

PRESS RELEASE

'A new part of the city'

Expansion plans for Kruisherhotel Maastricht in collaboration with architect Francine Houben

Maastricht, December 9, 2021

Just imagine: a new part of Maastricht, right in the centre, which exerts a great attraction on people from all over the world but also a part of the city where Maastricht residents themselves like to come. An ambition that Camille Oostwegel, together with architect Francine Houben, wants to fulfil with full conviction.

Camille Oostwegel, owner & managing director of Oostwegel Collection, has signed a purchase agreement with Zuyd University to take over 'Sociëteit De Stuers'. This national monument from 1903, designed by architects Pierre and Jos Cuypers, is located next to the Kruisherhotel and is still part of the Maastricht Institute of Arts. Sociëteit de Stuers is of great cultural-historical importance as an expression of cultural, social and typological development and because of its innovative value. With the purchase of this historic building, Oostwegel Collection wants to expand the current Kruisherhotel with facilities that raise the 'five-star level' to an even higher level.

The expansion includes 50 hotel rooms, a high-end fine casual restaurant and a multifunctional space for exhibitions and meetings for up to 150 guests. In addition, the head office of Oostwegel Collection is also moving to this new location. To accommodate all these facilities, the national monument will be repurposed and expanded.

Camille Oostwegel: "This expansion fits our family business perfectly! Such an ambition is not easy to achieve. We therefore engaged architect Francine Houben of Mecanoo Architecten to design the project together with us. Francine has a special relationship with the place, as she designed the houses on the Herdenkingsplein in the early 1990s. Over the years, she has made a name for herself as an architect with award-winning projects in New York, Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Birmingham, Delft and of course our St. Gerlach Pavilion in Houthem-St. Gerlach." Not only Mecanoo Architecten are involved in the project. Oostwegel have also chosen SATIJNplus Architecten as a local partner and restoration architect.

Francine Houben about the project: "The dream is to give the area around the Kommel, together with the Kruisherhotel and the Maastricht Institute of Arts, a quality boost, so that a lively area is created where both residents and visitors of Maastricht feel right at home. A new part of the city, that is inspired by the qualities of the historic environment: the experience of a courtyard in the middle of the bustling heart of the city!"

Preparations are in full swing and hopefully construction can start in September 2023. The expansion of the Kruisherhotel could then receive the first guests in 2025.

About Kruisherhotel Maastricht

The former 15th-century Kruisher monastery is located in the centre of Maastricht. Together with the monumental, Gothic church, the monastery has been transformed into a design hotel. The only 5-star hotel in Maastricht has 60 modern, comfortable rooms. In the ship of the hotel, on the mezzanine, is the Kruisher restaurant, where Burgundian and regionally oriented dishes are served. On the ground floor there are 3 boardrooms (4-16 persons) and the Wine Bar Rouge & Blanc. Kruisherhotel Maastricht has been part of the Limburg family business Oostwegel Collection since 2005 and is a member of Design Hotels.

For more information: www.kruisherhotel.nl

About Mecanoo Architecten

Mecanoo, officially founded in Delft, the Netherlands, in 1984, is made up of a multidisciplinary staff of over 140 creative professionals from 25 countries. The team includes architects, engineers, interior designers, urban planners, landscape architects and architectural technicians. The company is led by creative director and founding partner Francine Houben. The extensive collective experience, gained over three decades, results in designs that are realized with technical expertise and great attention to detail. Mecanoo's projects range from single houses to complete neighbourhoods and skyscrapers, cities and polders, schools, theatres, libraries, rail stations, hotels, museums, and even a chapel.

Discovering unexpected solutions for the specifics of programme and context is the foremost challenge in all of Mecanoo's assignments. Each design is considered in terms of its cultural setting, place and time. As such, Mecanoo treats each project as a unique design statement embedded within its context and orchestrated specifically for the people who use it. Within the practice are knowledge centres which enable us to stay current

on technological and design innovations in sustainability, eco-engineering, technology, education and learning, high-rise and mobility.

Preoccupied not by a focus on form, but on process, consultation, context, urban scale and integrated sustainable design strategies, the practice creates culturally significant buildings with a human touch. Selected works include Delft University of Technology Library, Delft (1997), La Llotja Theatre and Congress Centre, Lleida, Spain (2010), Library of Birmingham, United Kingdom (2013), Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Boston, United States (2015), Delft City Hall and Train Station (2017), National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts, Taiwan (2018) and Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library, New York City, United States (2020).

For more information: www.mecanoo.nl