



PRESS RELEASE

Beacons of education and architecture

Glass façades for Columbia Business School from BGT Bischoff Glastechnik

Bretten (DE), May 2023. *For Columbia University's business school in New York, renowned American architecture firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro worked with FXCollaborative to create two new buildings with a distinctive appearance. The design's fundamental element is an architecture geared towards transparency and communication that is intended to have an impact both inside and outside in the neighbourhood. 25,400 square metres of laminated safety glass from BGT Bischoff Glastechnik, a Glas Trösch Group company, play a key role in this concept.*

Transparent, dynamic and interactive: the two Columbia Business School buildings that face each other by Diller Scofidio + Renfro/FXCollaborative are a recent addition to the new Manhattanville Campus in West Harlem, which is being developed based on a master plan by the architectural practice Renzo Piano Building Workshop. The design for the complex encompassing a total of 492,000 square metres follows the trend of fostering informal learning and spontaneous interactions. The eleven-storey Henry R. Kravis Hall and the eight-storey David Geffen Hall house a multifunctional range of rooms comprising seminar, study and lecture spaces, as well as offices, catering and retail. At the heart of both buildings lies a spacious area for the encounters between floors and user groups. A system of intersecting routes and communal areas also supports the floor plans designed for flow and collaboration. In order for these to succeed, daylight is also a critical factor, which can penetrate deep into the interior through the graduated, layered glass façade.

Façade design in fine nuances

The structures designed in a similar architectural idiom feature façades with an impressive, striking appearance. In the Kravis Hall, slightly projecting, white-framed bands with opaque glazing around some parts of the storeys encircle the building's volume. The façade areas with clear glazing that are set back reveal the expressive stairway and intricate pillar structure, as well as what is happening inside. From the interior, the bustle of city and campus life and the nearby Hudson River can be seen on all sides. On the Geffen Hall, linear, opaque surfaces



trace the ceilings between storeys, while strips of windows with segments in differing degrees of transparency present life inside the building. The intentional transparency to the surrounding neighbourhood is also reflected in the ground floors for semi-public use enveloped in clear glass.

High-quality components for the insulating glass

With a total of 12,700 square metres of insulating glass, BGT Bischoff Glastechnik products contributed to the university buildings' unique character. The company, which is part of Swiss glass manufacturer Glas Trösch, also supplied the individual components for the façade glass for the upper floors. All areas that appear opaque from the outside, measuring 7,600 square metres, were printed with a ceramic white paint fired into the surface during the tempering process. Some of the particularly weather-resistant, printed outer panes with a total thickness of 23.52 millimetres posed a technical challenge in the manufacturing process because they were given a fixed-size coating externally before lamination. The remaining 5,100 square metres were screen printed around the edges. A further 12,700 square metres of unprinted laminated safety glass, which form the inner panes of the insulating glass units, are spread across the entire surface of the façade.

Design, functionality and sustainability go hand in hand in the two university buildings in New York, which is why the new structures are targeting a Gold LEED v3 certification. The choice of the partially printed insulating glass surfaces also makes a significant contribution to this goal, because the opaque areas of the façades prevent excessive heating of the interior.



Key facts:

Project: Columbia Business School
Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall

Location: New York, USA

Completed: 2022

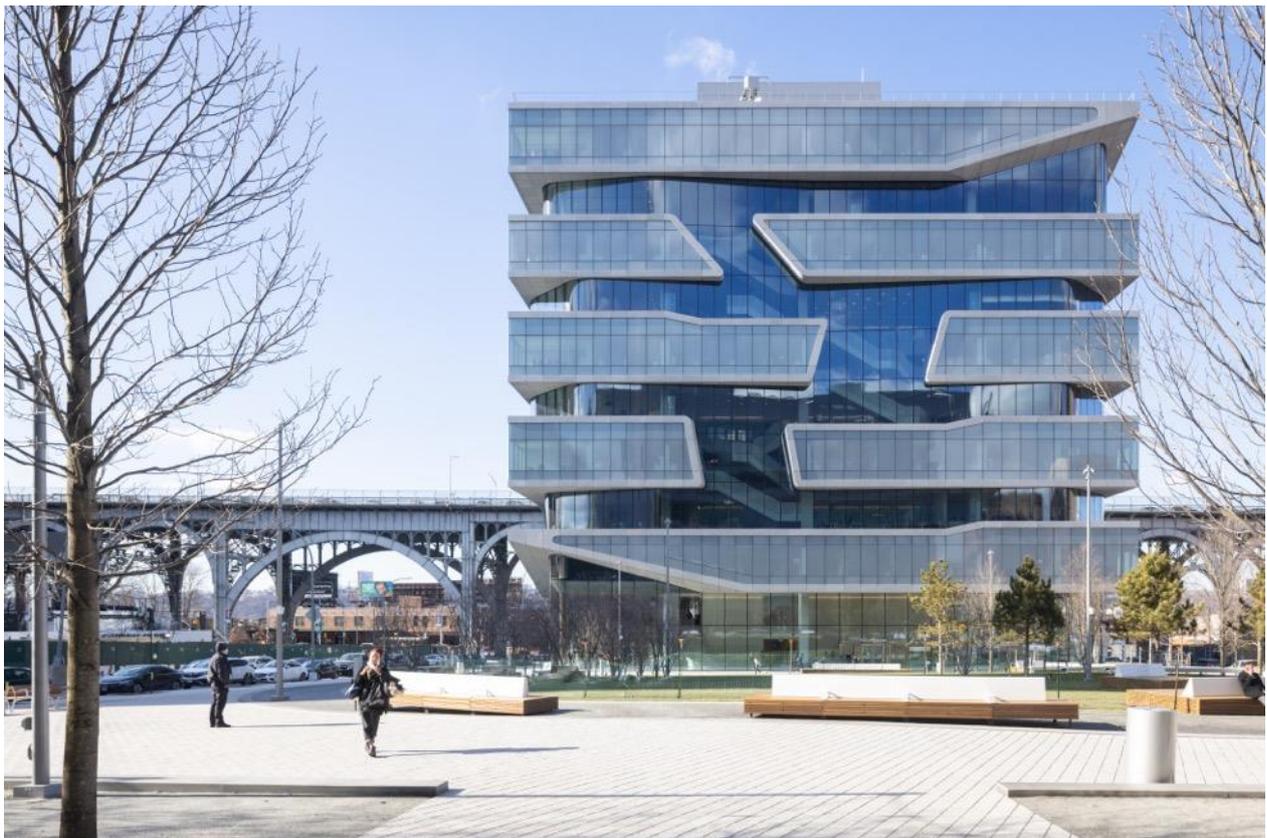
Client: Columbia University

Architects: Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with FXCollaborative

Façade planning: Arup

Products: BGT Bischoff Glastechnik laminated safety glass made from heat-strengthened glass (screen printed and unprinted)

Pictured:



The new eleven-storey Henry R. Kravis Hall features a façade with an expressive appearance made up of opaque, white-framed bands around some parts of the storeys positioned organically around a core enveloped in clear glass.

Photo: Iwan Baan



So named by the architects, the “network stairways” behind the laminated safety glass from BGT wind around themselves.
Photo: Iwan Baan



On the eight-storey David Geffen Hall, opaque and transparent areas of the glass façade complement each other to create an overall crystalline effect.
Photo: Iwan Baan

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