Netherlands Aerospace Centre Marknesse

The state of the art facilities new Netherlands Aerospace Centre in Marknesse are now operational. Our design for the contemporary and sustainable R&D complex for innovation in aerospace sets a new standard within the field of application-oriented scientific research.

We established physical and visual connections between the various facilities, to support the exchange of expertise between the diverse research disciplines. We organised the building around a central backbone in the form of a 180m long light-filled corridor. Providing both functional separation and social connectivity, it is flanked by activity based office workspaces on one side, and diverse test facilities on the other. Stress tests, microscopic material research, wind tunnel tests and composite prototyping are now but a door apart.

Operational flexibility is a key issue. The generous yet rational structural and spatial layout of the complex facilitates responsiveness in research space requirements. The High-Spec & Low Tech design approach is reflected in the clutter-free architecture of the composite facades, offering high performance while avoiding maintenance-intensive climatic support systems.

The new research centre is a bold gesture in the outstretched polder landscape. Sustainable, robust, flexible and future-proof, it provides an inspirational environment for the aerospace research community for years to come.

Test halls, research rooms and offices form a double comb structure which provides for active exchange between building and landscape; It is as if the landscape runs through the building. Where the ‘teeth’ of the comb intersect, we create a central meeting zone. On this backbone of the building, physical and visual connections are made between the various departments. Exposing the various activities will promote synergy between their users.

Communication and collaboration are proven conditions for excellent research. The NLR acknowledges the importance of scientific cross pollination. Promoting meeting and sharing of knowledge is therefore the leading feature of all scale sizes in our design of the new complex. Undertaking a variety of research disciplines - not always easily compatible - reflects NLR’s ambition to realize a contemporary and future-oriented knowledge center.

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Client: Netherlands Aerospace Centre
Year: 2018
Gross floor area: 19,000 sqm
Team: Tom Oudijk, Kevin Battarbee, Hans Toornstra. Jaco Troost


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