

Press Release

Amsterdam, 15 January 2024

D/DOCK transforms the interior of landmark office building Zandkasteel in the Amsterdam-Zuidoost district into a vibrant urban oasis

Design studio D/DOCK unveils the interior transformation of Zandkasteel, breathing new life into a cherished architectural masterpiece in the Amsterdam-Zuidoost district.

The scale and organic character of the building

The monumental building is characterised by the absence of 90-degree angles. The organic 'free form' style aims to liberate the user from standard constraining cube-like structures. Originally completed in 1986 and designated as a heritage site in 2017, it was designed by the iconic architects Ton Alberts and Max van Huut for the Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank (NMB), later merged into the ING Group.

D/DOCK worked in close collaboration with Alberts & Van Huut Architecture, adhering to the unique condition set by the original architect of avoiding any fixed items to the floors or walls. Only loose, flexible elements which uphold high standards regarding sustainability were employed, respecting the original and organic character of the building.

Navigating the colossal scale of Zandkasteel presented a challenge. By skilfully infusing human-centric elements that create a sense of intimacy and connection, D/DOCK managed to maintain the awe-inspiring architecture and promote user-friendly accessibility. In contemplating the relationship between the existing architecture and the new interior design, one finds harmony – 'new seeds' planted, echoing the organic principles inherent in the original architects' vision.

The concept – Internal City

The concept of 'Internal City' drove the design implemented by D/DOCK, incorporating streets, squares, and parks.

The large corridor on the first floor serves as the heartbeat of the building, connecting various office and coworking spaces, meeting rooms, and hospitality venues, bringing together residents from the 263

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apartments above, as well as external users, businesses, and neighbours in a harmonious blend of private and public spaces.

The internal landscape also features themed squares which promote related activities such as learning, art, and relaxation, nurturing creativity, collaboration, and spontaneous encounters.

The greenery, already incorporated in the design by Alberts & Van Huut was revisited by Makers of Sustainable Spaces (MOSS), introducing new plants that match the colour palette of each specific area.

The 'Internal City' concept goes beyond mere aesthetics. It forms the cornerstone of a user-centric approach to the interior design of the space, in which scale, functionality, spatial awareness, and adaptability, create an environment that prioritises the comfort and wellbeing of its diverse inhabitants.

Biophilic design

The original design draws inspiration from the cycles of nature, echoing sprouting seas in springtime, blooming flowers in the summer, and the bare tree branches of winter. By introducing organic shapes into the interiors, D/DOCK continued the theme ensuring a unified design.

Adding social value: connecting spaces and people

Visionary client trio – Wonam, Zadelhoff, and Re:Invent share a strong commitment to generating positive social impact. By introducing the concept of blended use, office tenants, residents, and neighbours converge at Zandkasteel, creating a dynamic atmosphere. The success of this approach lies in the added value for the building that maximises the use of space. The auditorium where an office tenant gives a presentation during the workday transitions into a movie theatre to be enjoyed by the wider community in the evenings and weekends. This inclusivity extends to diverse activities, from art exhibitions to sports, and cultural gatherings, showcasing the versatility of Zandkasteel as a vibrant hub, not just for its residents, but for also for the surrounding community.

Zandkasteel was recently honored with the Geurt Brinkgreve Award 2023 for the Best Heritage Redevelopment Project.

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D/DOCK

Editor's note (not intended for publication):

Technical sheet

Client: Wonam and Zadelhoff

Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Size: 4,000m²

Interior design: D/DOCK

Architect: Alberts & Van Huut Architecture

Property manager: Re:Invent

Interior builder: Frederiks Interieurs

Green designer: Makers of Sustainable Spaces (MOSS)

Wayfinding: Sandy Duijsens

Supplier standard furniture, accent lighting fixtures and loose rugs: Facility Linq

Acoustic wall panels' fabric (meeting rooms): Maharam

Custom carpet tiles (meeting rooms and office spaces): Tarkett

Custom rugs: D/DOCK (design) and Ege in collaboration with Carpet Makers (production)

About D/DOCK

D/DOCK is a creative studio of thought leaders and design pioneers. Leading with creative integrity and entrepreneurial spirit, D/DOCK creates meaningful spaces and moments. For more information, please visit ddock.com

Media contact

For more information, questions, interviews, and visual material, please contact: press@ddock.com