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Hurricane proof, environmentally progressive office for Cayman

These are images of the new 100,000 square feet, seven storey, headquarters for global offshore law firm, Walkers.

The structure will offer innovative, environmentally friendly features, while withstanding possible hurricane threats in the Cayman Islands. The building is scheduled for occupation in January 2009.

The building has been designed by Sall, Cullinan, And Buck Architects Ltd. and Woods Bagot Architects. The general contractors for the project are McAlpine Ltd, while Project Management is being provided by Vista Development Co Ltd.

Engineering -services design is by UK company Atelier Ten, Structural Engineering by Dewhurst MacFarlane and Partners, and Liaison with Planning / Statutory Authorities, Construction Administration and Cost Management by DDL Studio Ltd. in Grand Cayman.

The chamfered block design of the building wraps around a full-height central atrium giving every part of the office natural light. Each of its seven floors shares this open internal volume so that, once inside, visitors witness Walkers Headquarters as an integrated working unit.

State of the art environmental control techniques will provide long-term energy savings. These include motion activated lighting, solar water heating and solar blinds to track and shield the sun's passage overhead. The design of the floor plan maximizes flexibility for future staff expansion while providing well proportioned work zones in which the user feels comfortable.

Workplace enhancements include shared centralised facilities on each floor including breakout areas and meeting rooms, large internal landscaped staff areas with outsourced café/dining facilities. The top floor provides luxurious client meeting suites with high-end audio visual equipment and catering.

Walkers requested that its new building needed to be designed from the staff perspective. As such, it has been designed from the inside out, with staff enjoyment being at the centre of the plans.

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About Woods Bagot

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Established in 2001, Woods Bagot's London studio now has a dynamic team of over 100. Since its inception, its young, integrated team has developed a diverse portfolio of significant projects including:

- Piccadilly Tower, Manchester
- Liverpool Central Village
- Minthis Hills Resort, Cyprus
- ANZ London
- Rolls building, London
- Walkers Cayman Islands