Call for Papers

Building Finance: Architecture and the Making of Financial Centres

10 June 2027 | Luxembourg
eabh in cooperation with Quintet Private Bank

Bank headquarters, exchanges, vaults, trading floors, data centres and financial districts physically embody technological and institutional change. Architectural plans, photographs and corporate archives material could be used to study how finance shaped cities—and how financial institutions represented trust, power, openness and modernity.

Call for Papers

Buildings, architecture and the material financial centre

Finance has always had a physical presence. Bank headquarters, stock exchanges, vaults, trading floors, branches, data centres and entire financial districts give material form to changing technologies, institutions and ideas about finance.

Architecture can tell us how financial institutions wanted to be seen. Monumental façades projected solidity and permanence; imposing vaults made security tangible; glass headquarters promised openness and modernity. Trading floors were designed around particular technologies of communication, while today's data centres represent a financial infrastructure that is increasingly powerful yet largely invisible.

Financial buildings have also shaped cities. Banks, exchanges and related institutions created new commercial districts, transformed urban centres and helped establish the geography and identity of emerging financial hubs.

This session invites papers that explore the **built and material history of finance**. Contributions might use architectural plans, photographs, maps, building records, corporate archives material or objects to examine how finance occupied and transformed physical space.

We particularly welcome papers connecting architecture to **technology, institutional change and the making of financial centres**: How did new technologies change the spaces in which finance operated? Why did particular financial districts emerge where they did? How did institutions use architecture to communicate trust, power, openness or innovation? And what happens to the material financial centre when financial activity becomes increasingly digital?

Submission details and deadlines

- Please submit a proposal of max. 300 words, outlining the topic, context, and relevance of your contribution.
- Include a short biographical note (max. 150 words) with your name, affiliation, and contact details.
- Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2026
- Proposals should be sent to: c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org

Accepted participants will be notified by January 2027. The format will include short presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive sessions to maximize knowledge exchange among practitioners. Limited travel costs support is available.