Breathing Envelope
Vertically-stacked convention center and public spaces, Bogotá, Colombia

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Summary by the jury
The new Ágora Bogotá (Bogotá International Convention Center) in Colombia will be unique. The program is stacked vertically to minimize the building's footprint and to correspondingly maximize the surface area of outdoor public spaces in the heart of the city. Illuminated and ventilated naturally through an actively responding and acoustically sealed enclosure, the building features high levels of flexibility without compromising its architectural quality. Daily fluctuations in temperature of up to 20°C require a specific approach to climate control. The project focuses on the optimization of natural ventilation and lighting, supported by refined control systems, to achieve optimal energy efficiency.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury values the dialog that the project establishes between the fields of architecture and engineering, with both disciplines mutually informing one another, ultimately combining state-of-the-art technologies with formal expression. The deployment of high-tech mechanical systems – for ventilation, lighting, heating, cooling, water management and power generation, including the use of surface geothermal energy storage – is done with restraint, leading to an architecture that appears noble, quiet and discreet – technology not for technology’s sake, but at the service of users, architecture and the environment.

Project data
- Context: Architecture, building and civil engineering
- Client: Cámara de Comercio de Bogotá
- Background: Public commission
- Planned start: March 2014

Further authors -
Image 3: Façade details: Motorized blinds and ventilation gills, acoustic barrier, screen-printed glass.

Image 4: Street level: Pedestrian entrances, lobbies and plazas, native flora enhancing ecology.

Image 5: Cross section: Main ballroom on top with exceptional city views, stacked lobbies enhancing air flow.

Image 6: Basement: 1055 car spaces and service areas (kitchen, storage, MEP) with independent vertical circulation.

Image 7: Meeting levels: 4 main cores (structure, shafts, elevators) and spiral circulation around atrium.

Image 8: Upper levels: Sky lobby with restrooms, terraces and VIPs on level 4 (P4), 4000 pax divisible ballroom on level 5 (P5).


Image 10: Night view: Notoriety through rationality, a new public icon for Bogotá.

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