

Google HQ Palo Alto



Location
Palo Alto

Built
Completion 2012 International competition, 1st prizeGFA
60,000 m²

supergreen®

More than 80% of all online searches anywhere in the world today are sent to Google. As a result of the fast growth of the company, the Google Campus in Mountain View (California) is growing rapidly. The current headquarters (googleplex) borders Charleston Park. On the neighbouring site a big new building is being planned for Google. The urban situation demands a building that is autonomous in its geometry. During an international design challenge in 2010, ingenhoven associates (formerly ingenhoven architects) proposed a winning scheme for the new building. The request of the client was simple: build the best and most health-promoting building in the world. The new building, which Google commissioned for the first time, will serve 2,500 - 3,000 engineers and scientists as well as the top management. It aims to be lively, fresh, simple and flexible and offer healthy, communicative and efficient work environments with a "buzz". The architecture expresses the corporate culture while at the same time serving as a model of sustainable architecture that will surpass the LEED-Platinum-Standard. The new google campus will be a car-free landscape with exposed amenities that are publicly accessible. A car-free "Google Boulevard", which is lined with shops, creates a central axis for light rail and bicyclists. The office landscape is a continuous flexible area with a tight circulation system and connections in all directions yet still maintaining clear orientation. The low number of floors facilitates communication. The inner vertical circulation creates visual connections. The building is raised to allow a continuous landscape underneath it and an "active roof". In order to allow

for living and working outside the campus-life can take place outside, when the boundaries between inside and outside get blurred so that people can enjoy the Californian weather in nature. Only indigenous plants that do not require irrigation will be used forming a fruit alley resembling the orchards that originally shaped the site. ingenhoven associates (formerly ingenhoven architects) had developed a masterplan, which included an urban analysis of all the performance areas which today describe the “living building challenge”: site conditions including traffic, climate, soil composition, cultivation perspectives, the conservation and reuse of materials, water and energy. As exemplified by “Californian modernism”, the design seeks harmony with nature, using natural materials and simple technical solutions while maintaining the human scale.

Awards, Nominations

Team

Architect

ingenhoven associates (formerly ingenhoven architects)

Local architect

Gensler

MEP / Civil Engineering

Glumac and Sandis

Sustainability

Glumac and DS-Plan

Structural Engineering

Magnusson Klemencic and Werner Sobek Ingenieure

Facade design and special structures

Werner Sobek Ingenieure

Cost

Davis Langdon

Facade access

Lerch Bates

Kitchen and food

RAS Design Group

Signage and graphics

ingenhoven architects, Düsseldorf

Landscape architecture

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

Light design

OVI/Tropp

Traffic and parks

Fehr & Peers and IPD

Elevators

Edgett Williams Cons. Group

Waterproofing

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger

Fire protection

The Fire Consultants

Acoustics

Glumac- Charles Sauter