

Our spaces

Roche guide of the built environment Buildings Key Features_V3

Ahead of time

Adaptable to future change

- ✘ Plan for future needs, phases, and extensions.
- ✘ Layout the structure for an optimal bay width, core position, and floor plan size and proportion to allow flexibility of use.
- ✘ Design modular, standardized structure in provision for further extension.

Sustainable technology

- ✘ Take design opportunities to promote and communicate sustainable awareness, considering local specificity.
- ✘ Facilitate low-energy solutions for cooling, heating, lighting, etc. in compliance with Roche sustainability directives K6 - K18.
- ✘ Choose non-toxic products and materials with a low environmental impact.

Fit to purpose

Designed from the inside out

- ✘ Function should drive form and structure.
- ✘ Employ clear, rational and simple spatial organization and structure for flexibility of use.
- ✘ The building's expression must be consistent with functional typology.

The expression of function

- ✘ Form should relate to the interior organization, reflecting the building's function.
- ✘ Use rectilinear forms, as they are easily referenced by the human eye.
- ✘ Roche buildings must have a timeless elegant appearance.

Easy maintenance

- ✘ Select durable, wear-resistant, easy-to-clean materials and design solutions.
- ✘ Plan low maintenance systems and easily accessible HVAC and MEP installations.
- ✘ Practice a low water usage greenery concept.
- ✘ Define a Life Cycle strategy based on the Life Cycle Asset Management (LCAM) process.
- ✘ Follow the building operation manual. Use the building management system to monitor, analyze and reset for optimum efficiency in operation.

Form at human scale

Human scale

- ✘ Define spaces according to human proportions.
- ✘ Elements should be scaled to human physical capabilities.
- ✘ Avoid monumental scale, oversized spaces, and extremely large distances.

Pure volumes

- ✘ Design timeless, primary volumes that can be clearly read and which respond to their function.
- ✘ Any infrastructure or connecting elements should be visually differentiated from the main volume.

Find the essential

- ✘ Employ a consistent, harmonious and elegant formal language, beyond stylistic.
- ✘ Focus on a reduced expression, without superfluous ornament.
- ✘ Present a timeless, clear geometry and simple appearance.
- ✘ Use a reduced number of different materials, prioritizing the natural and authentic.

The third dimension

- ✘ Visible and inviting vertical connections contribute to the awareness of space.
- ✘ Consider an atrium to provide light and generosity of space.
- ✘ Cross views guide users throughout the building.

The right proportion

- ✘ Maximize the height for a generous space impression.
- ✘ Choose ceiling types according to a concept defined by space functional typologies.
- ✘ Use modular lighting systems and rational layouts and rhythm, based on building structure and spatial arrangements.

The atmosphere of space

Building character

- ✘ Define building character by consistent use of key building elements.
- ✘ Materials and construction techniques should articulate buildings to form a distinctive identity.

Emblematic stairs

- ✘ Encourage the use of stairs by placing them visibly in places of social interaction.
- ✘ Reflect on body movement to create a spatial experience through emblematic stairs.

Attention to detail

- ✘ Ensure thoughtful construction detailing, elegant and simple.
- ✘ Employ plain functional solutions, never overly articulated or ornamental.
- ✘ Consistent attention should be given to the entrance areas, staircases, roof trims, handrails, fenestration, and sun shading elements.

Working with light

- ✘ Consider the relationship between window area and depth of space to achieve right levels of natural light.
- ✘ Natural light is essential for all permanent workplaces, provide shading and glare control for user comfort.
- ✘ Provide visual connections to the exterior.
- ✘ Achieve a balanced combination of natural and artificial light.

Transparency and openness

- ✘ Transparency on the ground floor provides visual connection to the exterior outdoor space.
- ✘ Openness results from clear structural planning.
- ✘ Limit the amount of glazing according to climate conditions and follow the K-18 directive.

Neutral colour

- ✘ Roche buildings convey luminosity and a purity associated with healthcare.
- ✘ White and light colours are preferred colours for buildings.
- ✘ Accent colours shall be used mostly on non-permanent finishes.
- ✘ Roche blue is only used for the logo, not for building elements, graphics or decorative elements.

Adapted to the local environment

Contributing to a sense of place

- ✘ Reflect the site structure and design guidelines provided by the Master Plan.
- ✘ Interpret and contribute to the unique cultural aspirations of the site.
- ✘ Follow the site framework and organizational structure.

Responding to climate

- ✘ Analyze and consider the environment and climate factors of the region.
- ✘ The massing, typology and performance of the building envelope should be adapted to the local climate and sun exposure.
- ✘ Comply with K-18 directive for thermal performance guidance.

Natural materials

- ✘ Work with natural, raw materials in their original colour and finish, and tactile appearance.
- ✘ Use authentic, durable, quality materials, selected according to functional and structural requirements.
- ✘ Choose locally sourced, sustainable materials.
- ✘ Avoid the use of materials that try to imitate others, stay true.