

size 31,300 sq m  
competition 2008, 1st prize

## offices at berliner Straße 95 munich



### brief

refurbishment and remodelling of  
existing office building

### client

Münchener Rückversicherung

When viewed from a contemporary standpoint, the current administration building of the Münchener Rück insurance group offers neither a high-quality working environment, nor benefits to the surrounding urban environment. From the outside at least, one's first impression is of a charmless, brown and gold box. Yet amongst the more general aesthetic difficulties associated with this inward looking nature of the building, more specifically, the performance of the facade has been a cause for concern. Due to their protective lining, the windows transmit poor levels of light to the interior (especially in the winter) and in addition are unopenable.

Through the use of both passive and active measures, the goal of the energy and climatic concept of the scheme is to minimise the energy consumption of the building whilst simultaneously optimising the comfort levels of the interior environment. As a major part of this strategy the facade will be completely renewed; partly to optimise its functionality – in terms of heat insulation, sun-shielding, daylight and ventilation – but also to lend the building a new appearance.

The new skin, through its transparency, plasticity and use of colour will give the building a new character. And through its quasi-textile qualities it will make no secret of the new building work which has taken place to reclothe the existing structure. The new windows are conceived as a doubleglazed opening panel with a third pane mounted outside of this on the window frame to protect the sunshading device which sits between them. This outer pane is removable to allow for cleaning of the entire system.

