

PROJECT

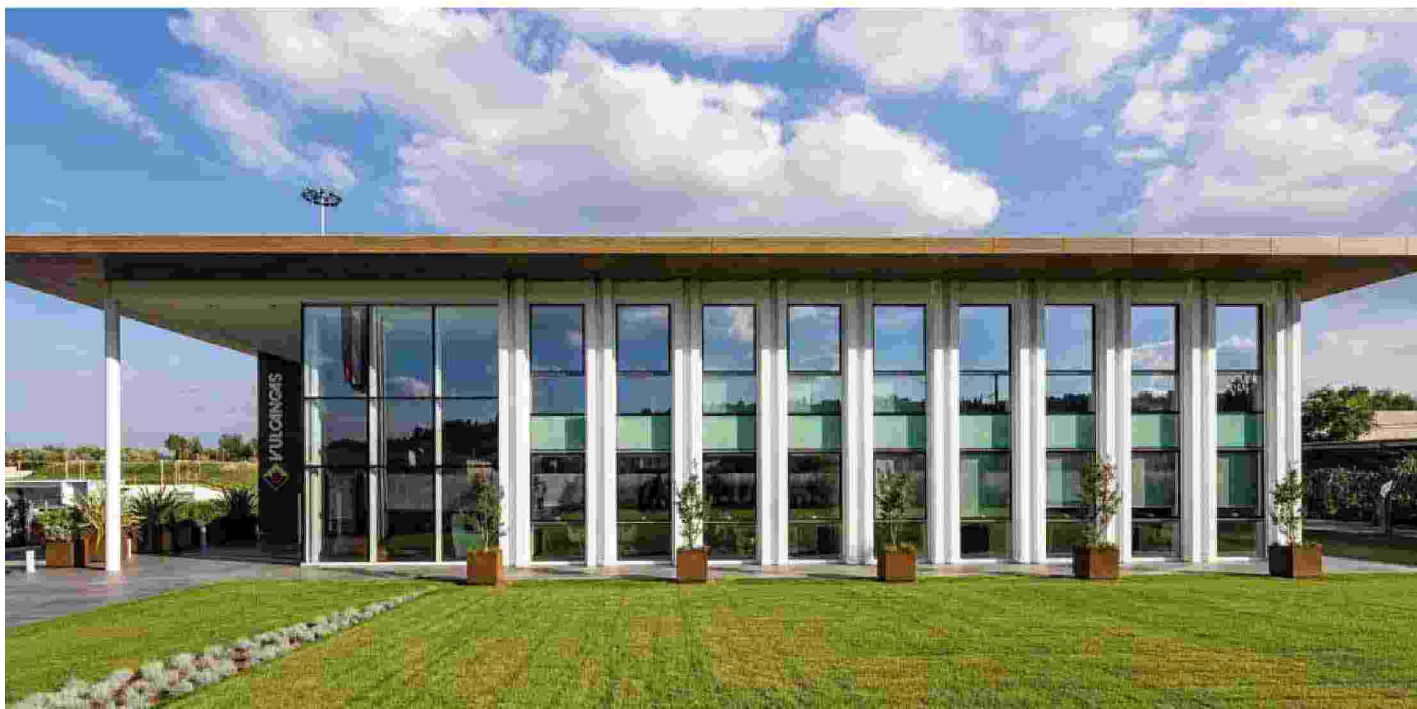
Architecture Rimini

Sunlit workspaces



THE VULCANGAS HEADQUARTERS IN RIMINI REFLECTS THE COMPANY'S MISSION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURE

by Elisa Montalti



**NEW VULCANGAS
HEADQUARTERS**

PROJECT
STUDIO SIMONETTI
WWW.STUDIOSIMONETTI.IT

PHOTOS
DIEGO DE POL
WWW.DIEGODEPOL.COM

CERAMIC SURFACES
LAMINAM
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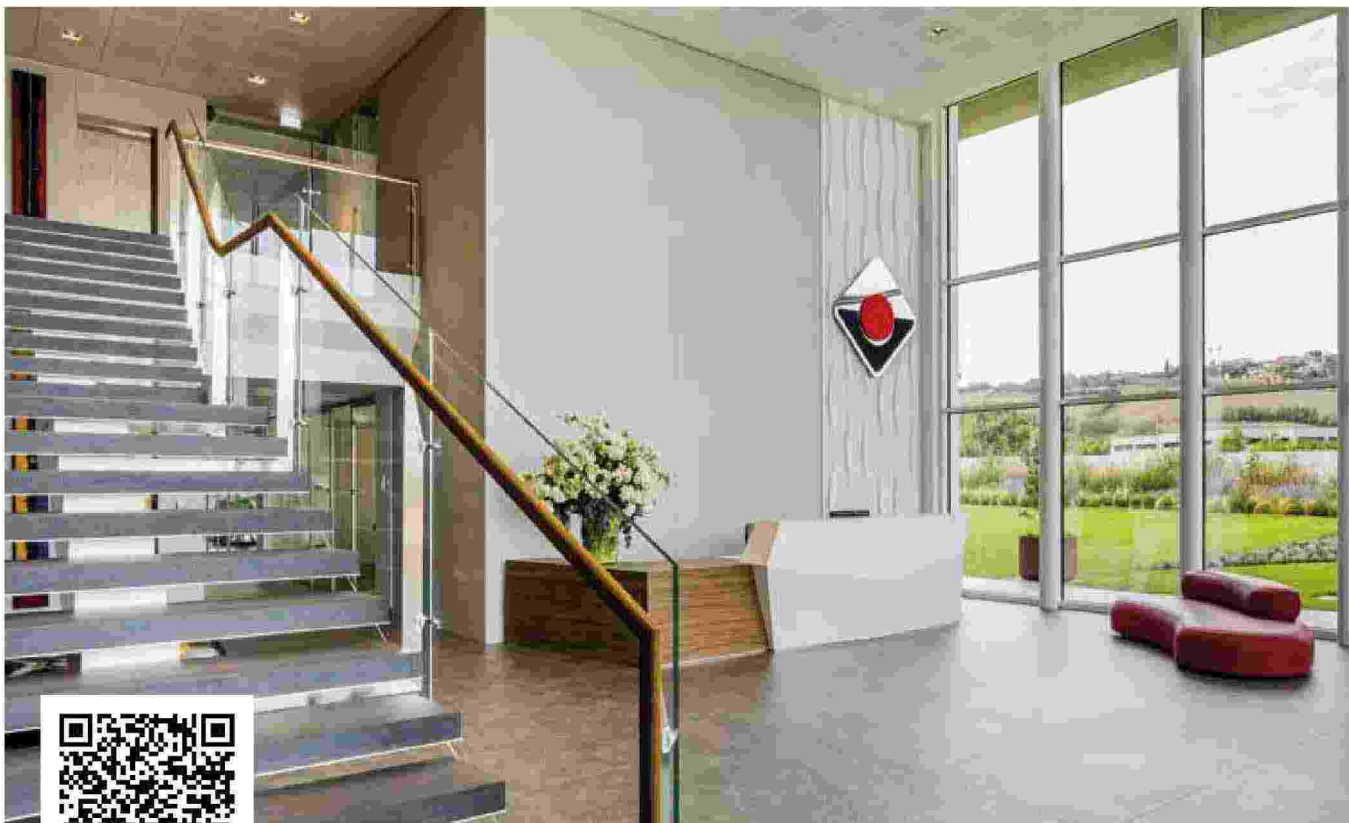
YEAR OF COMPLETION
2017

The new Vulcangas headquarters has become an architectural manifesto for Società Italiana Gas Liquidi S.p.A., a leading Italian player in the field of clean energy distribution. The office building was designed by Studio Simonetti Srl in accordance with principles of bioclimatic architecture with the specific aim of reducing its environmental footprint. The building is located in Poggio Torriana close to the river Marecchia in an industrial area surrounded by open countryside and just a few kilometres from the sea, a fragile ecosystem in urgent need of preservation. The architects chose spruce laminate, an abundant natural material,

for the structure, roof, floors, wall panelling and doors. "Every cubic metre of concrete that is replaced by wood means one less tonne of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere, the same effect as taking 100 cars off the road," they explained. "The dry construction system also helps reduce building times and costs, while the potential for recycling individual components brings benefits throughout the building's life cycle."

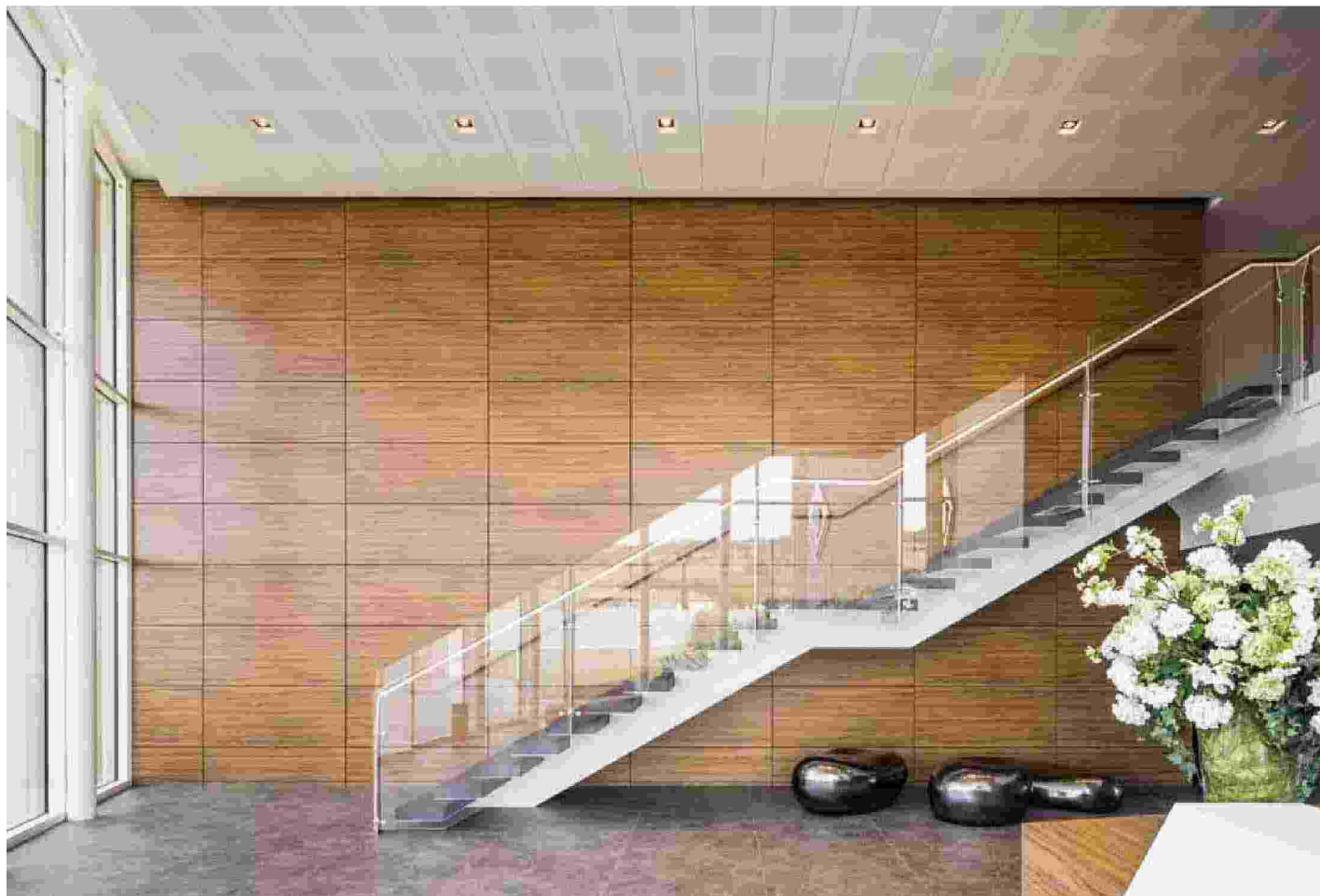
The volume was designed taking account of the angle of the sun and natural ventilation when planning the spaces and the envelope.

THE BUILDING IS FLOODED WITH NATURAL LIGHT AND COLOURS AND OFFERS SPLENDID VIEWS ONTO THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE



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PROJECT



THE ENTRANCE LOBBY FEATURES A HARMONIOUS MIXTURE OF MATERIALS: WOOD, GLASS AND STONE-LOOK CERAMIC. THE STAIRCASE STANDS OUT FOR ITS RIGOUR AND ELEGANCE

SPACES

business location

APPLICATIONS

Interior and exterior floor coverings, staircase

ceramic surfaces

Laminam porcelain slab | Naturali.
- Emperador Grigio Spazzolato
- Pietra di Savoia Grigia Bocciardata 1000x3000 mm

certifications

UNI EN ISO 9001
UNI EN ISO 14021

technical characteristics

water absorption (ISO 10545-3): $\leq 0.3\%$
modulus of rupture and breaking strength (ISO 10545-4): 50 N/mm²
deep abrasion resistance (ISO 10545-6): ≤ 175 mm³
coefficient of linear thermal expansion (ISO 10545-8): $\alpha \leq 6.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$

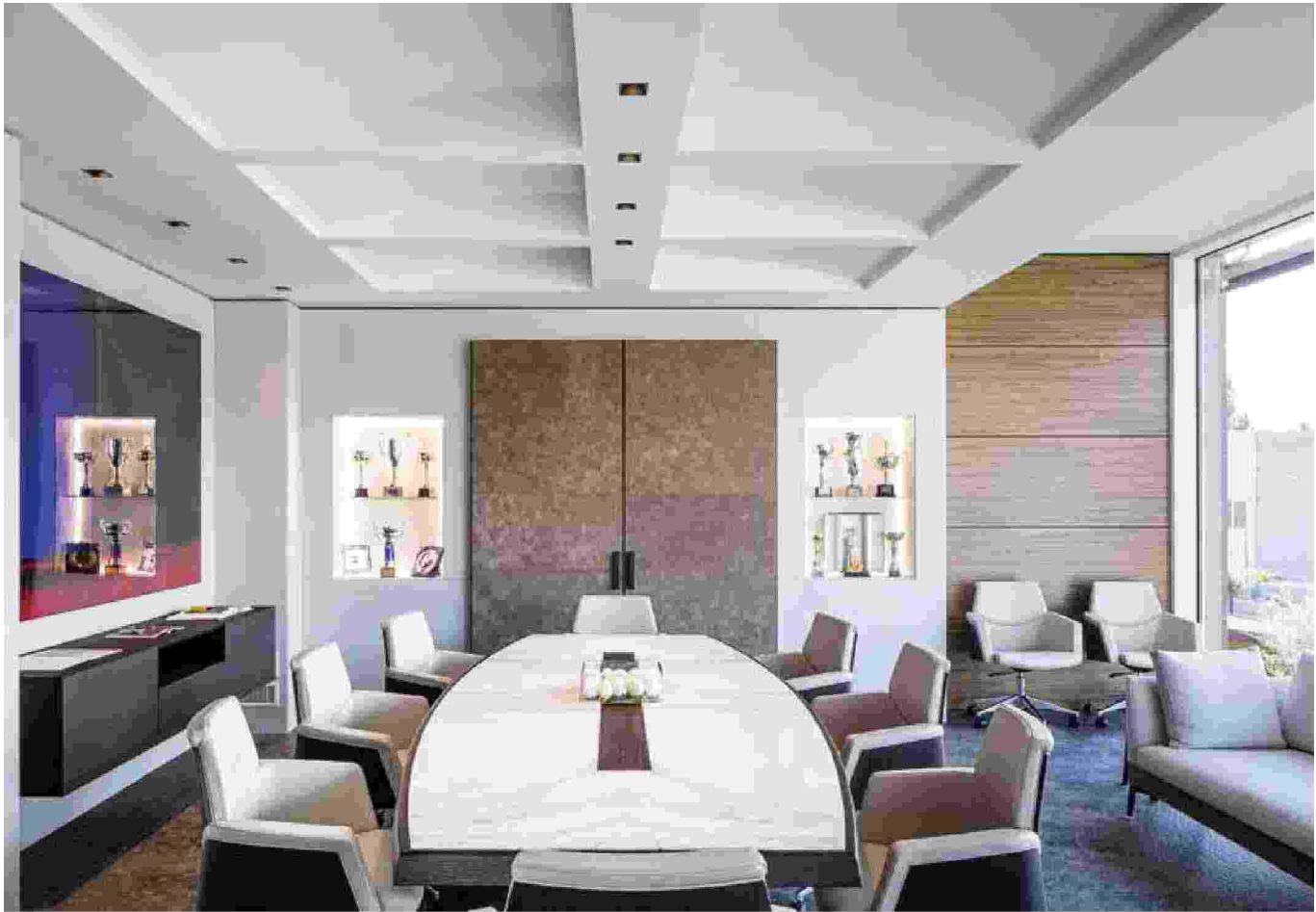
thermal shock resistance (ISO 10545-9): compliant
frost resistance (ISO 10545-12): compliant
chemical resistance (ISO 10545-13): compliant
staining resistance (ISO 10545-14): class 4/5
slip resistance (DIN 51130): Rg > Emperador
R10 > Pietra di Savoia



Pietra di Savoia
Grigia Bocciardata



Emperador
Grigio Spazzolato



The north side, adjacent to other buildings, is protected by a compact wood wall that folds over onto the roof and extends as far as the glazed south and west facades. Although designed to capture the maximum solar radiation and natural light, the transparent façades are partially screened by an overhanging section of the roof, which juts out most noticeably on the west side. The entrance in front of the lobby and reception is protected from excessive sunlight by a full-height porticoed space displaying the Vulcangas logo.

To optimise interior comfort and reduce indoor pollution, the work spaces are designed with easily recyclable materials and earth tones. The lobby, offices and meeting rooms also feature custom-designed furnishing accessories, photos and art works. At night, thanks to a meticulously-designed lighting project, the glazed building stands out in the landscape like a magic lantern.

For the interiors, exteriors and stairs, the designers chose the technical and aesthetic qualities of stone-look ceramic from [Laminam](#). A material that avoids causing further damage to already depleted marble quarries, the I Naturali collection comes in 1000x3000 mm size surfaces with a thickness of just 5.6 mm.

This material is also extremely resistant to scratching, abrasion and staining and guarantees durability and long-term sustainability.

Large Emperador Grigio Spazzolato version panels with a dark colour and strong visual impact were chosen for both the interior and exterior. In the entrance lobby, an aerial backlit staircase with a customised glass parapet runs in front of the wood-panelled wall. Ceramic steps made of Pietra di Savoia Grigia Bocciardata lead to the first floor where the chairman's offices and meeting rooms are located.

IN THE MEETING ROOMS, THE WALLS AND CEILINGS FEATURE A VARIETY OF TEXTURES AND SOPHISTICATED DESIGNS ENCLOSING A PERFECT WORKSPACE

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