

International Green Roof Association Global Networking for Green Roofs



Project Data

Project:	Banco di Santander
Client:	Ciudad Financiera Banco Santander Central Hispano
Location (City, Country):	Madrid, Spain
Year of Construction:	2003-2004
Roof Size:	> 100,000 sqm
Building Type:	Office building
Green Roof Type:	Intensive and extensive
Vegetation:	Herbs, shrubs and trees
Architect/Designer:	Sir Norman Foster, UK
Contractor:	Aimad

“Banco di Santander”

One would not expect to find the largest Green Roof project in world in the wilderness of Boadilla del Monte, half an hour away from the centre of Madrid. The vast extensive and intensive greenings are installed on the roofs of a bank, thus proving that the ecological and economic advantages of Green Roofs convince even tough financial experts.

The 550 million Euro project was instructed and financed by the Santander Central Hispano bank (SCH), one of the ten biggest financial syndicates in the world. The complete area of the new financial city covers more than 1.5 million sqm. After the completion of the building operations in 2004 the bank closed down several of its 23 branch offices in Madrid and 6,700 bank employees moved to the new headquarter in the suburbs of Madrid.

The masterplan of the US top-architect Kevin Roche lays special emphasis on functional aspects and a flexible, ecological design which meets human needs. Kindergardens, medical offices, libraries, fitness centres, apartments, restaurants and shopping malls are available for the bank staff. In addition the extensive and intensive Green Roofs, which cover more than 100,000 sqm of roof surface, offer areas of natural beauty for business meetings and creative breaks.

In this context the Green Roofs are a very important component of sustainable urban development. On one hand they mitigate the natural impact due to the building operations on site. On the other hand the green spaces create a motivating and inspirational working environment for the bank employees. Further benefits include the protection of the waterproofing, water retention, improvement of the climatic environment as well as a natural lowering of indoor temperatures in hot summer months. No other architectural style provides such a wide range of positive effects, thus creating a classic win-win-situation for both, environment and economics.

