

Press release

Poelzig reloaded

The new Campus Westend has really added to Frankfurt's Goethe University and now unites dispersed faculties and university institutes on one site. The new buildings are home to one of Germany's most modern educational establishments. Teaching and research, exterior and interior, discourse and contemplation – these poles define the nature of scholarship and the design of the Campus Westend reflects this.

The humanities, law and business and finance faculties are casually spread out over around 40 hectares. The former "IG-Farben" building is at the heart of the campus. New buildings are oriented to this listed building dating back to the 1930s designed by Hans Poelzig. Its dominating feature is its natural light stone façade that the new buildings continue and transpose in a modern way. Clean, powerful lines unite the buildings in their multifaceted oneness, surrounded and interconnected by spacious parkland. The result: a "campus university in the park" that offers approximately 23,000 students space to research, think and create over 350,000 m².

The complex includes the Faculties of Law and Economics designed by Müller Reimann Architekten. An extensive forecourt provides a view of the park and leads to the two-story entrance hall of the Faculties of Law and Economics. The generous openings to the outside and the staircase in the middle of the entrance hall convey a sense of openness and transparency. The staircase leads to the seminar rooms; less public office areas are accessible via wood-paneled stairwells.

The central faculty library is an oasis of peace and concentration grouped around a leafy atrium and covering two stories. Various reading areas mean the students can work the way that suits them best – whether with a view from the gallery, secluded among bookshelves or with a view of the leafy atrium. The oak veneer used exudes warmth: the gray mélange cut pile woven carpet VBM 2500 by Carpet Concept covering around 8,500 square meters is a real contrast, ensuring visual calm while at the same time absorbing sound. The air permeability of the continuous woven carpeting is unique. This enables air conditioning via the floor and ensures optimum reading conditions.

Project:	Faculties of Law and Economics at the Goethe University in Frankfurt a.M.
Architecture:	Müller Reimann Architekten, Berlin
Carpets:	VBM 2500, VBM 2507, cut pile, air-permeable, Carpet Concept, Bielefeld
Photos:	Stefan Müller, Berlin

We would greatly appreciate a courtesy copy. Thank you.

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