

## THE NEW DEUTSCHE BANK BY MARIO BELLINI

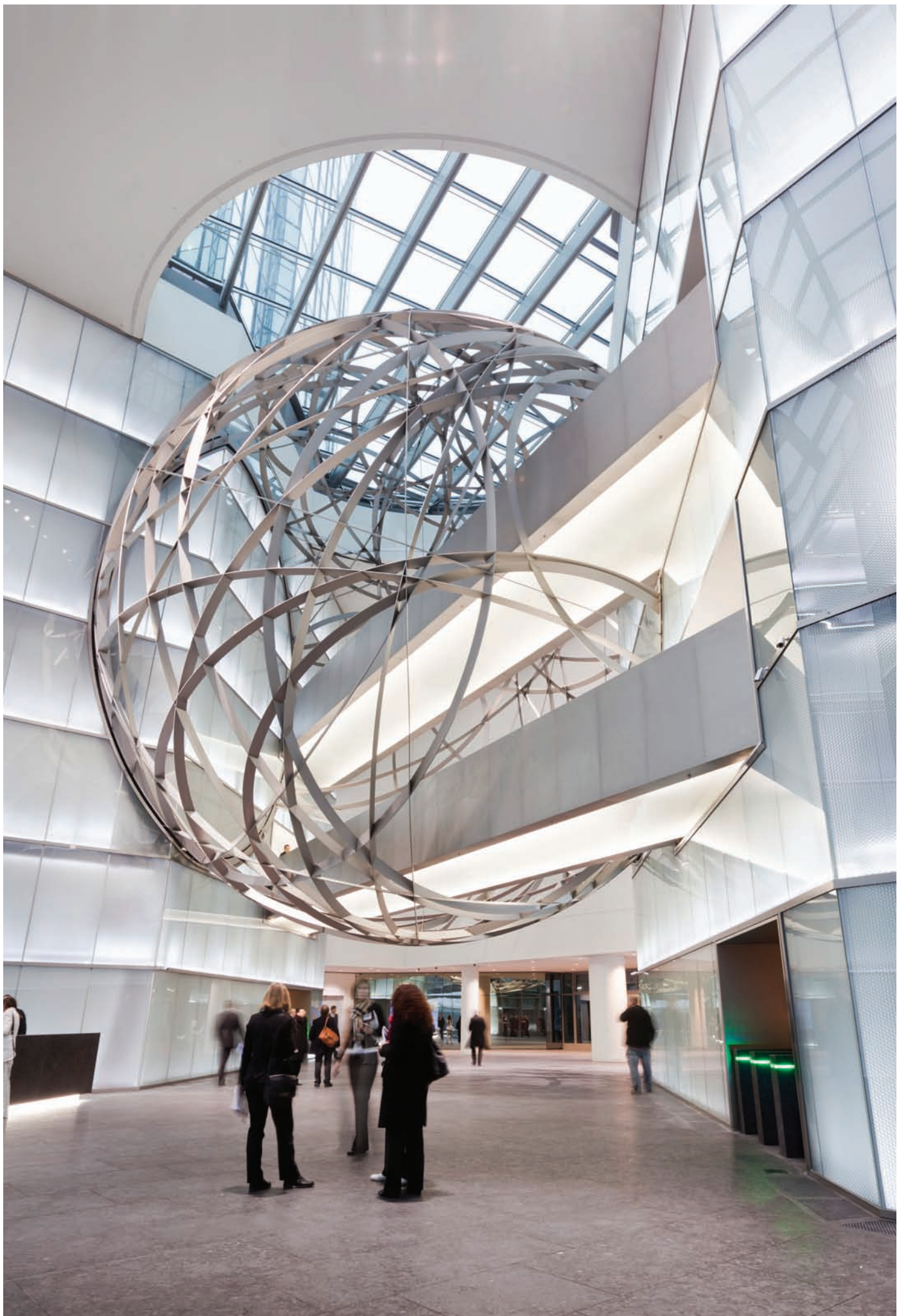
Deutsche Bank has now a new headquarter in its historic location in Frankfurt. To sign it is the Milanese architect Mario Bellini, who has radically refurbished and renewed the two towers after winning, in December 2006, an international competition by invitation. The two towers, already a landmark of Frankfurt and of the world finance, have now become a new icon of contemporary architecture. A sort of small town to access through a huge portal which reminds of the historic city gates. Once inside you are immediately in a large hall, which reminds of a “piazza”, becoming the key location of the entire complex. Huge and bright, 22 meters high, penetrated by the towers which can be seen down side up through a transparent roof (18 meters wide). Moreover the towers are connected thanks to a magic sphere of a 16 meters diameter – overlooking the square – that you can walk through along two bridges. An art and engineering challenge that will become the new dynamic symbol of Deutsche Bank. A bank which has obtained the most significant certifications regarding energy saving and respect for the environment: the Platinum LEED certification and the German certification for sustainable building (DGNB Gold). This is a success that transforms the headquarter of Deutsche Bank in an outstanding architecture.



















# Mario Bellini's Quotes

## Renovation VS. Reconstruction

“Whenever possible, renovation instead of reconstruction is not only an interesting form of a more sustainable architecture on itself, but a smart opportunity to preserve the urban fabric”.

“As I’ve already done and am doing for other projects (be it the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne or the Europe largest Convention Centre in Milan) ‘to renovate’ means not only to interpret new functions but to embody new aspirations. In a few words it means to give a new life”.

## The towers and the city

“The towers used to be a landmark for the financial centre of Frankfurt/Main and to belong to the city skyline. This came as a tremendous challenge to us, the architects, as we had to give the bank a radically new building touching as less as possible its exterior”.

“You can see the inside of the foyer from the outside of the building: the sphere, the bridges, the lower part of the towers. This new piazza-foyer now has become a part of the towers, just as the foyer now has become a part of the city. We managed to connect city and towers”.

## The foyer

“The actual entrance is now five times the size it used to be, with a transparent portal measuring 14 metres in height.

Upon entering the building the visitors can see an astonishing hanging sphere, connecting two towers rising up through a round roof window, 18 meters wide. To me this is the very heart of our work”.

## The sphere

“The sphere with the crossing bridges, like an art installation, are the new centre-piece of the whole. They represent an endless flow of energy, just like in a galaxy forces rotating around a centre. It is a metaphor for the Deutsche Bank of today: nothing is static, nothing is symmetrical: everything expresses a dynamic attitude”.



## Numbers

### The towers

Height: 155 meters

4 base ground floors

34 floors in Tower A

36 floors in Tower B

3 subterranean floors for parking

### The sphere

Diameter: 16 meters

55 rings are made of stainless steel sheets, laser-cut and welded on site

1.400 components of stainless steel are used to construct the sphere

35 tons: weight of the sphere

### Sustainability of the building

98%: Of the removed materials have been recycled

67%: Heating Energy Reduction

55%: Electrical power Reduction

74%: Water Reduction

89%: CO<sup>2</sup> Emissions Reduction

### Other information

102,000 m<sup>2</sup>: Net usable area

2006 December, international competition by invitation

2007 January, beginning of works



## MARIO BELLINI



[www.mariobellini.com](http://www.mariobellini.com)

Internationally renowned as an architect and designer, winner of 8 Compasso d'Oro and a member of MoMA in New York, which dedicated a personal exhibition to him in 1987 and has 25 works of his in its Permanent Design Collection. He has had countless exhibitions in his name in Italy and abroad. He has been editor of *Domus* from 1986 to 1991.

In 2004 the President of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi conferred on him the Medaglia d'Oro for the diffusion of design and architecture in the world.

Among his built architectures:

- National Gallery of Victoria extension and redevelopment, Melbourne, Australia, 1996-2003
- Essen International Fair Extension, Germany, 1998-2001
- Arsoa Co./Cosmetics- Headquarters, Yamanashi, Japan, 1996-1998
- Natuzzi Americas Headquarters, High Point, North Carolina, USA, 1996-1998
- Risonare Vivre Club Complex, Kobuchizawa, Japan, 1989-1992
- Tokyo Design Center, Tokyo, Japan, 1988-1992
- Yokohama Business Park, Yokohama, Japan, 1987-1991
- New fair district of the Milan Trade Fair, 1987-1997
- Villa Erba Exhibition and Congress Centre, Cernobbio (Como), 1986-1990

In 2001 he won the international competition for the new Cultural Centre in Turin (waiting to be started).

In 2009 he won the competition for the extension, redevelopment and renovation of Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, which is expected to be completed in 2015.

Some of his projects are close to opening:

- The new Milan Convention Center at the Milan Trade Fair (Portello) in Milan, Italy, which will become the largest in Europe. Opening: mid 2011
- The Verona Forum, Italia, a multipurpose complex with a hotel. Opening: end 2011
- The Museum of the city of Bologna, Italy. Opening: end 2011
- The multipurpose complex, Erzelli Science and Technology Park, Genoa, Italy. Opening: end 2011
- **The Museum of Islamic Arts at Louvre Museum, Paris, France. Opening: mid 2012**



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