The Crystal
by WilkinsonEyre

The Crystal is a new forum for debate on sustainable urban living and development. The striking building was commissioned by Siemens and designed by WilkinsonEyre as both an exhibition centre and think tank, exemplifying sustainable design. It sits within East London’s Green Enterprise District, which is an area of regeneration in the Royal Docks and is adjacent to WilkinsonEyre’s Emirates Air Line cable car terminal at Royal Victoria Dock.

The all-glass building challenges conventional ideas on sustainability, championing the use of advanced technology to minimise energy use. Six different types of highly insulated glass have been used in the cladding, each with varying levels of transparency to moderate solar gain and frame views into and out of the building. Reflective glass is used on the backward-leaning facets to reflect the sun, while transparent glass is used on the inner faces angled towards the ground.

Details
Location: London, UK
Client: Siemens
Architect: WilkinsonEyre
M&E and Structural Engineer: Arup
Area: 7,060m²
Date: Completed September 2012
BREEAM rating: Outstanding
LEED rating: Platinum

Awards
BCD Awards 2013 Innovation Award
Emirates Glass LEAF Awards 2013 Best Sustainable Development - Commendation
RICS Design and Innovation Award 2013
Sustain Magazine Awards 2013 Architecture and Design Category - Finalist