

Integrating architecture, interior and landscape



Their projects are sound pragmatic products, in the sense that the needs and wishes of the users are paramount. Characteristic of ADP architecten is that they intend to cope with all scales of design in every project: from urban design to door handles.

TEXT: BERTHE VAN DEN HURK | PHOTOS: ADP ARCHITECTEN

ADP architecten is a Dutch architectural practice with a rich tradition in all stages of the design and building process. Since the office was founded, over 60 years ago, their team of professionals has changed, modernized and refreshed. ADP's working field varies from urban planning and development to residential renovations, from interiors to landscapes and from corporate headquarters to schools. Ideally they combine their knowledge of all these different levels of design into one integrated project.

Office wonderland

They were able to do so in a major project for one of the biggest insurance companies in the Netherlands, Achmea. On the border between the city of Apeldoorn and the biggest nature reserve of the country, ADP

developed a campus for Achmea's 4,000 employees to work. Situated at the forest border, the clients' desire to work in a green environment was literally taken into account in the design. The construction programme was spread out over the entire location, letting the forest landscape flow through the campus, in between the offices and entering the central building. As such, it became somewhat of a wonderland for the 'New Ways of Working' model it meant to facilitate.

New Ways of Working

Work has become more about meeting, reflecting and working together. Flexibility has become one of its key features. Meanwhile digitalization and mobility create opportunities for working outside the office,

making it attractive to work from home or some place in the city. These developments are obviously not new. Working spaces are designed more and more in accordance with the associated changing demands. However to ADP architecten, designing for this New Ways of Working should involve more than simply creating new flexible working spaces. The working space has to offer something extra. In ADP's design for Achmea they showed that by intertwining offices, infrastructure, interior and landscape in a creative and unique way, a new dimension can be given to the experience of work.

Working in green

ADP architecten looked for the most beautiful piece of the Veluwe and pasted it into



the ten-acre-area of the Achmea office. As one of the architects Marc a Campo illustrated: "The campus is flooded by sandy hills, heather and pine trees. We have extended the Veluwe on this campus. The buildings that followed are modestly added into the landscape. They are arranged in a way that they embrace the outside. The landscape is 'trapped', but at the same time it floats between the buildings. Visibility lines are deeply invoked in the area, and the buildings are noticeable from various vantage points. The design approaches the site as a whole; it is both a landscape and a large office."

Hospitality is key

For ADP, one of the key points in the design for Achmea was hospitality. A working space needs to facilitate more than just doing work. It is a context that ought to incorporate all sorts of elements that manage the wellbeing of employees, both functionally and in the look and feel of a place. The warm forest colours are pulled into



The Achmea offices on the border between the city of Apeldoorn and the Veluwe nature reserve are designed to connect the employees with the landscape and create an optimised and welcoming working environment.

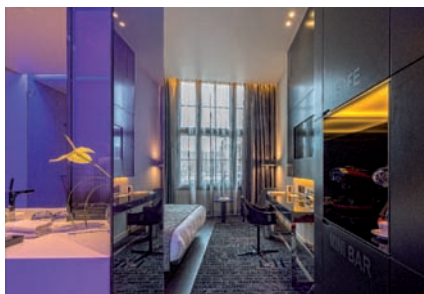
the interior. In all sorts of ways the employee is subtly connected to the landscape. Horizontal windows create panoramic views, while glass bridges connect one building to the next. Ultimately the light and spaces in between are just as much part of the design as were the bricks that made the buildings.

"Offices do not only exist for work," says A Campo. "For one thing, people are social beings, and want to meet other people. Achmea had that same thought. They embraced the New Ways of Working and consciously implement it." As such, the offices show many work place variations. A Campo: "Offices and work spots are no

longer just in one place or room. The design provides people an 'at home' feeling. They get a warm welcome as soon as they enter the buildings."

ADP architecten is proud that it has lifted this new, future-oriented outlook on work to a higher level. A Campo: "We have developed a total concept in which the interior and exterior of the office is integrated into an innovative and healthy work environment. Everything is focused on the welfare of the employees."

www.adp-architecten.nl



LEFT: ADP architected turned the art'otel in Amsterdam into a cultural hotspot with a public lower level and a hotel at the upper floors. RIGHT: The town hall of Heemstede was expanded to house more employees.

