Join the conversation about the University Quarter layout

What will the University Quarter look like? What will be located where, and how will we lay out the public space? The UvA, municipality, local residents and other stakeholders are currently exploring these questions together.

Adrian Geuze and Penne Hangelbroek from urban planning consultancy West 8 are in charge of the process that should ultimately result in a strategic master plan. ‘That means a plan for the layout of the entire University Quarter in general. The specific details will be worked out later.’ The UvA is the initiator of and is cooperating with the municipality of Amsterdam on this project.

Important notions
A participation evening was held on 23 April to gather input for the master plan. ‘It was a productive evening involving residents, business owners and other interested parties,’ Penne says. The topics were logistics and mobility, public access and inclusiveness and the identity of the area. ‘Residents are proud to live in this area, which is expressed by their concern for the immediate surroundings. Just like the UvA and the municipality, they seek a balance between accessibility to the area and peace and quiet. This is no easy task: changes must fit in with the small-scale medieval structure of this part of the city.’

Opportunities
According to Penne, there are great opportunities for improving the area in spite of the occasional conflict of interest. ‘We can avoid ill-advised considerations by engaging in discussion with each other, for example on the topics of cafés and restaurants, dealing with large

Faculty of Humanities tackles campus layout

Gerard Nijsten is the director of Operational Management for the Faculty of Humanities. ‘Although the main focus in recent months has been on the construction of the new University Library, we will be tackling the rest of the campus layout from now on.’

‘We have a good idea of the number of square metres for each department and the demands by building,’ Gerard says. ‘First, however, we have to decide which department will go where. Additionally, urban planning consultancy West 8 has challenged us to look at how we can achieve a recognisable signature for each department.’

Start of the participation project
‘In June, we will organise six meetings with specific groups, such as representatives of the various departments, the Faculty Office and the Faculty Board to discuss wishes and options,’ There will also be a separate session about the Digital Lab. ‘The question is: is it important to us to cluster all of the Digital Labs, which are currently housed in different buildings, for the sake of increasing interdisciplinary collaboration?’

Wish
Gerard indicates that the Faculty of Humanities will engage in several consultation rounds in the days and weeks ahead. ‘This will include external parties who want to visit the campus as well. At the Faculty of Humanities, our wish is to be more than just a place for the faculty and the University Library. Consequently, we are talking to all sorts of parties in the city about collaboration. The presence of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Academic Club and Venture Lab are great examples of this.’

STUDENT HOUSING

Student housing prevents empty buildings

Students face a severe accommodation shortage. This has prompted the UvA to make the Oudemanhuispoort temporarily available to DUWO for student housing. ‘This is how we do our part towards solving the accommodation shortage,’ says Cees van der Wolf, director of Real Estate Development at the UvA. ‘We are doing everything it takes to be a good university. If people want to study and carry out research here, they need to have a roof over their heads. That is why we are encouraging housing corporations to make more units available to students.’

Goal
The UvA is giving DUWO the opportunity to create student units in the Oudemanhuispoort (OMHP). The building would otherwise remain empty for three years, which Cees finds unacceptable. DUWO is a housing corporation that focuses entirely on student housing. The goal is for students to be able to move into the units in September 2018.

Positive
Prior to applying for a permit from the city, the UvA consulted local residents. Cees: ‘As a result of an information session for residents, it was decided to house fewer students and to create a temporary project. Ultimately, the Faculty of Humanities will occupy the OMHP. The renovation project is scheduled three years from now. DUWO makes limited investments, which are factored into the rent. In other words: none of the education budget goes into student housing.’ There will be room for approximately 80 to 100 students. ‘DUWO will do everything to prevent any nuisance.’
Invitations

Plenty to talk about, in other words. A follow-up to the participation evening will take place on 4 June, when West 8 will present a number of concept drawings for the layout of the University Quarter. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to respond. Penne hopes that many people will attend and share their insights: ‘After the summer, we will present the revised master plan, after which point only minor adjustments can be made. I think it is very positive how the municipality, the University and the UvA are working together to improve this area more.’

Continuation of page 1

A unique project at a unique location

Behind the scenes, preparations for the construction of the new University Library are well under way. The UvA has appointed a site manager for the realisation of the new University Library to supervise the entire implementation process. ‘This will ensure that information is transferred effectively from each construction phase to the next,’ according to Eric Slotboom, UvA project developer, who finds this valuable lesson from previous projects.

Joris Bokhove
Areacoordinator for the Zuidelijke Wallen district, City of Amsterdam: “We could really use knowledge from residents and business owners about the area as input. I thought the first information evening was positive and constructive. Hopefully, residents will gradually gain more trust in the process during these sessions, because the municipality and the UvA will listen to what is on their minds and actually do something about it. Together with the UvA, we are aiming for more green spaces and peace and quiet in the University Quarter. We now have the unique opportunity to discuss with one another how we can lay out this part of the city so that it becomes a counterbalance to the busy Rokin and Wallen.”

Thomas Verbooy
UvA area manager: “As area manager, it is important for me to know what is going on in the neighbourhood. The information session on 23 April was very helpful in that respect, in part due to the chosen format. Parties were invited to share what they value in their living environment, what they dream of and how that might look in real life. When it comes to lived experience, residents make powerful experts. For me, it was encouraging to hear that concerns and solutions articulated by residents are already on the UvA’s radar.”

Penne Hangelbroek

Careful preparation

The construction of the University Library is a unique project at a unique location. The environmental and planning permit lists many requirements. Part of the site manager’s job is to ensure clear building instructions before the start of the tendering and construction process. “This makes careful preparation essential,” says Bart Daalder from SolveProblems, who shares responsibility for management and supervision with Rik Ter Haar and Jeroen van Egmond from BOAG Advies en Management. They have prior experience of working together as a project team, such as on the new construction of the IJ-hall and pedestrian areas as well as the partial renovation of the historic main building at Amsterdam Central railway station.

On site

The project is divided into four phases: demolition; dismantling and asbestos removal; substructure and superstructure; and fittings. Rik Ter Haar: “We are currently preparing the tendering procedure for the demolition and asbestos removal phase. This means that we must make our expectations clear to private contractors down to the last detail. We spend most of our time on site to conduct research in buildings BG13/14, which feature dozens of historic elements. The details are listed in historic descriptions, which we supplement with 360-degree photos. This is one example of how we specify what must be done at each location. It prevents disputes with contractors afterwards.”

Complex

All of the various activities must be coordinated, workable and within budget. “There are so many parties involved in a project like this,” Bart says. “From architects to building contractors and installation consultants, from archaeologists to plant and animal specialists, from competent authorities to infrastructure coordinators. We function as a linking pin, connecting all of these individuals and the work that needs to be done at the implementation level. This is a complex business.” The demolition and asbestos removal phase for BG13/14 starts this summer.

For more information and the schedule, visit uva.nl/university-quarter.

Multifaceted provisional interior design for University Library

Study areas where the walls, doors and floors serve as whiteboards and spaces with actual trees: these are just two of the eye-catching provisional ideas for the interior design of the University Library. ‘Together with staff and students, we thought about what we wanted the study places, bookcases, meeting areas, desks and so on to look like,’ says Marloes van Wagendorp, who is supervising the process. “MvSA Architects then took all of our wishes and ideas and went to work.”

Involvement

It is a tremendous challenge to fit seven kilometres of books, 950 study places, an office wing and lecture rooms into the building. Marloes explains that as many people as possible were consulted for the provisional design. “We reached out to lecturers and education experts for their input on the multifunctional classrooms. For the study places, we turned to students. We created a ‘Study Place Tinder.’ Students were given a gallery of images to scroll through and could indicate whether they liked them or not, just like on Tinder.”

Historical details

The provisional design that has now been specified is the next step towards the final design, which will be ready this summer. At any rate, it is going to be a multifaceted design. There will be big areas, small areas, areas with high ceilings and many different types of spaces. You will be able to work quietly by yourself as well as in groups. The Amstel, the main lobby, will be very green. Furthermore, the historic features of the former hospital will be preserved as much as possible. This was a specific wish of the students; they think the 19th-century details have character.”

For more information and the schedule, visit uva.nl/university-quarter.

We function as a linking pin, connecting all of these individuals and the work that needs to be done at the implementation level.”

Bart Daalder, site manager

Penne Hangelbroek

University Library

Jeroen van Egmond, project architect; Rik ter Haar and Bart Daalder.

Impression interior design
Participation is more than having a say

Marie Morel and Sandra Bos are both researchers affiliated with Urban Management, a key Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) objective. By order of the UvA, they are setting up a Field Lab for the University Quarter.

"A Field Lab is a kind of living lab that creates an experimental space where different parties can work together on common challenges," Marie said. AUAS has previously established successful Field Labs in cooperation with the City of Amsterdam and its districts, including one for the Oost district in Middenmeer-Noord, residents worked with the district, strategic business unit, the Waternet water company, housing corporations and AUAS to come up with ways to reduce flooding and heat stress in this area.

Exploration
"For the University Quarter, we are currently identifying the parties that should be involved in the transformation of the University Quarter to an even greater degree, such as the community centre, students, cafes and restaurants and local residents. In addition, we are focusing on important themes relevant to this area. After the summer, when West 8's master plan is ready, we will further address themes such as bicycle and other mobility, vacant buildings and green spaces. We are looking for stories and ideas from the neighbourhoods."

Wish
"The UvA has emphasised the wish to involve other parties in laying out the University Quarter in more detail, making it more liveable and more attractive. In the Field Lab, we are building an area-oriented community where people work together on important issues. We regard the community as a dynamic network in which people and issues come and go, where you work on concrete solutions to practical problems, where parties meet each other. This is a multi-year project in which investments are made in good relationships. Students keep the Field Lab active and alive through group assignments, interviews, research and so forth."

Allies
"According to the researchers, this way of working requires the UvA and the municipality to adopt a different role. "They have to be more flexible and truly cooperate with all of the parties involved. It is about all of us thinking together about public space, green spaces, responsibility for management and so forth." Both point out that participation is more than having a say. "In the community, experts – people who live, work or study in this area – share ideas, questions and concerns and look for solutions together. We stimulate this process with our knowledge of area-oriented participation, communities and campus development in other parts of the world. We will have succeeded in our approach if the parties involved always know how to find one another and see each other as allies rather than opponents," Sandra says."

Participants?
"It is about all of us thinking together about public space, green spaces, responsibility for management and so forth."
Sandra Bos

The Field of Humanities will start its participation project in June. Representatives of other UvA units on the campus have been invited to a meeting at the end of May.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING
Local residents, business owners and stakeholders have received an invitation by post to a follow-up meeting for the participation project on 4 June (Le Perdu theatre, 10:00-12:00).

MASTERCLASS
Everyone is welcome to attend the "WeMakeTheCity masterclasses on the Binnenwegstuis premises on 22 June. For more information, visit Wemakeethe.city."

Read more about Wemakeethe.city on page 4 of this newspaper.

CONTACT
Contacting the researchers directly is also possible: s.bos@hva.nl or m.w.a.morel@hva.nl.

Would you like more information about Field Labs? Marie and Sandra contributed to the book Laboratorium Amsterdam. The book (in Dutch) is available to download from hva.nl/urbanmanagement.

From the Nile to the Amstel

"The first group of rooms have been cleared out in preparation for the renovation of the Allard Pierson Museum, which starts in September. A talk with Wim Hupperetz, director of the Allard Pierson Museum and the Special Collections."

The Allard Pierson Museum has not had a decent structural upgrade since 1976. "Overdue maintenance must be addressed and we need to get our facilities up to date. In addition, we will connect the collections and the buildings that house the Allard Pierson Museum and the Special Collections."

Broad cultural historic museum
Hupperetz explains that there are still two entrances, two brands, two museum gift shops, two programmes and two websites. He wants to organise this more efficiently. "We will go forward as a broad cultural historic museum: the Allard Pierson Museum. As a single institute, we can present a stronger brand to the public and the academic community."

Time travel
Under the motto ‘From the Nile to the Amstel’, the updated Allard Pierson Museum offers visitors a journey through history that starts in Egypt and ends in Amsterdam. ‘A logical connection between our archaeological and special collection,’ Hupperetz says. ‘We want to present ourselves as the quintessential UvA museum and the quintessential knowledge institution in the field of heritage collections. Research and teaching will continue to be our focal points. What is new is that we will better inform our visitors about everything the UvA is doing.’

UvA highlights
"Our existing museum café will have its own entrance and outdoor seating on Oude Turfmarkt. After the renovations, our main entrance and facade will be more inviting, encouraging passers-by to come in. There will be an area by the entrance called "AP-live", where the public can get acquainted with UvA researchers and their work for free. We will present a UvA highlight here every two weeks. This way, we hope to increase attendance and serve as a bridge between the University Quarter and the city."

The museum will remain open throughout the renovation. Admission is free to UvA and AUAS students and staff.

The world in colour

The Allard Pierson Museum’s exhibition The world in colour: colour photography pre-1918 opens on 21 June. Examples of early colour photography from the world-renowned collection of Albert Kahn in Paris, works by Russian photographer Sergei Prokudin-Gorski and Dutch examples from the Rijksmuseum collection will be on display. Allard Pierson Museum, Oude Turfmarkt 129, from 21 June 2018 until 6 January 2019, open: Tuesday-Friday 10:00-17:00; Saturday-Sunday 13:00-17:00. www.allardpiersonmuseum.nl

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WeMakeThe.City

Pressing urban challenges take centre stage during Amsterdam’s WeMakeThe.City festival from 20 until 24 June.

An ode to women

Opening on 11 June, the exhibition Mahina is an ode to women featuring images and stories about the crucial role of women in the Moluccan community. The exhibition presents a triptych of portraits of individuals, portraits arranged by theme and short documentaries. The triptych tells the story of the past, the present, and particularly the future of the Moluccan community within Dutch society. This year marks the 67th anniversary of the arrival of the first Moluccan Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) soldiers and their wives – important bearers of the Moluccan culture – in the Netherlands. This exhibition commemorates this historic event.

Mahina – An ode to women runs from 11 to 23 June in VOX-POP in BG3, Binnengasthuisstraat 9. Open weekdays from 10:00-17:00, closed on Wednesdays.

North-South line opens

The North-South line will officially open on 22 July 2018. This is good news for the University Quarter, which will be easier to reach as a result. It will take only 12 minutes instead of 30 to reach the University Quarter from Buikslotermeerplein. Rokin will be the second busiest station on the North-South line, with 50,000 passengers passing through every day.

For more information: amsterdam.nl/noordzuidlijn

Playing games adds life

Get acquainted with Citygame and experience the impact of playing games on complicated challenges in the social sphere on 14 June. Playing games creates room for ‘untethered thinking’. This leads to insights, opportunities and new connections. Artie Ramsodit from Citysolutions spent six months in Bangalore (India), where she worked with Fields of View, a specialist in designing game methods based on the needs of residents, professionals and other stakeholders. Citygame is one of these game methods. It has now been adopted by organisations including housing corporation Eigen Haard, welfare organisation Hvo Querido and the City of Amsterdam.

Spelen doet leven (Playing games adds life), Thursday, 14 June, 17:00-19:30 in the Human Venture Lab at Binnengasthuisstraat 9. Register by sending an email to VentureLab-FGw@uva.nl.

For more information: Artie Ramsodit, +31 (0)6 24261821, citysolutions.nl@gmail.com.

University Quarter

On Friday, 22 June, the focus will be on the areas of Amsterdam scheduled for further development in the years ahead, including the University Quarter. The City of Amsterdam and the UvA are in the process of drawing up a University Quarter master plan under the supervision of urban planning consultancy West 8. During a masterclass on 22 June, professionals and interested parties will be asked for input on three topics: art in the public space; linking sustainability and historic preservation; and managing public space according to the commons philosophy.

Participate? A limited number of tickets are available for local residents: register via universiteitskwartier-ho@uva.nl

More information about the festival: wemakethecity.city

COLLABORATION

Jan Lintsen (left on the photo) on behalf of the UvA Executive Board and Boudewijn Oranje, on behalf of the Executive Board of the Center Management Committee, signed the University Quarter Covenant. The municipality and the university have agreed to join together in the redesign of the University Quarter. Buildings and outdoor space can thus be better attuned to each other.

Spelen doet leven

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