

FORWARD THINKING DESIGN FOR A NEW GENERATION OF CIVIC BUILDING



EU RESIDENCE BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Following the decision to hold all European Council meetings and summits in Brussels, new facilities are required to accommodate continuing development. The Council is currently housed in an impressive listed Art Deco building which dates back almost 100 years, representing Belgium's valuable architectural history. BuroHappold Engineering is working as part of the design team to refurbish the existing historical building and create a striking new extension.

The new wing of the Council building will feature an elliptical main hub within a glazed cube. The intricate facade is designed to incorporate a patchwork of oak windows and single glazing reclaimed from different countries within the European Union, seeking to bring together a number of nations within the building fabric itself. The facade will contribute to the sustainability of the building, providing both acoustic protection from the busy Brussels streets while offering thermal insulation to the internal space. In addition to the acoustic

challenges of a city location, our team needed to overcome the difficult site, which is in close proximity to other major buildings and has a railway tunnel running underneath it.

With sustainability at the forefront of the design brief, our team are currently considering a number of methods to ensure optimal performance. These include the use of ground source coupling for heating and cooling, rainwater recycling and thermal and photovoltaic panels imbedded into the facade and roof. It is proposed that the photovoltaic panels will cover both the existing and new buildings, demonstrating how the two will work together in unison.

Both striking and distinguished, as well as technologically advanced, the new European Council Headquarters is set to provide an outstanding facility for the Council. Demonstrating the diversity within the countries it represents, the headquarters will lead the way in the future of public building design.

CLIENT
Regie des Batiment

ARCHITECT
Studio Valle Progettazioni, Samyn and Partners

PROJECT VALUE
£112 million

**SERVICES PROVIDED BY
BUROHAPPOLD**
Structural engineering, building services engineering, civil engineering, acoustics, security, fire engineering, IT