

Projectdocumentation No. 23
System 2300 | System 7000

Merck Serono
Geneva





High-tech architecture that sets standards

The new headquarters for the biotechnology company Merck Serono in Geneva impresses with its futuristic architecture. The company had high expectations from the bringing together of 1,000 employees at a single location. The brief for this state of the art facility revolved around improved communication, faster decision-making processes and the highest standards of sustainability for the buildings itself. Murphy Jahn Architects designed three new built six-storey buildings, which were integrated carefully into the context of four existing 19th century buildings that were renovated. Spectacular fully glazed atrium and circulation spaces connect the buildings and create a highly modern company campus.

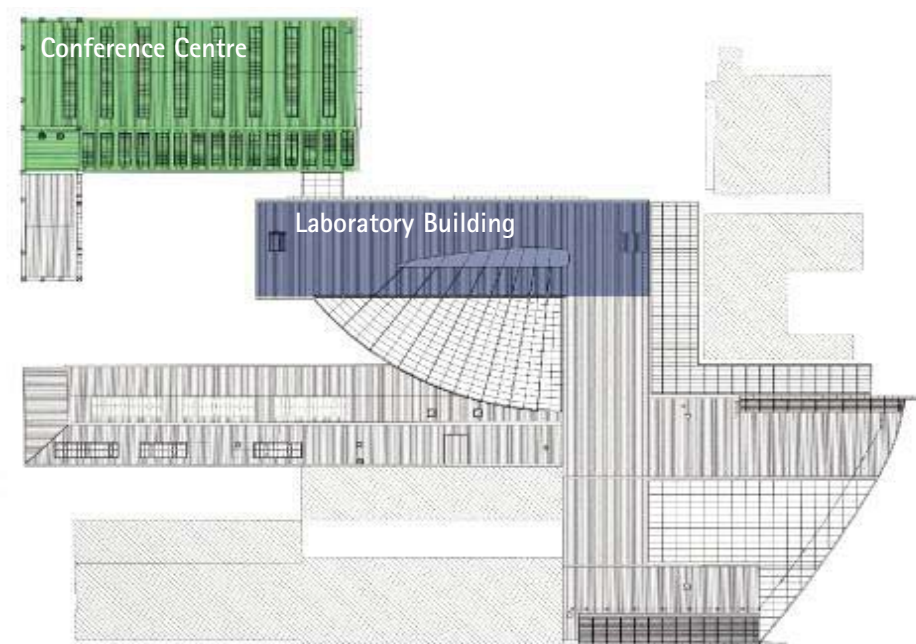


The demands placed by the architects on the interior walls were very ambitious. The specification asked for a highly flexible, surface flush partition wall system that permits large glazed module dimensions and installation heights of up to six meters. In consideration of the high specifications required also for fire safety and sound insulation, the System 2300 was chosen. In addition to its high design quality, it offers maximum flexibility and allowed the architects to fully implement their design intent in the interior fit out.

Project Figures:

- Client: Merck Serono SA, Geneva
- Architects: Murphy/Jahn, Chicago and Burckhardt Partner, Lausanne
- Gross floor area: 54,000 m²
- Volume: 6,500 m³ of partitions in total
- System 2300 (100 mm wall thickness)
- System 2800 (125 mm wall thickness)
- System 7000 (sound absorber panels)

In close cooperation with the architects, the Strähle design team developed tailor-made solutions for this ambitious project.







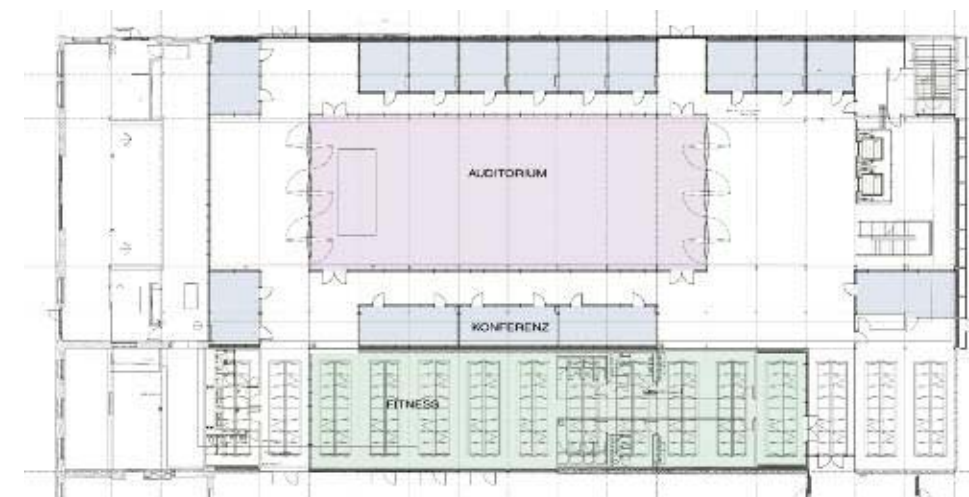
Glass unites old and new

A historic building from the 19th century was refurbished into a modern conference centre with a large internal auditorium space. Modular partitions were used for the three storey internal facade of the auditorium and to separate the conference rooms, the fitness area and the company crèche on the ground floor from the main hall. To provide flexible visual separation, electric blinds were integrated into the highly sound-insulated partition wall construction. To optimise the acoustics within the conference rooms, the partitions were equipped with perforated System 7000 sound absorber panels.

The modern interior design elements and the historic features of the building coexist well and create an exciting conference environment.

Facts Conference Centre:

- 2,250 m² Glass partition walls, System 2800 (50 % with fire rating R30)
- 100 m² sound absorber panels, System 7000, perforated MDF board with grey dyed maple veneer finish
- Partition heights up to 5 m
- Sound insulation Rwp 45 dB
- Integration of T30 rated timber doors and R30 rated steel-frame doors, fitted flush into the partition walls
- Automatic sliding doors integrated into the partition wall





Surface-flush design of wall and door

The architects designed the facades of the new buildings as "regulatable glass skins". This idea is continued in the interior fit out. The partition walls consist mainly of glass, creating an open and light-flooded atmosphere. Thanks to the small visible sections, the large glazing dimensions and the surface-flush design of wall and door, they perfectly suit the design concept. In addition, individual control of transparency, as in the facade, is possible thanks to electric blinds integrated into the walls.

The architects specifically requested a partition wall with a visually consistent appearance for glass elements with and without fire protection. This requirement could be realised with the partition wall System 2300. In addition, due to the very large module dimensions, a fire test was successfully conducted specifically for this project. It ensured that the Swiss fire rating requirement R30 (equivalent to E30) was met.



Facts Corridor Walls, New Laboratory Building

- 600 m² of corridor walls as System 2800 all-glass partition with R30 fire rating
- Partition heights up to 6 m
- Sound insulation R_{wp} 45 dB
- Integration of R30 steel-framed doors flush with the wall surface
- Large Module dimensions of 1500 x 3200 mm





Functional and individual

In the lab rooms of the new building, the modular design of the partition was of importance. On the one hand, the intention was that glass elements would provide the maximum possible transparency between the laboratory and corridor zones. On the other hand rearrangeability of the walls and individual design of the surfaces using printed glass and closed melamine surfaces in a partition wall system had to be assured with one wall system.

Facts Laboratory walls

- 3700 m² of laboratory partitions as all-glass and parapet elements, System 2300 and 2800
- Partition heights up to 6 m
- Sound insulation Rwp 35 dB
- Newly designed glass sliding door with sound seal detail





One system for all requirements

With the System 2300, the various specification requirements for the interior fit out could all be met with one wall system. The architects created high quality interior spaces with an open and light-flooded atmosphere.

Furthermore, thanks to the modular design of the walls, the client can have the reassuring feeling that he can react easily to changing space layout requirements in the future.





Quality meets Design.

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