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# SuperCADE Manitas and Manitas cable car station:

**Administrative building and transport hub in one**

**The new administrative building of the City of Bogotá in the locality of Ciudad Bolívar houses all the key administrative bodies and authorities under just one roof. It also contains the offices of numerous providers of municipal and social services. The link with the cable car station makes these offices much more accessible and visible for the public. The largely glazed façades emphasise the public character of this construction. The architects chose Jansen’s steel profile systems to bring their designs to life as they can be relied on for their functionality and durability.**

During the last few decades Bogotá, Colombia’s capital and its largest city, has developed into a bustling metropolis with more than eight million inhabitants. There is a wide gap between rich and poor and these differences are reflected not only in income but also in the lack of infrastructure in many residential areas on the outskirts of this constantly growing metropolis. It is the poorer sections of the population in particular who are forced to settle here, where there is no access to public facilities such as schools, hospitals or public transport. One of these districts, Ciudad Bolívar in the south-west of Bogotá, has been benefiting from an urban development programme that aims to improve the situation for these citizens, for instance by expanding the public transport network and making the administration and public services more accessible for them.

**Cable car as part of the public transport network**

As the topography of the area and the dense, unstructured development in the foothills of the Andes made it impossible to expand conventional modes of transport such as buses and trains, the individuals responsible decided on another means of transport: the cable car. The Austrian company Doppelmayr Seilbahnen GmbH built an approx. 3.3 km long cable car route with 160 gondolas, each of which can accommodate ten people. The journey with the TransMiCable shortens the transfer from the Mirador El Paraíso mountain station to the El Tunal valley station from about one and a half hours to fifteen minutes. Its four stations were built at Ciudad Bolivar’s transport hubs. This means that the new cable car offers the more than 700,000 inhabitants of this urban district a link to the TransMilenio rapid transit bus network, the main transport to the centre of Bogotá.

**Accessible and visible administrative centre**

The cable car project was supported by a broad-based urban development programme that included the construction of a new administrative building, bringing public services to the doorstep of the citizens of this locality. Bogotá-based architects ARE Arquitectura En Estudio won the contract, beating around 70 other entrants. The architects designed the roof of the new building as a publicly accessible area that not only offers beautiful views but also various play areas. The combination of the cable car station and the administrative building appears to be a single impressive edifice made of concrete, steel and glass, which can be seen from a long distance away, emerging from the colourful sea of houses. From a structural point of view, however, these are two separate structures.

Inside SuperCADE Manitas, numerous administrative tasks related to public services can be carried out under one roof – ranging from drinking water supply, sewerage and electricity distribution networks, through to administrative bodies. Departments such as those for social welfare, recreation and sport, and numerous district secretaries such as those for education, the environment, social integration, women, health and mobility, as well as a special administrative office for the fire brigade and the migration service, are all located right here. This allows members of the public to conduct a wide variety of administrative tasks without leaving the area. SuperCADE Manitas is not only outstanding in terms of its functionality – when you enter the building all the poverty and meanness of the outside world is left behind and you instantly feel safe and secure. The glass façades allow you to peacefully gaze upon the sea of houses covering the slopes of Mount Monserrate, as if you were standing on a cliff overlooking it.

**Glass doors and façades indicate a warm welcome**

A mullion and transom façade using the Jansen VISS Basic system contributes to the bright, inviting atmosphere of SuperCADE Manitas. The external sun protection grid determined the size of the glass elements, which are generally 1.20 m wide by 2.4 m high. The versatile and modular Jansen VISS system also enabled a seamless transition from the façade to the roof glazing. The transparency of the outer shell continues inside the building with numerous fixed panes, glass doors and windows made from the non-insulated Jansen Economy 50 steel system. The architects chose Jansen’s steel systems because they provide the exact level of robustness and long-term functionality that heavily frequented buildings such as transport buildings and administrative buildings require.

The large-scale glazing is also a clear signal of the transparency and openness that the authorities want to demonstrate towards the citizens. Even though not everyone may be able to afford a trip on the TransMiCable, SuperCADE Manitas has created an inviting public space where everyone is able to enjoy the convenience of the 21st century with its reliable network and communication services. Inside the building, the future is no longer a promise but a reality. Knowing that gives people confidence, especially young people. The new cable car is therefore intended not only to bridge terrain that is topographically difficult to access, but also to bridge the gap between rich and poor. It is hoped that by connecting the poorer areas of Bogotá to the city centre, this will enable people to access education, training and employment opportunities in the centre of the metropolis.

**Project details:**

**Client:** Comunidad de Bolivár

**Architects:** ARE Arquitectura en Estudio, Bogotá

**Metal construction:** CYQ Group Ltda, Bogotá

**Steel profile systems used:** Jansen VISS Basic, Economy 50

**System supplier:** PerfilArq Colombia SAS, Bogotá

**Manufacturer:** Jansen AG, Oberriet, Switzerland

**Text:** Anne Marie Ring, Munich, Germany

**Photos:** Jairo Llano – LlanoFotografia, Bogotá

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The editorial use of the illustrations is tied to this press release.

**Captions:**

pic\_01: Ciudad Bolivar’s new administrative building houses all the key administrative bodies and authorities under just one roof. It also contains the offices of numerous providers of municipal and social services. The link with the cable car station makes these offices much more accessible and visible for the public. The largely glazed façades emphasise the public character of this construction. The architects chose Jansen’s steel profile systems to bring their steel and glass designs to life as they can be relied on for their functionality and durability.

pic\_02: The combination of the cable car station and the administrative building appears to be a single impressive edifice made of concrete, steel and glass, which can be seen from a long distance away, emerging from the colourful sea of houses.

pic\_03: The two buildings are completely separate, although they flow very smoothly from one structure to the other. The main entrance is very pedestrian friendly, even for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

pic 04: Ground floor: Façade using Economy 50 steel system (doors and fixed glazing); doors with panic locking systems. Above: VISS Basic curtain wall (with integrated Economy 50 system). The steel structure supports the sunshade system made from concrete slats.

pic\_05: The external sun protection grid determined the size of the glass elements, which are generally 1.20 m x 2.40 m.

pic\_06: The determining factors for choosing Jansen steel systems were the robustness and long-term functionality that they provide for heavily frequented public buildings such as SuperCADE Manitas.

pic\_07: The versatile and modular Jansen VISS system also enabled the seamless transition from the façade to the roof glazing.

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