

Beijing World Financial Center

Location	Beijing, China
Total Area	2.6 million square feet 242,000 square meters
Date of Completion	2009
Client	Henderson Land Holdings Ltd.

Positioned as Beijing's premier business and financial hub, Beijing WFC is a state-of-the-art office complex in the Chao Yang Central Business District. This mixed-use development consists of a pair of 22-story towers joined by a glass atrium, all set within an expanse of parkland. With retail on three levels, the complex is also a significant shopping destination.

Conceived as two jewel boxes, the towers have a faceted exterior. The folded surfaces are arranged using rotational symmetry folds on alternating façades. The faceted design of the glass atrium, the main canopy, and the landscape structures echo the façade. Inside the lobbies, Crystal Wall, a 400-square-meter (4,300-square-foot) three-dimensional art glass wall by artist Michael Hammers, continues the crystalline character.

The towers' interiors provide flexible, completely column-free space with a large, efficient floor plate that can be easily reconfigured. As the first office development in Beijing equipped with trading floors, WFC is designed for the demands of financial firms. The offices are also designed to attract major banks and multinational companies. Each of the towers has its own two-story lobby.

The curtain wall is composed of high-performance glass with thin aluminum mullions set in a simple grid. The ground floor has clear glass with shadowboxes at back-of-house areas. The roof was treated as another elevation when viewed from the taller surrounding buildings. Extending beyond the parapet with a fritted glass pattern, the wall folds back to complete the faceted form above the roof. A frit pattern further screens rooftop mechanical equipment and creates the illusion of dematerialization toward the sky.

Designed as the first environmentally sustainable Grade A office building in Beijing, the project meets high standards for environmental sustainability. Beijing WFC is certified Platinum, the highest rating under both LEED and HK-BEAM (Hong Kong Building Environmental Assessment Method). Sustainable design strategies include a fully computerized Building Management System to monitor and control energy usage, insulated curtain wall system, gray-water recycling system, and maximum use of natural light throughout.

