the building and its two supporting glass façades offer an unobstructed view of the time-honoured Santiago Bernabeu Stadium located diagonally opposite and the central north-south axis of the city. At the same time, the transparent lobby provides the colossus, which appears inaccessible from a distance, with an inviting, open character once you get close to it. Stylistically, the up to ten metre high glass elements from sedak (Gersthofen) reflect the imposing nature of the tower. An unusual task for the large-format glass specialists: the supporting glass beams in the roof of the cube achieve a width-to-length ratio of as much as 1:84.

The iconic Torre Europa has towered above the centre of Madrid since 1985. The building, which for a short time was the highest in the city is reminiscent of

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the World Trade Center with its small windows and ribbed façade. The stern architecture of the office tower has now been softened by the new lobby on the northern side of the building. The architects from Callison RTKL formulated a spacious cube, which leans against the Torre Europa and opens it up invitingly with a full-glass façade towards the boulevard. Its constructional framework is formed by sedak glass fins. The glass façade, made from 3.0 by almost 10 metre panels, is supported by 60 centimetre narrow fins. The fine supports maintain maximum transparency of the cube. Into each of these the company from Gersthofen laminated up to eight titanium fittings as attachment points, which were provided by the client Bellapart. In order to enable the non-right-angled floor plan, sedak realized edge mitres of up to 39 degrees.

The fins connect the glass façade with the slender glass and steel roof construction. This uses glass beams with exceptional ratios between width and length that exceed the usual ratio of up to 1:20 by far: the beams have a length of almost 12 metres but narrow down from 35 centimetres at the widest point to just 15 centimetres – a width-to-length ratio of 1:84! Despite this extreme relationship, sedak guarantees an enduring optical quality, also for multiple laminates, as well as the dimensional accuracy of the offset edges and the straightness of the glass elements. The beams fulfil the highest requirements of transparent architecture. The glass roof enables a view right up to the top of what is still the seventh highest building in Madrid – it is partly supported by the façade fins. The new Entrée, which opens to the north, does not need any additional shading

facilities and can therefore realize its full effect. The eight insulation glass panes for the roof of the cube were decoratively enhanced by sedak with a fine ceramic stripe print. In addition, a solar control coating was applied. The horizontal glass elements measure up to twelve metres and flow seamlessly into the overhanging roof construction. This swings around the building, underlining the filigree cube construction like the swoop of a fountain pen.

54 lines / around 3400 characters

### **Credits board**

Architects: Callison RTKL

Façade construction: Bellapart

Location: Madrid, Spain

Realization: March 2018

Glass elements used: 55 glass units

### **Glass roof**

#### **Supporting glass beams**

Maximum length of 11.71m

Minimum width of 0.35m, tapering to 0.15m

Maximum width-to-length ratio therefore 1:84

#### **Roof**

Glass elements with a maximum length of 12m

Eight insulation glass units with a digital stripe print and a heat and solar control coating

Sloping construction of the roof for water run-off

### **Glass façade**

Glass elements with a maximum height of 9.7m with laminated-in titanium fittings (provided by Bellapart)

Supporting glass fins with dimensions of up to 9.7m x 0.6m

## **Picture captions**

[18-11\_torre\_europa]



The glass cube functions as a prestigious entrance to the office tower "Torre Europa".

Photo: Bellapart

[18-11\_Lobby\_inside]



The glass facade enables an unobstructed view of the central north-south axis of Madrid and creates an inviting atmosphere.

Photo: Bellapart

[18-11\_Torre\_entrance]



The modernized entrance area of the Torre Europa accentuates the architecture of the office tower.

Photo: Bellapart

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**Leading glass**

sedak, the glass manufacturer in Gersthofen, Germany, was founded in 2007. The company and its 170 employees have developed into the world's technology and innovation leader for large insulating and safety glass. With a ten-year experience of manufacturing oversize glass and after having increased the level of automation continuously, sedak is regarded as a specialist in this know-how intensive segment. The glass units reach dimensions up to 3.51 m x 20 m - processed, tempered, laminated, printed, coated, and cold bent. The core capabilities are the lamination of glass, edging, and the company's special knowledge of producing glass components with additional functional and decorative elements. sedak's production has been optimized for extraordinary glass sizes and weights; all finishing steps are highly automated and handled in-house. As a full supplier for glass up to 16.5 m, sedak sees itself as a partner for architects, designers, and façade constructors. Outstanding references are for example the House of European History in Brussels, the Faculty of Medicine in Montpellier, the Torre Europa in Madrid, Brookfield Place in New York City, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Apple Cube in New York City, the science center experimenta in Heilbronn, as well as numerous premium flagship stores worldwide.

**Application**

- glass façades
- glass roofs
- glass stairs
- glass balustrades
- ship building safety glazing
- all-glass constructions
- interior design
- custom-made glass units