

Padualaan 99-101

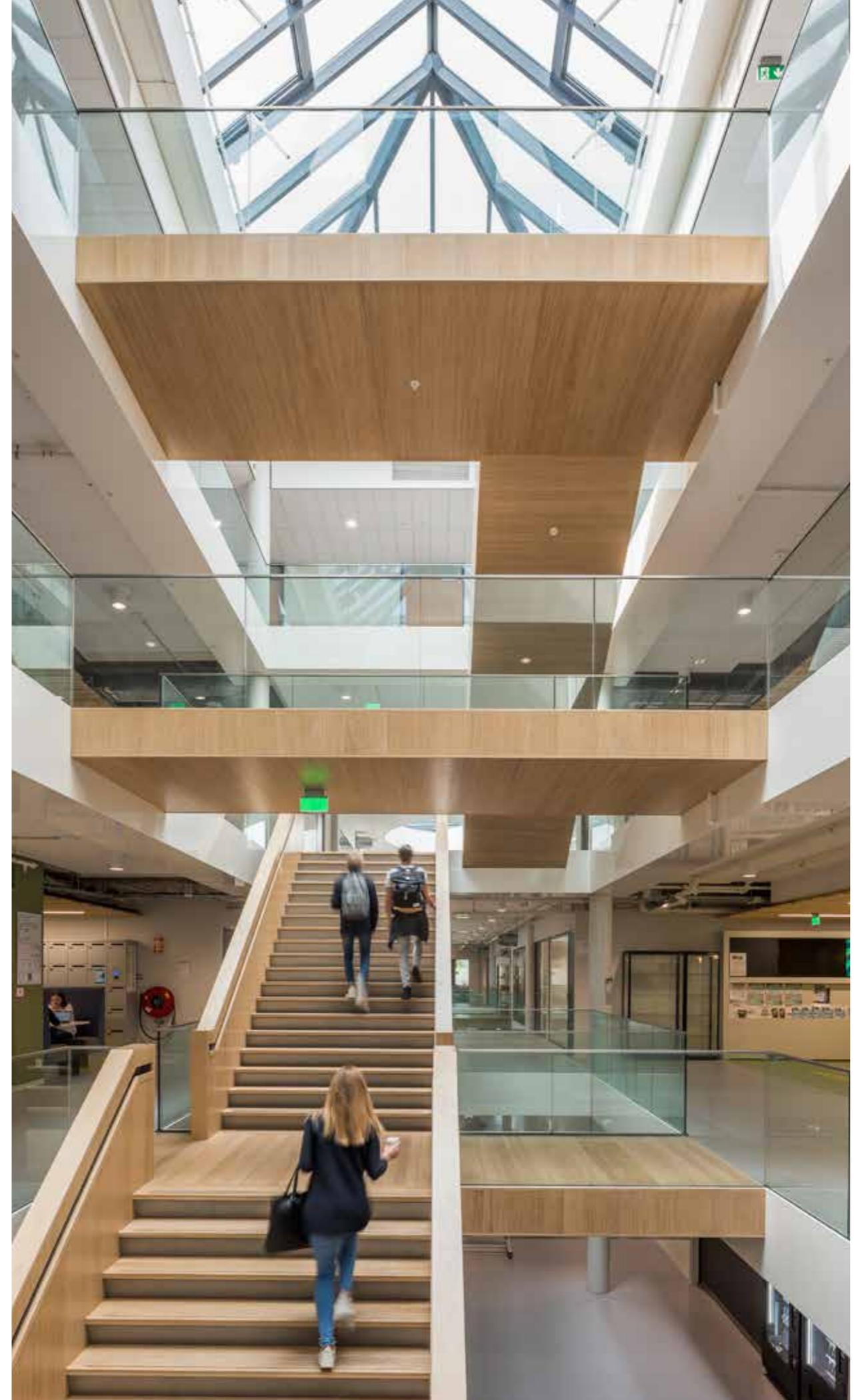
Utrecht [NL]

With our design at the heart of Utrecht Sciencepark, HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht has gained an inviting and inspiring educational environment. Transparency and clear design visualise a creative technology world within Building 99. The inspiring architecture of Building 101 – designed by Mecanoo – contributes to the interactions and meetings in friendly and comfortable surroundings. This building is the domain of the social studies and also houses HU's central services.

A main path on the first floor – called the Backbone – connects the buildings and creates a comprehensive knowledge organisation. The HU Library, theatre, lecture halls and catering are all located near this main path. The institute squares, where the lecturers and staff members work and where students pass and meet, also lie along this path. These squares incite students and teachers to interact. Every institute has its own square, with the general lecture halls, project group spaces and more spread around it.

Informal individual study corners adjacent to the main path and boulevard offer space for meetings and discussions. The approach of the HU education is: work, study and relax in a transparent and inspiring environment.

The core concepts of the atmosphere in both buildings are refreshing and natural, sparkling and light: the identity of each institute is best expressed on a calm background; the details and personalisation are flexible and up to the institutes. Balustrades and glass corridors, grey- or sand-coloured poured floors, light wooden staircases and coloured accents in furniture and carpets are iconic in the connecting spaces.





Technology World Building 99

The Technology Boulevard leads from the entrance of Building 99 along workshops, laboratories and practical spaces. At the centre of this boulevard, spacious stairs lead up to the hearts of the institutes; this is the reception area where people enter and meet. A coffee stand and a large table have been placed for informal meetings. The architectural core – with lifts and lavatories – of the squares in this building are green or yellow: colours that refer to the colouring of industrial machines.

The work environment of the two institute squares in this building offer a mix of open and secluded work spaces and of formal and informal meeting spaces. The arrangement in zones with hard and soft floors and the great acoustics make for a pleasant and calm working climate, in which students and teachers can collaborate.

The two densely built patios visible from the Technology Boulevard contain the workshops with research and test setups. A steel structure, acoustically perforated roofing and clearly visible technical installations make for an accentuated workshop atmosphere. A smart support structure with the fewest possible number of pillars allows for a flexible use of the workshops. Sunlight enters through rooflights and additional domes. If necessary, the activities of the workshops can be expanded up to the boulevard by opening all doors. On the roof of Building 99, we find an experimental power garden with solar boilers, solar panels etc.



HU Library

At the heart of the campus is the attractive HU Library, which is accessible to HU students of all programmes. The entrance to the library is located on the first floor, which is the main floor of both buildings. The library itself stretches out over three floors and includes project spaces of various sizes. The layout of the library allows everyone to find a study space that offers calm and comfort. Some zones are meant for collaboration, while others are great for individual, focused study. The use of absorbing suspended ceilings, carpets, book-case layout and closed balustrades around the open spaces guarantees a high acoustic quality.

Social Studies Domain Building 101

The four institute squares in Building 101 are spread around a number of wings that are visible from the main path. The first thing one sees is the architectural core; in this building, the cores have been given a blue colour, which ties in with the colours that originally characterised this building. The eye-catcher of each square is the social wall: tv screens for narrow casting, shelves with flyers and a bulletin board. These squares also have a coffee stand and a large table; the ideal place to meet up and exchange ideas.

The working environment on the squares is warm and comfortable, thanks to the carpeted surfaces and soft furnishing, but also because of the acoustic ceiling islands. There are various working and meeting spaces for students and teachers alike, in both open and closed settings.

Transparency is an essential part of the educational concept of HU: inspiring each other and learning from one another. Many spaces that have closed walls have been made open and transparent through the use of large glass walls. The project spaces on the southern façade were given full glass walls, in order to make the landscape outside visible from the squares.

HU Services

The demolition of corridor and partition walls led to a pleasant and open working area for HU teachers in the east wing of Building 101. Diagonal views create a sense of space and continuity. The variety of smaller and larger spaces offers a plethora of spaces for focus, collaboration and meetings. The alternation of unique carpets and hard floors defines the various spaces and zones. Metal climate ceiling islands were placed beneath the concrete ceiling, and the main channels and conduits remained in view. The course of these was carefully designed to create a pleasing and open ceiling landscape.

Food court

Building 101 always had catering on the side of the Padualaan, but its appearance and concept were dated. This zone was transformed into an open and appealing food court with three outlets, each with its own culinary theme. The basis of each outlet was designed by us and further furnished by the owners. To facilitate this food court's activation on campus, it was given its own entrance.

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Client: BAM

Year: 2016

Gross floor: ongeveer 40,000 sqm

Team: Jeroen Simons, Maarten Hooijmeijer, Mark Bollen, Arnold Homan, Erik Berg

