



WORLD BANK HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON, DC, USA

The design of the World Bank eschews the classical language typical of Washington, DC in favour of the more international vocabulary of contemporary modernism. Two of the World Bank's existing structures from the 1960s are incorporated into the pinwheel composition of the new complex.

The central focus is a great cubic room, flooded in natural light, 150 feet wide by 150 feet high (45 by 45 meters). This space becomes the equivalent of a town square joining all the bank functions and uniting its members. Light and water dominate this space.

A dialogue is created on the building's exterior between light elements and components of great weight. The horizontally striated glass facade, raised three stories over the entry lobby, offers a view into the heart of the central room; its transparency encourages access to the building. The vertically articulated concrete walls, which derive from and connect to the existing structures, contrast with the openness of the glass facades. Old and new are brought together into a single entity.

