

A Gala Venue in a Sophisticated New Tower Designed by Renzo Piano in Turin



A Gala Systems electromechanical solution for flexible multipurpose halls has recently been integrated into a prestigious 44-floor office tower built as the new headquarters for the Intesa Sanpaolo banking group. World-renowned Italian architect **Renzo Piano** is the name behind this new urban landmark, inaugurated in April 2015 in Turin's historical centre. Designed in the interests of environmental sustainability and opening up to the city, the transparent 166-metre tower of glass and light-coloured steel is composed of three sections. Concentrated in the middle are more than 2000 office workstations, while the upper and lower sections incorporate accessible facilities for the Turinese public.



At its base, the building houses a multi-functional 'suspended' hall equipped with a Gala transformable seating system for 364 patrons, which allows for a large variety of configurations within the allotted space. Occupying part of the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, the public hall built in cooperation with Tecnologie Industriali can be quickly transformed—within 10 to 15 minutes—from a raked seating layout to a flat floor space, making it equally suited for seminars, banqueting, presentations and entertainment functions.

As opposed to standard venues with an underfloor concrete pit, the Intesa multifunctional hall is hung above ground level without vertical supports to offer an unobstructed view of the city. Despite these exceptional architectural constraints, every effort was made to create a state-of-the-art, multipurpose 350-square-metre hall equipped with the latest solution in venue transformation technology. Gala Systems' equipment—enabling seats to be deployed via an automated platform and rotation system, or stored in an inverted position under the floor when they are not required—was chosen to transform the hall quickly and automatically, without sacrificing audience accessibility or comfort.

Described as a "bioclimatic building", the skyscraper was conceived as a showcase for exemplary environmental performance: it ensures *no polluting emissions* in normal operating conditions thanks to a wide variety of sustainable design strategies – such as geothermal heat, ventilated ceilings and 80% LED lighting. There is no doubt that Renzo Piano's tower will play a dynamic role in Turin.



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