

Building for Bouwkunde international open ideas competition

Competition programme

Loss and opportunity

On 13 May 2008, the Faculty of Architecture of the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) was unexpectedly reduced to ashes by a devastating fire. It was shocking to see how this sturdy building, which was full of valuable collections and always bustling with activity, turned out to be so vulnerable. Both in a material and an emotional sense, the fire was undoubtedly a major loss. The fire shook the foundations of the Dutch architectural community. Nevertheless, this community soon joined forces to set to work again. The Faculty of Architecture in Delft was already renowned the world over for its decisive, innovative and pragmatic approach. And it is precisely thanks to this characteristic attitude that the Faculty's sorrow regarding the loss was coupled with an enthusiastic and unflagging energy to enter a new phase. Indeed, the loss of the faculty building also offers new opportunities. Opportunities to take a fresh and critical look at the education of the future, opportunities to realise a modern, innovative and refreshing design for the university building, which can hold its own in terms of power and presence with the well-known *Bouwkunde* building from the years of Van den Broek and Bakema. Precisely because it intends to realise this specific ambition, the Faculty of Architecture has decided to organise an international open ideas competition, in preparation of a project competition for the new faculty building in 2009.

This competition creates firstly an opportunity to stimulate research by design. After all, combining design and research makes it possible to use a design to test a conceptual vision, and consequently strike a good balance between abstraction and reality. Secondly, the ideas competition makes it possible to also encourage creativity among the important younger generation of designers. The Faculty sees it as its task to explicitly offer this group a chance to enthusiastically think along regarding the scope of the educational building of the future. Finally, the competition is aimed to stimulate scientific development in the field by means of critical reflection and debate. Sustainability, as an integral aspect of both the future educational programme and the faculty premises, forms a theme of considerable urgency in this context.

A. Competition brief

1. More than a building

Almost by definition, people are influenced by their study and work environment, and, vice versa, a building only starts to live as an environment when it is used. In the case of an architecture faculty building, this effect is probably even stronger. After all, this is where the students are introduced to the profession, where they acquire a passion for architecture and learn to put it to use. The building can serve as a familiar point of reference for many aspects of the profession, and at the same time it can be scrutinised and questioned: the building becomes a subject of study, debate and criticism.

Although the old faculty building was by no means universally acclaimed as a shining example of fine architecture, it was part of many people's academic and professional life – not just as a structure, but almost as a personality. *Bouwkunde* – the official Dutch name of the Faculty of Architecture – acquired a far more immediate meaning. *Bouwkunde* was that particular location in Delft, with the large hall where everyone kept running into one another, the place where one spoke with colleagues or (fellow) students, where one attended lectures by well-known architects in packed lecture-halls, the setting for the *Bouwkunde* party, the place where people stood in line for the canteen and where, tired but proud, students presented their project after nights of drawing. *Bouwkunde* stood for a degree programme, a social setting and a presence in its own right. In Dutch, *bouw* can refer to both the activity of building and the physically constructed object. *Kunde* refers to craft, but also has connections with knowledge and art. *Bouwkunde*, in other words, describes a creative process, the balancing of workmanship and art, construction and appearance.

2. Assignment

The entrants are asked to formulate, both in text and images, a vision on the two competition themes: *new concepts* and *dynamics of city and campus*. This vision should be presented in a sketch design for a new *Bouwkunde* on the existing site, or on a well-argued, alternative site.

The new *Bouwkunde* will require a balance to be struck: a balance between views on the faculty's future on the one hand and appreciation for the knowledge and expertise amassed over the years on the other. The building's architecture needs to inspire students, but also give them enough space to develop their own views on design. It should be a strong expression, but by no means should it be brought back to a pure icon or materialised hype. The building needs to be well-suited for the current educational program, yet has to be flexible enough to accommodate future educational and organisational changes as well. Furthermore, the international open *Building for Bouwkunde* ideas competition involves a double challenge: the entrants are not only asked to come up with concepts for the university building of the future, but there is also the explicit assignment to indicate the position of the faculty vis-à-vis its urban and social context: that of the city of Delft and the university campus.

theme 1 New concepts

The new *Bouwkunde* is more than just the sum of its individual course units: it facilitates, stimulates and represents active use on the part of its staff members and students, inspiring education and authoritative research. The new Faculty of Architecture in Delft is an institute of international stature for the built-up environment; it stands for the merging of design and research activity, construction and management, practice and theory, tradition and innovation. The faculty's educational offer consequently entails more than just also a categorical design degree programme: it revolves around the full scope of design. The faculty programme deals with all phases of the design and construction process, as well as numerous related fields such as urban planning, landscape architecture, renovation and engineering. Sustainability is becoming increasingly important as a societal imperative that needs to be integrated within all these fields. New concepts for *Bouwkunde* should therefore offer ways to address the many constituent elements of the educational and research programme.

The physical appearance of the building also underlines its function as a meeting point for all the Faculty's students and alumni, architects and people involved in architecture, clients and contractors, as well as the other faculties of TU Delft and other educational institutions. The new *Bouwkunde* is thus a social place. It is an international location where a wide range of individuals and institutions can feel at home. It is a centre for learning as well as for scientific research. The building houses a variety of educational facilities such as studios and halls, but also offers a statement about permanent and flexible workplace concepts for the staff. The dynamic instruction, study and work environment of the *Bouwkunde* of the future utilises digital networks and wireless support, while at the same time the library and model hall retain their traditional centrality, both in the educational offer and in the building itself. Meetings – both planned and spontaneous – and consequently public areas that can accommodate and even challenge people to arrange them, are essential if the building is to accommodate a strong architectural community and ensure a sense of involvement.

The challenge for the new *Bouwkunde* therefore lies in bringing together original, innovative concepts and solutions for accommodating the large and complex programme. This requires the coherent merger of form, function and construction, combined with a usable lay-out that serves the building's wide range of users. The building shows intelligence in its technical elaboration and serves as an example in the area of sustainability. And *Bouwkunde* is more. The new *Bouwkunde* is a personality in its own right. Reliable, with its own approach, unorthodox and completely different from what one has come to expect.

theme 2 Dynamics of city and campus

Bouwkunde occupies a special position in Delft. Thanks to the width of its social context, the Faculty of Architecture has a distinctive profile among the faculties of the TU Delft with a specialist and technical orientation. The TU Delft is challenged to operate in a context of shrinking state funding, increasing international competition and a difficult labour market. The Faculty's relationships with institutes and companies at home and abroad are becoming increasingly important. Collaboration with the business community features ever higher on the agenda.

As in many other university towns, an increasing number of discussions centre on bringing together educational institutions and companies in a single location. *Bouwkunde* consequently has to position itself as a teaching institute and research institute between the technical and scientific breeding ground of the TU Delft and society's demand for partnerships with individuals and institutions beyond the University.

Crucial is the position of the faculty building in relation to the city of Delft and even the wider region. One starting point for this ideas competition is that the new *Bouwkunde* premises will be realised on

the site of the old building. However, it is also possible to present other viewpoints. The Faculty's extensive professional interface with sister faculties like Civil Engineering and Industrial Design can present opportunities for sharing spaces and facilities on-campus. In light of the social interaction and dynamic nature of university life, it is also imaginable that a faculty of architecture thrives at an inner-city location. On the other hand, if the Faculty is part of a university campus, knowledge city or business park, it may be able to present a more uniform and distinctive image as a major, international knowledge institute. Instead of a single building, a group of buildings connecting to different aspects of the urban and academic context is also a possible approach.

Thus, the challenge relating to the dynamics of city and campus lies in positioning the Faculty in spatial, social and functional terms. In all this, the new *Bouwkunde* should offer, also beyond the building itself, a pleasant environment. It is a representative place where one can receive international guests, it has environmental qualities on the level of landscape, water and energy, and it offers optimum accessibility for those travelling by public transport, bike or car. The new *Bouwkunde* faculty presents itself, integrates itself and distinguishes itself in the urban public space.

3. Programme at the building level

Total gross floor area (GFA)	50 – 60.000 m ²
Total usable floor area (UFA)	33.000 m ²
Buildings costs	€ 2000 / m ²

The total of 33.000 m² (UFA) consists of the required space functions as mentioned below.

The programme at the building level is not static. Consider facility sharing – with other internal or external users – for every function and feel free to reconsider floor area. Some of these function types – like faculty laboratories – could also be accommodated in other buildings on the campus. This means that sharing space functions with other faculties is possible. Changes can be made in the considered floor area of functions and in the amount of functions, based on arguments from trends, other references and presumed university or faculty policy changes. Basic rule for the positioning of functions is: the more users a function attracts, the more central its location should be.

Space functions	Specification	m ² in usable floor area (UFA)
1. Studio space	BSc/MSc studios, 2100 workplaces	9.000 m ²
2. Office space	1 desk/FTE, 650 desks + many other workplace types	8.000 m ² flexible concept
3. Lecture halls	different sizes (30-360 chairs)	2.000 m ² sharing possible
4. Library		1.000 m ²
5. Other educational facilities	modelling, computer, sketching	3.000 m ² sharing possible
6. Faculty laboratories	Test labs for Building Technology with severe technical requirements	2.000 m ² sharing possible
7. Conference rooms	including exposition/exhibition space	1.000 m ² sharing possible
8. Restaurant	multiple concepts	2.000 m ² sharing possible
9. Other public and collective facilities	accommodating the place to meet (bookshop, coffee bars, faculty club)	2.500 m ²
10. Storage space		2.500 m ² (in basement)
		TOTAL 33.000 m ²

Bicycles (1000) and parking spaces (400) are to be positioned outside the building.

Remarks on the required space functions:

- ad 1. Current faculty policy is to accommodate the collaborative design process
- ad 2. Current faculty policy is to accommodate the activity-related workplace: high-quality effective spaces for a variety of (academic) activities
- ad 4. Consider link between faculty library to central TU library
- ad 5. Currently centrally located to expose these processes to faculty community and visitors
- ad 6. Currently located at other university buildings for technical and / or efficiency reasons
- ad 7. Consider multifunctional use, international events, internal meetings, use by external parties
- ad 8. Consider other restaurant on campus (Mekelpark) and off-campus (city centre)
- ad 9. Feel free to add appropriate other functions.

4. Conditions for the location

Starting point for the sketch design is to position the new faculty building on the site of the old building along the Berlageweg (see map 1) at the campus of Delft University of Technology (see map 2).

As shown on map 1, a small ecological area lies between the former building and the Faculty of Civil Engineering. This area should be respected.

In 2010 a tram will connect Delft Central Station with the campus and the location of the former building.

B. Competition Rules

1. Description

The name of this international open ideas competition is 'Building for Bouwkunde'. The organizer of the competition is the Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. The competition programme is available on www.buildingforbouwkunde.nl.

2. Objectives

The Faculty wants to use the competition to encourage architects, urban planners and students to make statements about the university building of the future, and specifically the character and position of Delft's new faculty of architecture.

This international open ideas competition has three objectives:

- 1) To stimulate research by design.
- 2) To encourage creativity among the important younger generation of designers.
- 3) To stimulate scientific development in the field by means of critical reflection and debate.

3. Entrants

Entry is open to architects and urban planners and students following a degree programme in the area of architecture, urban planning, civil engineering or industrial design.

- 1. Architects and urban planners declare at the time of entry that they are registered in the Dutch Architects Register or a comparable recognised register in another country.
- 2. Students declare at the time of entry that they are enrolled in the current academic year:
 - In an architectural or urban planning degree programme at a recognised educational institution, of which the degree allows access to the Dutch Architects Register or a comparable recognised register in another country; *or*
 - In a study programme to become an industrial designer or civil engineer at a recognised educational institution.

All entrants declare at the time of entry that they can provide proof of their registration in a register or enrolment at a recognised educational institution if so required by the competition organiser.

The organisers of the competition, members of the analysis teams and members of the jury (and their offices) are barred from entry in the competition.

4. Method of Registration and Submission

Registration

All entrants need to register to enter the competition. At the time of their registration, entrants will be asked to create their own unique username and password. Entrants will then automatically receive a unique registration code for their entry in the competition in order to safeguard the intended anonymity of the competition. The registration code will be used to identify the entry after the evaluation of the jury. The only party to know which entrant name is tied to which entry is the manager of the website, who has signed a confidentiality agreement in this context.

If an entrant wants to submit more than one entry, he/she will have to register and submit each entry separately.

Registration closes at 6 November 2008, 12 noon Dutch local time. Any registration received later than this time will not be accepted.

Submission

The entries must be anonymous and can only be recognised by the registration code. The registration code must be included on all submitted items on the downright corner. All entries need to be submitted under a motto written in the Latin alphabet or Arabic or Roman numerals. The motto must be included on all items of the entry. At no point is the entry allowed to show the entrant's handwriting or any other sign or logo that could indicate the origin of the design.

The digital entry is submitted using the entry format on the website, which facilitates the following entry items:

1. A maximum of two A1 posters (84.1 x 59.4 cm, each vertical format in pdf file with a maximum size of 15 MB), with at least: 1 ground plan on scale 1:500, 1 exterior view (scale at entrant's discretion), 1 location sketch (scale at entrant's discretion).
2. One A4 text document (21 x 29,7 cm vertical format in MS Word or rich text file, maximum size 1 MB) with a motivation of the vision on each criterion.
3. A statement identifying the design as the intellectual property of the designer.

Submission closes at 13 November 2008, 12 noon Dutch local time. Any submission received later than this time will not be accepted.

5. Time schedule

Launch of the ideas competition	13 September 2008, 1 p.m. Dutch local time
Opportunity to ask questions	before 24 October 2008, 12 noon Dutch local time
Deadline for registration	6 November 2008, 12 noon Dutch local time
Deadline for submissions	13 November 2008, 12 noon Dutch local time
Announcement of the nominees	second half of December 2008
Awards ceremony	January 2009; date to be decided

6. Questions and answers

Questions regarding the competition programme can be submitted before 24 October 2008 12 noon Dutch local time via the competition website. Answers to these questions will be provided on the website at the latest at 31 October 2008.

All questions submitted as well as the related answers will be made anonymous and will be offered for reference on the website, together with possible relevant information. From that point on, these answers and related information will be considered an appendix to the competition programme, with the same binding nature.

Entrants are not allowed to confer with the organisation outside this procedure.

7. Jury panel

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|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Liesbeth van der Pol | Chair, Chief Government Architect, The Netherlands |
| 2. Mark Wigley | Architect, Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School, USA |
| 3. Rahul Mehrotra | Architect, Professor Department of Architecture MIT, USA |
| 4. Yung Ho Chang | Architect, Professor and Head Department of Architecture MIT, USA |
| 5. Herman Hertzberger | Architect, Emeritus Professor TU Delft, The Netherlands |
| 6. Kees Kaan | Architect, Professor TU Delft, The Netherlands |
| 7. Ole Bouman | Director of NAI, Rotterdam, The Netherlands |
| 8. Wytze Patijn | Architect, Dean Faculty of Architecture TU Delft, The Netherlands |
| 9. Leanne Reijnen | Student Faculty of Architecture TU Delft, The Netherlands |
| Herma de Wijn | Secretary, Architect, The Netherlands |

8. Evaluation criteria

The entries will be judged against three criteria, during which evaluation the jury will emphatically review their treatment of the indicated themes.

1. Visionary power, in the context of which the jury will focus on the originality and innovative character of the sketch design, including the area of sustainability
2. Architectural quality, in the context of which the jury will review the spatial composition, the incorporation in the urban environment, the expression and materialisation, and the consistency of the sketch design.
3. Economic and ecological viability, in the context of which the jury will assess the functionality and feasibility of the sketch design.

9. Evaluation procedure

The evaluation procedure will be as follows:

a. Assessment phase:

The submitted entries will be appraised in week 47 and 48 by two analysis teams. The entries will be checked against the competition rules as set out in this competition programme: rules regarding time, submitted items, registration code, motto, entrants and language. Entries that do not comply with the rules will not be included in the remainder of the evaluation process. The related decision will be made by the jury. In addition, the entries will be appraised as to how they have dealt with the two themes of the competition assignment and the information on requirements and conditions. The results of this assessment will be made available to the jury.

b. Evaluation phase:

The jury will evaluate the submitted entries to the two themes of the competition assignment, and analyse the entries on the basis of the individual evaluation criteria in the first half of December 2008.

In a still to be determined number of evaluation rounds, the jury will subsequently establish, on the basis of an integral review, which entries are to be nominated for awarding a prize and will indicate the order of the awardees. As the jury is interested in solutions for sub-aspects, they will also indicate which entries are eligible for an award on the basis of one theme or one evaluation criterion.

The jury's decisions are binding. Organiser and entrants unconditionally accept the decisions of the jury. The jury is authorised to lift the anonymity of all the entries after it has announced the winners.

The jury will announce the nominated entries in the second half of December 2008 on the website. The winning entries, the names of the winners and that of the other entrants will be announced at the awards ceremony in January 2009; date to be decided.

10. Jury report

The jury's report will be made available in January 2009 at the awards ceremony and via the website. The jury report is public.

The jury report will offer a general interpretation of the evaluation criteria that were in place, discuss the progress of the evaluation procedure and indicate in which round the non-winning designs dropped out. In the case of the entries that made it to the final evaluation round, the report will treat each design in

more detail, explaining how it was appraised against the criteria. The jury report will furthermore contain an evaluation of the competition results and recommendations for the organiser.

11. Prizes

The competition prize money totals EUR 60,000, not including VAT, which will be reimbursed by the organiser. The organiser will transfer the total prize amount no later than 28 February 2009.

The jury will distribute the prize money at its own discretion among the winning entrants.

The jury can give specific entries honourable mentions at its own discretion. No prize money is connected to such an honourable mention.

12. Follow-up to the ideas competition

The ideas that come out of this competition will be used to hone and draw up the definite programme of requirements for the new faculty of architecture and draw up the definite programme of requirements for the new faculty of architecture.

Based on the definite programme of requirements a project competition for the new building will be launched early 2009. This project competition will take the shape of a European Procurement process, the precise structure of which has not yet been determined. In the selection stage of the project competition, various aspects such as visionary power, conceptual capacity, demonstrable vision regarding educational buildings and (successful) participation in design competitions like this ideas competition will play a role. All entrants in the ideas competition will be informed about the project competition. The winners are emphatically invited to take part in the project competition.

13. Language

The official language of the competition is English.

14. Publicity, publications and exhibition

Entrants, jury members and anyone other than the project manager are not allowed to seek publicity with regard to matters relating to the substance of the entries or the competition in general prior to the jury's announcement of its decision.

The names of the nominees will be published at the website in the second half of December 2008. After they have been announced by the jury, the names of the winning entries and the jury report will be published on the website. The winning entries and a number of other entries, to be determined by the jury, will subsequently be presented in an exhibition.

All entries will be included in a publication that provides a shorter or longer explanation of each entry, depending on the evaluation. The results of the competition will be discussed in a debate.

15. Copyright

The entries will remain the intellectual property of the entrants. Through submission the entrant declares that the entry is his intellectual property.

16. Use and ownership

All entries in the competition will remain available for use by the organiser for a period of one year after their date of submission.

During the period that the entries remain at the disposal of the organiser, the organiser has the right to publish or exhibit the submitted material in the manner set out in this competition programme, without having to offer the designer any form of remuneration. The organiser requires the express permission of the designer for any other form of depiction, publication or exhibition of the material.

During the period that the entries remain at the disposal of the organiser, the organiser has the right to use the submitted material for educational purposes, with acknowledgement of source, without having to offer the designer any form of remuneration.

17. Disputes

Any disputes that arise between the organiser, entrants and members of the jury, including disputes that are viewed as such by only one of the parties, will be settled through arbitration.

Arbitration will be carried out according to the Rules of Arbitration of the Stichting Arbitrage Instituut Bouwkunst, as they apply three months before the date on which the entries must be submitted.

18. In closing

This competition is subject to the terms as set out in this competition programme. The competition programme is the definitive statement of the terms and conditions for this competition. The competition programme is binding for the organiser and the members of the jury. By submitting a design, the entrant declares that he/she is aware of and accepts the contents of the competition programme.

The competition programme was drawn up on the basis of the model competition programme for competitions as described in the *Kompas* publication and referred to in the Covenant for Competitions in the field of architecture, urban planning and landscape architecture.