



## **Intesa Sanpaolo Skyscraper**

Turin, Italy  
2006 - 2015

The Intesa Sanpaolo skyscraper in Turin was the outcome of an international competition won by RPBW in 2006 for the construction of the headquarters of the new bank. The tower is located near Porta Susa station, on the site of an old bus station. The project also reconfigured the adjacent Nicola Grosa garden, including it in the site's urban redevelopment.

The skyscraper rises 37 stories above grade for a total height of 166 meters, slightly less than the Mole Antonelliana, a symbol of Turin, which dictates the maximum height attainable by buildings in the city. It consists of three superimposed parts. The lowest area comprises the transparent lobby and auditorium; the central body contains the offices with an open-plan design; and the summit has a bioclimatic greenhouse that houses a restaurant, an exhibition hall and a panoramic terrace.

Walking along the tree-lined avenue of Corso Inghilterra, through the Grosa garden, you come to the main entrance to the tower: a permeable and transparent space overlooking an internal courtyard set at a lowered elevation, from which natural light is shed for the premises of the cafeteria and the company kindergarten. From the lobby, two escalators take you to the volume of the auditorium above. This is a flexible space. By operating manually and electronically controlled mobile elements, it can be adapted to multiple functions, ranging from a conference room seating 364 to a concert hall or exhibition space.

The levels of the skyscraper laid out as offices - each equipped for 100 workstations - are modeled as open-plan spaces that combine communal areas, reserved rooms, meeting rooms and congregating spaces. One of the innovative elements of the project is the staircase positioned on the south facade of the building and outside the thermal envelope. The stairway has a fire-proofing function while acting as an internal connection between contiguous floors as an alternative to the classic use of elevators. For this reason it was designed as a meeting place, a winter garden adorned with vines and positioned in front of the coffee break areas. The skyscraper culminates at the top with the bioclimatic greenhouse featuring the lush vegetation of tall trees and medicinal plants. On the 35th floor there is the roof garden surrounding the restaurant; on the 36th the galleries for cultural events and exhibitions, while the top floor, the 37th, has a panoramic terrace with a broad view across the city to the arc of the Alps in the distance.



The form of the building, the orientation, the materials and the different types of “active” façade contribute to achieving maximum energy efficiency. The two east and west facades are made with a double skin consisting of a glazed internal facade and an external layer of glazed slats. The movement of the slats according to the outdoor temperature makes it possible to modulate the flow of cold or hot air through the cavities of the floors, which by inertia transmits cold or heat contributing to the cooling of the building. In addition, an area of 1600 square meters of photovoltaic panels overspreads the skyscraper’s south wall.

A few months after its official opening, in April 2015, the care given to the control and reduction of energy consumption was rewarded: the skyscraper was given LEED Platinum Certification.