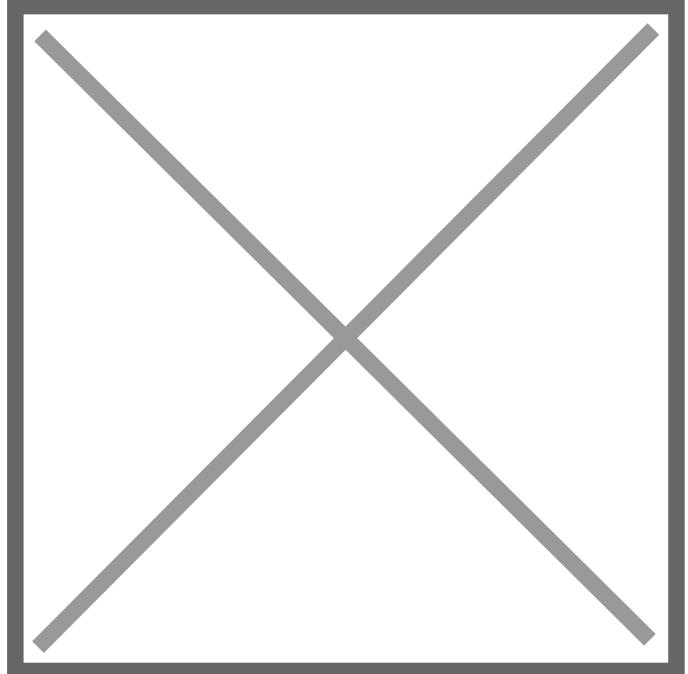
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Rapporteur 2019 Fundación DOCOMOMO Ibérico fundacion@docomomoiberico.com



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

Architects

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

Construction method

Precast concrete, precast element

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 loadbearing, 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

Current use Administrative purposes/office spaces

Architectural concrete

Concrete by reinforcement

Colored concrete

Reinforced concrete

SOM SOM tumblr Bruxelles Patrimoine