



photography Dennis De Smet

KUL CAMPUS BRUGES

- education and research building for the associated faculties Industrial Sciences and Movement & Rehabilitation Sciences of KU Leuven and VIVES university college
- project: labclusters, classrooms for practical chemistry and physics, auditorium, offices and meeting rooms, cafeteria with kitchen, layout of surrounding area incl. parking and bicycle shed
- assignment with application of the law on public procurement
- winning entry in a competition
- pioneer in usage of BIM

STUDY

2012 - 2014

REALISATION

2014 - 2017

CLIENT

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

DESIGN TEAM

Association of Engineering Offices:
Abscis - Provoost - Ingenium

LOCATION

Site Ter Groene Poorte
Spoorwegstraat 12, 8200 Bruges

GROSS AREA

11 861 m²

COST PRICE

€ 16 042 594
excl. VAT and fees



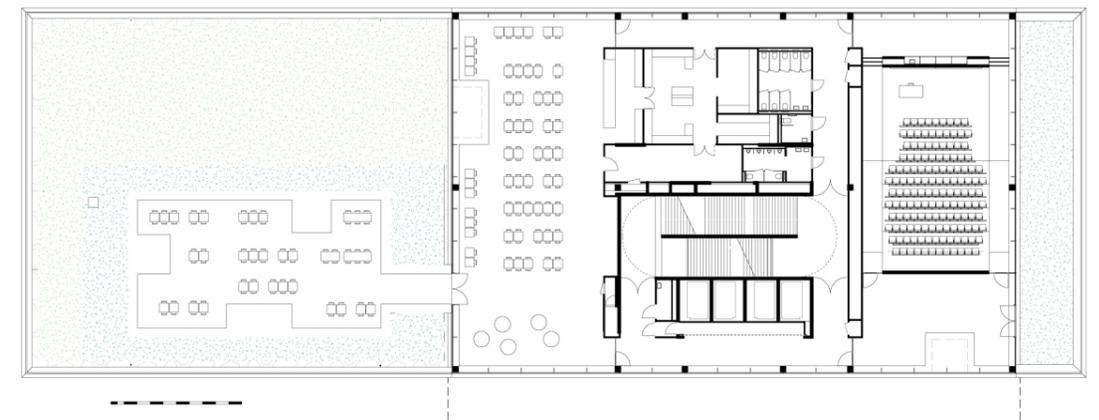
view from the tracks - photography Dennis De Smet



polished concrete facade panels with slanted reveals - photography Dennis De Smet



above: story +5
below: story +3 with rooftop terrace



KUL CAMPUS BRUGGE

The KU Leuven Campus in Bruges is a collaboration of KU Leuven and local partner VIVES. The building is home to the Faculty of Engineering Technology (FET) and the Faculty of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences, and the esplanade combines the various new developments on campus. The KU Leuven Campus thus serves as an entry point to the wider campus cluster when approaching from the nearby train station.

The building itself consists of two superimposed, closed volumes, separated by a transparent 'public layer'. The bottom volume houses the laboratories and classrooms spread out over three floors. A 'floating' second volume sits on top, with classrooms and offices split over three floors. A public layer is situated between these two volumes: a transparent floor contains all the most public of functions: a cafeteria with a terrace, breakout areas to study and relax, as well as a lecture hall.

Situated at the same level of the railway, the 'public layer' has the visual quality of an elevated public space. The transparency as well as the cantilevered stacking of the volumes both contribute to an intuitive orientation throughout the building.

Essential to the user experience of the building are the meeting areas. The varying widths of the circulation zones create free zones in the floorplan. These serve as walk-out and waiting areas for the classrooms as well as meeting areas for informal encounters. The central meeting areas in the building, the cafeteria, the lecture

hall and the foyer, all flow seamlessly into the circulation zone. Circulation can also easily be regulated, allowing to open up the public layer to third parties after lecture times.

Flexibility is another emphasis. A column structure with nonbearing infill walls allows for great flexibility towards future needs and functions. Classroom size can be altered and rooms merged together irrespective of the building structure. Even in the event of a future redesignation of the building the structure can continue to serve its purpose.

Wayfinding throughout the building is assisted by accent colours: green for circulation, orange for classrooms, blue for administration, and grey for technical areas.

The façade has a sleek and modern architectural appearance. The white polished concrete with sloping reveals add architectural expression with an ever-changing interplay of contrasting light and shade. This creates very lively elevations, and a renewed spectacle from every viewpoint.

Included in the design is an esplanade, catering to the vulnerable road users entering the site. Flanked by a secure bicycle storage for 270 bicycles, the esplanade has a parklike feel to it: parking spaces consist of a mosaic of grass and concrete tiles, and some parking spaces are seemingly replaced by a tree or a hedge.

Two green roofs are also featured in the design. While the roof of the secure bicycle storage has an extensive green roof, the roof at the public layer has an intensive green roof. Water collected is used for e.g. toilet flushing. Sustainability was also of consideration in the ventilation system, the choice of LED lighting, sunblinds etc.

BIM

Also a first, the KU Leuven Campus was fully designed and built in BIM. From preliminary design to completion, the contractor and all consulting engineers collaborated within one integrated model.

