Hannover, the capital of the Federal State of Lower Saxony and is situated on the river Leine. As a major commercial, business and administrative centre in northern Germany, Hannover was chosen as the site for the World Fair, Expo 2000. Due primarily to its size, 75,000 m², the new headquarters building of Norddeutsche Landesbank is located in the city centre between the commercial centre to the north and the residential districts to the south. The street level area of the development is accessible to the public and occupies an entire city block. The plan (Fig. 3) shows City Hall immediately to the west alongside Maschpark, (sports and recreation), Aegidientorplatz, to the northeast of the site and Friedrichswall are both subjected to heavy traffic. Planning guidelines dictate that the perimeter of the building is aligned to the existing streets and restricted accordingly in height to 4 to 6 storeys. Stepped height variations up to 70 metres are then mitigated by the existing massing of the surrounding city. Viewed from the surrounding streets and park, the development appears to be a conventional city block (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). However, at the centre of the plot is a large courtyard development. This provides numerous public amenities in a generously planted landscaped environment which includes large reflecting pools. The cafes, galleries, restaurants and shops provide a haven in the city protected from the traffic emissions and noise experienced in the surrounding streets (Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6).