

## Machado Silvetti's Building Z in Polo DOT Office Park in Buenos Aires Offers a Radical Transformation and Expansion of 21st Century Office Space

**Boston, MA – June 18 – MACHADO SILVETTI** has deep experience revitalizing and repurposing existing buildings and spaces. Its recently completed Building Z in the **Polo DOT Office Park** in Buenos Aires, Argentina offers a timely example of how offices can be designed to adapt to current and future needs, and how existing structures can be renovated to reflect contemporary aesthetics. The new office building is a repurposed, former Philips electronics factory, which was completed in 1935 and abandoned in 2000. In December 2019, the Machado Silvetti design was recognized by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat with an Award of Excellence: Renovation Award.

Located at the intersection of two major highways in the Saavedra neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Polo DOT Office Park was developed by IRSA (Inversiones y Representaciones Sociedad Anónima) and master planned by Machado Silvetti. Envisioned as a vital element of the region's urban expansion, Polo DOT was designed to rejuvenate Buenos Aires' metropolitan identity and create accessible, contemporary office space for the city's growing workforce. Machado Silvetti's masterplan configures the office park around a continuous public plaza, offering employees the vital opportunity to access fresh air and greenspace. In designing these tree-shaded courtyards, lawns, and fountains, Machado Silvetti prioritized employees' physical and mental wellbeing, creating spaces for respite and relaxation.

"This is my first important project with the Machado Silvetti Buenos Aires office, in a highly visible site and for a prestigious client," said **Rodolfo Machado**, Machado Silvetti principal and cofounder. "It necessitated—and received—careful attention to both the character of the existing structure and to a vision, realized with many excellent collaborators, of what offices like Building Z offer for the future, with ample personal space, large circulation areas, generous social spaces, and accessible greenery."

To repurpose the former factory building, Machado Silvetti carved out the four central bays of the structure's first three floors into a monumental lobby, heightening its visual impact. Within the open air lobby, escalators will—in a second phase—connect to the upper-level of the adjacent mall courtyard, providing new public access to the mall via Building Z. The expansiveness of the lobby is mirrored in the flexible layout of the offices, which can accommodate diverse work and be adapted for evolving technology and arrangements that meet health and safety protocol.

Machado Silvetti reinforced two longitudinal interior structural lines of the original factory to add a seemingly independent four-story building on top of the existing seven stories. This bold approach generates a powerful sight when approaching from the adjacent highways, the distinctly renovated building appearing, as **Machado** says, "like a vitreous cloud laying low on the horizon."

A double-height, 19,000 square-foot interior space between the existing building and the addition is wrapped by a new panoramic terrace, offering access to fresh air and greenspace without leaving the

building. These column-free floors articulate a different architectural language from the building below it and exemplify Machado Silvetti's ability to create structures that celebrate a site's existing legacy while updating it in a contemporary vocabulary.

Employees can access Building Z through the newly created boulevard, connecting to the major artery of Avenue General Paz, or through a new, two-level parking garage below the building. These open pathways help circulation and improve access between the office park, shopping center, and surrounding neighborhood. In phases to be developed in the near future, Polo DOT will add a second office building, plus a commercial tower, containing a hotel and offices surrounding the Polo DOT plaza.

### **About Machado Silvetti**

Machado Silvetti is a leading architecture and urban design firm recognized for creating, revitalizing, and expanding distinctive buildings and spaces in the United States and around the world. Its work is diverse in location, scale, and type, and merges contemporary agendas and aesthetics with complex cultural and historic contexts. Machado Silvetti's research-based approach explores and celebrates each project's unique character, expressed through designs that are original in their conceptual clarity and visual intensity.

Founding partners Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti began working together in 1974, before starting Machado and Silvetti Associates in 1985. In 2015, they appointed Jeffry Burchard and Stephanie Randazzo Dwyer as partners, updating the firm's name to Machado Silvetti. In 2008, Jorge and Rodolfo founded Machado Silvetti Buenos Aires; the two studios often collaborate on projects.

To learn more about the firm, visit <http://www.machado-silvetti.com/>

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