

Projects

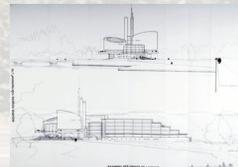
The old building became too cramped for the Court and Commission to continue working there in optimum conditions, so the need for new premises became evident in the 1980s. The project of British architect Richard Rogers was chosen in 1989. Three architect's projects had been submitted to the Committee of Ministers.



Project of Mr PERRAULT (DPA Dominique Perrault Architecture)
Sought to express fragility and solidity of justice and human rights by building the new structure over water, with the river being widened for that purpose. Offices were arranged around enclosed patios surrounded by an emerald-green curtain wall. The design was marked by simplicity of construction and use.



Project of Mr ROGERS (Richard Rogers Partnership)
Chose to design a building in stark contrast to the Court's old premises by its use of space, its siting and its typology. Gave pride of place to the surrounding water, integrating it into the internal design and building along the curve of the river. Deliberately broke from traditional monumentalism of law-courts by expressing the human dimension, transparency and accessibility.



Project of Mr UNGERS (O.M. Ungers Architekt)
Sited his construction perpendicular to the Ill river and chose to match the dimensions of the neighbouring Palais de l'Europe. The underlying concept was complementarity between institutional justice, symbolised by the courtroom, and dialogue between parties, symbolised by a large public space.



Human Rights Building in figures

Architect: Richard Rogers (UK)
Architects Consortium: Richard Rogers Partnership Ltd London, and Claude Bucher, Strasbourg
Cost: FRF 455 million
Funding: Member States

Usable floor area: 228,000 square metres, including:
- 860 sq. m for the Court Room
- 520 sq. m for the Small Hearing Room
- 4,500 sq. m of meeting rooms
- 16,500 sq. m of offices

Number of meeting rooms: 11, including:
- the Court Room (244 seats + 49 for the judges + 33 for applicants)
- the Court deliberations rooms (47 to 52 seats)

- the Small Hearing Room (41 seats + 30 for applicants)
- other meeting rooms (average of 47 seats around the table, plus 52 at the rear)