

GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESTAURATION PRACTICE FICHE

Composed by working party of:

Docomomo Serbia

0. Palace of Justice in Belgrade

Before conservation/ restauration	After conservation/ restauration
	
	

Depicted item: Before and After pictures of Palace of Justice

Sources: Zoran Abadić

Dates:

0.1 accessibility

opening hours/ viewing arrangements: Monday to Friday (07:30 – 15:30)

Data for identification

current name: Building of State Authorities and Organizations, Palace of Justice with Monument to Emperor Dušan
former/original/variant name: Palace of Judicial
address/ number(s) and name(s) of street(s): Savska 17a (recently renamed into Boulevard of King Aleksandr the First Karađorđevićs 17a)
town: Belgrade
province/ state: Republic of Serbia
post code: 11113 Belgrade 20
country: Republic of Serbia
geographic GPS coordinates: 44°48'18.1"N 20°27'16.2"E
current typology: LAW Public building / Judicial facility
former/original/variant typology: Judiciary facility
comments on typology: Beneficiary: Judicial Authorities, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Serbia
The following Courts are located in the building:
Higher Court in Belgrade
First Basic Court in Belgrade
Higher Public Prosecution in Belgrade
First Basic Public Prosecution in Belgrade

Status of protection

protected by: Institute for the Protection and Cultural Monuments, Belgrade, Serbia
grade: Palace of justice is located within the spatial area "Old Belgrade belgrade", which enjoys the status of previous protection related to Detailed Urban Plan of Complex between streets Kneza Miloša, Nemanjina, Slobodana Penezića Krcuna and Highway ("Službeni list grada Beograda" br. 5/82, 13/83, 17/85, 24/86 i 24/89) and Master Plan of Belgrade to 2021. ("Službeni list grada Beograda" br. 27/03, 25/05 i 63/09).
date: 25.02.2014.
valid for: the whole area and the building as its part
remarks: as the Palace of Justice is protected as cultural heritage, the conditions from the Belgrade Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments were also requested and obtained as precondition for preparation the documentation within the existing volume and size of the building.

1. History of building(s)

Chronology

Competition date: 1961.
design period (s): 1963.
start of site work: 1969.

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completion/inauguration: 15.10.1973.

Relevant persons/organisations

original owner(s)/patron(s): Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Justice
architects: Zoran Žunković, Mihailo Živadinović and Božidar Simović.
landscape/garden designer(s): /
other designer(s): Architect Oskar Hrabovski (constructor)
consulting engineer(s): Civil engineer Borislav Erić (supervisor authority)
building contractor(s): Construction Company "RAD", Belgrade, Serbia

Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site

name(s): Zoran Abadić, Lead Architect
association: EAR, European Agency for Reconstruction, Belgrade, Serbia
event(s): Responsible Designer of Preliminary and Main Architectural Design for reconstruction and adaptation of the Great Courtroom of the District Court in Belgrade (Palace of Justice)
period: 2005.

name(s): Architect Zoran Abadić, Lead Architect, Responsible Designer of Preliminary and Main Architectural Design for reconstruction and adaptation of Building Palace of Justice
association: COWI IPF - CONSORTIUM : IPF-Technical Assistance/ 1X2STUDIO, Office for Architecture, Belgrade, Serbia + BASIS d.o.o. . CEPTING d.o.o. . SPB BIRO d.o.o.
event(s): Design period
period: 2012. - 2014.

name(s): Architect Zoran Abadić, Lead Architect, Responsible Designer of Preliminary and Main Architectural Design for reconstruction and adaptation of Building Palace of Justice
association: 1X2STUDIO, Office for Architecture, Belgrade, Serbia + Beopotez d.o.o. . SPB biro d.o.o. (design supervision) / Cestra d.o.o. (site supervision) / Gradina d.o.o. Belgrade + Termoinženjering d.o.o. Belgrade (contractor)
event(s): Execution of works
period: 2017. - 2019.

Summary of important changes after completion

type of change: Reconstruction, alteration and internal arrangement of the Large Courtroom (Courtroom no. 1), the Foyer and accompanying premises of the District Court of Belgrade in the ground floor of the Palace of Justice.
date(s): 2003. (design period) - 2005. (execution of works)
circumstances/reasons for change: The existing conditions of the Courtroom and accompanying rooms are inadequate for functioning and they do not meet the criteria for conducting of any court proceedings. Generally, the area has been deformed and elementally disturbed, therefore its function and aesthetics have been degraded. Solution of the function lies with recovery and establishing of auxiliary rooms needed for the proceedings to be vested with regularity.

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effect of changes: Creating the representative space, which will cherish the existing building as the recognized work of architecture and will additionally accomplish and corroborate its authenticity, authoritativeness, dominancy, comfort, power and character of the judicial-purpose building.
persons/organisations involved: name(s): Architect Zoran Abadić, Lead Architect / EAR, European Agency for Reconstruction, Belgrade, Serbia

Summary of important changes after restoration

type of change: Reconstruction and adaptation of the building "Palace of Justice" in Belgrade.

date(s): 2012-2104 (design period) – 2017-2019 (execution of works)

circumstances/reasons for change: During more than forty years of exploitation, numerous programmatic and spatial deviations slowed down daily work activities that brought the desired organization of the justice system to the limit of endurance.

effect of changes: Overall spatial, programme, functional, technical and technological improvement and modernization of conditions and work standards, all of necessary installations, systems and equipment for efficient, safe and secure work procedures implementation to future End Users: Higher Court in Belgrade, First Basic Court in Belgrade, Higher Public Prosecution in Belgrade and First Basic Public Prosecution in Belgrade.

persons/organisations involved: Architect Zoran Abadić, Lead Architect, Responsible Designer + COWI IPF - CONSORTIUM : IPF-Technical Assistance/ 1X2STUDIO, Office for Architecture, Belgrade, Serbia + BASIS d.o.o. . CEPTING d.o.o. . SPB BIRO d.o.o., Beopotez d.o.o.

2. Description of building(s)

Site/building character

Summarize main character and give notes on surviving site/building(s)/part(s) of area.

If a site: principle features and zones of influence; main elements in spatial composition.

If a building, main features, construction and materials.

Site of building "Palace of Justice" is at cadastral plot CP no.871, CM Savski venac in Belgrade, on Savska St no. 17a. Building plot is surrounded by streets: Savska St, Miloša Pocerca St, dr Aleksandra Kostića St and Vojvode Milenka St. The building is flanking the most rapidly transformed urban landscape of Belgrade named Belgrade Waterfront where uncontrolled "hi-end" rapid urban sprawl at the banks of the Sava River was granted to the Arab Emirate investors, hiding the Palace of Justice and the entire city behind rapidly, yet cheaply developed, gated residential district for firstly growing Serbian milliners.

Current use

of whole building: Building "Palace of Justice" is intended for working and functioning of Judicial Authorities, 6 in total, distributed on Building different floor levels and parts.

of principal components: Building is consist of three functional, in physical and technological connected areas : Part "A", Part "B" and Part "C". Part "A" is predominantly intended for working and administration, offices and cabinets. Part "B" is predominantly intended for trials and

judges cabinets. Part "C" is predominantly intended for working with clients, counter hall, café-club and restaurant.

comments:

Present condition

of whole building/site: Within reconstruction and adaptation of building "Palace of Justice", whole building is kept in existing dimensions and volume, with no even the smallest increase concerning space, in horizontal or vertical, threatening adjacent facilities, with great extent in respecting the existing surrounding physical structures, integration and shaping relative to the time at which the intervention is implemented.

of principal components (if applicable):

of other elements (if applicable):

of surrounding area (if applicable):

comments: Concerning internal plan, conception refers to establish clear functional organization relating Users, future building purpose, which means to design clear circulations of all user, according to requirements and needs of modern way of working and business from judicial authorities. Within intended intervention, reconstruction and adaptation, building in whole is included, internal organization and space and premises interior.

The project envisages building functional improvement, efficiency in operations, technical and technological equipment and support, materialization, the level of aesthetics, processes and regimes, as well as all the necessary levels of protection, physical and technical security, including fire protection.

3. Evaluation of restoration/conservation

Give the scientific reasons for selection for docomomo documentation.

Intrinsic value

Technical evaluation: Within reconstruction and adaptation of building "Palace of Justice" relating building form and shaping, in all is kept the existing external building elevation and character, and also all of characteristic elements of building shaping. Building facade, dominant in concrete "natur" finishes all together with horizontal lines of windows openings is kept by all means, and within specific techniques of sanation, in detail described in Estimated Bill of Quantities, of visible concrete areas, with local sanation of places significantly damaged, returns to its original appearance.

Existing windows openings are replaced with new ones, modern, improved in functionality and energy efficiency, but all in its primarily original geometry. In terms of shaping and form in relation to requirements of the Belgrade Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments, as also requirements and suggestions of the Building Author, architect Zoran Žunković, as one of the most important architectural achievements, was needed to preserve the original appearance and restore the original materialization and finishes, in particular concerning treatment and care of all visible surface areas in "natur" concrete.

Due to deterioration of the existing insulations in the building placed in 1973 according to then applicable regulations and standards, preventing the degradation of the structure and construction

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elements of the building, also the requirements in terms of energy efficiency of the buildings, by design for reconstruction and adaptation is provided partly to complete reconstruction, replacement of all insulations in the building, including ground floor structures, floor structures, roof structures, external walls and openings, which fully improves the existing state of the building in terms of energy efficiency.

Social evaluation: Programme structure refers to review of users, judicial authorities and their internal programme structure within data regarding number of achieved work places and premises needed. The building division is executed in horizontal plan, so that Judicial Authorities, Courts and Prosecutions, are organized by floors levels in full surface area, with minimal spatial overlap. In positioning Judicial Authorities, attention was to articulate Users circulations inside building, to be as far as possible in ensuring privacy of premises intended for employees' quiet work, with no non-controlled flows and contacts between clients and public. The users' functional areas are being defined with well spatial organization within each singular area. At the level of the whole building, where was possible, some of end-users joint organizational units primarily typist and registry units of courts and prosecutions, are spatially integrated, grouped with the aim of rationalization and reduction of engagement of space in total, as well in due to greater work efficiency.

Cultural and aesthetic evaluation: Related to aesthetic of the building, materialization and finishing of all building elements was built in accordance with the existing architectural concept and elements of design, functional and technical requirements and standards for buildings of this type, purpose and capacity. The design was includes the materials that are durable, easy to maintain, with good technical and technological features that ensure long exploitation with reply to all necessary physical, technical, functional, hygienic, formal and aesthetic requirements.

4. Documentation

Archives/written records/correspondence etc:

Documentation Center of JP "Gradsko stambeno", Danijelova 33, Beograd / Republic of Serbia, Serbian Ministry of Justice, Belgrade, Nemanjina St no. 22-26.

Principal publications (in chronological order):

EU Mies Award 2022 . catalogue . Barcelona . Spain
On Architecture 2020 . exhibition book . Belgrade . Serbia
42. Salon of Architecture . exhibition catalogue . Belgrade . Serbia
22. Salon of Architecture . exhibition catalogue. Novi Sad . Serbia
Enterijer Specijal #100 . magazine . Belgrade . Serbia
37. Salon of Architecture . exhibition catalogue . Belgrade . Serbia

Visual material (state location/ address)

original visual records/drawings/photographs/others: 1X2STUDIO, Belgrade, Serbia

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Post restoration photographs and survey drawings: Zoran Abadić, www.1X2STUDIO.com

film/video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFPJagTvtag> / Beogradska hronika 08 05 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu3UIzFRmgo> / Arhitektura danas Brutalizam

other sources: Publications

<https://1x2studio.com/publications/20201214.htm>

<https://mpu.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/42.-Salon-arhitecture-42nd-Salon-of-Architecture.pdf>

https://mpu.rs/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/37.SA_11zon.pdf

other sources: Project

<https://eumiesawards.com/heritageobject/palace-of-justice/>

<https://1x2studio.com/projects/20191101.htm>

List documents included in supplementary dossier

Feasibility Study - building B "Hill International" dated on 15.02.2011.

Project Documentation retrieved from building "Palace of Justice" End User archive on Savska St no. 17a in Belgrade, Project Documentation retrieved from Documentation Centre JKP "Gradsko stambeno" Danijelova St no. 33 in Belgrade.

5. Fiche report

rapporteur: Zoran Abadić

address: 27.marta Stret No 18, 11120 Belgrade, Serbia

telephone: +381 63 257 247

e-mail: zoran.abadic@gmail.com

date of report: February 10, 2026

Examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section

approval by working party co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name):

sign and date: Tanja Conley February 11, 2026

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examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R

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type of ISC Registers/Urbanism/Landscape/Gardens:
name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:
comment(s):
ISC approval:
Sign and date:

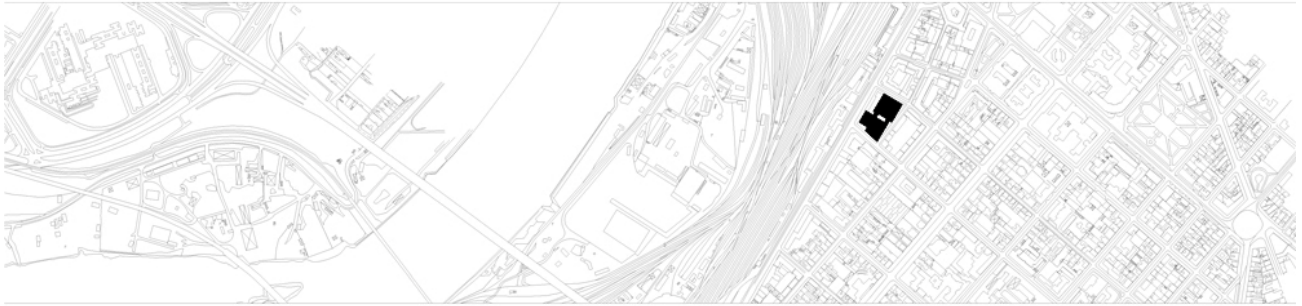
Working party/ID n°:
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date:

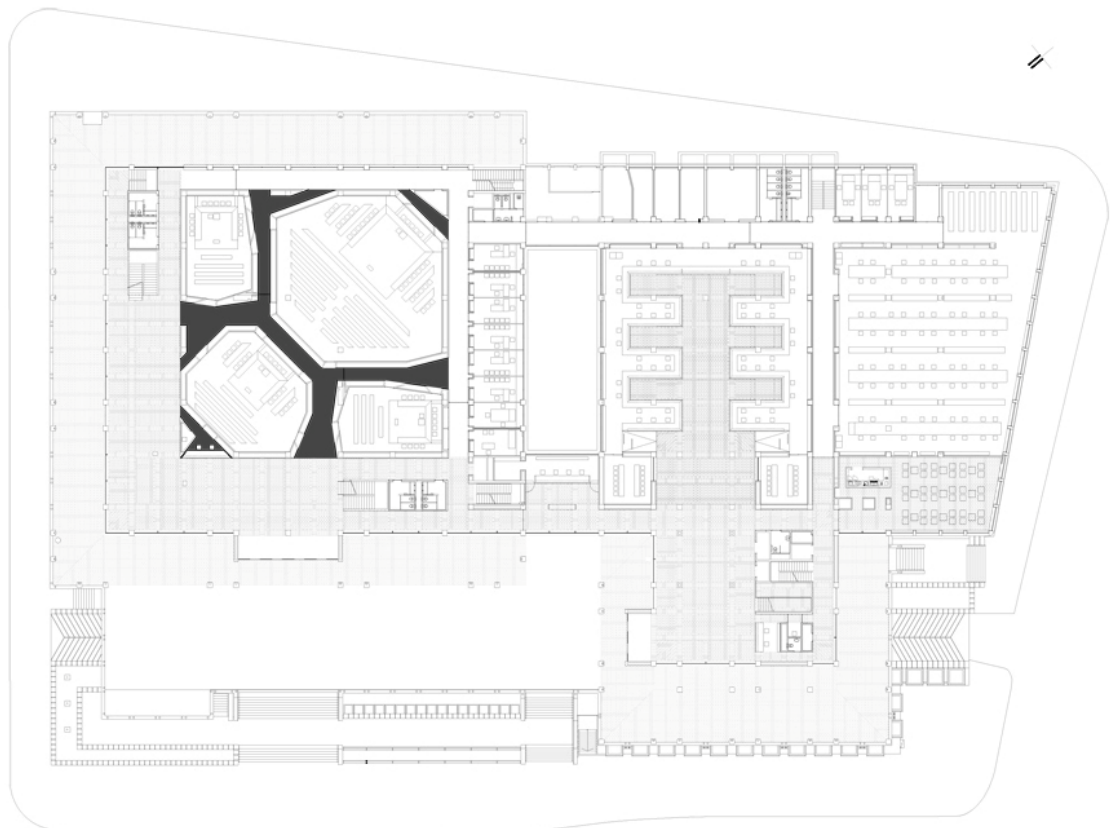
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Aerial site plan

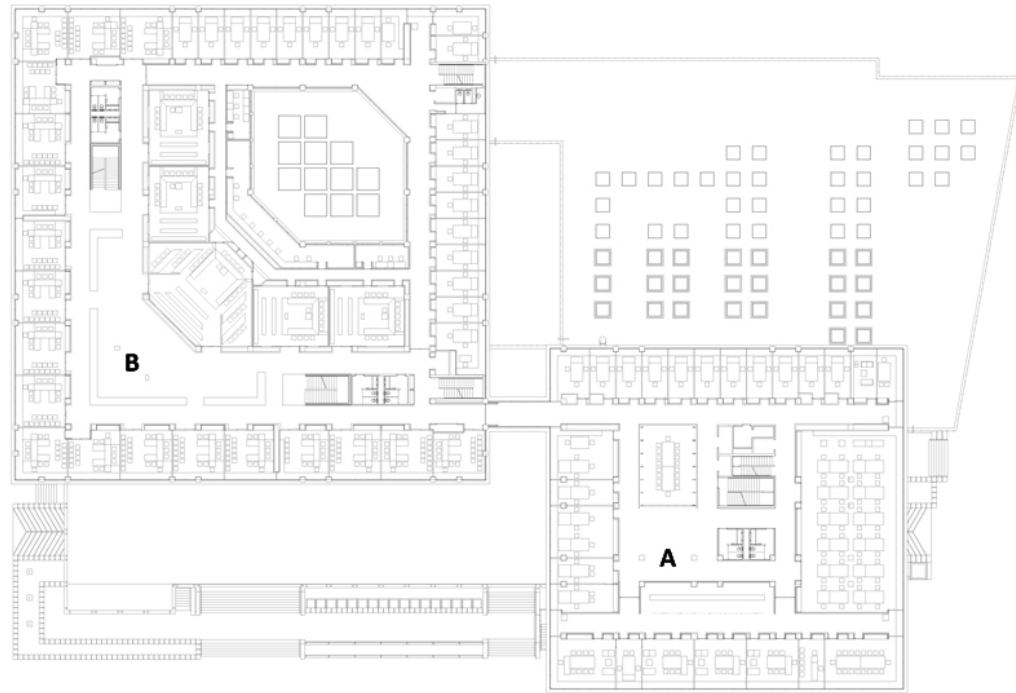


Ground-floor plan

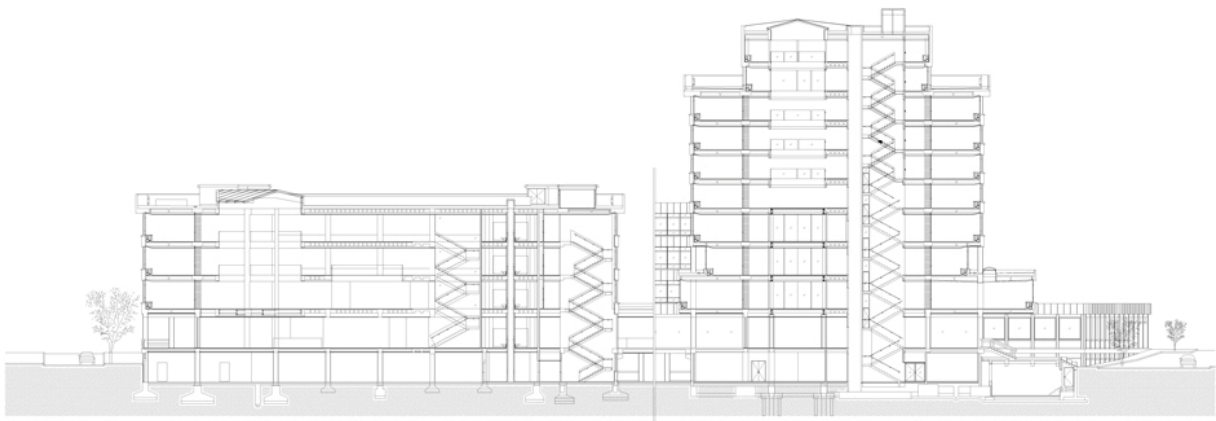
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First-floor plan



Section

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*Current Name of the building
City, Country*



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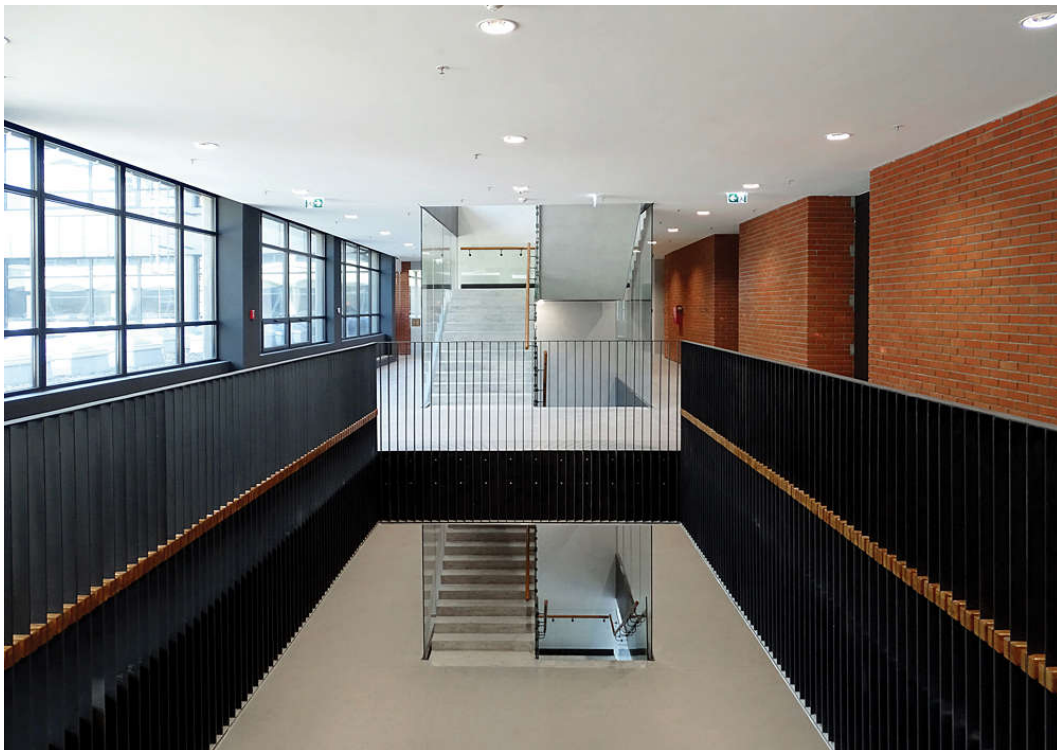
Main entrance with Monument to Emperor Dušan

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*Current Name of the building
City, Country*

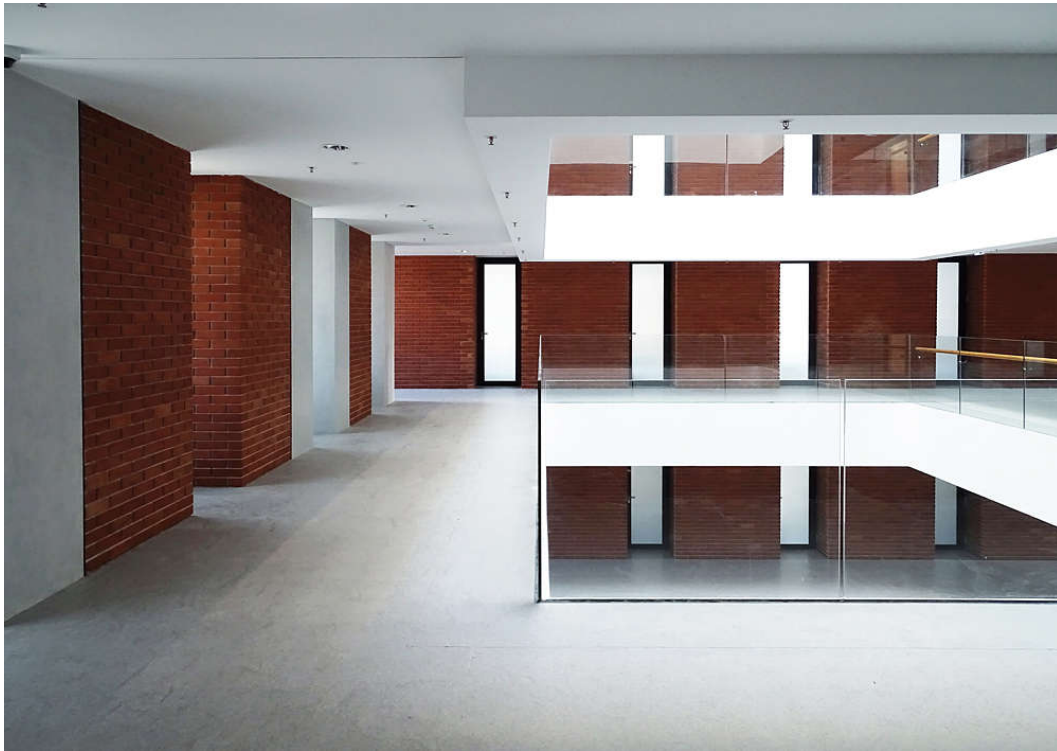


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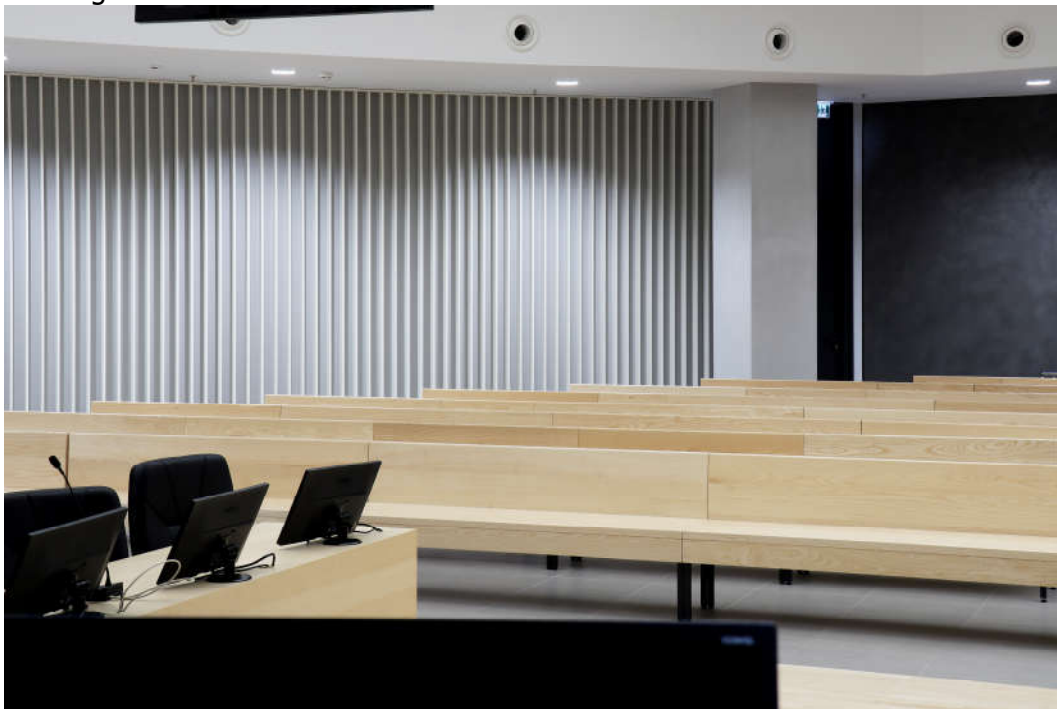
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Building B Courtrooms atrium



Building A atrium



Courtroom

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Courtroom foyer



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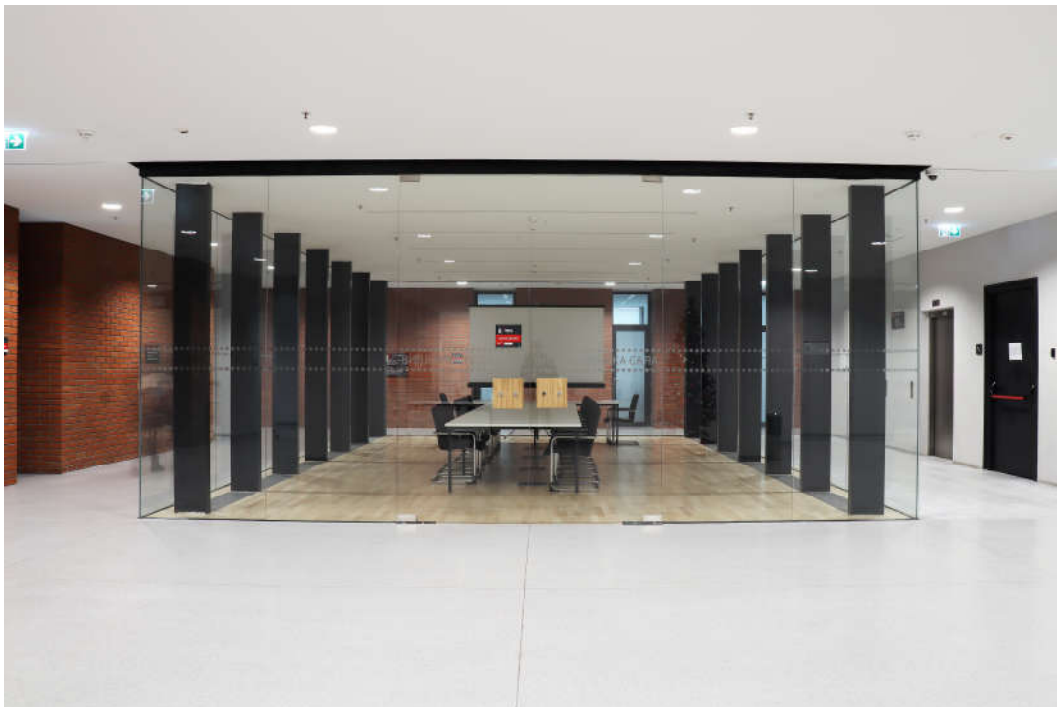
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Entrance hall



Counter hall

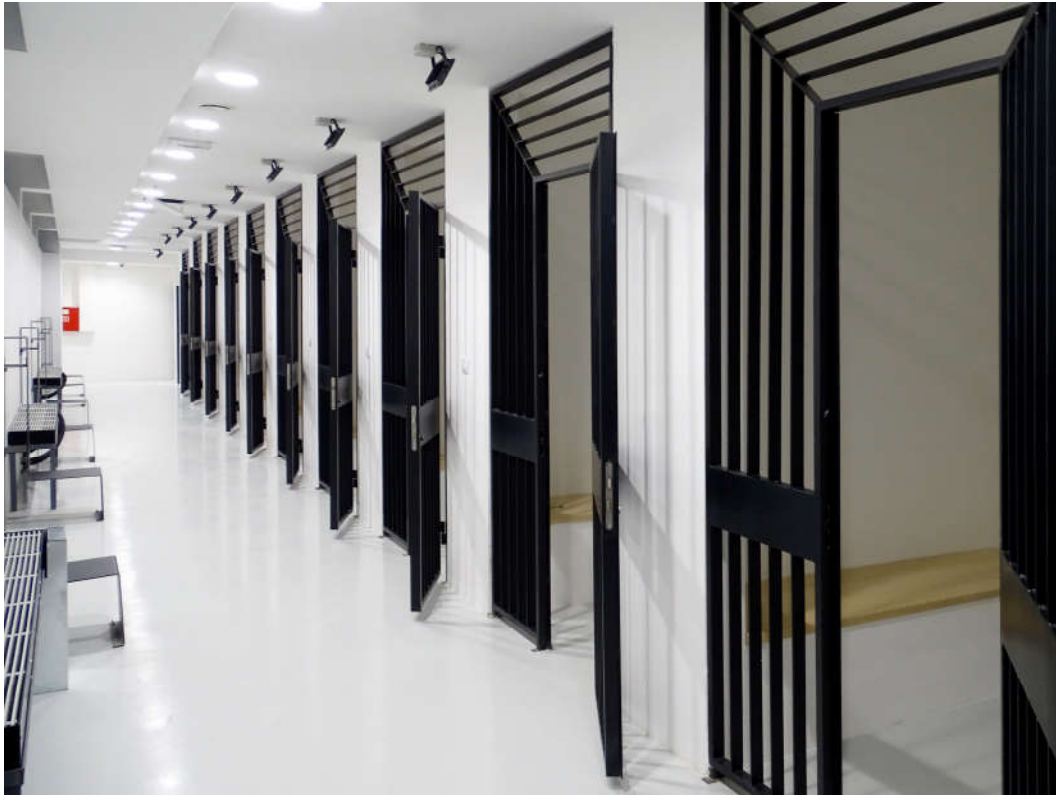


Meeting hall

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Detention units