



## **ITCLab: architectural shape to the benefit of research and innovation**

ITCLab is positioned at the eastern end of the *Kilometro Rosso* Science & Technology Park. The building development is disengaged from the red “wall” marking the boundary with the nearby Milan-Venice A4 highway. Made with white cement, this self-contained center represents the metaphorical “head” of the entire Park complex.

The building, designed on the basis of a structural grid of 7.5x7.5 m modules, follows and reinforces the V-shape of the site: the two wings facing a central courtyard seem to accentuate the building’s closure towards the highway and its opening towards the surrounding green area. The main entrance, around the northeast corner of the building, is further marked by an approx. 20-m cantilevered and floating roof and the concrete curtain wall that contributes to reinforcing the mainly horizontal development of the entire building.

Meier has designed a structure organized as two above-grade levels – devoted mainly to office spaces – and two below-grade levels totaling 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>, 7,500 of which exclusively dedicated to research labs.

The impressive canopy that lies above the main entrance creates a two-storey generous covered public plaza that leads to a sky-lit atrium from which the two wings of the building depart. Both wings surround a central courtyard from which the research labs located in the basement can be easily reached, also by heavy vehicles. The atrium leads to the staircases and lifts, which perform as vertical connections, flanked by a dramatic ramp offering breathtaking views of Bergamo Alta’s High Town.

The first wing, which runs parallel to the highway, houses labs, offices and a huge library with 10,000+ books. The library is set to become an international reference for project engineers and technicians addressing cement and concrete-related issues.

The second wing, running perpendicularly to the first wing, houses a cafeteria and a large conference room on the ground floor, and formal corporate offices on the second floor. The 2-storey multipurpose conference room, with possible seating for up to 250 people, has huge glass windows looking out on the internal courtyard and a gallery forming an internal street on the second floor. A second smaller room will float this space on the second floor and provide a perfect venue for both formal and business meetings.

Milan, 28 March 2006