

# NATO Headquarters

Brussels, Belgium

NATO's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium provides a staggering 2.2 million square feet of office and conference facilities to support the activities of its member nations. The design consists of 8 office wings that meet at the Agora, a central core spine. The Agora is a striking feature – an open, 7-story tall space that unifies the wings together, as well as the vertical circulation for the project. Security considerations for the project was paramount, including strategies for blast design and progressive collapse. The structural system had two primary drivers – the need for an efficient, repetitive system that is easily adaptable to the changing long wing geometry; and the need for an elegant, expressive system to create the Agora spaces – providing for a dynamic aesthetic while satisfying the considerable blast requirements. In addition, recognizing that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our times, NATO's leaders wanted the facility to reflect a holistic approach to sustainability. Resulting strategies to minimize environmental impact include photovoltaic cells, green roofs, rainwater collection, chilled slabs, natural ventilation, thermal insulation, advanced lighting systems, cogeneration units and a geothermal heating and cooling system.

***Jim Pawlikowski served as the senior project engineer during his tenure at SOM.***

