LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES
POHL lends wings to the Calatrava masterpiece

Object: WTC Transportation Hub, New York
Architect: Santiago Calatrava
Facade system: POHL special construction
Material: Aluminum
Like a phoenix rising from the ashes: POHL lends wings to the Calatrava masterpiece

Promptly at the start of springtime all eyes are turning to the impressive steel wings right between One World Trade Center and the One World Trade Center Memorial. Like a bird preparing for lift-off, the shiny white building protrudes from Ground Zero and from now on leads more than 200,000 commuters into the main hall of the New York super train station. The imposing frame is supported by white-coated aluminum elements made by POHL.

The hub that connects Manhattan and New Jersey plus newly created metropolitan railway and subway lines creates a new traffic junction. The spectacular architecture of the subway station is composed of an underground, cathedral-like main entrance hall and the roof, which arouses the semblance of opening bird wings and lets plenty of light permeate into the train station hall. That is because the 111-metre wings grow curved out of an axis and veritably soar at the same time. As we all know the dove is a symbol of peace. At one of the most symbolic places, the WTC Transportation Hub designed by star architect Calatrava presents a clear sign of strength, acting as a memorial against terror.

Striking bird made of aluminum
The Spaniard’s characteristic idiom of barb-like stylism is reflected in the superstructure. He has made a name for himself around the world as one of the most extraordinary artists of modern times. He is famous for his arched bridges and extravagant structures like the Olympia-Sports Complex in Athens and the Radio Tower in Barcelona.

Repeating motifs used by Calatrava are shapes from nature. In his organic building structures he likes to get inspired by human and animal bodies as well as by leaves and fossils. With the approximate 5,000 m² of sheet material POHL is making an important contribution to the realisation of Calatrava’s handwriting right in the middle of Big Apple where this beam-rib construction made of steel perfectly joins the ranks. The prerequisite and ultimately decisive factor in this project was the capacity and competence to fabricate highly varying sheets according to individual desires based on detailed planning. POHL is perfectly equipped for this with its machine fleet.
The paint coating of the sheets ensures the lightfastness of the white color along with the UV and weather resistance. Also not to be ignored is the logistical challenge involved with the construction of the prominent train station in the midst of numerous other construction projects. Calatrava’s piece takes the position as the direct neighbour of the One World Trade Center. This is where the company POHL fabricated the stainless steel frame for the facade. The brass portal of the Rockefeller Center which is also situated in the heart of Manhattan also comes from the house of POHL.

Everyone can decide for themselves whether they associate the new building with the Phoenix or a dove of peace. The artistic station and the simultaneously-created new traffic routes for the US metropolis is very promising in any case - a comeback of the entire district is expected.