

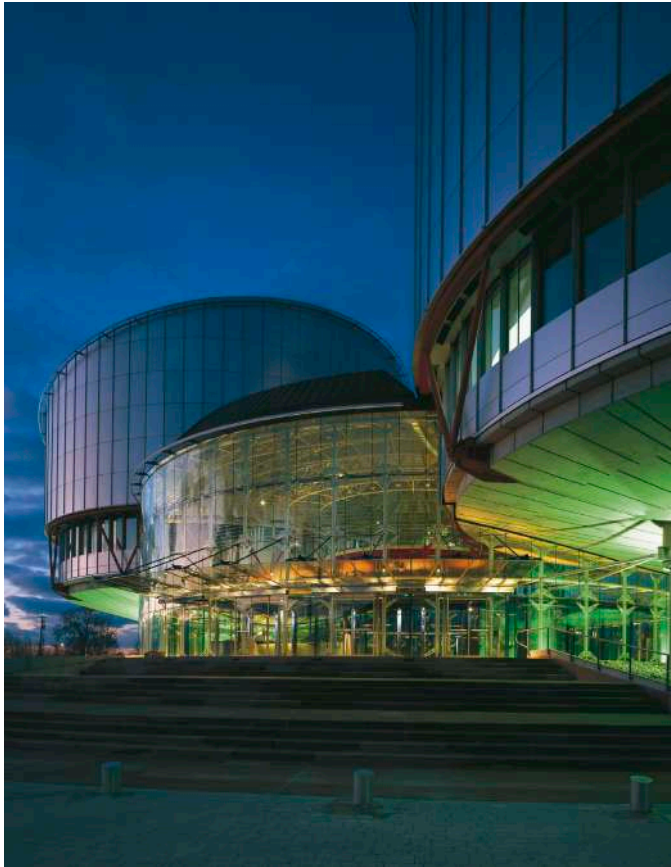


European Court of Human Rights

Strasbourg - Built

The building represents a remarkable architecture that contributes to the identity of the European Court of Human Rights.

HK Rokham, Conseil de L'Europe



Location
Strasbourg, France

Date
1989-1995

Client
Conseil de l'Europe

Cost
£35 million

Area
28,000m²

Co-Architect
Atelier d'Architecture
Claude Bucher

Structural Engineer
Arup/Omnium Technique
Européen

Services Engineer
Arup /Omnium Technique
Européen

Cost Consultant
Thorne Wheatley
Associates

Landscape Architect
David Jarvis Associates/
Dan Kiley

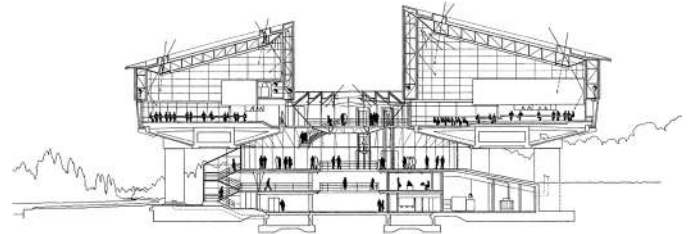
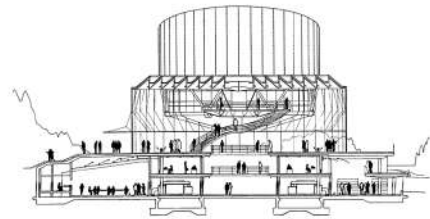
Lighting Consultant
Lighting Design
Partnership

Acoustic Consultant
Sound Research
Laboratories

Main Contractor
Campenon Bernard SGE

Awards

2015
Architecture contemporaine remarquable



The European Court of Human Rights provides a landmark building for the 'New Europe' on a site some distance from the historic centre of the city and close to the river.

In terms of considering the client's brief for the site, the very nature of the Court's business suggests that its premises should be welcoming and humane, while preserving an appropriate dignity. Protecting and enhancing the quality of the site was another prime objective, while economy of operations and the creation of a 'natural' environment were equally important.

The basic diagram of the scheme was tested to the limits during the design process – particularly as a result of the collapse of the Communist Bloc by the late 1980s/early 1990s – resulting in the building's office provision growing to some 50 percent and areas of public space by 25 percent.

The two main departments of the European Court, the Court itself and the Commission, occupy two circular chambers at the head of the building which are clad in stainless steel with secondary structural elements picked out in bright red. The entrance hall is filled with natural light and offers visitors views across the river and the 'tail' of the building is divided into two parts containing offices, administration and the judges' chambers.

Only the main public spaces are air-conditioned (using an economical heat-exchange system); otherwise, the building relies on natural ventilation and light with opening windows.