

City Centre Campus

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Student councils collaborate on plans for City Centre Campus



Lianne Hooijmans (l) and Eleni Kouvelas in front of one of the potential UB locations.

Over the next few months, two scenarios will be fleshed out for the City Centre Campus: the campus for the Faculty of the Humanities and the UvA-wide University Library (UB). Lianne Hooijmans and Eleni Kouvelas will be working on the scenarios on behalf of the Central Student Council (CSR) and the Faculty Student Council.

'It's very good that we are being involved more', says Lianne, a student of Law and Philosophy, member of the CSR and chair of the Organisation & Finances Committee. This way we can provide input on the plans, particularly from the students' perspective. That's better than just being able to approve or reject the Executive Board's proposal at the end of the process.'

Consulting the university community

In the current scenario for the City Centre Campus, the University Library (UB) will be accommodated in two historic

buildings on the Binnengasthuis premises that are to be renovated. This plan dates from 2011. However, last year a number of students and employees criticised a number of aspects of this plan, including its cost. The Executive Board stated in the Ten-point Plan that the decision on the construction of a new UB would be submitted to the academic community. Now there are two scenarios for the entire City Centre Campus. In the second scenario, the UB would be housed in the Oudemanhuispoort. Both scenarios will be elaborated to the same design level and then submitted to the academic community. ▶

'It's very good that we are being involved more.'

Lianne Hooijmans

VOX-POP flourishes on BG premises

'Since the beginning of this year, we've been occupying a beautiful location where so much is happening', says Marte Rijdsdijk, coordinator of VOX-POP, the creative space and pop-up project of the humanities.

This is the location of the former Students Service Desk on the Binnengasthuis premises. 'We got off to a good start at our new location. The first exhibition – 'labelling identity' – involved two visual artists, Gerrie Starreveld and Bart Drost. For a month they organised a varied, interactive lunch programme with workshops and lectures on the theme

of identity. Lately, we've been presenting New Perspective every other week, a film afternoon showing films that present current affairs in a new way.'

Coming soon: exhibition on the refugee crisis

On 1 June, a number of Humanities study associations, including Etcetera, Alpha and KLEIO, will be organising the symposium 'Global identities' in cultural centre de Brakke Grond, a symposium on the refugee crisis. 'Linked to the symposium is an exhibition organised by VOX-POP from 1 to 10 June featuring the work of photographer Geronimo Matulesky, with photographs depicting the



Marte Rijdsdijk

personal stories of refugees. Geronimo travelled to Serbia and Croatia to photograph the influx of refugees.' VOX-POP is organising film days in the former Student Service Desk in Binnengasthuisstraat 9 every other Wednesday

from 15:30 to 17:30. Films being shown in the next few weeks include *Human* on Wednesday 8 June and *La Piscine* on Wednesday 22 June. ■

For the up-to-date programme: www.voxpop.uva.nl

Further 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 ties within the university and encourage collaboration both within the institution and beyond with companies, authorities and civil society organisations. The City Centre Campus will be the home base of the Faculty of Humanities and the University Library. www.campus.uva.nl

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Bookcase

Eleni, an Eastern European Studies student, is working on the scenarios on behalf of the Faculty Student Council (FSR) for the Humanities. She believes this involvement is important: 'Our faculty will soon be using this campus and, together with the Law Faculty, is one of the faculties that makes the most intense use of the UB.'

It turns out that UvA students and employees have some concerns about the UB. Both the FSR and the CSR have received questions on the number of books that will be available in the library once it is opened. Eleni: 'For students, it is important to have bookcases full of books that they can take off the shelves and leaf through. Not too many books should disappear into storage.'

Schedule of Requirements

Very soon, the student representatives will be joining the discussion on the basic design and parameters for the campus. This will result in a schedule of requirements for the provisional design of both scenarios and will include agreements on the various functions of the campus and the amount of space required.

Prestige project

'Of course', Lianne says, 'we will be advocating what is relevant for students: quality lecture spaces, good and sufficient study places and other such practical matters. Matters such as daylight, climate control and ambience are important, too. Being in and around the buildings should be a pleasant experience.' Eline adds: 'We want to retain the special charm of studying in the city centre. It certainly mustn't become too massive or office-building like.'

Furthermore, the students will certainly be keeping an eye on the project costs. 'Obviously a UB has to be attractive', says Lianne. 'But it doesn't have to be an unnecessarily expensive prestige project. And that's a point of criticism of the current UB plan.'

Informing students

CSR and FSR keep students abreast of the developments via the usual channels, such as Facebook and newsletters. Where necessary, they will also organise meetings to share information and poll preferences. Oudemanhuispoort as the location for the UB is not a choice that either Lianne or Eleni can get very enthusiastic about personally. 'We think the Binnengasthuisterrein is an excellent location and would prefer to see a cost-effective variant of the existing plan', according to Lianne.

Graduated

The students themselves will have long graduated by the time the City Centre Campus is completed. Eleni: 'This is a huge, long-term project. In a way it's still all very abstract. But the students' perspective won't change. The conditions that we consider important for an effective study programme will also apply to the next generations. ■'

More information

Would you like to know more about this subject? Or perhaps you would like to read some background information on both scenarios. Click on campus.uva.nl -> Current developments.

This article deals specifically with CSR/FSR. The Central Works Council is also involved in fleshing out the scenarios. In the next issue, we will report on the experiences and opinions of this party.

Lunch, drinks and debating in the Academic Club

Everyone is welcome



Maaïke Ambags in front of the Academic Club

A dazzling spot with live jazz music during Friday afternoon drinks with colleagues and an attractive location to have lunch with your international guests. It's all happening in the 'UvA's living room', the Amsterdam Academic Club (AAC), says Maaïke Ambags, AAC director.

'Initially we were only open to UvA academic personnel, but the people who came were too few to make for a lively atmosphere. When I was hired five years ago, my instructions were to introduce more light, air and openness.'

Ivory tower

And this has succeeded rather well. The AAC has 700 members, but everyone is welcome, from alumni and employees or ex-employees to residents and tourists. 'Science is no longer isolated in an ivory tower, and the same goes for the ACC. There are so many interesting issues at play in the UvA that are fun to share.' That is why the AAC organises a lecture or debate every Thursday, where a UvA scientist engages with someone from the business sector,

'This is a spot where people can meet up in a relaxed and homely atmosphere.'

Maaïke Ambags

the municipality or another organisation. 'For example, we will soon have a debate on euthanasia with psychoanalyst Paul Schnabel, and Patti Valkenburg, University Professor of Media, Youth and Society, recently gave a lecture on the sunny and dark sides of social media. Events like that are packed, so if you want to attend a lecture be sure to register in advance via our site.'

Relaxed atmosphere

Maaïke is pleased the Faculty of Humanities is moving to the City Centre

Campus. 'Of course, all faculties are welcome, but the humanities deal with many issues that appeal to the imagination and which make good topics for debates. The arrival of the University Library will also generate a lot of visitors, and that's exactly what we want. The AAC is a spot where people can meet up in a relaxed and homely atmosphere.' ■

More information

The Amsterdam Academic Club, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 235, is open every working day from 12:00 to (at least) 18:00 for lunch and/or drinks. Please phone in advance to make dinner reservations. Debates are held every Thursday and there is live jazz every Friday. For more information and the full programme of events, go to aac.uva.nl.

Walking under the clock

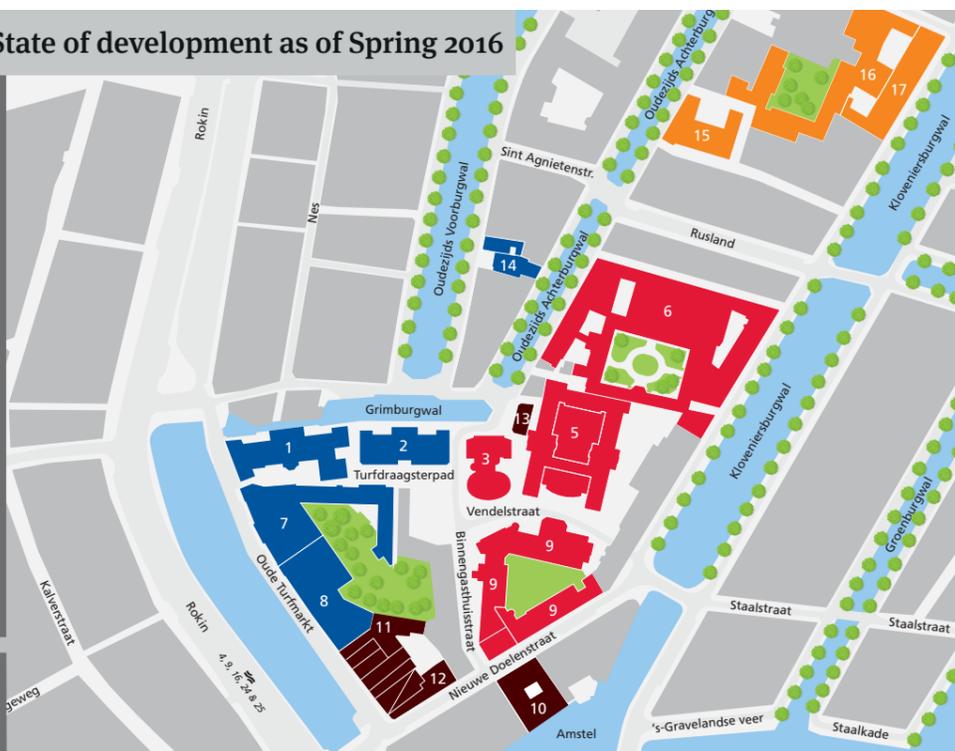
The AAC is located in a historical building where Oudezijds Achterburgwal and Grimburgwal meet, with a beautiful clock on the roof. The building was designed in the 19th century as a waiting room for the city and hospital pharmacy, but derived its fame from something very different: outpatients were also treated here, including people with a venereal disease, which explains the Amsterdam expression 'onder de klok lopen' (walking under the clock) for someone with an STD.

City Centre Campus map State of development as of Spring 2016

Home base for the Faculty of Humanities (FGw) and the University Library (UB)

- 1 Media and Culture Studies (FGw)
- 2 Art History and Cultural Studies (FGw)
- 3 Temporary location of VOX-POP and UvA Real Estate Development / AUAS Development Office / future location of FGw
- 5 Future location of the Faculty of Humanities
- 6 Oudemanhuispoort: Future location of University Library / Faculty of Humanities
- 7 Allard Pierson Museum
- 8 Special Collections Library
- 9 Future location of University Library / Faculty of Humanities
- 10 University Theatre
- 11/12 Temporary location of the Faculty of Humanities / future purpose to be determined
- 13 Amsterdam Academic Club
- 14 Agnietenkapel
- 15 Spinhuis: Future location of an external academic institution
- 16 Oost-Indisch Huis: Temporary location of the Faculty of Humanities
- 17 Bushuis: Temporary location of the Faculty of Humanities

- Ready
- Future renovation/construction project
- No construction activities
- Renovation/construction project



Further information

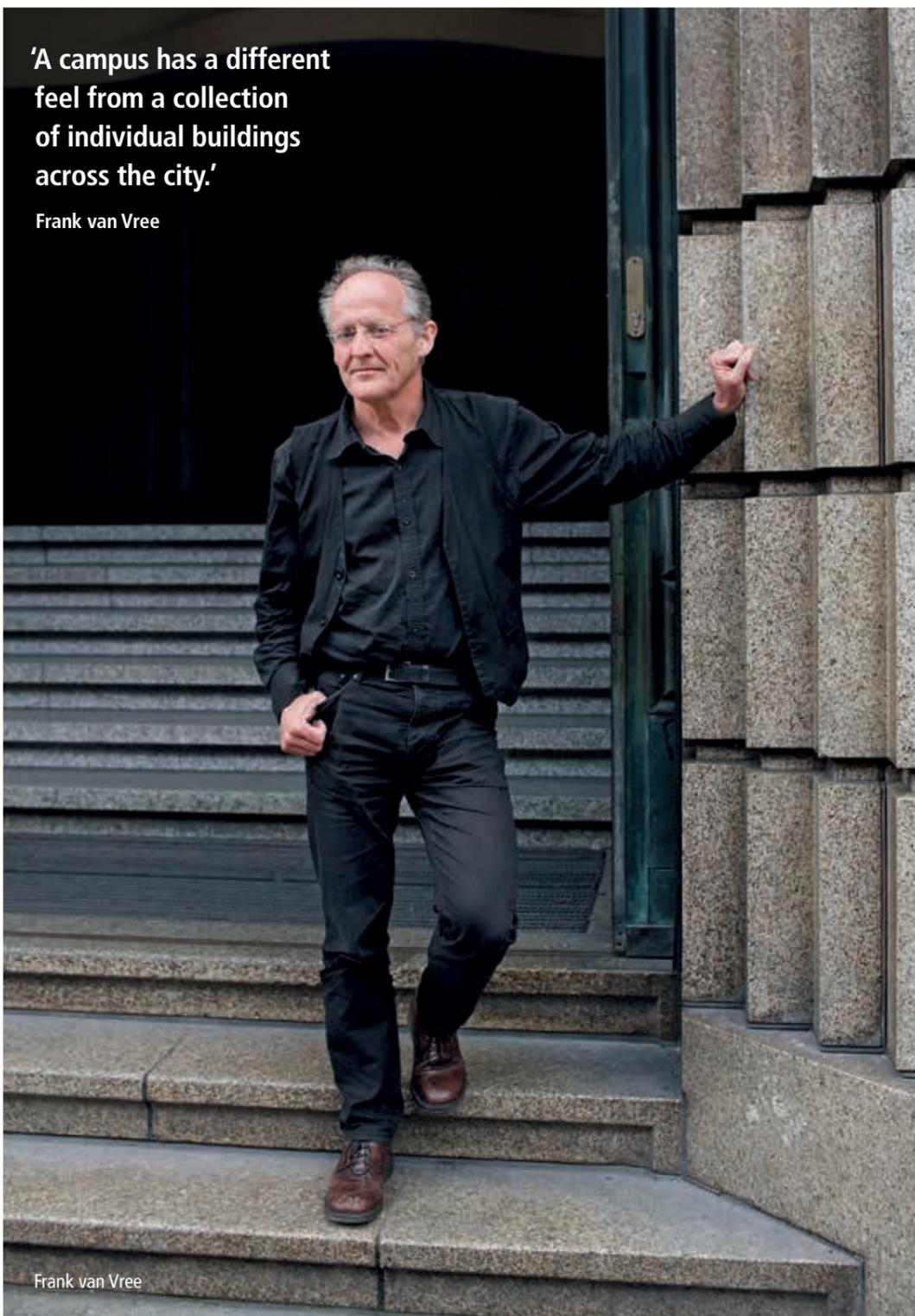
Do you have any questions or remarks about the development of the City Centre Campus?

If so, contact area manager Thomas Vernooij via email (omgevingsmanager-binnenstad@uva.nl) or by phone (020 - 525 2443).

Alluring perspective of City Centre Campus in danger of being lost

'A campus has a different feel from a collection of individual buildings across the city.'

Frank van Vree



'A campus has a different feel from a collection of individual buildings across the city. Take a look at the Science Park for the natural sciences', says Frank van Vree, dean of the Faculty of Humanities (FGw). He sees the City Centre Campus as the iconic centre of the University of Amsterdam.

Van Vree can scarcely imagine anything more beautiful. 'Especially when you think that in addition to FGw, one of the UvA's mother faculties, the Executive Board and the library will also be located on the campus. For people involved in the humanities, a physical library is a kind of laboratory; books are important, but an even more important role of the library is that of study centre with study places and ancillary activities. The design of the new UB is very beautiful, but also expensive. Last summer an alternative scenario was proposed: the University Library in Oudemanhuispoort. Based on what we know thus far, I'm inclined to support the UB in Oudemanhuispoort.'

Fundamental considerations

'Whatever we decide must benefit the entire UvA without losing sight of the interests of the Faculty of Humanities. That will create support for the project. Everyone is well aware this concerns the historic centre of the University for which we all bear joint responsibility. What we do know for sure is that a new library will be built. But it's important that the divergent interests are heard in the debates. Furthermore, there are of course practical and financial arguments. While financial considerations weigh heavily, they must not result in our not daring to make changes. In any case, even that option would come at a cost: the PC Hoofthuis and the UB on the Singel will not be viable for much longer in their present form.'

Cutting the knot

FGw counts 1,400 employees who, spread over a variety of locations in the city, miss contact and interaction. 'And this while interdisciplinarity and looking beyond boundaries are today's most dominant developments. Having researchers work in close proximity to one another on a campus has a stimulating effect, for example in the area of innovation. Moreover, it is easier and more efficient to create facilities for our researchers on a campus.' According to Van Vree, the idea of a campus has garnered wide support within the FGw. 'It's unfortunate for us, as the last in line, that everything is now being delayed due to financial considerations. The broad support that the City Centre Campus enjoyed here has been pushed to the background in the last two years. Many employees now realise that they will never move to a new location. The alluring perspective of the new location is in danger of being lost. I hope that firm decisions will be made within the next 1 1/2 years, and that the campus will be constructed soon after that. A City Centre Campus with 7,000 or 8,000 students will be an impetus for the entire city centre.' ■

Relocation

In late May 2016, a part of the Faculty of Humanities workforce will relocate from the Bungehuis to the City Centre Campus. The Bungehuis is one of the UvA buildings to be sold as a result of the clustering of academic disciplines at four open city campuses. As their definitive location on the City Centre Campus is not yet ready to accommodate them, these employees will be based in the Bushuis in Kloveniersburgwal and (a part of) the Oost-Indisch Huis in Oude Hoogstraat for the next five to ten years.

Renovation of the Allard Pierson Museum

To extend a warm welcome to visitors and simultaneously show them how much work students and researchers put into the collection, the Allard Pierson Museum will undergo another internal metamorphosis. The working methods will become more open and dynamic, enabling the museum to distinguish itself more effectively from other similar museums in the Netherlands. The museum is expected to be fully renovated in 2018. For further information, visit www.allardpiersonmuseum.nl

Removal of office waste via canals

The Uva is conducting a trial on the Binnengasthuis premises in removing office waste via the canals. The waste from two buildings in Turfdragsterpad (BG 1 and 2) and the round building in Binnengasthuisstraat (BG 3) will be collected in a small trash compactor in the buildings and transported once every two weeks via the canals. This method of transporting waste reduces the number of transport movements on the Binnengasthuis premises. Previously the waste was collected by truck on a daily basis. It is not yet clear what the possibilities are for removing household waste, for example.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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.
UvA Real Estate Development: 020 525 2443
huisvestingsontwikkeling@uva.nl
Editor: UvA Real Estate Development department
Text: Frederieke Genevace
Photography: Peter Strelitski
Design: Designyard
www.campus.uva.nl

Treasures from UvA's basement



Lisa Kuitert (l) and Eline Kortekaas next to a poster of the book *De Rijn*

A cockatoo with a sense of rhythm and mechanical adding machines from 1920 are on display during the exhibition 'Out of the Box' in Special Collections on Oude Turfmarkt. Eight pairs of scientists give us a glance into the UvA's historical collections from the perspective of their own discipline.

Lisa Kuitert, professor of Book Studies, and student Eline Kortekaas chose the 19th-century advertising campaign for the book *De Rijn, van oorsprong tot aan zee*, a deluxe edition full of lithographs from an Arnhem publishing house. The book was printed and sold in parts. To stimulate sales, a villa (!) was raffled among the participants. Incidentally, this was something that was not unusual at the time. 'Apart from villas, watches, luggage sets and jewellery were also raffled during book sales', says Eline.

Busy Sherlock

Lisa knew the story, but not the details. She asked Eline to join her in doing further research. 'Eline has good detective skills and a healthy interest in history with an eye for the unusual. The people managing the UvA's collections knew exactly where to find the various objects in the depots, such as 19th-century advertising lettering, advertising posters and portions of the book.' In the 19th century, the book trade was subject to strict rules drawn up by the Royal Dutch Book Trade

"The UvA collection is varied and inspiring for researchers and students."

Eline Kortekaas

Association. Eline: 'Members of the association wrote to the newspapers complaining about the raffle. Yet despite the outrage, the raffles remained popular.'

The UvA cabinet of curiosities Apart from Eline and Lisa,

seven other pairs of scientists from various disciplines, including Economics, Psychiatry and Music Cognition, selected objects from the UvA's depot. Their selections show how varied and inspiring the UvA collection is for researchers and students. From autographs and books to hearing aids, skull measuring machines and masks from foreign cultures. 'It's in fact a huge cabinet of curiosities', says Eline. ■

The exhibition is open through to 4 September. Also see bijzonderecollecties.uva.nl/nieuws-agenda/tentoonstelling/out-of-the-box.html

Plans for a new University Library

What do you think of the plans for a new UB and the alternative, the UB in Oudemanhuispoort? We asked Leendert Vlieger, resident of Kloveniersburgwal and active member of the association for an accessible and liveable Binnengasthuis premises (VOLBG), and Gretske de Jong, chair of BIZ Rokin Entrepreneurs and store manager at Scheltema.

Leendert Vlieger: 'In principle we aren't opposed to the new library on the Binnengasthuis premises, although we find it regrettable that the plan does not provide



Leendert Vlieger

for the Binnenhof and the green spaces. But we are especially concerned about the traffic flows, space for parking bicycles and where trucks will do their loading and unloading. As residents, we are worried that the nuisance will negatively impact our enjoyment of our homes. We've recently been engaged in a constructive dialogue regarding these concerns with the municipality and UvA. They will look at traffic flows in the entire area. Their findings will provide insight into the problems for which we have to work together to find solutions. We think it's important that the original and historical character of the Binnengasthuis premises remains intact. That's why we would rather see the UB relocated to Oudemanhuispoort. That building is also set farther back from the homes that border the area, which means there will be less nuisance for the residents.'

Gretske de Jong: 'Our entrepreneurs' association wants an attractive city centre. An attractive city centre means everything from clean streets to organised events, but we are also a sparring partner for the municipality. For us, it is extremely impor-



Gretske de Jong

tant that the cultural character of the city centre is safeguarded by organisations such as education institutions and museums. Everyone is talking about the disneyfication of the city centre, while the campus with a new library will act as a counterweight to this development. It will attract young people to the city and stimulate innovation. The plans for a new University Library are ready to be executed, which is why I have a hard time accepting that it is all being pushed back yet again. The process is taking so long while the buildings are in urgent need of maintenance. I understand that it is important to proceed carefully, but I fail to see what will be gained by a further delay.' ■