

Image not found or type unknown



## Banque Lambert

### Belgium

Avenue Marnix 24  
Région Bruxellois (Brussels Capital Region) 1000  
Brussels

### Commission

1959

### Completion

1960

---

### Other denominations

ING Bruxelles-Marnix

### Original use

Administrative purposes/office spaces

### Current use

Administrative purposes/office spaces

---

### Architects

SOM ( Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP ), Gordon  
Bunshaft

---

### Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

### Construction method

Precast concrete, precast element

### Architectural concrete

Colored concrete

### Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame

---

### Description

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) is an American multinational architecture and engineering firm. Their extensive work includes countless skyscrapers and corporate headquarters in cities around the world, and they had a decisive influence on the development of downtowns in the late-20th century and the model's export to Asia in the early 2000s. The firm, which has outlived its three founders, has received more than 800 awards for architecture and design, and it currently operates eight offices on three continents.

Despite its huge production, work by SOM in continental Europe is scarce compared to its presence in the UK, America or Asia. Moreover, the projects have a slightly different nuance: their skyscrapers – characterized by glass façades and a forceful structural expression, commonly making use of steel – do not always find, in European cities, an urban or cultural context that will allow them to develop fully. Unlike other works by SOM, the building in Brussels has a classical composition, slightly reminiscent of a Renaissance palace, with its imposing volume, its proportions and the characteristic triple horizontal division into base, body and crown.

As such, the corporate headquarters of Bank Brussels Lambert, now part of ING, is a unique building in SOM's work, characterized by its façade of exquisitely executed prefabricated pieces, in which concrete, rather than glass or steel, plays a predominant role. The façade is also load-bearing, which leaves the interior largely free of structural elements. The detail of the stainless steel joints between the concrete pieces, which clearly expresses their function as an articulation, adds to the building a small reminder of the technological image that is the hallmark of the firm.

---

### Links

[SOM](#)  
[SOM tumblr](#)  
[Bruxelles Patrimoine](#)