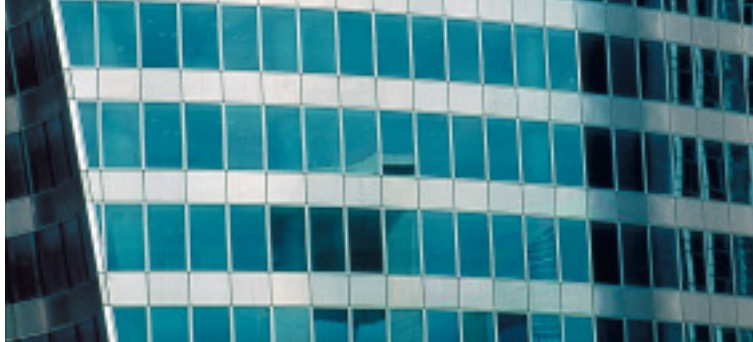


The PB6 Tower Block in La Défense



THE PB6 TOWER BLOCK IN LA DÉFENSE



Rising up over forty storeys, the curtain wall combines convex and inward curving glass and stainless steel panels to provide a smooth, elegant design.

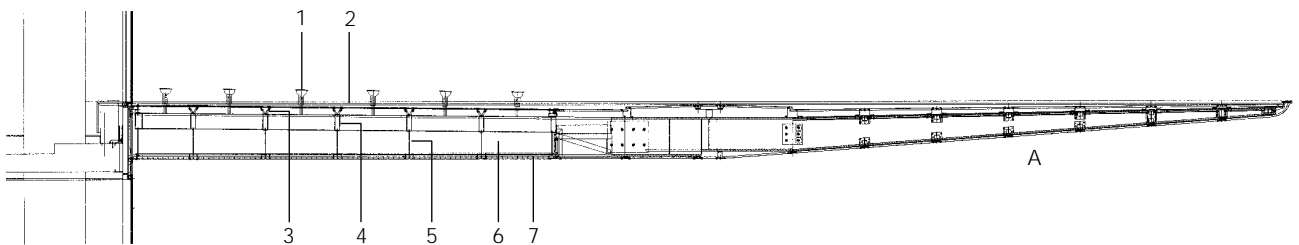


Up to 150 metres high, the PB6 tower block is one of the tallest buildings in the la Défense business district. Designed by the Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners firm of architects, the building is provided with a great deal of visual impact through the angled truncated plan layout of its glazed and panelled north façade. Covering a height of 25 levels, this canted elevation cantilevers out a distance of approximately 11 metres. It has an inward curve with a radius varying between 0 and 11 metres.

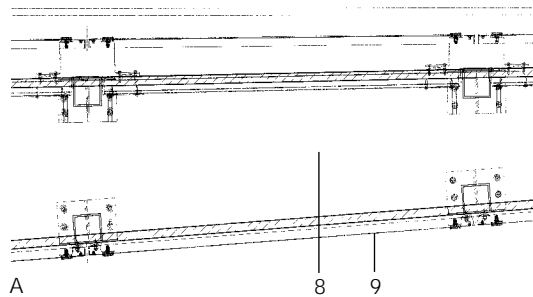
For the facades, the architects designed a curtain wall with 1.07m high spandrels clad in 20/10th stainless steel and 2.38m high double-glazed openings. The glass and stainless steel modules in the truncated part of the north façade vary in size.



At the base of the tower, an entrance canopy projects outward under the cutback which cantilevers out by a maximum of ten meters.

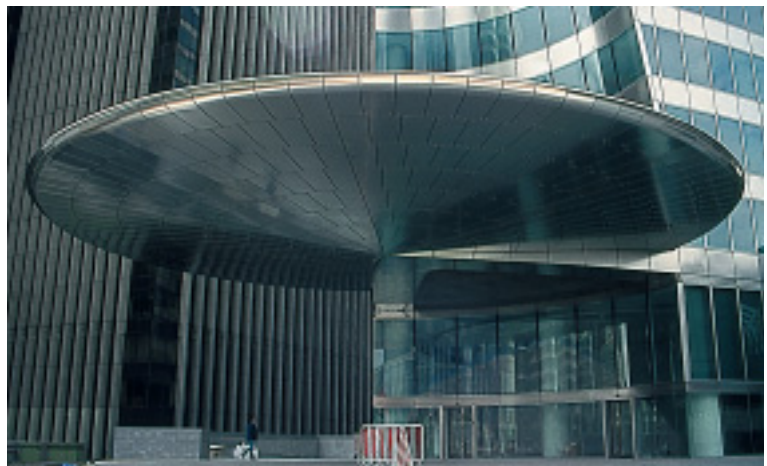


- 1 Cutback lighting
- 2 Clear 22 mm laminated glass
- 3 Stainless steel clamp
- 4 Secondary framework
- 5 Stainless steel cable hanger
- 6 Box beam
- 7 Brushed finish stainless steel grille to underface



The 20 metre diameter circular canopy is clad in stainless steel and glass.

The entrance hall is protected by a cantilevered circular metal canopy. The roof of this structure is partially clad in laminated glazing attached to stainless steel clamps with the remaining surface covered by stainless steel panels (15/10th, variable dimensions) bolted to the secondary structure. The same types of panels are used to clad the underface of the canopy. Brushed stainless steel gratings hung from stainless steel cables filter the light below the glazed areas.



“When designing the façade, our aim was to create a relatively slender spandrel that, while providing a light overall colour, would avoid the use of stone. We also wanted a clear glazing that would create a contrast with the spandrel. It was obvious that stone would not have provided the desired effect. However, the use of stainless steel met this aesthetic requirement in all weathers and provides an appearance that contrasts well with that of the glazing.

Initially, the American architectural firm

wanted a stainless steel with a non-directional polish, but finally chose a 20/10th stainless steel sheet. Like the glazing, it is laid in facets. We studied the possibility of using curved stainless steel modules, but discovered that this gave the opposite effect.

Stainless steel is also highly present inside the building, whether for doors, in the halls or for the smoke extraction grilles. Stainless steel is used throughout to provide an internal and external theme.”

(Jean Rouit, project architect)

The tower's secondary entrance is picked out by another circular canopy on the corner opposite the cutback.



Euro Inox
 Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
 1030 Brussels, Belgium
 Phone +32 2 706 82 67
 Fax +32 2 706 82 69
 E-mail info@euro-inox.org
 Internet www.euro-inox.org

Client: SARL PB6 Développement - Groupe, Hines
 Architect: Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners, New York
 Text: Frédéric Mialet, Paris, France
 Layout: Martina Helzel, circa drei, Munich, Germany
 Photos: Andrea Toebben, Martina Helzel, Munich, Germany