

# Binnenstadscampus

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## Clustering benefits teaching and research



Years ago, the UvA decided to concentrate its faculties on open city campuses. ‘That proximity is a great advantage for students, lecturers and staff. When you’re close together, it’s easier to work together and that’s good for teaching and research,’ says Hans Amman, vice-president of the Executive Board at the UvA/AUAS

‘Clustering is also more cost-efficient, and on an organisational level things are easier to arrange,’ Amman adds. ‘Another advantage is that the City Centre Campus emphasises our being a part of the city. That’s good for the economy: a university attracts enterprise and the highly skilled.’ This campus will eventually become the home base for researchers, students and staff at the Faculty of Humanities (FGw) and for the new University Library.

### Considerate construction

According to Amman, the City Centre Campus will be a jewel in the University’s crown: an inspiring, open city campus with beautiful historic buildings that fit their purpose. ‘I’m the first to acknowledge that construction work is a nuisance. But we’re trying to be very considerate to the neighbourhood.’ With the experience of the Roeterseiland Campus and the Amstel Campus of the Amsterdam University of

Applied Sciences (AUAS) under his belt, Amman is confident of success. ‘For example, we’re setting clear agreements with the builders. We’ve appointed an area manager and we’re communicating as much as possible about the progress and completion of the construction work. The City Centre Campus mainly involves internal renovations, which fortunately reduces the noise disturbance somewhat.’ Building is of course not a goal in its own right. I’d rather invest in people than bricks, but sometimes you have to. A university needs good facilities. And the old buildings no longer met our requirements, including health and safety requirements.’

**‘A university attracts enterprise and the highly skilled’**

Hans Amman

### Additional information

The University of Amsterdam is building its City Centre Campus in and around the Binnengasthuis premises, one of the UvA’s four open city campuses. By clustering related academic disciplines, the UvA hopes to strengthen links within the university and encourage collaboration both within the institution and beyond with companies, governments and civil society organisations. The City Centre Campus will be the home base for the Faculty of Humanities (FGw).  
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### INTRODUCING...

## Chérie van der Meer

Chérie van der Meer is the area manager for the City Centre Campus. ‘I’m the first point of contact for everyone involved with the development of the campus, from students to staff, local residents, the municipality and contractors.’

My role is to manage and balance the needs of the different stakeholders. I create the link between the project and the neighbourhood. I’m very open in every discussion I have with people. Mutual understanding and trust are fundamental. We may not always agree, but my aim is to work together on finding solutions. Of course it can be tricky at times. For instance, I get many requests to have disruptive construction work not carried out at certain times. Students want to be able to study in peace, staff don’t want to have their work disrupted, café owners don’t want their customers having to abandon the outdoor terrace during lunch, and local residents don’t want to be woken up by noise. If the UvA met every request, nothing would get built. That’s why we have to weigh up everyone’s interests. At certain times the UvA will try to meet the demands of staff and students, and at other times it will be the turn of local residents or business owners to have their demands met.’ ■

Any questions or complaints? Chérie van der Meer can be contacted by phone or email on working days from 9.00 – 17.00 (and in urgent cases outside of these hours) on 06 2115 5032 or [omgevingsmanager-binnenstad@uva.nl](mailto:omgevingsmanager-binnenstad@uva.nl)



Chérie van der Meer (l) speaking with Mas Fopma of the Faculty of Humanities

## Future

As well as investing in better facilities for students and staff, the UvA is also investing in the area surrounding the buildings and in an underground bicycle parking facility, which will benefit the streetscape. Amman is optimistic about the future. 'Higher education is constantly developing. Soon we'll have our real estate sorted out, which is reassuring, but then there will be new challenges. We're already thinking about those. For example, we're investing in collaboration with strategic partners in the area, such as the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and VU University Amsterdam, the private sector and the municipality. Together, we can raise our profile within Europe. That's important, because we're going to become more dependent on Europe for income.' ■



**ABOUT PROF. HANS AMMAN** Amman, who has been at the UvA and AUAS since February, was born and raised in Amsterdam and lived and worked there for 43 years. Following a few diversions to Eindhoven and Utrecht, he's back in his own 'natural habitat'. His areas of responsibility include general operational management, ICT, finance and real estate.



## Behind archaeological scenes

**On 24 September a trial was launched for an ArchoHotspot in the Allard Pierson Museum: a space in the museum where visitors can see archaeologists at work. Wim Hupperetz, director of the UvA's archaeological museum, explains this national initiative.**

'Many people are interested in archaeology, but it's a profession that mostly takes place behind closed doors. With the Hotspot, we want to make it more visible. Visitors can see how an archaeologist investigates and restores materials such as fragments and bones, and how you might separate a sieving sample. They can ask questions, there are lots of objects on display and there are drawings where you can see how an archaeologist records a find. For children, there are crates of fragments that they can explore.'

### Personal finds

Hupperetz is enthusiastic about the space. 'Anyone can come to the Hotspot with their own finds. We can help date them. It's a way for local residents to discover things about their own neighbourhood. And for staff and students to learn about their current or future place of work. At certain times, visitors can Skype with archaeologists working on an excavation. It might be in Amsterdam, but it could be in Egypt or Greece, too.'

### Excavation of Binnengasthuis premises

The UvA students and archaeologists working at the Hotspot are collaborating with the association for archaeology volunteers, the city archives at De Bazel, and Diachron. Diachron, an archaeological consultancy, and Amsterdam's Bureau of Monuments & Archaeology will be carrying out an excavation at the Binnengasthuis premises next year, where the new university library will stand.

Entrance to the Hotspot is free, with Hupperetz inviting everyone to drop in sometime. It's open six days a week, during usual opening hours. 'The official opening is on 10 December, and until then we're operating as a trial. And when the excavation of the Binnengasthuis premises starts, we'll be sure to report on it,' he promises. ■

### Volunteers needed

The Allard Pierson Museum is still looking for volunteers for the ArchoHotspot. You don't need to be an archaeology graduate. An affinity with the subject will suffice. Enquire at the museum, or at [info@archohotspots.nl](mailto:info@archohotspots.nl)

## The UvA is part of the city

**Fred Kramer is a board member of the Friends of the Amsterdam City Centre Association (VVAB). He's been following the plans for the City Centre Campus since 1999. 'But I only really got involved through my role as a councillor for the City Centre district.'**

Kramer has a special bond with the UvA: he studied Child Development and Education at the UvA, and worked there for 30 years. 'It surprised me that the UvA clung for so long to the idea of demolishing and rebuilding on the Binnengasthuis premises, when there was so much opposition from local residents, staff, students and political figures. It wasn't until 2012 that the UvA decided to come up with a new plan for the University Library in the City Centre Campus that preserved the historic buildings.'

### Transparency

'I'm not a councillor anymore now, but I am a VVAB board member. We're very happy with the proposed design for the library. The inner courtyard is being beautifully covered with a transparent construction. The historic buildings are being carefully restored and supplemented with new construction on the corner of the Nieuwe Doelenstraat. The car park has fortunately been abandoned.' Kramer approves of re-purposing old buildings from a sustainability point of

view, too. One area of attention is the screen on the front of the new-build. 'It needs to be subtle, so it doesn't distract from the historic building.'

### Social responsibility

'The VVAB's primary focus is protected city vistas and the historic city centre, but we also look at how buildings are used. Quality of life in the city shouldn't be affected by the volume of tourists, for example.' According to Kramer, the UvA needs to adopt a socially

**'The UvA should have an open relationship with its surroundings'**

Fred Kramer

responsible position with regard to the future use of buildings sold as part of the construction of the City Centre Campus. 'They shouldn't just go to the highest bidders, such as hotel developers. Other options should be considered. These might include using them for student accommodation or secondary education, to help ensure mixed development in the city centre.'

### Open relationship

An open city campus does appeal to Kramer. 'The UvA is part of the city and it should have an open relationship with its surroundings. Clustering the humanities at the City Centre Campus will be particularly beneficial for scholarship and

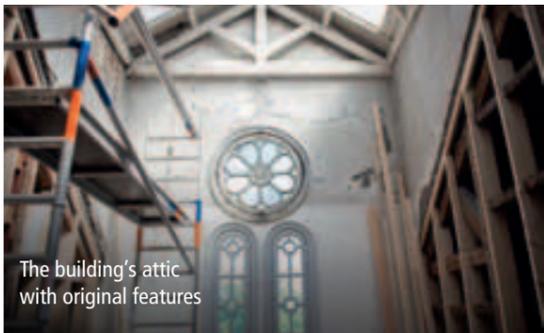


Fred Kramer

for fostering links between students.' The VVAB will continue to monitor the renovation and construction. 'We hope that constructive discussions with local residents will continue. I'm fully confident that they will.' ■



Head contractor Tsjibbe van der Meulen (l) talking with contractor Johan Huisman



The building's attic with original features



Pouring concrete for the foundation

More photos of the building site are available at [www.campus.uva.nl](http://www.campus.uva.nl)

# Working in the city centre: a logistical challenge

The building huts are squashed up along the edge of the narrow construction site, and there are almost no construction materials to be seen. 'Lack of space is the greatest challenge when you're building in the centre of Amsterdam,' says Tsjibbe van der Meulen, head contractor for the renovation of the building that will house Arts and Culture.

'Working in the city centre requires a lot of extra logistical planning, because the delivery of materials has to be done very precisely. There's no space for storage outside, so everything that gets delivered has to be used the same day. Sometimes we need extra manpower to make that happen.'

## Special drilling techniques

A lot has happened since the renovation began in mid-May. The building, which had sunk by 13cm, has been given new foundations. 'We placed 120 new piles using advanced drilling techniques. Normally, pile driving is noisy work. This method is better for the neighbourhood because it makes less noise,' says Van der Meulen.

## Old books found

For Van der Meulen, there's something special about working on an old building. 'Recently we found a box from the former hospital. It contained books from before the war, full of handwritten admission notes on patients. Of course we handed it over to the UvA.'

## Consideration to staff and students

Van der Meulen explains that as much as possible is being done in consideration of the neighbourhood and of students and staff. 'Unfortunately construction always involves some disturbance. You can hear the lorries and the rubble being dropped down the chute. And students and staff will also have noticed that we place barriers in the mornings to prevent bicycles being parked. If we don't, the lorries won't be able to get past. But during the orientation weeks we stopped materials transports extra early, because 3,200 students were expected at the Binnengasthuis premises. In any case, the transport of materials is always limited between 7.00 and 11.00.'

## Coming months

Over the coming months, the floor will be laid on the ground floor. The façade will also be restored and the roof entirely renewed. The work is expected to be finished by April 2015. Arts and Culture is scheduled to move in during the summer of 2015.

## Neighbourhood agreements

The UvA has set requirements of the contractors regarding Accessibility, Quality of Life, Safety and Communication (known as BLVC requirements) during the work in the neighbourhood. The contractor is required to adhere to these in order to minimise any disturbance to the neighbourhood. ■

## Facilities in the building

The design includes around 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, providing at least 110 workspaces and several lecture rooms. The ground floor will include the seminar rooms, areas for study associations and study advice, and a central meeting space. The two floors above will feature staff workspaces and the attic floor is for PhD candidates and temporary lecturers.

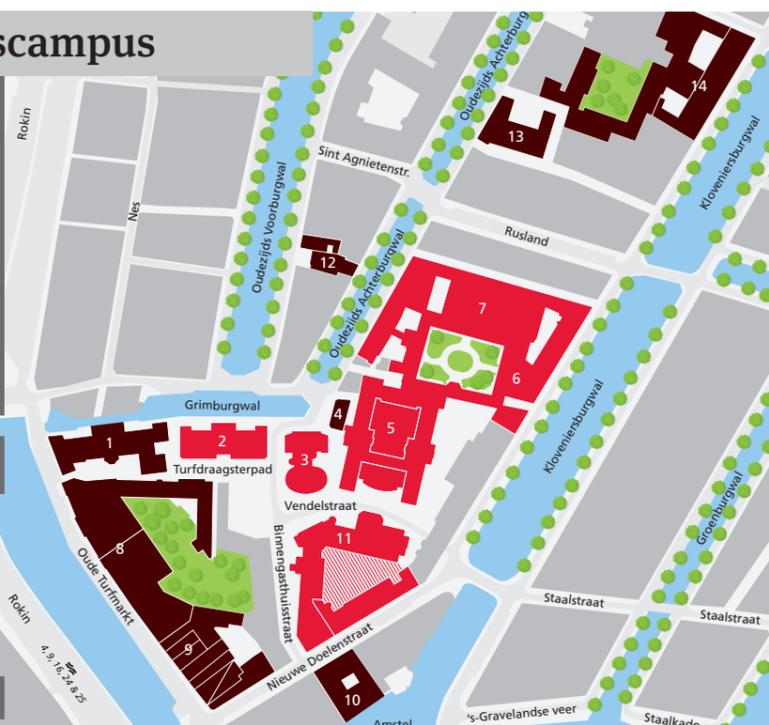
## Map Binnenstadscampus

### Humanities on a campus:

- 1 Media Studies and ACASA (BG1)
- 2 Arts & Culture (BG2)
- 3 Not yet allocated (BG3)
- 4 Amsterdam Academic Club (BG4)
- 5 History, European Studies & Religious Studies; Dutch Studies; Philosophy (BG5)
- 6 Modern Foreign Languages and Cultures; Literary Studies; Linguistics (OMHP)
- 7 Central Services Faculty of Humanities (OMHP)
- 8 Allard Pierson Museum and Special Collections
- 9 Not yet allocated
- 10 Musicology; Theatre Studies (UT)
- 11 University Library
- 12 Agnietenkapel
- 13 Not yet allocated
- 14 Not yet allocated

- Renovation/construction project
- No construction activities

Date: september 2014  
Version 1.2



Planning schedule	Future location of Arts and Culture (Turfdragsterpad 15-17)	University Library
2014	Preparations Renovation	Final design
2015	Completion	Technical detailing Archaeological investigation Stripping of existing buildings
2016		Construction
2018		Completion

## Additional information

If you have any questions or comments about the construction of the City Centre Campus, please contact area manager Chérie van der Meer on [omgevingsmanager-binnenstad@uva.nl](mailto:omgevingsmanager-binnenstad@uva.nl) or 06-2115 5032.

The UvA is assessing the possibility of guided tours around the building. More details will be available on our website at [www.campus.uva.nl](http://www.campus.uva.nl)

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



### MOVE OF FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Over the past summer, the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences moved from the City Centre Campus to the Roeterseiland campus. The faculty has settled into its new building on the Nieuwe Achtergracht.



### PUBLIC SPACE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

This spring, the City Centre district established the 'Binnengasthuis premises public space and quality of life' working group. The aim of the working group is to collectively create a plan for laying out the public space and safeguarding quality of life at the Binnengasthuis premises. Local residents were invited to join, and six did so. As well as UvA staff, André van Stigt, one of the architects of the new University Library, is a regular participant in the working group.



### MOVING OUT OF BUNGEHUIS

The Executive Board decided last summer that the Bungehuis is to be sold. As a result, the Faculty of Humanities (FGw) will be leaving the Bungehuis. The Faculty is expected to move to the Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis and Spinhuis for around five years until the permanent site at the Binnengasthuis premises is ready. The aim is to organise the moves with as little disruption as possible, preferably during the holidays and summer. The Faculty will be involved in working out the requisite plans.



### KNAW

The UvA is in talks with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) about basing a number of KNAW institutes at the City Centre Campus. KNAW, an association of outstanding academics and scientists, and the umbrella organisation for all scientific and academic research institutes in the Netherlands, advises the government on best practices in science. The Faculty of Humanities (FGw) and KNAW are eager to be based near each other, partly to foster collaboration between the Faculty and renowned national research institutes such as the Meertens Institute and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

# Modern library in 19<sup>th</sup> century hospital



Artist's impression of provisional design of the University Library atrium

The UvA library was once spread across some 100 locations around the city. By 2018, there will be just six. One of them will be the new University Library (UB) at the Binnengasthuis premises. Robin van Schijndel, head of the study centres sector, explains the significance of this milestone in the creation of the new UvA city campuses.

The new University Library, scheduled to open in the summer of 2018, is an amalgamation of the existing University Library on the Singel, and the four Faculty of Humanities (FGw) libraries.

#### Transformation

For Van Schijndel, this is a fantastic experience. 'This is the kind of project you might only experience once in your career. The transformation of a 19th-century hospital into a 21st-century state-of-the-art library, with additional new

buildings, is a big challenge. The new University Library is set to become the heart of the City Centre Campus. The Second Surgical Clinic and the Nurses Home on the Binnengasthuis premises are being renovated for this, and the inner courtyard will be given a spectacular transparent roof.'

#### Necessary move

The existing and heavily used University Library has become outdated, and no longer meets the needs of today's users in terms of its features and

facilities. 'It's currently made up of five buildings - constructed between 1606 and 1969 - which have been cunningly linked together. The Humanities libraries have large book collections, but lack seating areas and study facilities. The new library will include all the collections and offer excellent facilities, study areas, teaching rooms and meeting areas.'

#### Added value

With Special Collections located around the corner, there will soon be two UvA libraries in this old part of Amsterdam. It's a meaningful development, because in the 17th century the University Library was based around the corner in the attic of the Agnietenkapel. 'The added value comes from

having every facility under one roof with generous opening hours,' says Van Schijndel. 'It will be a modern library set in a 19th-century hospital building, whose purpose will be to facilitate learning and studying, but especially to inspire and motivate. The atrium will be really special, and will undoubtedly become a prime meeting place for students and staff.' ■

#### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

MVSA Architects and the J. Van Stigt architectural firm are working collaboratively on a design for the University Library which is scheduled to be completed in late 2014. This design will then be presented to students and staff at a special event.

The UvA has applied to the municipality for an environmental permit\* based on the provisional design for the University Library. Because the new design for the University Library doesn't quite fit with the existing zoning plan, the municipality has organised a briefing and consultation evening for a partial modification to the Postcode Area 1012 zoning plan. In the autumn, both the modified zoning plan and the environmental permit for the City Centre University Library will be simultaneously presented for consultation by the municipality. This means that everyone will have six weeks to give feedback on the applications. You can find up to date information on this on our website at [www.campus.uva.nl](http://www.campus.uva.nl)

\*An environmental permit means that any person or organisation requesting a permit to demolish, construct or for the environment only needs to apply for one permit. The environmental permit encompasses several permits.

## Any old stories to share? Email us!

The Binnengasthuis premises and the Oude-manhuispoort have a rich history. We'd be interested to hear any old stories from the past. Do you have an interesting, moving or funny story you'd like to share with us? Email it to [omgevings-manager-binnenstad@uva.nl](mailto:omgevings-manager-binnenstad@uva.nl) and we'll publish it in this newspaper or on our website [www.campus.uva.nl](http://www.campus.uva.nl)

## HISTORY

### Hospital with a social role

Irene van Leijen was 17 when she arrived in Amsterdam in 1979 as a student nurse. She started work in the UvA's teaching hospital, which at the time consisted of the Wilhelminagasthuis and Binnengasthuis.

'I learned on the job, in the surgery department and the men's ward in the Second Surgical Clinic in the Binnengasthuis, under the supervision of the famous professor Brummelkamp. Everything about the building was old. The surgical department had three or four wards for 10 patients, with verandas where you could go outside. There were also two first-class rooms. They were really like hotel rooms, and they were also used by Brummelkamp's personal associates. If a patient needed an X-ray, we'd bounce him over the cobblestones in his bed across the courtyard to the other side of the hospital. Rain or shine, it was completely normal.'

#### Always lively

'The Binnengasthuis used to be Amsterdam's plague house and was entirely sealed off. Patients were conveyed by boat from the Wilhelminagasthuis to the Binnengasthuis, where they would be put in quarantine. By the time I worked there, the premises felt more open. Because the Binnengasthuis is close to the red-light district, it was always lively. Prostitutes often came in to see the gynaecologist for a check-up, but also to chat and for more serious issues. The first-aid station was really special, and they would always find a bed for homeless



Coffee break in the hospital (Irene van Leijen to the right)

people from the neighbourhood for example. The hospital really played an important social role in that way. Staff were really involved with local people.'

#### Tough learning environment

'Professor Brummelkamp was a brilliant surgeon, but very dominant and strict. If the seam on a sheet wasn't quite right, you'd be in trouble. The old nurses, who taught me on the job, really ran a tight ship based on routine and order. It was a really tough learning environment. And I think I encountered every illness imaginable working there, from leprosy to someone with elephantiasis. When something like that happened, everyone in the hospital would find an excuse to go and look. Of course, there was a lot of laughter too, with those typical Amsterdammers. Someone at the first-aid station would ask: 'Who's getting the sandwiches?' and then the ambulance team would set off, sirens wailing, to get croquettes at Van Dobben.' ■

#### CREDITS

The City Centre Campus newspaper is published by the UvA. The newspaper is distributed among local residents, businesses, students and employees at the City Centre Campus. Contact UvA Real Estate Development: 020 525 2443 [huisvestingsontwikkeling@uva.nl](mailto:huisvestingsontwikkeling@uva.nl) Editors: UvA Real Estate Development department Text: Frederieke Genevace Photography: Picture editor, Monique Kooijmans Design: Designyard [www.campus.uva.nl](http://www.campus.uva.nl)