

# Campus Palmas Altas



## Awards

American Institute of Architects UK  
Chapter, Excellence in Design Award  
2010

RIBA European Award  
2010



Place/Date

**Sevilla, Spain 2005–2009**

Client  
**Abengoa**

Cost  
**€132m euros**

Area (including parking)  
**96,000m<sup>2</sup>**

Architect

**Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners**

Co-Architect

**Vidal y Asociados arquitectos (VAa)**

Services Engineer

**Arup**

Structural Engineer

**Arup**

Environmental Services Engineer

**Arup**

Landscape Architect

**Maria Medina Muro in association with Estudio 28**

Consultant to the Design Team

**D-Fine**

Project Manager

**Bovis Lend Lease**

Cost Consultant to the Client

**Gleeds**

Real Estate Consultant to the Client

**Jones Lang LaSalle**



Campus Palmas Atlas (CPA), the new headquarters of the Abengoa Group, was formally opened in September 2009 by His Royal Highness King Juan Carlos I. Abengoa is an international technology company whose primary activity focuses on sustainable development in the infrastructure, environment and energy sectors. The design – by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Vidal y Asociados arquitectos – creates a new model for the business park, one that is not only more compact and urban in character than conventional business parks, but also particularly suited to the extreme summertime conditions prevalent in the south of Spain.

The scheme comprises seven buildings. Five of these form Abengoa's HQ complex, incorporating research and development as well as administrative facilities. Abengoa's objectives for the development were to bring the company together from three different buildings in Seville onto a single site and to use the move to unify and radically change working practices. In addition, the company was keen to maximise communication and encourage cross fertilisation between the various divisions of the Abengoa Group.

The remaining two buildings will offer high quality office accommodation to a range of other tenants which have synergies with Abengoa. In total, all these buildings provide approximately 47,000m<sup>2</sup> of office space across highly compact floorplates in self-contained structures between 3–4 storeys in height.

The buildings are arranged on either side of a central space which is made up of a sequence of interconnected plazas. The central space unifies all seven buildings

and – at the same time, because of the stepped arrangement – creates a sequence of discrete spaces each of which has slightly different characteristics. In this way, a variety of outdoor spaces ranging from patios to sunken courtyards and terraces, are created which – depending on the prevalent weather conditions – can be comfortably occupied by the buildings' tenants virtually all year round. The organisation of these spaces aims to reduce the heat load on the building fabric and avoid the creation of 'heat islands'. The visual mass is broken down by the landscape treatment of the spaces in between buildings.

Colours have been chosen that reflect the colours found in traditional glazed tiles in the Andalucía region. The structure of each building is formed from in situ concrete with pre-cast elements used for exposed edge cantilevers. The façades are of glass with a 'floating' horizontal transom of corrugated aluminium creating a small glazed panel at floor level. Fixed glass louvres of varying densities (depending on orientation) shade the glazing.

Energy-saving criteria are applied across the whole design – from the site layout and the orientation of the campus to the geometry of the buildings themselves, the design of the building envelope and the selection of materials. Measures include photovoltaic panels, a tri-generation plant, hydrogen batteries and chilled beams. The design of individual buildings and the linear arrangement of all the buildings maximises self shading, thereby reducing the amount of secondary shading required. It is hoped that the development will become a model for more sustainable office complexes in the future.

This scheme draws more on the traditions of Andalucía, with its small, intimate network of linked patios and less on the typical business park setting of wide, green, open space.

