



TAPIOLA

Tapiola's new headquarters is WELL-LIT AND ENERGY EFFICIENT

The new headquarters of the Tapiola Group – a company specialising in insurance, banking and investment services – is one of the largest office buildings in Finland. The six-story building, which has a total floor space of over seven hectares, fits perfectly into its surroundings. The balconies that run around the building have direct access from the offices. The massive appearance of the headquarters is balanced by the building's cube-like structure and large windows as well as the light glass surfaces that cover its outer walls. Lighting control is essential to the building's energy efficiency.

"We now have a staff of nearly 3,000 people. We needed more space and wanted to centralise operations. Our old headquarters will be renovated, with all employees leaving the building by the summer. Our goal is to have two head offices instead of having offices in seven different buildings," says Atte Saastamoinen, electrical expert at Tapiola Real Estate.

"Energy efficiency and eco-friendliness (green values) were major concerns when designing the new headquarters. Saving energy is important to Tapiola, as is thinking and acting ecologically. The large glass surfaces and other materials meet the goals set for energy-use classifications." ▶

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Pictures: Helvar / Johan Stenberg

Tapiola's new headquarters is over 71,000 m² in total area. The building has three basement floors and six office floors. The underground floors are used for technical purposes, also offering more than 800 parking spaces. A total of 1,200 employees had moved to the building by May 2010. The total number of workspaces is 1,500.

"For the inner surfaces, we have used a lot of wood, which brings a certain softness to the atmosphere and matches the surrounding environment well. From the offices, employees have direct access to balconies, most of which are glazed," says Saastamoinen.

LIGHTING CONTROL OFFERS ADAPTABILITY

The auditorium on the entry floor and all of the conference rooms on the fifth floor, as well as the staff cafeteria, have Helvar's DIGIDIM lighting control system. This digitally controllable system is based on the DALI protocol. In addition to general lighting, all offices have workspace lighting that can be adjusted individually. The lighting is also connected to the building control system.

"In the conference centre on the fifth floor, we have invested more than usual in the equipment. Helvar's lighting control system allows us to easily create ideal lighting conditions for video conferences as well," says Saastamoinen.

The staff cafeteria on the fifth floor has seats for 1,200 people. With the help of lighting control technology, this space can effortlessly be adjusted for different purposes: training events, lectures, parties and customer events. ▶

LIGHTING CONTROL SAVES ENERGY

“In large spaces, lighting matters also in terms of energy use. Easily adjustable lighting makes for facilities that are comfortable to use. Lighting constitutes 23 percent of the total energy use here. Tapiola’s new headquarters consumes some five gigawatt hours of energy in a year,” Saastamoinen points out.

“Energy efficiency is important to us, and lighting control is one of the means we use to achieve this goal. Durable lighting solutions also facilitate eco-friendliness. Moreover, lighting control makes spaces more comfortable and versatile.”

“Helvar’s DIGIDIM lighting control system can be programmed to save energy. The system is well-functioning and easy to learn. DIGIDIM is genuinely effortless in terms of both design and use,” says electrical designer Vladimir Mikkola from Pöyry Building Services.

FINLAND’S LARGEST LIGHTING CONTROL PROJECT

In addition to the immensity of the building, installation work at Tapiola’s new headquarters was characterised by the large quantities of items at the site.

“Helvar’s DIGIDIM lighting control is an extensive system. We seldom have projects of this magnitude, but Pöyry provided us with excellent plans and Helvar was timely with all deliveries,” says installation manager Simo Helskä from Lemminkäinen Technical Building Services.

“The most arduous phase of the lighting control project was identifying luminaires for routers, but the actual programming work ran smoothly because of the easy-to-use software,” says Aimo Saali, who is responsible for lighting control system programming at Helvar.

“This is the largest lighting control project we have carried out in Finland. In this building, lighting control uses 10 routers and has approximately 1,000 addresses. The lighting was pre-programmed for different types of situations, such as video conferences, meetings and video presentations as well as situations that require full lighting. By using a touch panel, users can easily select the right type of lighting for their needs.” ■

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