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Green in the truest sense of the word. Infrac West, Torhout (B)

[Architecture | Project]

The new administration centre of the Belgian energy utility WVEM in Torhout is an architectural highlight that serves as a model for a new generation of energy-efficient office buildings. Crepain Binst Architecture, working in cooperation with VK Engineering, has succeeded in combining impressive design with innovative energy concepts. Green in the truest sense of the word, the façade consists of several “shells”, with the outer shell comprised of glass panels alternating in three shades of green imparting to the building its dynamic character. Thanks to its multi-layered construction, the façade can be used to regulate light, air and noise. The photovoltaic system, also integrated within the façade, plays an important role in the energy concept. Any surplus energy produced by the cells is stored in an underground

array of boreholes. These technologies are supplemented by a so-called concrete core activation system which ensures optimum room temperatures throughout the year. In order to further reduce energy consumption, a hybrid ventilation system has been installed which combines mechanical with natural air circulation. Thanks to the interplay of all these systems, energy consumption is reduced by 35%, and CO₂ emissions by 36%, compared to conventional office buildings of a similar genre. The door systems and glass fittings and accessories from DORMA further contribute to this positive energy balance. The ES 200 automatic sliding door operators are not only easy to use but, thanks to their high functional efficiency and longevity, also contribute significantly to the sustainability credentials of the build.

Project

Infrac West, Torhout, Belgium

Architects

Crepain Binst Architecture nv,
Antwerp, Belgium
VK Engineering nv, Brussels,
Belgium

Photos

Crepain Binst Architecture nv,
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DORMA products

TS 83, TS 93, TS 97 and
ITS 96 door closers, BTS 80
floor springs, ES 200 sliding
door operators and Universal
glass fittings

[Details]

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The rooms located behind the long glazed surfaces in the ground floor are protected from direct sun radiation by the cantilevered projection of the upper floors.

The enclosed character of the building contrasts with the transparency and openness of the semi-public areas located at ground level.



Where transparency and openness are the order of the day, DORMA glass fittings and accessories are the ideal solution for almost any toughened glass construction that may be required.



Infrac West, Torhout (B)

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