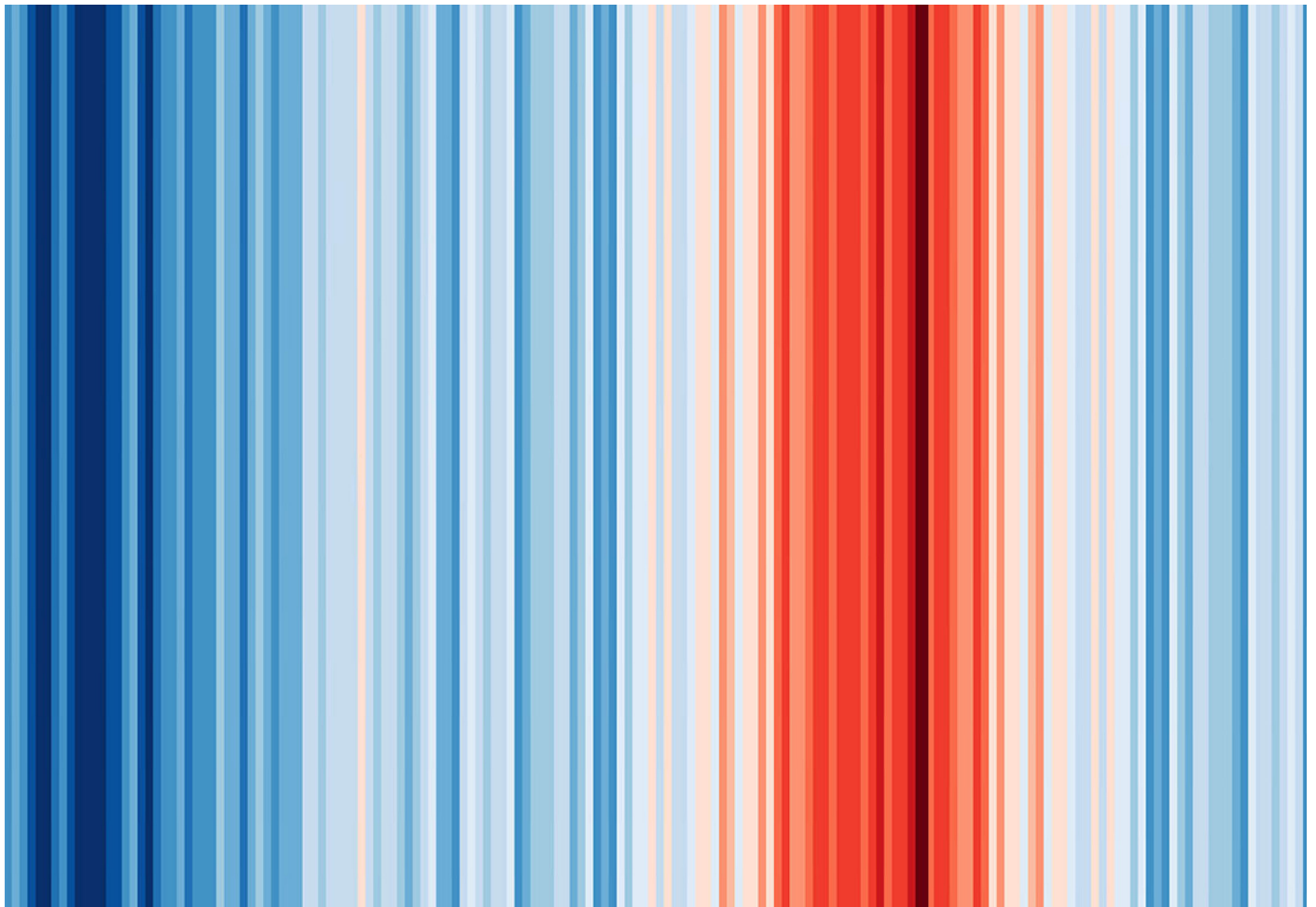


December, 2024

GROUP A LATEST STORIES



Under construction

Construction helmets, dirty boots and safety vests were pulled out last year. From walking across the street to driving up all the way down the rivers, our colleagues were out there on the construction site. There is no such reward as seeing your design come to life.

Community Center Bladel

The transformation of the former bank building at the Market of Bladel is in full swing! Reuse of materials is central in this phase. The first materials have been successfully dismantled and ready for reuse! Channel work is partly preserved, the stored induction units are on site for 1 on 1 reuse and the test relocation of window frames has been successful! The former bank building at the Markt in Bladel will be transformed into the meeting place of Bladel and

surroundings. Community Center Bladel brings together more than 45 local associations under one roof and has a theater, central library and café.

Commissioned by the Municipality of Bladel and Den Herd, the design team of GROUP A architects, strategic design agency Fabrique and advisors in structural engineering ABT is responsible for the design that stimulates meeting and makes activities visible.



Highest point Ferro Offices

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, Ferro Offices reached its highest point. This milestone was festively celebrated with the Port of Rotterdam and Dura Vermeer Bouw Heyma. Together they are working on the realization of this innovative workplace that provides space for the new generation of port makers.

Omroep West

Last year we have been working on a new hybrid working and production environment for Omroep West. An interior concept that facilitates interaction, communication and creativity. Meeting is central to its design. By combining multiple functions in the central spaces, interaction is stimulated. Informal consultation, meeting, brief work and lunch, everything comes together here. Omroep West is about to be completed early 2025. We can't wait to share the results of this welcoming meeting place!

Verstegen

Alderman Chantal Zeegers and director of Verstegen Michel Driessen opened the new solar facades of the Verstegen Spices & Sauces headquarters in Rotterdam on November 7, 2024. Our facade design integrates 1,100 solar panels from ZigZagSolar with an energy yield of more than 100,000 kWh per year. A great step in making Verstegen more sustainable in the Spaanse Polder.



Tornado

360 crafted steps and more than 10,000 unique wooden planks. Each contributing to Tornado's organic form. This construction raises the challenge of precision and optimisation to a whole new level. We are proud to contribute to this new icon with our parametric design for the timber stairs. From May 16th 2025 on MAD Architects' Tornado will take visitors on a unique journey through the past and offers a glimpse into the future of human movement and connection. Enjoy the ride! Woodwave and GROUP A sure did.

Where carbon & architecture converge

CARBONLAB's mission is to reduce the CO2 footprint of our projects. Our gained expertise has resulted in the following new projects focusing specifically on designing future-proof living environments.



Highly sustainable high-rise on the Amsteloever

The Municipality of Amsterdam has selected our team's proposal to redevelop Amstelstation-Amsteloever plots 3 and 4, known as Van der Kunbuurt. The winning plan includes approximately 335 residences, a rooftop garden, community room, public parking garage, and space for hospitality and retail.

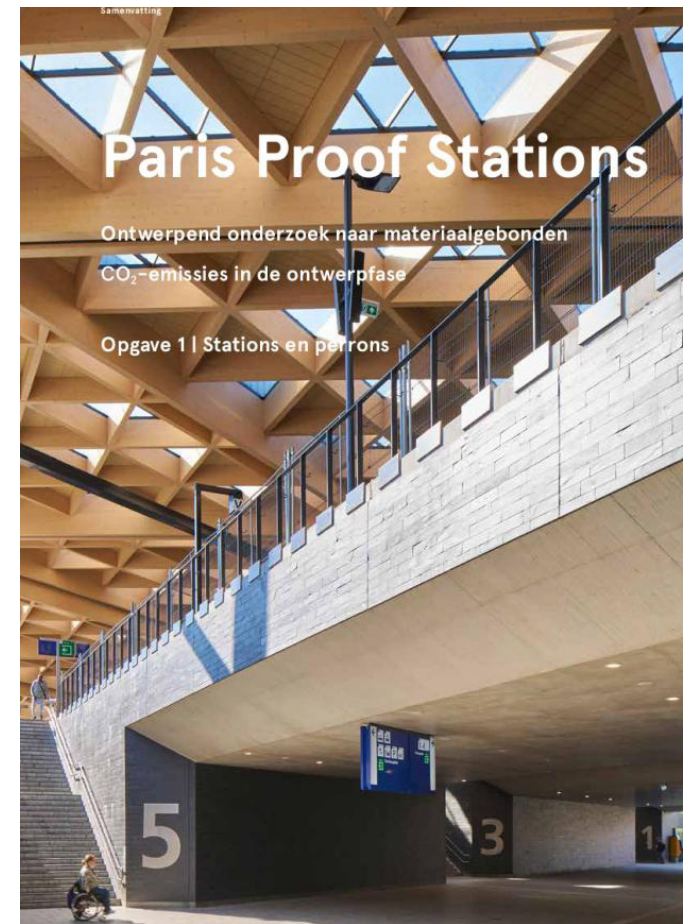
The highly sustainable high-rise will enhance the Amstelstation-Amsteloever neighborhood. The design acknowledges

the distinctive architecture of the Amsterdam School and Amstelstation, ensuring alignment with existing high-rise structures and Amsterdam's architectural tradition.

Amsteloever is more than just a residence; it is a vibrant ecosystem of interaction and connectivity. Designed with spaces to meet, relax, and work, the heart of this community serves as a dynamic hub for both residents and visitors. The elegant passageway and shared rooftop gardens provide perfect venues for cultural, social, and recreational activities, all within the energy of the city.

The team used Paris Proof construction, by means of the lowest possible embodied CO2 emissions (GWP_a), as one of the starting points in the design and development process. In an iterative process, all parties involved determined the best method for each building component to achieve the lowest possible embodied CO2 emissions.

Amsteloever is an ongoing collaboration between VMX architects, Felixx Landscape Architects, GROUP A and Carbonlab commissioned by Ballast Nedam Development.



Building with a carbon budget is the next sustainable leap forward

The publication "Paris Proof Stations design research on material embodied CO2 emissions (GWP_a) in the design phase" has been released. Commissioned by Bureau Spoorbouwmeester, GROUP A's think tank CARBONLAB, together with ProRail and NS Stations (part of Dutch Railways), conducted a comprehensive study based on realized projects.

The study is based on the sustainability ambitions pursued by the parties, in line with the (national) goals from the Climate Act: 55% less CO2 emissions by 2030, 95% less by 2050 – compared to 1990. The design research makes material-related CO2 emissions measurable and provides design tools to enable station developments within the CO2 budget for Paris Proof building.

Read more about this research on our website and download the publication via Bureau Spoorbouwmeester. Currently a follow up study into GWP_a reduction in the early design stages of larger stations is ongoing. Stay tuned for more!

Paris Proof Block? Yes we can!

If we want to build and live climate-neutral and regenerative in 2050, we must work proactively towards this right now. GROUP A's think tank CARBONLAB, together with Aveco de Bondt, DGMR, Adviesbureau ABT-Lüning and De Urbanisten, conducted research into what is already possible with today's knowledge. The results are promising. Paris Proof building according to the embodied CO2 budgets of 2030 can be done right now.

Paris Proof Block is an investigation into the technical and architectural potential to realize a complex high-rise and multifunctional building within the DGBC Paris Proof budget for embodied CO2 (GWP_a) of 2030 and 2050. Two concepts of an ambitious Program of Requirements show that we can build Paris Proof today.

Explore the building 'Built to last' designed to last over 300 years and the de- and remountable building system 'Footloose' designed to last at least 150 years on our website.



Densifying with hybrid urban blocks



In the densification of our cities over the past decades, a new urban block has emerged. This block consists of an 'urban layer' with commercial program. On top of this are sturdy residential towers. Mixing housing types along with a lively plinth, innovative mobility amenities and lush green courtyards contribute to resilient neighborhoods.

Lively residential and work district

MEK01 marks the Max Euwe Kwartier on the Kralingse Zoom with a seven-storey base topped by a 70-meter stepped tower. Accommodating 299 apartments with public facilities and roof gardens, MEK01 is part of the first step in the transformation of Brainpark I. The master plan, designed by the municipality of Rotterdam, transforms the former office park into a green multifunctional district. The realization of MEK has started in dec '24.

Three buildings, designed by GROUP A, ZZDP and Stijn van den Boogaard, define the Max Euwe Kwartier with variations in height, volume and material. The mixed use buildings descend towards the promenade, creating a series of roof gardens. The area between the buildings is designed as green public space by OKRA landscape architects. The public plinth and collective mobility facilities, such as shared cars and bicycles, contribute to a comfortable and future proof living environment. Commissioned by Bakkers Hommen.

Rich array of buildings for Merwedekanaalzone in Utrecht



Commissioned by Greystar, we have designed two building blocks with up to 1,068 rental housing units within the green car-free urban district of Merwede Utrecht. These two characteristic city blocks consist of a variety of buildings with lively plinths, innovative mobility facilities and plenty of room for greenery.

The two blocks comprise 25 different buildings that break down the scale of the blocks. By creating a hierarchy between the buildings and allowing the higher facades to recede, a characteristic cityscape is created that is closely related to its surroundings. To enhance the diversity between the buildings, we as coordinating architect have teamed up with Zoetmulder architects for a number of buildings.

Relatively simple buildings form the basis and are complemented by solid buildings with a strong identity and special buildings which are smaller and more abundant. The use of materials, colors and façade composition give each building a distinct identity while maintaining a consistent urban fabric. The rich palette of facade materials includes brick, natural stone, aluminum, reclaimed plastic, wood, sheet metal and profiled steel plate.

The blocks combine compact, high-quality rental apartments in the social, mid-rent and market segments with a high level of services and amenities. Mixing these housing types with community facilities creates a sustainable mix of students, young professionals, seniors, families and singles. Hospitality, a supermarket, retail and office functions and high-quality mobility facilities in the plinths contribute to liveliness on street level.

The apartments are situated around two lush green courtyards designed by Burobol. In addition to their ecological and water-storage function, the courtyard gardens contribute to strengthening the social cohesion between residents and neighbors. B2A's courtyard features a central patio with surrounding collective facilities such as workplaces and sports facilities and bicycle parking while the other block's garden stimulates encounters with a large vegetable garden and greenhouse.

Greystar invests in a durable relationship with its users by remaining involved as owner and property manager. In the Merwede cooperation agreement, an additional sustainability ambition has been established on top of the sustainability requirements of the building code. The sustainable mix of housing types along with a lively plinth, innovative mobility facilities and a comfortable green environment, create a resilient neighborhood ready for future challenges.

In December '24 we celebrated that Merwede's zoning plan is in place and the environmental permit has been granted!



How to build in 2030?

The Keilepand's architecture offices joined forces in the research on this question. The results are presented in the ground breaking exhibition on future-proof living environments during the Rotterdam Architecture Month and Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven.



Towards a future-proof living environment

We are standing at a turning point. While the construction world is dominated by rising rents, climate change and rising costs for building materials, the KeileCollectief took visitors on a quest for a future-proof living environment in the exhibition HOW DO WE WANT TO BUILD M4H 2030 during the summer.

The exhibition linked this quest to the Merwe-Vierhavens (M4H) in Rotterdam. This mixed-use port area is on the eve of a transition to a cultural residential-work district, in which collectivity as the basis for circularity is central. How do we realize a sustainable and circular built environment ready for future challenges? From this perspective design studios De Urbanisten, CITYFÖRSTER, Happel Cornelisse Verhoeven,

GROUP A's Carbonlab and studioADAMS each examined a specific aspect within the built environment. These studies of landscape, urbanism, architecture and materials are evocatively plotted in a timeline ranging from 1900 to 2100. All layers come together in a spectacular 40-meter-long section showing the development of M4H through time.



Materials

For the exhibition we focused on the development of material use in construction. From 1900 onwards we investigated a future scenario in the context of M4H. The way we build is the last 100 years changed drastically. Our current built environment contains an incredible number of material types and installation systems. Where do these come from? How does it work? And what is the material-related CO2 impact? We look back to the beginning of the 20th century, then using simple, locally sourced materials built and there are hardly any installations in the buildings were included. We reflect on the day of today where materials are sourced from all over the world are extracted and industrially processed in complex composite materials that are difficult to separate can be collected or recycled. Looking ahead, we speculate about the possible future of our built environment. Do we choose to build for eternity, or to dismantle and portable construction?

Program

How do we build a healthy habitat for people, plants and animals? How do we achieve an urbanism that makes meaningful use of the existing environment and facilitates a sustainable lifestyle? How do we develop housing technology with the lowest possible impact on the environment? How do we achieve innovation on a systemic level? These questions were raised in a public program of lectures, debates and workshops set in the exhibition at the Keilepand.



Dutch Design Week

The exhibition travelled to the Koelhuis for the DDW2025. M4H in Rotterdam and the industrial Canal Zone in Eindhoven are both set to become vibrant hubs for living and working. At the heart of these developments lie the Keile District and Koelhuis District, cultural centers driven by a dynamic community of makers and a progressive focus on circularity. How are these areas similar, where do they differ, and how can we create a future-proof living environment, ready to face the challenges of tomorrow? A relation we continue to explore.



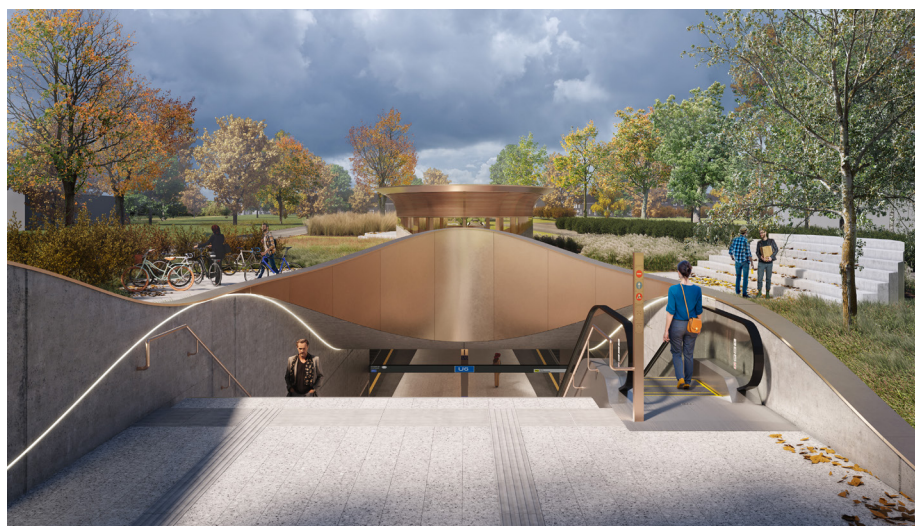
The city's underground beacons

Having set the baseline with our award winning Metro Oostlijn Amsterdam we continue working on subways across Europe.



Play of perspective and (day)light

Metro Martinsried's design is based on an analysis of the spatial typology of the Munich underground stations. The typical structure of the elongated, underground space for the U-bahn station, is the inspiration for twisting the (central) perspective. All design decisions that underlie the spatial experience are based on this principle. The visual fusion of wall and ceiling makes the room seem higher. The bending of the central perspective and the addition of dynamic, rounded lines creates a sense of acceleration and deceleration, enhancing orientation towards the exits.



In the design, the daylight voids are designed in such a way that they enhance both the environment and the station, without compromising on their functionality as smoke outlets. Experiencing the full height and seeing the sun or the clouds

Homage to original DNA

The renovation of 16 original Oostlijn stations has been completed back in 2018. The design goes 'back to the base of the original design', but is also 'a vision of the future'. By revealing the original rough looking DNA and adding contrasting refined materials, a future-proof and comfortable metro line has been reborn. We are still working on a number of small but interesting follow-ups to the Oostlijn project, including a Paris Proof noise barrier made fully of moss concrete at one of the stations in Amsterdam South East.



Missing link in Antwerp's public transport

The premetro network of Flemish Transport Company De Lijn in Antwerp, as envisaged in the 1970s and 1980s, is being completed. The tunnel under Kerkstraat and Pothoekstraat will be put into use and four unfinished stations will be completed and provided with entrances.

The design team translates the existing 'concrete hardware' from the 1970s and 1980s into the present. The aim is to realize stations that are inviting, recognizable and socially safe, with a design that does justice to the unique character of the city of Antwerp.

Much attention is paid to the 'tube ceiling' in the preliminary design. This tube based construction method is a distinctive feature of the Antwerp premetro stations. By making

these elements of the structural work visible and by illuminating them, the recognizability of the stations and the feeling of space and height are enhanced.

Depending on the circumstances, the entrances are integrated in the city in a seemly way. By maximizing the incidence of daylight in the stations, the orientation of passengers and social safety are increased. In a number of places, apartment

buildings can be built above the entrances, healing broken street facades.

The multidisciplinary team of GROUP A, archipelago and Tractebel is commissioned by the Flemish Transport Company De Lijn for this assignment. We are currently working hard to support the contractor selection and to finalize the environmental permits. First construction works are expected in 2026.



Compact factory for a sustainable future

With a lime hemp plinth facade and a distinctive silhouette, the factory complex stands out in its surroundings. The new logistics center is the first phase of the factory that will eventually bring all functions together under one roof in a comfortable work landscape.



The 9-plus-acre plot offers Quooker plenty of opportunities to accommodate future growth in multiple phases. The new logistics center is the first phase of the factory complex. This phase consists of a fully automated 30-meter-high high bay warehouse at the heart of the building with various logistics functions on two levels. The next phases will eventually unite all functions: production, offices, service and showroom.

The design is based on a multi-year vision for a compact building (three layers of industry) with a defined silhouette and a welcoming entrance, which

on the inside is designed as a working landscape. The core of the building for future construction phases will be green: an atrium with living plants and trees will provide a pleasant living environment and strong connection between the departments. The building will also have roof gardens, for use by employees.

The sculptural silhouette of the factory complex, an interpretation of industrial shed roofs, establishes a recognizable building that stands out in its surroundings. The shed roofs allow daylight to enter and provide additional volume to the

underlying functions. Layering of the roofs and building mass add a level of refinement, resulting in a building with an emphasis on human scale despite its substantial size.

The wish to build energy-neutral, climate-adaptive and nature-inclusive is the guiding principle in the building's design. Stacking the production over several floors creates a compact and energy-efficient building that requires less land and shell. The use of bio-based materials, such as the plinth facade made of lime hemp, contributes to an ecologically responsible factory complex and a pleasant working environment.



Sowing the facade

In June, shortly after the start of construction, Quooker also started growing hemp for the building's lime hemp facade! Hemp grows tremendously fast, absorbs a lot of CO2 from the air (CO2 negative) and purifies the soil. The root of the hemp plant is also a very effective soil purifier.

Sustainable work landscape

The wish to build energy-neutral, climate-adaptive and nature-inclusive is the guiding principle in the building's design. Stacking the production over several floors creates a compact and energy-efficient building that requires less land and shell. The use of bio-based materials, such as the plinth facade made of lime hemp, contributes to an ecologically responsible factory complex and a pleasant working environment.

Start construction Quooker

On May 13, 2024 the ground-breaking ceremony took place for Quooker's sustainable logistics building. It is the first phase of the construction of an industrial building that will eventually combine all functions under one roof: factory halls, offices and showroom. At the Nieuw Reijerwaard industrial park in Ridderkerk, The building offers Quooker optimal conditions to continue developing and producing innovative, high-quality products.



Growing building material

The crop sown in June colors the Quooker Factory site green! This on site grown hemp will be used for the limestone hemp facade of Quooker's new factory complex that is under construction in the background. The 9-plus-acre lot offers Quooker ample opportunity to accommodate future growth in multiple phases in an optimal, compact way.

Transformations

New life for old buildings: honoring heritage while reducing CO2 emissions. With Smederij NDSM, Gortercomplex, Caballero Factory and the Keilepand we have a rich expertise in transformations. Currently we are working on Ferro Offices and Community center Bladel. Both projects will be completed in 2025.



Sustainable showcase for M4H

On the former Ferro-site at the Galileipark in M4H Rotterdam the transformation of the Ferro office building has started. The design transforms the Ferro office into a sustainable collective building that, with the reuse of the existing shell, a mainly biobased facade, energy label A++++ and solar panels on the roof, does justice to the sustainability ambitions of the intended developments in the area.

The building is a redevelopment of the former 1969 Ferro office commissioned by Port of Rotterdam. Reuse of the shell is central to its design. This reduced CO2 emissions by an estimated 75% compared to complete new construction. By using the carrying capacity of the shell, an extra floor has been added to the existing volume. The facade on the south side was set back to create outdoor space and naturally regulate the incidence of daylight and sunlight. With the wooden facade and vegetation on the balconies, the building

offers a warm contrast to its industrial surroundings.

A spacious collective area forms the heart of the multi-tenant office with business unit where meeting is encouraged. Opening the building from the inside creates a void that brings daylight deep into the building and accentuates the entrance. Here, a sculptural staircase connects the flexible office floors. The entrance area provides room for programming with a wooden grandstand staircase and coffee & lunch bar.



Merging inside, outside, downstairs and upstairs

Community center Bladel is the transformation of the former Rabobank building centrally located on the Market. The design transforms this building into a vibrant heart for Bladel's community including a multifunctional theater for performing arts (theater, dance, drama and music), a library, a public panorama room overlooking the market square and a series of spaces for about 40 different local users and activities.

The design vision was based on the idea of using a simple but powerful intervention to merge the interior and exterior of the building into one attractive environment. The integration into the immediate environment was the guiding principle here. The design's backbone is the 'connector': a public route that draws the public outdoor space

from the Market to the inside and continues inside, vertically and horizontally, clearly and invitingly. Users and visitors meet in this connector, aiming to encourage encounters, interaction, social safety and a strong collective feeling.

The building opens up to the market with a strong gesture. The distinctive facade marks the entrance giving the building its iconic identity while functioning

as a shopping window showcasing the community's activities.

The multifunctional theater auditorium offers the community extended theater seating arrangements with up to 356 seats or room for 600 people. GROUP A, in collaboration with ABT and Fabrique, is responsible for the design commissioned by the municipality of Bladel and Den Herd.



Carbon Stories 2024

Carbon Stories catalyzes the dialogue about the possibilities and impossibilities of a climate-positive built environment. The perspectives of the designer, financier, developer, builder, resident, consultant and material supplier are addressed. In a series of thematic debates, Carbon Stories explores what (system)changes, exchanges and collaborations are necessary to accelerate and scale this transition.

The value of carbon

27.11.2024 | Keilepand

Systemic interventions are essential to accelerate the transition towards a built environment that stores carbon. What is the potential impact of assigning monetary value to construction stored carbon? The 14th Carbon Stories edition explores this question in a debate with *Sacha Brons* (Climate Cleanup), *Nina van der Giessen* (Rabobank) and *Onno Dwars* (Ballast Nedam Development).

Learning from Paris

01.10.2024 | Nieuwe Instituut

What can we learn from Paris regarding their shift to biobased building over the recent decade? This question is the focus of this special edition of the Carbon Stories series in the occasion of Nature of Hope IABR 2024. Key French architects discuss the ongoing material transition in Greater Paris, the role of legislation, and the incentives that have facilitated this shift.

Transition! From theory to practice

11.09.2024 | Keilepand

Set in the exhibition 'HOW TO

BUILD IN 2030' this edition discusses past, present and future. How do we achieve a truly sustainable construction practice? What are the challenges? How can we accelerate? *Jan Rotmans* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), *Sam van Hooff* (Dura Vermeer Bouw Heyma), *Margot Holländer* (MOR Studio) and *Sacha Brons* (Climate Cleanup) share their views on transition.

We need to talk about installations!

20.06.2024 | Keilepand

Installations are a blind spot in the world of embodied carbon. Can we get a grip on this? Can

these emissions be reduced? Do we need all these installations? *Bas Hasselaar* (DGMR), *Jacco Paauw* (ABT-Lüning), *Carla Rongen* (Aveco de Bondt) and *Willem van Genugten* (Carbonlab) share their views on these questions based on two design variations for a Paris Proof and Climate Positive building for Rotterdam.

Carbon neutral high-rise or the end of an era?

25.04.2024 | Keilpand

High-rise in times of fighting climate change. Is it desirable? Can it be done in a responsible manner? Is carbon neutral



high-rise within the realm of possibilities? *Jurriaan van Stigt* (LEVS), shares their study on carbon neutral high-rise for G4. *Michiel Raaphorst* (V8 architects) walks through a selection of their (mid-)high-rise. *Thomas Musson* (WSP) elaborates on hybrid high-rise projects worldwide and *Mattijs van Ruijven* (Municipality of Rotterdam) infuses the conversation with the perspective of Rotterdam.

Policymakers as inspiring drivers of change

17.04.2024 | Nat. Klimaat Expo

What is the role of the government in the transition to a climate-positive built environment? *Guido Slokkers* (Municipality of Rotterdam), *Malika van der Weerd* (AM Gebiedsontwikkeling), *Laetitia Nossek* (DGBC) and *Willem van*

Genugten (Carbonlab) share inspiring examples and debate what changes are needed.

Gaia Vince Nomad Century

22.02.2024 | Keilepand

In this special edition in collaboration with the Dependance we welcomed award winning journalist *Gaia Vince* to discuss her bold and widely acclaimed book 'Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World'.

Did you know most Carbon Stories are available online? Watch previous editions on: youtube.com/@groupalive

Carbon Stories 2025

This year's series of Carbon Stories will focus on applying knowledge and solutions to running projects in Rotterdam and M4H specifically. This will lead up to formulating a roadmap making M4H's Keilekwartier a climate positive city district.

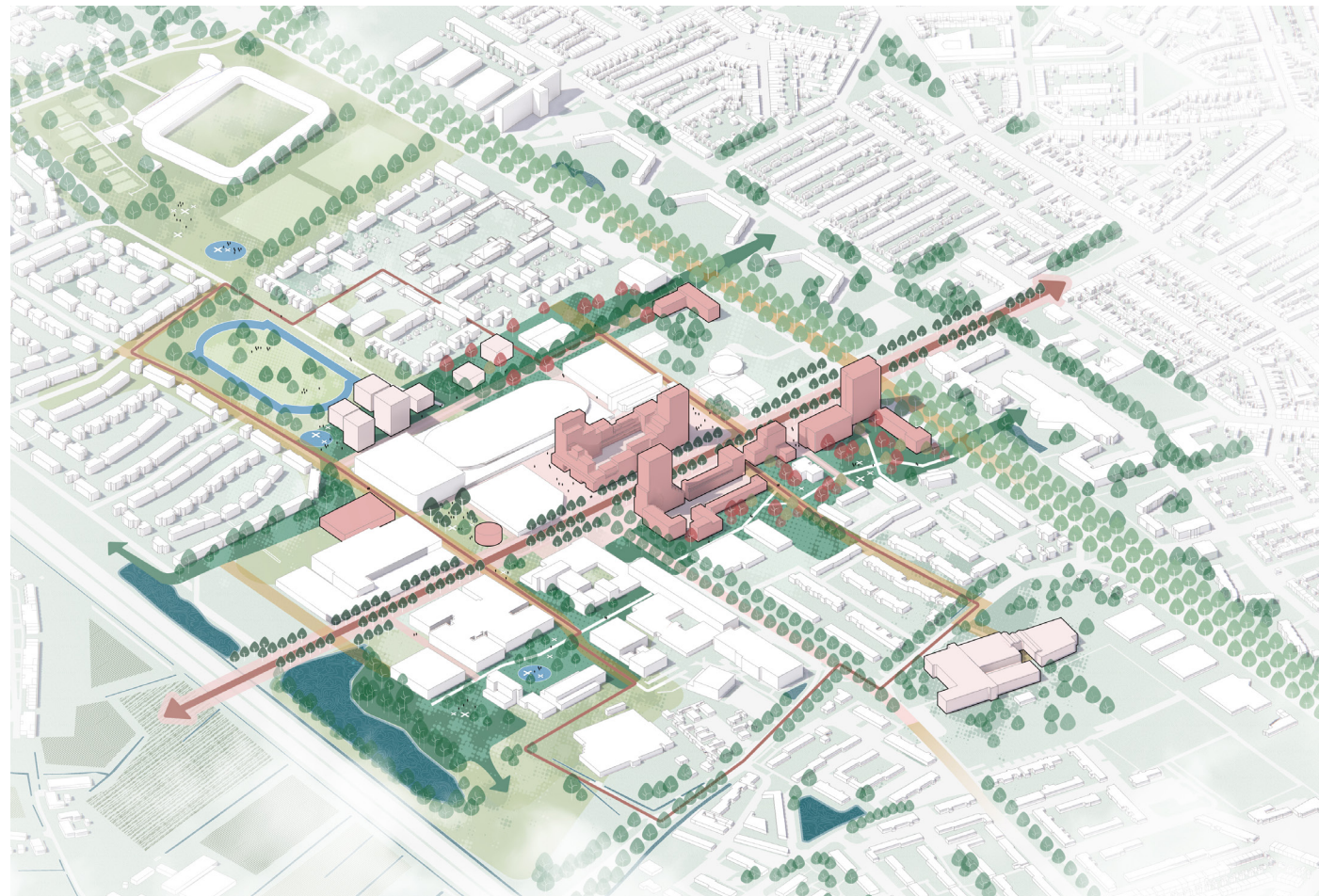
Mark these dates in your calendar:

27.02.2025
17.04.2025
26.06.2025
25.09.2025
27.11.2025

Sign up for our newsletter via: <https://groupa.nl/projects/carbon-stories/>

Urban planning

Transforming low-density areas with lots of surrounding parking space into high-density areas combining living, working and leisure? Leave that up to GROUP A. While architecture is our core business we get most excited when we can intertwine architecture with urban planning and interior design. This is how we design environments in which people live, work and reside comfortably in balance with the ecosystem.

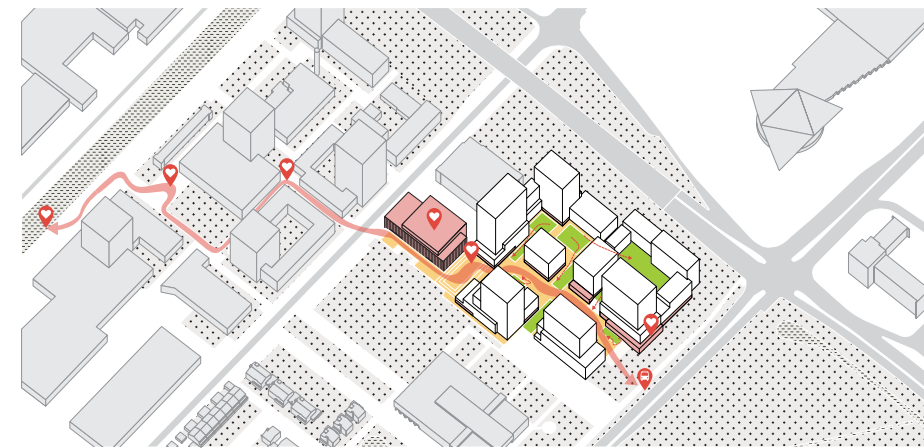


Stappegoor

Stappegoor located south of Tilburg's city centre, will be developed into an area for living, working, studying, sports and leisure. In our vision, new or improved public spaces will become important anchor points in the urban fabric. Adding height accents at strategic locations with building blocks, will improve orientation and act as

beacons in the neighbourhood. By stringing the public spaces together with connections specifically for pedestrians and cyclists, improves the livability of the neighbourhood, and understanding of the district. The diversity of functions offers a fantastic opportunity to create an actual center for Stappegoor. In short, a 'new', lively and green urban district, where it's pleasant to stay both during the day and

in the evening. In march 2024 Tilburg City Council has adopted the 4 design principles for the Heart of Stappegoor. In addition, the council wants to invest additionally to realize the high ambitions for a future proof living environment. We are looking forward to working together with all stakeholders on the next steps.



DOX Mahler

DOX Mahler sets the tone for Tilburg North. It will be a great place to live among the trees of the Mahlerstraat. It will be a place for everyone. For young and old. Regardless of whether you have a modest or a larger wallet. Tilburg Noord is a special and diverse neighborhood that is going to change. The municipality of Tilburg wants about 5,000 new houses in North. This transformation goes hand in hand with improvements such as more greenery, better accessibility and space for everyone to live safely and healthy. DOX Mahler is a development by Onorthodox and Piqet Development, with the municipality of Tilburg.

Brainpark

Brainpark Rotterdam is set to become a completely new city district oriented around the park and new promenade with in time about 3500 apartments. Residential buildings with modern facilities while keeping enough square meters for offices and amenities like catering, sports, care and groceries. The centrally located park with ponds and surrounding landscape will play an important role for recreation and social encounters as the connecting green heart of Brainpark. Our plan brings connects the subway with the Erasmus Campus with the newly to be realized promenade.

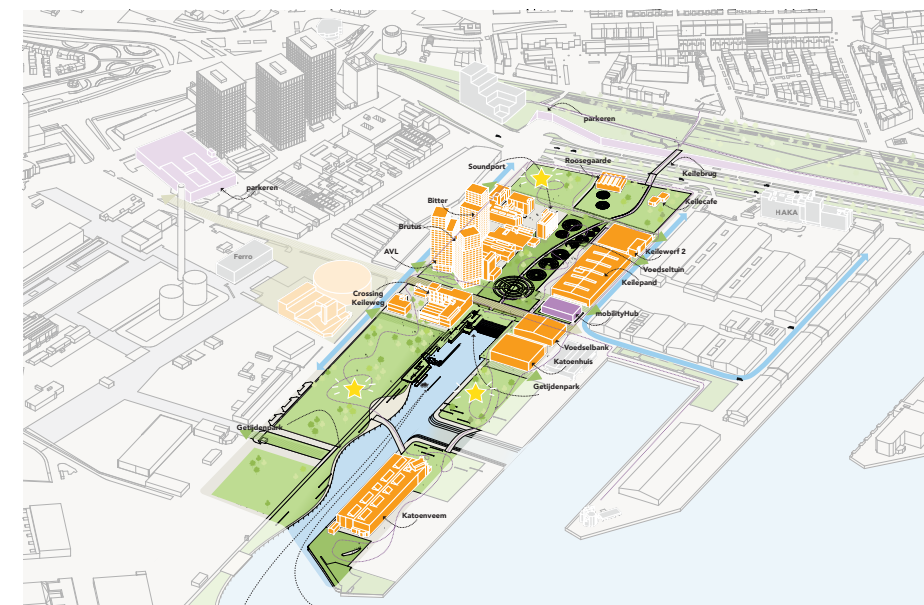
HUGO

Eindhoven's Koelhuis District and the Nefken site are about to transform into a vibrant cultural district from industrial area to a permanent home for the creative and tech communities. Our plan for HUGO helps to unite all stakeholders with solid principles inspired by Campina's former Koelhuis.



Keilekwartier cooperation

A very special project we are working on is the Keilekwartier in M4H Rotterdam. Convinced by the idea that the current creative industry forms the basis for the creation of an urban fabric that is connected to the city, keyplayers organized themselves in a cooperation. It gives identity and also provides a good basis for the future incorporation of housing. A projects that is very close to our hearts in its collective approach and set in our direct working environment.



Lowering the threshold

Lectures, serious games and quizzes. In order to meet the Paris Agreement we need to join forces and share knowledge across the entire construction sector. Jump on the bandwagon and let's do this together!



Collaboration as key to success

In the serious game Climate Positive M4H, participants gain insights about the means to facilitate climate-positive environments. The game makes tangible how emission, compensation and storage

resources (such as nature, building, mobility) relate to each other and what has much, and what has little effect. Great to see how this game triggers discussion about climate-positive environments!

Participants of the game will collectively aim to score as many points as possible for living

quality - based on the 8 principles from the Spatial Framework M4H -, to emit as little CO2 as possible and to store CO2 where possible.

The serious game continues to work as a very effective tool to get grip on the effects of certain measures and to have a well informed discussion on building climate positive environments.

Inspiration sessions

Set in the exhibition 'How to build' we hosted many inspiration sessions on how to reduce CO2 emissions in our built environment. Ranging from architecture students from Baltimore University to students from Amsterdam School of Real Estate and from policymakers of the Municipality in Rotterdam to policymakers of the Municipality of Baltimore.



Lectures

Bringing the public up to speed on their carbon knowledge: scope of the problem, built environment as part of the solution, anticipating legislation, systemic transitions, carbon calculation methods. We shared our research up to now in various compositions and approaches. From sharing lessons learnt during FuckUp Night at the Nieuwe Instituut to more specific lectures for the Municipality of Baltimore.

Carbon Quiz

The built environment accounts for about 40 percent of global CO2 emissions. What is the situation exactly? How can we achieve a climate-positive built environment? In our Carbon quiz you will discover how much you know about the possibilities and impossibilities of CO2-negative building. Gaining knowledge over drinks. Can you think of a better combination?

Inspiration Award Nominee

Willem van Genugten, instigator of our think tank Carbonlab, has been nominated as Hero for this year's PROVADA Inspiration Award!

The Inspiration Award rewards the impact an individual can have on the sustainability agenda in their professional environment by inspiring others and making choices where sustainability and the 1.5 degree society are key

factors and drivers.

This award is for an individual who has gone "above and beyond" in bringing about sustainable change within his or her organization or within our field of work.

We congratulate Mirjam Schmul from Brokkenmakers on winning the award and Saman Mohammadi from RE:BORN Real Estate on being nominated as well.



Environmental legislation

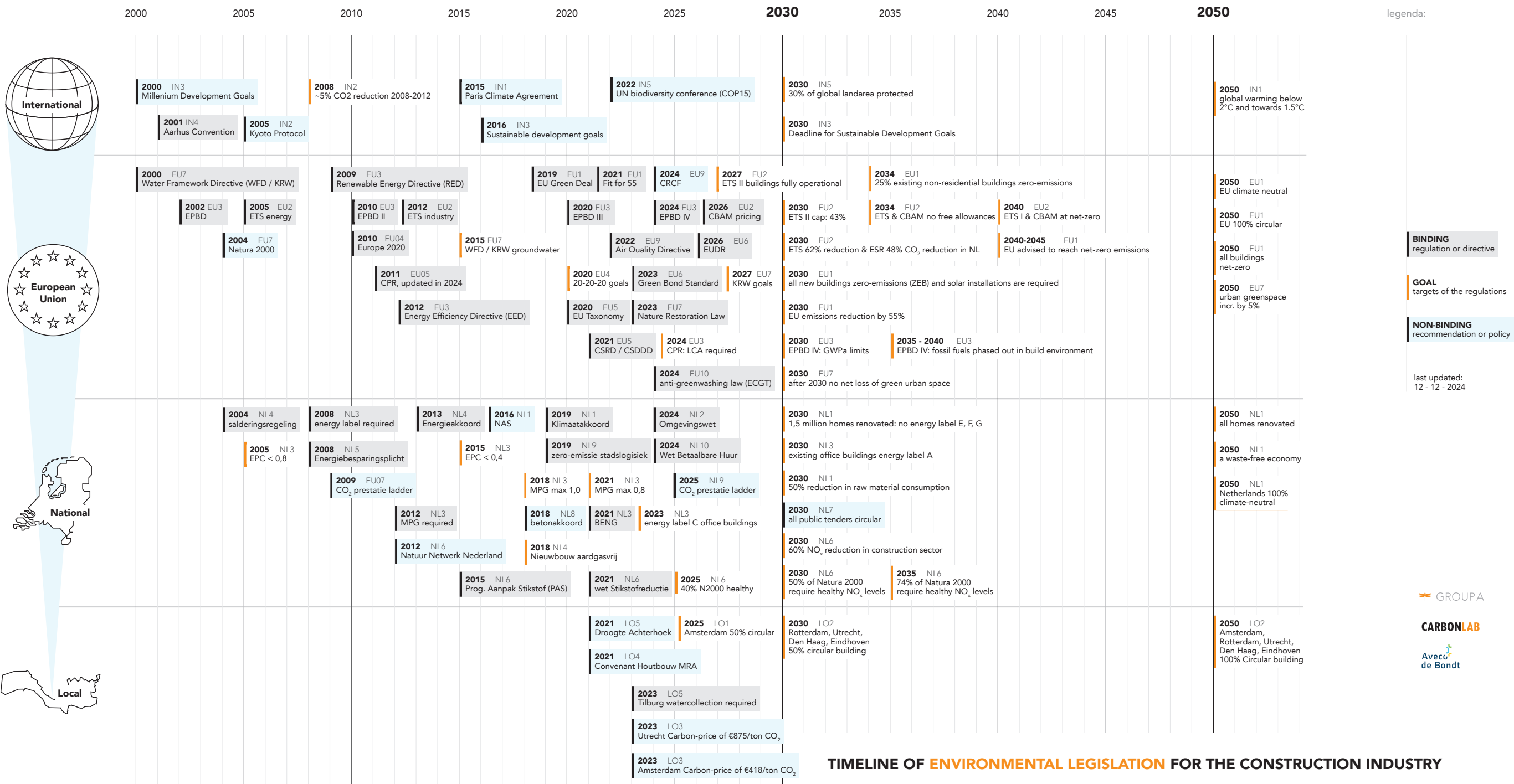
Climate-positive built environment, is that possible? And how to have a conversation about it? Based on potentially polarizing opinions and preferences or based on mutually shared knowledge and objective principles? To explore what all the disciplines that make up the built environment have in common, CARBONLAB mapped environmental laws and regulations for the construction industry from 2000 to 2050.

Because the creation of the built environment often spans several years, and sometimes even decades, we have mapped both existing and upcoming regulations and incentives. Both on a global scale, European scale, Dutch scale and local scale.

The timeline provides a factual overview of all the factors we have to comply with in planning and building our environment. A good basis for structuring the dialogue between the various disciplines on integrating sustainability and CO2 storage

into the environment. This instrumental overview serves its purpose as several parties are now using it in their projects and processes. We encourage everyone to use the overview internally and externally mentioning all contributing

parties. This overview is the current state of our research and therefore may be incomplete and in need of improvement. Download the most recent version on our website under the tab meanwhile.



Lessons learnt, lessons shared

Interviews, articles, conferences, podcasts, round tables. We enjoyed being out there in 2024 and aim to continue this in 2025!



"In an urban design, urban planning and architecture come together"

- Adam Visser

"Remember, as a property owner and developer, you have to organize a lot. You have to unite as a group, make investments, operate and maintain the property. The municipality won't do that for you."

- Folkert van Hagen in gebiedsontwikkeling.nu

Making city in M4H

City makers are a familiar phenomenon in the Netherlands. They are spatially and socially oriented professionals who dedicate themselves, outside the core activities of their company, to the development of their environment. Several interviews with partner Folkert van Hagen were dedicated to this topic. He co-initiated the KeileCollectief and Keile Kwartier Cooperation together with other cultural partners in the M4H area. On the occasion of Placemaking Week Europe in the Keilepand Folkert was interviewed by Archined and Gebiedsontwikkeling.nu. What are the lessons learnt?

Podcast on carbon neutral high-rise?

How can we have more people living in the city? Are towers an option for this? And how does that work if sustainability is the starting point? How much weight should it carry? RTM XL stopped by the Keilepand and talked about this with Harm Tilman, Folkert van Hagen and Willem van Genugten who, with CarbonLab, are investigating how we can build without CO2 emissions, the prerequisite for fulfilling the Paris Agreement.

Listen to the podcast via spotify: <http://www.rtm-xl.nl/2024/05/rtm-xl-podcast-aflevering-38-verticale-steden/>



"Unfortunately, lighting quality cannot be solved with quantity. The balanced use of artificial light in combination with daylight provides quality and can only be achieved by thinking carefully about it; in other words, by design."

- Maarten van Bremen during Future Lighting 2024



"The upside of focusing on CO2 reduction is unlimited"

- Willem van Genugten in The Architect

On reducing our CO2 footprint

Several interviews with Carbonlab's driver Willem van Genugten were published last year. Editors of de Architect, VG Visie and Houtblad were curious about our inspiring colleague and asked him about his motivation, vision and Carbonlab's methods. Encouraging knowledge exchange, we also participated in Architectenweb's open call for insight into the embodied CO2 emissions of projects. This offered a valuable overview.

"You only have an alibi to build if reducing the embodied carbon is an ambitious core part of your project"

- Willem van Genugten in VG Visie

Towards a climate positive new year!

Our whole team wishes you the very best for the holidays and for 2025. We will continue to transition our work towards ever more attractive and sustainable architecture and urban planning. We hope to do this together with you!



About GROUP A

We are GROUP A. An office for architecture, interior design and urban design located in the Keilepand Rotterdam. Founded back in 1996 by partners Maarten van Bremen, Folkert van Hagen and Adam Visser, we are now a solid team of twenty designers and five staff members. Our work has been rewarded with various prizes, including the Frame Award, IF Award and Green Building Award.

In the past twenty-five years we have realized a wide range of projects. From offices to housing and from mobility to transformations. In our work, urban planning, architecture and interior design are inextricably linked. This allows us to design environments in which people live, work and reside comfortably in balance with the ecosystem.

In our work we feel responsible for the entire process, from design to completion. Optimism and pragmatism, with attention for the social process, characterize the way we do this. With a committed and ambitious team we design smart and distinctive solutions by overseeing the whole scope, zooming in on details and keeping the user in mind at all times.

About Carbonlab

Carbonlab, a think tank of GROUP A, explores the possibilities of climate-positive design at all scales and in all design phases. We investigate the implications for the construction industry of laws and regulations to combat climate change. We calculate the CO2 emissions of projects, from urban planning models to testing material choices. Each study yields answers and follow-up questions. This is how we develop our knowledge at a rapid pace.

We also drive an interdisciplinary dialogue through which we contribute to developing a common ground within the construction sector. By means of the Carbon Stories series of debates in which we explore the CO2 issue in the building sector in depth, as well as through workshops with architects, cost experts, engineers and software developers. In this way we learn from each other and accelerate the transition to a climate-positive built environment.

Carbonlab is the breeding ground for practical implementation in ongoing and new GROUP A projects. By combining research and practice, we stimulate the transition of the built environment involving all disciplines in the building sector.

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 Frank Hanswijk
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 Nabor Fotografie
 PF Visual
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Rene Wouters
 Ronald Tillemann
 Sabine van der Vooren
 Wax
 Will Boase
 YuconVR
 ZesxZes



Stream during the holidays!

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, back in 2021, documentary filmmakers Onur Can Tepe and Marcel IJzerman invited GROUP A for a series of roundtable conversations. In the film Group Affairs, the architectural firm GROUP A explores the past

and future of their practice by inviting peers, clients, colleagues and friends to a roundtable discussion. Unexpected questions create a unique dynamic in this remarkable format. They reveal the fragilities of being an architect today, and question GROUP A's social, cultural and sustainable position

in society: a cinematic portrait of a group of architects united by their profound optimism.

GROUP AFFAIRS is now available online for free during the holidays! Stream via:

vimeo.com/marcelijzerman/groupaffairs

