



Café-Cacao Council Tower

Location : Le Plateau, Abidjan

Architect : Jamal Fardon Architecte

Client : Conseil National Café-Cacao

Package : Facades and roofing

Scope : Design and construction supervision of the Tower facades and the Auditorium roofing

Date : 2019-2025

The Café-Cacao Tower, located in Abidjan, houses the headquarters of the National Coffee-Cocoa Council, the institution responsible for managing this key agricultural sector, which plays a major role in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's leading cocoa producer.

The tower rises 25 stories, reaching a total height of 100 meters. Its highest accessible floor, located over 50 meters above ground level, classifies the building as IGH W2. Its geometry is symmetrical along an East-West axis, adopting a rounded shape in plan, combining circular arcs and straight tangent segments. At the base of the tower, a golden volume, reminiscent of a cocoa pod, houses a large auditorium and various services.

The façades of the tower follow the layout of the floors, incorporating a scaly texture achieved by a slight rotation of the glazing relative to the normal plane of the façade. The 2-meter-wide and 3.52-meter-high modular grid per floor is intersected by continuous horizontal "C"-shaped bands, which emphasize the overall geometry and add depth to the façade.

The result is a uniform yet dynamic texture, with an evolving play of light throughout the day: the reflective glazing, designed to minimize the visual impact of slab edges and spandrels, enhances the nature of the tower while improving its performance. Interior blinds provide additional solar protection, reducing glare and controlling thermal gains inside the building. Interior concrete spandrels, placed behind the glazing, ensure compliance with fire safety (C+D) regulations. Their shape has been adapted to align with the scaly façade geometry. To mitigate risks of thermal stress and glass breakage, a dynamic thermal analysis was conducted to ensure safety under local climatic conditions. The bioclimatic design of the façades enables high-energy performance despite significant solar exposure and extensive glazing.

Technical equipment and maintenance systems (such as the building maintenance unit) are concealed on the rooftop by an overhanging glazed screen, which maintains continuity with the façades of the upper floors.

The auditorium is covered with a metallic-scaled envelope, designed to manage the complex geometry of the volume.

With its curved design and distinctive volumes, the Café-Cacao Tower embodies a modern architectural identity, integrating seamlessly into the urban fabric of Le Plateau.