

An opaque design for transparent ECB

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By Alan Rohrbach

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From Mr Alan Rohrbach.

Sir, Your article on the design dispute surrounding the new European Central Bank headquarters in Frankfurt (November 25) only showed an impression of one elevation of the proposed structure. Perhaps from other angles it appears more open.

However, if what was displayed is the primary approach, it seems a bit incongruous. Aside from concerns about aesthetic inconsistency with the existing structure, I can only inquire how an ECB finally recognised as very transparent approved such an opaque appearance?

The ultramodern angular design also appears at risk of tipping over. As Europe has a much-beloved one in Pisa, I submit the last thing the European monetary union needs is a leaning tower as the home of a youthful euro still facing questions (however groundless) about its long-term future.

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