

A green shopping experience

"Emporia" shopping mall, Malmö, Sweden



↑ The amber-colored entrance welcomes visitors to "Emporia" in impressive style.

"Emporia" is one of the largest shopping malls in Europe. However, the impressive shopping center not only sets itself apart thanks to its striking architecture – it also fulfills all aspects of a sustainable green building and has received BREEAM certification.

"Emporia" is the name of the new giant shopping mall that was opened in Malmö at the end of 2012. With a store space of 68,000 square meters and around 200 small and large stores, "Emporia" is one of the largest shopping centers in Europe. Each day, up to 25,000 visitors flock to the fully glazed building. The new shopping center is located in Hyllie, a thriving district of Malmö that is planned in accordance with energy-efficient standards, with the goal of being a model example of sustainable urban development. 2,500 new homes are to be built in Hyllie by 2016.

Colors and plants

"Emporia" was designed by Gert Wingårdh, one of the most well-known Swedish architects. Wingårdh created a striking complex, whose characteristic architecture clearly sets it apart from the faceless facades of conventional shopping malls. The most distinctive feature is its organically curved, amber-colored entrance that welcomes visitors in impressive style. On the opposite side of the center is a second entrance, which was fitted with marine-blue panes of glass. Over 800 colored panes of glass were used for the two entrance areas, which bear the names Amber Entrance and Sea Entrance in line with their respective color.

"Emporia" is divided up into five galleries, which are also designed in different colors in order to facilitate orientation as visitors move through this giant mall. The shopping center also features a Flower Court, where the elevator towers are clad with flowers and seven ropes are suspended from floor to ceiling which house climbing plants. The over 3,000 plants featured here make this area particularly atmospheric and tranquil. The mall's furnishings were also planned right down to the smallest detail. As well as being a shopping destination, floors four to six of "Emporia" also feature around 10,700 square meters of office space.

Holistic approach

This giant complex is topped off by a roof park that spans more than 26,000 square meters and is open to the public. Interconnected by pathways, the park's undulating hillocks create areas for play, events and relaxation. As well as offering a magnificent view across Öresund and Malmö, the beautiful park also fulfills crucial sustainability requirements. The park is one of the reasons why "Emporia" was designated Sweden's first environmentally certified shopping mall. When building the shopping center, the focus was on a holistic approach. "Emporia" fulfills all the requirements of a green building, focusing on issues relating to energy, environmental management, health, transport, water, materials, waste, land use, pollution and ecology. Among other things, the green roof provides natural insulation and reduces both energy requirements and pollution, thus truly representing the icing on the cake when it comes to meeting these requirements. For its compliance with sustainability guidelines, "Emporia" received the internationally recognized BREEAM certification. ←

Emporia shopping mall, Malmö (SE)
 Building owner: Steen & Ström Sverige AB, Stockholm (SE)
 Architects: Gert Wingårdh, Gothenburg (SE)
 Completion: 10/2012
 Plumber: Bravida Sverige AB, Stockholm (SE)
Geberit know-how
 Duofix installation systems
 Actuator plates Sigma10, Sigma80 and Mambo
 Mepla piping systems
 Mapress piping systems
 PE-HD piping systems
 → Green building: BREEAM certification



↑ The galleries are designed in different colors to improve orientation for visitors.



↑ Plants climb up the ropes in the Flower Court.

Interview with the architects Gert Wingårdh and Joakim Lyth on the architectural concept and the importance of Geberit products for the BREEAM certification.

Economy of time and sustainable products

With its unique architecture, "Emporia" clearly sets itself apart from normal shopping malls. What was your inspiration when creating this unusual design?

Our inspiration for the architecture of "Emporia" was the sky. We played with light and space and used glass to open up and bring the sky into the building. Natural materials such as fabric and leather give the visitor a sense of belonging to nature. Our goal was to create a place where everybody would feel at home and yet still find surprises around every corner.

"Emporia" has received BREEAM certification. What measures were implemented in order to meet the required standards?
BREEAM certification entails fulfillment of a variety of targets. Everything from bicycle parking to lights has an influence on the final result. The technical installations play an important part and it was essential for us to create a building that does not waste energy. Each product must have a purpose and function and thereby contribute to the sustainability of the architecture.

What contribution did Geberit make to the construction of the "Emporia" shopping mall? Were there any particular technical challenges that were solved using Geberit products?

It was important in the "Emporia" project that the materials used were light and easy to work with in order to avoid any unnecessary burden for the installers. We therefore chose to use Geberit Mepla piping system rather than traditional piping which entails the welding and lifting of heavy pipes. Mepla piping system not only made it easier but also a lot faster to install the piping.

To what extent did Geberit products make a significant contribution towards achieving BREEAM certification?

In order to receive BREEAM certification, all materials had to be assessed and approved. Geberit products made it easy to achieve this approval. In particular, cisterns with a flush of 3-6 liters are required in order to achieve BREEAM certification, and with Geberit cisterns this was possible. ←