

REX

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REX BUILDS VAKKO HEADQUARTERS, Istanbul

In a period of only nine months, REX is designing and building a new headquarters for Vakko, Turkey's preeminent fashion house, and its sister company Power Media. Vakko and Power plan to move into the new building in October 2007.

REX will incorporate new construction with a pre-existing, four-story concrete skeleton previously acquired by Vakko. The design combines generic space to enable optimal concentration of offices, and unique space to support the company's heterogeneous functions and communicate its image. REX positioned generic program in the existing concrete ring; embraced by the ring is the "showcase," a cluster of steel volumes that house and generate Vakko's unconventional spaces. The ring will be clad in a thin sheath of self-supporting slumped glass panels that render traditional window frames unnecessary.

REX is an international architecture and design firm based in New York City. Led by Joshua Prince-Ramus and Erez Ella, the office has a staff of 40 people of 13 nationalities. This fall, Prince-Ramus and Ella will collaborate as Eero Saarinen Professors at the Yale School of Architecture.

Current projects: **The Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre** (REX/OMA) is now under construction in Dallas, Texas. The building is scheduled for completion in March 2009. The 7,700 m², 575-seat "multi-form" theater is conceived as one large fly tower, or "theater machine." Groundbreaking for **Museum Plaza**, a 141,800 m² contemporary art center and mixed-use waterfront development in Louisville, Kentucky, will take place in autumn, 2007. The 62-story skyscraper, which will also house the University of Louisville's Master of Fine Arts Program, a Westin Hotel; 97 luxury condominiums; 65 lofts; 25,000 m² of office space, and an underground parking garage, is scheduled for completion in 2011. The new headquarters for the Turkish fashion house **Vakko** and its sister company **Power Media**, is under construction in Istanbul. The building's expected completion date is October 2007. The City of Oslo has commissioned REX to initiate design studies for the new **Deichmanske Library** and **Stenersen Museum**. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009, with the opening projected for early 2012. REX recently participated in a limited competition to re-conceive the public space on **Governors Island** in the New York Harbor.

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