

KBC Tower


Identification

EBN	108999
Name	KBC Tower
Alternative Name	Boerentoren, Torenggebouw
Construction Type	high-rise building
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	Europe	City Name	Antwerp
Country Name	Belgium	Postcode	2000
State Name	Flemish Region	Address (as text)	Schoenmarkt 35
Metro Area Name	Antwerp Metro Area	Main Address	35 Schoenmarkt

Description

Structural Material	steel	Architectural style	Art Deco
Facade System	applied masonry	Main Usage	commercial office
Facade Material	sandstone	Side Usage	 commercial office shop(s)
Facade Color	light brown		

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	314.14 ft	Floors (overground)	26
Height (tip)	369.09 ft	Elevators	15
Floors (underground)	1		

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1929	Year (last renovation)	2023
Year (construction end)	1932		

Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- National landmark
- Observation deck on roof
- Public parking is available

Facts

- The 26th floor houses a water tank with a volume of 230m³. Today, this water tank serves as a buffer in case of fire.
- About 180 000 bolts and 340 000 rivets were used in the construction of the steel frame.
- Currently the lower part of the building has 13 elevators, while the tower itself has two.

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- The KBC Tower is frequently cited as 'the first skyscraper of Europe'.
- About 4 700 000 bricks were used in the construction.
- On January 6 1945, the tower was hit by a V2 rocket. Just like with the shell strikes previously, this did not damage the steel construction, but made a big hole in the façade.
- The foundation of this building is a reinforced concrete plate, with a thickness of 2m under the tower and 1m elsewhere. This plate was placed on a first concrete base plate, required for equalization of the ground surface.
- About 500 tons of steel was used in concrete.
- The building was 87.5 meters high when it opened. In 1976 another 8.5 meters were added to the top.
- The first time in Belgium steel was used in a building for the frame construction.
- About 7000 m³ ground was excavated.
- When finished, there were four elevators in the tower, which had a speed of 1.5 m/s and could transport all together about 10 000 people a day.
- The building's elevators typically travel at a speed of between 1 and 2.5 m/s.
- Foundation pressure under the harshest conditions, amounts between 3.4 kg/cm² and 4.1 kg/cm².
- The roof required 900 m² or 6000 kg of red copper.
- In 1981 the building became a National Protected Monument.
- For the steel frame, which took about four months to be built, about 3400 tons of steel was used.
- From September 5 to 7, 1944 about 50 shells from German artillery hit the tower.
- The building was severely damaged by a fire in February 25, 1954. Floors 21 to 24 burned down and a newly added TV-transmitter was damaged.
- KBC Bank, the owner of the tower since the 1930s, sold the tower in 2020 to logistics company Katoen Natie Groep which will renovate and transform the tower.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Architectenbureau Jan R. Vanhoenacker, Jos Smolderen En John Van Beurden

Antwerp
Belgium

Emiel Van Averbek

Leon Stynen

Paul De Meyer

Lier
Belgium

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Interior Designer.....

J. Smolderen
Borgerhout
Belgium

Leon Stynen
Paul De Meyer
Lier
Belgium

Additional company data available for this building

Crane Supplier (construction)	Buy full PDF	Elevator Supplier	Buy full PDF
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