



'Formula Uomo': Ferrari's new engineering headquarters. The ideal habitat for producing winners.

The construction project was initiated by the Ferrari-Maserati Group with the objective of boosting high standards of quality in engineering and production, as well as sporting success, while preserving the serviceability and good working conditions afforded by existing premises.

Part of achieving this objective was the construction of a new, contemporary building. The 'Product Development Centre', a creation of world-famous architect Massimiliano Fuksas, is a trend-setting edifice that contains 11,000 m² of space on four floors and accommodates 450 people working in the planning, technology, marketing, purchasing and quality departments.

Construction as fine art

The building consists of two overlapping structural sections, separated by an open space between. The lower section contains two storeys, one semi-underground and another, raised ground floor. Above that is the upper section, containing one storey. The open storey between the two structures makes an expansive space for prestige and representational purposes: a film of water covers the entire floor surface, which is punctuated by display platforms for exhibits.

The upper storey is supported solely by the stairways and structures below the exhibition platform. It is in the form of a parallelepiped, 70 x 70 metres along its sides. It protrudes approx. 7 m out of the north

façade, which lends a marked accent to the main building entrance on that side. Within the building structure are several inner courtyards that allow natural daylight to penetrate down to the lower floors.

Sophisticated solutions for high standards of air-conditioned comfort

Conditioned air for the various assembly halls is fed through the space beneath false floors. Convection vents provide heating in winter, while a chilled-beam system keeps the temperature pleasant in summer. Unlike conventional installations, incoming air is fed through peripheral convection vents at very low speed, which brings it close to room temperature. In winter, the convection vents focus on heating room air that has been cooled through contact with the window glazing. There are additional floor vents to heat the inner zones.

High standards of precision and reliability can be expected from this rather special building, just like the people who work in it. Accordingly, control and monitoring of the air-conditioning systems uses a Sauter novaPro building manage-

ment system with approx. 1200 data points and numerous substations, plus 170 *ecos* units for intelligent unitary control. This kind of exemplary perfection is just right for Ferrari.

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