

La Vela, Madrid, Spain

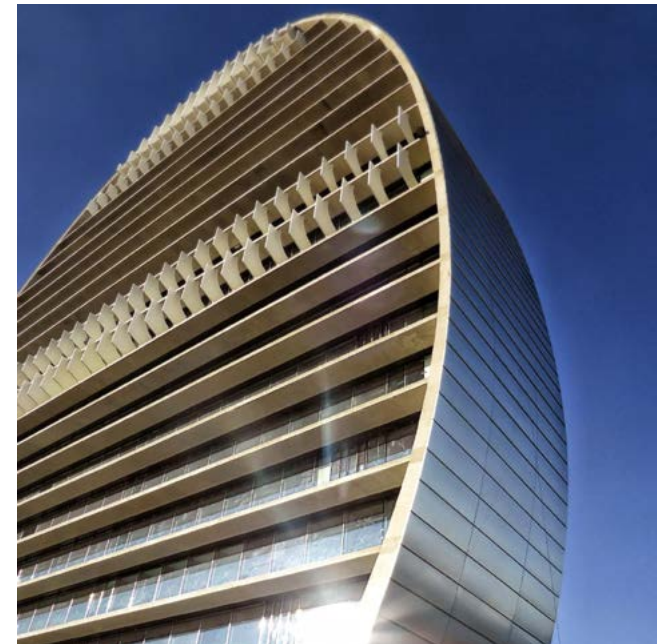
Architects: Herzog & de Meuron, Basel

Structural Engineering: Ortiz Leon Arquitectos, Madrid

“La Vela” (“the sail”) is the name of the iconic seat of the new headquarters of the Spanish Bank BBVA. Although the overall shape of the 93 m high building is that of an ellipse, the actual design involves a total of 36 different curvatures. The semi-reflective 2B surface is smooth enough to ensure good self-cleaning properties. In the hot climate of central Spain, it reflects infrared radiation away from the building and reduces the energy consumed for cooling. It helped the building to be granted LEED Gold certification. At the same time, the finish keeps light pollution to acceptable levels and prevents glare which is important in view of the nearby motorway.



Photos courtesy of BBVA



Details

Environment:	Urban
Fabrication process:	Brake pressing
Grade and finish:	304L, 2B (bright)
Material thickness:	Honeycomb sandwich panel with 0.8 mm stainless steel outer layer
Date of completion:	2014
Manufacturing company:	Permasteelisa España, Madrid
Material supplier:	Acerinox