Agbar Tower
Barcelona

Atelier Jean Nouvel

architect: Atelier Jean Nouvel
consultant: Hubert Tonka
study: October 1999
realization: 2001 (beginning)
location: Avenida Diagonal
client: Layetana Inmuebles S.L.

engineers: Gepro (fluids)
R. Brufau & A. Obiol (structure)
consultant: Xavier Ferres

project architect:
AJN: Jean Pierre Bouanha
b720: Vander Lemes
architects:
study: Florence Rabiet,
Alexa Plasencia, Emmanuelle Laporte, Cristina Algas, Julie Fernandez, Francisco Martinez,
Manel Bermudo, Pascaline Paris, Elisabeth Farres
building site: Francisco Martinez,
Pablo Garrido, Alexa Plasencia,
Cristina Algas

program: tower 142 m headquarter of the society Aguas de Barcelona (AGBAR) + auditorium 350 places

model: Etienne Follenfant
final images: Artefactory

photo by Duccio Malagamba and Atelier Jean Nouvel
It is not a tower or skyscraper in the American sense of the term: it is a unique object that emerges from the center of a quite calm city. But it is not a slender, nervous vertical line, like an arrow or like the bell towers that generally project from horizontal cities. Rather, it is a fluid mass that cuts into the ground, a geyser with a permanent and carefully dosed pressure. The surface of the building evokes water: smooth, continuous but also vibrant and transparent, because the material reveals its depth, colored and uncertain, luminous and shaded. This architecture issues from the ground, but its weight is not that of stone. Even if it may be a distant echo of old Catalan obsessions carried by the wind blowing from the Monestir.

L’irregolarità del materiale e della luce fanno vibrare il campanile di Agbar nello skyline di Barcellona. Lontano miraggio di giorno come di notte. Segnale di ingresso della nuova diagonale dalla piazza di Las Glorias, singolare oggetto simbolo di una metropoli internazionale.
1. 25th floor – Café for the board of chair
   A. entry
   B. bar
   C. lounge
   D. Storehouse
2. 28th floor – office of the board of directors
   A. entry
   B. secretary’s office
   C. board of directors
   D. meeting room
   E. waiting room
3. 29th floor – deputy hall
   A. entry
   B. deputy meeting room
   C. interpreter room
   D. executive committee room
   E. secretary’s office
4. 30th floor – president’s office
   A. entry
   B. president’s office
   C. waiting room
   D. executive committee room
   E. secretary’s office
5. 31st floor – private lounge of the president and panoramic level
   A. entry
   B. office
   C. lounge
   D. president’s lounge
interior skin. Transition cupola-shaft

external skin – diagram of the blades’ angles

change of illumination angles

winter solstice

00 06 12 30

angle 48° – transparent glass
angle 44° – printed glass
angle 40° – printed glass
angle 34° – printed glass
angle 30° – printed glass
angle 25° – printed glass
angle 20° – transparent glass
00 06 12 30
1. structural wall in reinforced concrete.
2. internal covering of the facade: insulation, air chamber, corrugated sheet of varnished aluminium.
3. external facing: uprights in anodized aluminium, glass panes, support of the panes with different inclinations, with profile in anodized aluminium.
4. maintenance footbridge: support shelf, profiles in anodized extruded aluminium, platforms in anodized extruded aluminium.
5. window module: structural steelwork in varnished aluminium, glass with interpanel, perimetral strips in EPDM.
6. internal entrance of the window, folded sheet in mirror-polished anodized aluminium.
7. structure of the dome: facing of quartzite slabs, lime mortar, ribbed web in galvanized steel.
8. shutter in varnished aluminium.
9. external facing in the area of the windows on the facade with uprights in anodized aluminium, glass panes, supports of the panes with different inclinations, with profile in anodized aluminium and glass sheets.
10. cascade.
11. waterproofing.
12. swimming pool.
13. plate in reinforced concrete.
14. ceiling.
15. beams in fireproof laminated steel.
16. sheet frame in galvanized steel and reinforced concrete.
17. finished technical base platform with sheets in galvanized steel sheets.
18. platform for the installation of the antennas.
19. composite material that is permeable to electromagnetic waves.
20. level ceiling.
21. barrier in varnished steel.
22. floating slab in concrete placed above acoustic barrier.
23. platform for the installation of the antennas.
24. upper structure of the external facing.
25. Composite material that is permeable to electromagnetic waves.
26. raised floor slab.
27. continuous terrace floor.
28. horizontal connection between uprights and external facing.
29. wind bracing in galvanized steel.
30. structure of the dome.
31. internal facing of the dome.
32. maintenance footbridge of the dome.
33. external facing of the dome.
34. fan.
35. barrier in varnished steel.