Office Building, Warsaw, Poland
Democracy, a market economy and a mood of optimism have turned Warsaw into one of the fastest developing cities in Europe. New shops and office complexes are springing up all over the Polish capital. The Focus Filtrowa building provides 62,000 square metres of office space and is located right in the centre of the city. It has good transport links and is just ten minutes away from the airport. From the outside, the new building stands out from its surroundings because of its simple cuboid shape. Each of the four façades of the twelve-storey block is different in design. The main façade, on the south side, is a double-skin curtain wall, with a distinctive raised roof.
Despite the size of the façades, segmentation helps set up a relationship with the neighbouring development. Inside, too, it lends a more human scale. When designing the building, it was not known who would ultimately be using it, so care was taken to ensure maximum flexibility of the facilities. Space is cleverly arranged and compactly organised to suit a variety of uses. And a high-specification interior creates a pleasant working environment that also fits in with the image requirements of investors. Judging by the prestigious international firms that are now tenants of the building, these calculations have certainly paid off.
The entrance to the building, on a busy main road, is marked by a large portal of pale stone, leading into a central atrium lit by natural daylight. Grouped on the first two levels of the atrium are a restaurant and café, shops, conference rooms and a health and fitness centre. Symmetrically arranged around this shared market-square-like space are four separate office complexes. The tenants share the building’s three-storey underground car park and technical infrastructure. Access to the offices is through one of the four reception areas with circular counters.
A certain sparseness in design continues through the public areas to the offices. Details found on the façades are repeated on lifts, staircases and wall finishes. White plastered walls and warm wood tones in the offices create a pleasant working atmosphere, while glass, natural stone and stainless steel dominate in the public spaces. By concentrating on just a few materials, quality workmanship and a variety of surface finishes, the overall effect, boosted by appropriate lighting, is very understated and sophisticated.
The stainless steel and glass walkway above the main entrance links the two sides of the building at first-floor level.

Cross-section and longitudinal section of bridge scale 1:50

1. Longitudinal girder, d=50 mm, welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet, material grade 1.4301
2. Transverse girder, d=50 mm, welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet, material grade 1.4301
3. Handrail, 50 mm dia. stainless steel tube
4. Railing attachment, 40 mm dia. stainless steel tube
5. Railing panel, 20 mm laminated safety glass, colourless, fixed with stainless steel screws
6. Central bearer, d=100 mm, welded from 5 mm stainless steel sheet
7. Cladding for sprinkler system, perforated stainless steel sheet
8. 30 mm laminated safety glass, sandblasted
At the mid-point of the walkway loads are directed down into the stainless-steel-clad columns.
The north façade, clad with polished black stone, is tilted backwards slightly from the vertical, in deference to a nearby lower building. The two-storey entrance façade, however, juts forward. Its pattern-rolled stainless steel cladding adds to the monolithic effect, and sets up another interesting contrast in terms of design and surface finish between stainless steel and stone and glass.