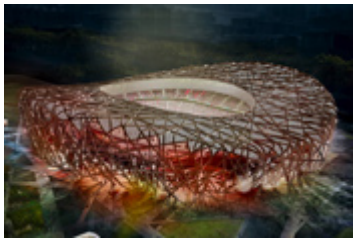
BBVA

News
26.08.08

BBVA selects Herzog & De Meuron architects to design its new corporate headquarters in Madrid

- **The selection process involved an International Architectural Design Competition, in which six prestigious architectural firms took part**
- **Herzog & De Meuron, the team of architects that won the competition, designed the Beijing Olympic Stadium, *The Bird's Nest*, among its many other projects.**
- **BBVA's new headquarters will be to the north of the Spanish capital, in Las Tablas, in a complex that will feature the best technological and construction techniques, that is fully committed to the environment. It will be a milestone for the bank in its evolution towards "new work forms"**
- **The financial institution will achieve an annual saving of 32% on its current property overheads in Madrid, by consolidating 6,500 posts in its new headquarters.**



Beijing Olympic Stadium, designed by Herzog & De Meuron

BBVA has just completed the process to select the architectural firm to design its new corporate headquarters in Las Tablas, in the north of Madrid. The firm selected by BBVA is the renowned Swiss architectural firm, Herzog & De Meuron, whose numerous projects include the Beijing Olympic Stadium, *The Bird's Nest*. With a total surface area of 100,000 square metres, the new BBVA complex, which will feature the best technological and construction techniques, will house 6,500 employees. The emphasis will be on great flexibility of spaces, total real estate efficiency and liquidity, and low maintenance costs.

At the end of last year, BBVA launched an International Architectural Design Competition where, in addition to the winners Herzog & De Meuron, other renowned firms took part of the likes of Zaha Hadid, César Pelli – Ortiz & León, Estudio Lamela and Rafael de la Hoz. When selecting the competitors, the bank sought leading architectural firms, with proven design experience in building projects for large corporations and committed to environmental, energy and economic efficiency.

The winning firm is the one, according to the BBVA team, that best understood the bank's values underpinning the construction of its new headquarters: real estate efficiency, sustainable development, application of the latest technological and construction trends with low maintenance costs, and commitment to its employees and development of the city.

This renowned architectural firm, founded by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, has designed and built the recently opened CaixaForum in Madrid, the Allianz Arena stadium, in Munich, and Beijing's National Stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games. In 2001, the firm won the Pritzker Prize, the most important award in the world of architecture.

The new complex will be located in Las Tablas, a district to the north of the capital. It will have a total surface area of around 100,000 square metres and will house 6,500 employees. The emphasis will be on great flexibility of spaces, total real estate efficiency and liquidity, and low maintenance costs.

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Corporate culture

Jacques Herzog and Pierre Meuron, the architects chosen to design the new BBVA headquarters in Madrid.

The new BBVA headquarters will be a powerful lever to foster the Company Culture and boost the new ways of working, by creating more social interaction spaces, fostering communication and facilitating team work, aimed at an innovative concept, which rapidly and efficiently adapts to changes and incorporates the use of new technologies.

The new complex is also noted for its functional requirements, by complying with the basic Corporate Culture principles and the capacity to ensure high quality and flexibility of the work stations.

One of the ambitious objectives laid down by BBVA is to foster energy efficiency of the buildings, by means of sustainable constructions. One of the targets set is for the Project to meet the necessary parameters to obtain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, the US standard that recognises environmentally-responsible construction.

The new BBVA headquarters project is part of a building rationalisation plan in Madrid, which began last year with the sale of 4 buildings (Castellana 81, Alcalá 16, Goya 14 and Hortaleza-Vía de los Poblados) and which will mean an annual saving for the bank of 32% in terms of the operational overheads of the buildings.