

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

People, Place, Purpose

A lecture by Francine Houben, Mecanoo, Delft, on June 29, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Oskar von Miller Forum

In the lecture "People, Place, Purpose", Francine Houben will present her body of work that has been based on these three fundamental elements. She will share the stories behind Mecanoo's high-profile designs that have been realised all over the world, like the Delft University of Technology Library and the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts. Each design is founded on observation of people, location, culture and climate. The analysis amounts to designs that respond to current needs, yet which are also prepared for (un)predictable change.

Mecanoo architecten, officially founded in Delft in 1984, is made up of a highly multidisciplinary staff of creative professionals from 25 countries. The team includes architects, engineers, interior designers, urban planners, landscape architects and architectural technicians. Since the start Mecanoo has been committed to creating architecture that contributes to a better world. From an office that started out designing social housing in an era of urban renewal, the practice has developed into an international firm working across the world.

Selected works include Delft University of Technology Library, Delft (1997), La Llotja Theatre and Congress Centre, Lleida, Spain (2008), Library of Birmingham, United Kingdom (2013), Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Boston, United States (2015) and National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts, Taiwan (to be opened in 2018).

About

Francine Houben is the founder and creative director of Mecanoo architecten. Her work ranges from theatres, museums and libraries to neighbourhoods, housing and parks. Currently, she is working on the renovation of the New York Public Library.

Francine Houben has held professorships in the Netherlands and abroad, currently holding a position as Visiting Professor at Yale School of Architecture. As curator of the First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam in 2003, she brought the theme of the aesthetics of mobility to the forefront of international design consciousness. In 2010 Francine Houben was granted lifelong membership to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. She holds Honorary Doctorates from Utrecht University and Université de Mons. Francine has gained international acclaim for her works. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands presented her the prestigious Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds for her entire oeuvre in 2015.