

Press release

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'Next' - Venice Biennale, 8 September to 3 November 2002

Foster and Partners is exhibiting models of two recent designs for office towers: the 40-storey Swiss Re building in London - currently under construction - and the 42-storey Hearst Corporation Headquarters in Manhattan, which will surmount Hearst's existing landmark Art Deco building.

The two distinctive buildings share a highly efficient triangulated diagrid structure and flexible column-free office spaces. Both buildings feature significant public spaces - Hearst has an internal piazza and Swiss Res base is encircled with an arcade of retail spaces. Swiss Res aerodynamic form assists natural ventilation of the office spaces, supplementing part of the mechanical cooling and ventilation supply systems for up to 40 per cent of the year, reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

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