



# AN ECO-FRIENDLY HEAD OFFICE FOR ECOBANK IN GHANA

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Ecobank Ghana required an integrated consolidated solution for a new head office building, as their various banking departments were previously accommodated in separate buildings. The new building needed to be modern, state of the art and iconic to affirm the prominence of the bank. ARC Architects entered their winning design into a competition and collaborated with local architect group Mobius Architecture to bring this building to life. The design comprises two building components mediated by a multi volume entrance foyer which facilitates the legibility of the flow pattern of the visitors. The interior supports an open floor system which separates the public from the private spaces without barriers and walls.

The two towers stand on podiums and are connected with each other. The executive offices are located in the higher tower, while the public areas and banking hall are in the lower section. The unique design form is complimented by a focal spiral staircase and glass sky

panels which enable the natural sunlight to flow into the building. The building has no definite front or back angle and this provides for an interesting and distinctive design silhouette.

Best practice green principles were followed to deliver an energy efficient building at all times in the challenging climate. The building needed to provide for maximum user comfort. Computer-based energy modeling and solar studies were done to determine a comparative energy consumption basis with similar building type throughout an entire year of operation. This determined the exact building requirements for the Ghanaian tropical climate.

Double glazing techniques and exterior shading assist with accomplishing energy efficiency in minimizing glare and reducing heat. The building is equipped with a central BMS, linked to all services to ensure management and optimization of energy consumption to keep every facet of the building running



A BUILDING THAT IS  
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SURROUNDS AND AFFIRMING  
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ECOBANK



smoothly, sustainably and cost-effectively. This energy efficiency is complemented by water harvesting and all lighting, as well as air conditioning are activated on movement. The perforated double skin façade allows for natural light to enter the building and the world map design adds as an attractive exterior feature. The double glazing shell of the building is a first of its kind used in Ghana.

Keeping in mind that most items had to be imported, procurement and time management was of paramount importance. Close communication and collaboration with local and international suppliers was fundamental in the design and building processes to deliver a solution which would meet the client's expectations. An innovative mindset was paramount from concept to interior design, inclusive of furniture selection and was achieved through the hands-on approach adopted by all consultants involved. This level of dedication resulted in an award winning development, which not only adds value to the Accra skyline, but stands testimony to the growth spurt deserving of the proud tradition of Ecobank.

