

Law Courts in Arezzo, Italy

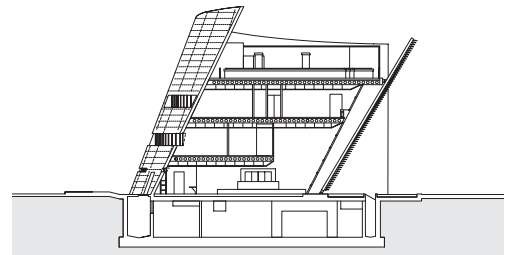


The closed, matt façade on the north side contrasts with an open-style south side where the louvres of the stainless steel screen reflect the surroundings and generate an ever-changing interplay of light and shade.

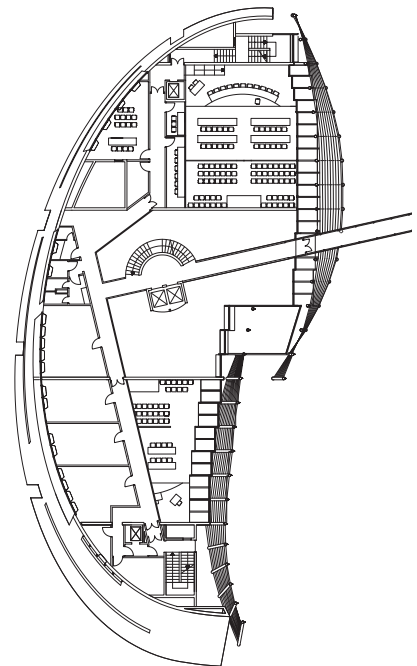
A new four-storey law courts building in Arezzo, located in a park close to the town's Medici fortress, houses courtrooms and office space. A glazed bridge links it to an adjacent neoclassical building – a former hospital – which after renovation will offer additional office and archive capacity. The naturalistic curved lines of the new building are inspired by both the lush vegetation of the park and the mediaeval fabric of the old town, protected on one side by thick

walls and opening on the other to gardens and green open spaces.

The north façade of the law courts, clad with dark-grey granite and rising up from its elliptical footprint like part of a cone, presents a virtually fully closed aspect. Contrasting with this, on the south side a two-part curved lattice of stainless steel protects the almost fully glazed façade behind it from solar radiation in summer and cold winds in winter.



Section scale 1:750

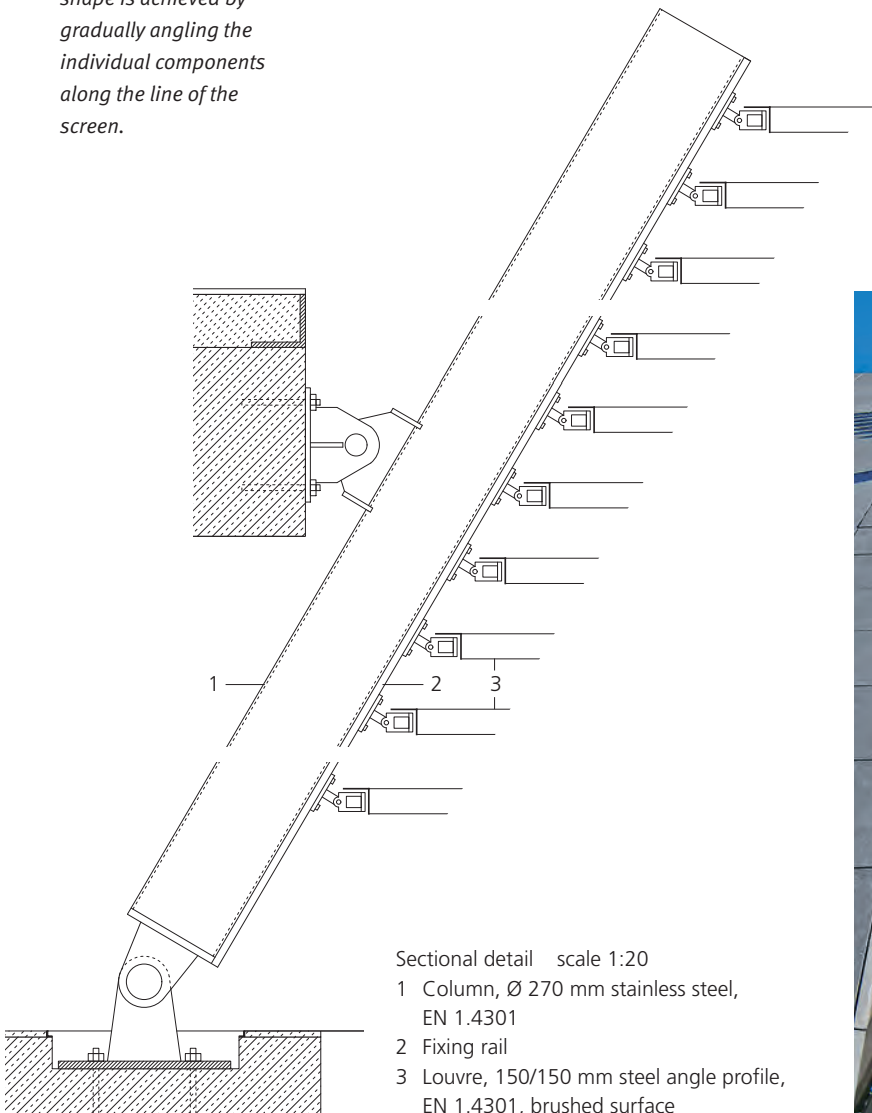


Plan of 1st upper storey scale 1:750



Round columns on hinged bearings tilted at different angles, towards the building and away from it, define the curvature of this sun-screen. The upper sections of the roughly 20-metre high frame, which is made entirely of stainless steel (grade EN 1.4301), are tied back either to rectangular pipe sections on the building or to the cantilevered floor above the second upper storey.

The complex curved shape is achieved by gradually angling the individual components along the line of the screen.



The horizontal stainless steel louvres are made up of a series of shorter angle profiles. These abut at the fixing points to the uprights.





The entrance to the law courts lies between the two overlapping parts of the external solar shading.

Euro Inox
Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
1030 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 706 82 67
Fax +32 2 706 82 69
E-mail info@euro-inox.org
Internet www.euro-inox.org

Client: Comune di Arezzo
Architect: Manfredi Nicoletti, Rome
Structural engineer: Michele Mele
Text and layout: Martina Helzel, circa drei, Munich
Translation: Ingrid Taylor, Munich
Photos: Simone Levi, Studio Nicoletti Associati

Fitted horizontally in front of the round columns are rows of angle-profile louvers. Clever detailing of the connection between the columns and the profiles made it possible to achieve the curvature using exclusively straight components, the angles shifting gradually across the frame.

Thanks to the parallel arrangement of the louvers, the building is shaded from the sun in summer, thereby minimising solar gain. In winter, however, the screen admits the lower-angled rays of sun into the interior of the law courts.

Light filters through the screen to brighten the three-storey high entrance hall; additional illumination comes from a partially glazed roof.

