

architecture, engineering, urban planning
Politecnica, one of Italy's leading integrated design companies

PRESS RELEASE

POLITECNICA SIGNS THE DESIGN OF THE NEW 'CRIF21' BUSINESS CENTRE

An eco-friendly transformation that animates the urban fabric

Bologna, 20/11/23, a new elegant green building has risen in the heart of Bologna: **Politecnica Ingegneria ed Architettura**, one of Italy's leading integrated design companies, **has completed work on CRIF S.p.A.'s new management centre**, located in the historic Lama area of Bologna.

CRIF21, thus the name of the new location, represents a significant step in the urban transformation of the area, bringing life back into a hitherto disused area.

Thanks to the work of Politecnica and a total investment of EUR 60 million, the old disused site has now been reconverted into a modern and sustainable space, created with the aim of creating a comfortable working environment for the people who will 'live' in the building and to generate a positive impact on the area. To this end, the project, thanks to the important consideration of ESG principles at all stages, favours the maximisation of energy efficiency, moving towards obtaining the prestigious **LEED®** Platinum and A4 Energy Class Certification.

Structured on 6 floors above ground and 2 basements, the 10,000 square metre office building embraces an avant-garde vision, integrating advanced technologies linked to renewable energy and building automation systems that allow the building's performance to be controlled, coordinated, optimised and verified, going as far as lighting control based on the dynamic management of natural and artificial lighting of the interior spaces.

A decisive step towards sustainability was taken in this project, thanks in part to the full electric concept that allowed the total exclusion of gas as an energy source.

"The realisation of CRIF21 represents a unique opportunity for us to transform not only the skyline of Bologna, but also the very concept of workspace. In collaboration with CRIF, we embraced the challenge of creating a building that meets today's needs and is also an example of sustainability and innovation in the urban context. This project embodies our integrated design philosophy, geared towards shaping environments that promote the well-being of people and the surrounding environment," commented **Stefano Maffei**, associate architect at Politecnica and PM.

The architectural image that distinguishes the entire building is linked both to the volumetric articulation that seeks a direct relationship of confrontation and openness with the landscape context, and to the design of the elevations realised with an extremely high-performance envelope, generous in its transparencies and

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capable of always offering a free and dynamic look towards the outside. The study of the orientation, the combination of the envelope and the concept of the systems, have made it possible to achieve the objective of reducing the demand for energy for heating and air conditioning, while also exploiting the potential of natural light sources for lighting the rooms. Thanks to refined dimming systems, in fact, the light intensity coming from the luminaires is automatically reduced in relation to the intensity of the natural light coming from outside, thus reducing energy consumption.

CRIF21 combines technological innovation with sustainable design even outside the building. The external bioclimatic solutions and the presence of a central green courtyard of more than 2000 square metres, a true "garden of wonders" equipped and qualified with a simple and readable structure that expands the work space making it become one with the architecture, favour environmental cooling and contribute significantly to the mitigation of the urban heat island effect.

In terms of sustainability, maximum effort was also applied to the management of the water cycle, which includes a grey water management system aimed at concretely reducing the consumption of drinking water. The design choices related to the building/plant relationship, therefore, have all been oriented towards maximising energy savings with an eco-friendly vision, which in addition to guaranteeing concrete data has made it possible to achieve energy class A4 and to apply for the prestigious **LEED®** Platinum Certification.



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POLYTECHNICS

Politecnica is one of Italy's leading integrated design companies - architecture, engineering and urban planning.

With its current 46 associates, engineers and architects, with 3 offices in Italy (Modena, Milan, Florence) and 3 branch offices abroad (Bucharest, Copenhagen, Kingstown), it has signed works in over 60 countries worldwide.

Politecnica places the wellbeing of communities and people at the centre of its interventions, in order to make its contribution to the achievement of concretely sustainable goals - SDGs - presented in the UN 2030 Agenda, ratified by 193 countries worldwide.

Politecnica supports work, education and health as human and founding values.

It strives through its projects to create infrastructures and buildings that facilitate cooperation between people, exchange and cultural growth and can ultimately enhance the health of men and women.

Politecnica is committed to the removal of obstacles to full gender equality and is certified according to UNI/PdR 125:2022.

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