

Press release

The Gorlaeus Building Opens Its Doors

On 2 September, the Faculty of Science at Leiden University will open the Gorlaeus Building, the latest addition to its faculty complex, designed by INBO and Sweco Architects. The interior design was crafted by Ex Interiors.

Leiden Bio-Science Park

This new expansion provides the faculty with a new main entrance at Rosalind Franklin Square, in the heart of Leiden Bio-Science Park, where academia and industry meet.

Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

Previously dispersed institutes are now unified under one roof, creating a modern, communicative, and open faculty. The design emphasises interaction and knowledge exchange between different research disciplines as well as between education and research.

The building brings together a wide range of functions, from offices, laboratories, and a vibration-free measurement hall to meeting rooms, self-study spaces, lecture halls, teaching rooms, a library, a bar, and a brasserie.

Dynamic and Tranquil Spaces

The new building has a clear comb-shaped structure, with a central spine connecting the various wings. This design allows everyone to work along the building's exterior, providing natural light and views of the surroundings.

The central spine, with its building-high atriums, serves as the dynamic and inspiring heart of the faculty. It offers space for events, and users can easily find their way around. This area connects the different parts of the faculty, providing ample space for interaction.

Lecture halls, practical rooms, the library, and self-study spaces reflect the diverse character of the faculty. The self-study spaces and library offer a peaceful environment, with views of the green courtyards contributing to a pleasant atmosphere. In the office wings, warm colours and materials in collaborative spaces and lounge areas create an inviting ambiance.

Distinctive Design

The facade of the new section at Rosalind Franklin Square features an arcade. The arcade's front is adorned with a Voronoi pattern, making the faculty easily recognizable from a distance with a motif that spans disciplines from computer science to biology.

Tech Meets Touch

Odette Ex consciously chose a consistent palette in the interior design to complement the clear architecture. Tactile materials and colour choices—such as felt, wood, and green hues with orange and light blue accents—form the basis for the overall design. This creates a cohesive look that maintains the building's spatial quality while giving each specific area a warm appearance and the necessary comfort.

Note to Editors:

For press inquiries

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Location

Rosalind Franklin Square, Leiden Bio-Science Park, Leiden

Client

Leiden University

User

Faculty of Science, including:

- Leiden Institute of Physics
- Leiden Observatory
- Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science
- Mathematical Institute
- Leiden Institute of Chemistry
- Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research

Project Phases

Phase 2A, now in use, covers approximately 30,500 m² and was completed at the end of 2023. Phase 1, which covers 46,300 m², has been in use since 2016. The Gorlaeus Building will ultimately cover around 100,000 m² and is being completed in three phases.

Phase 2A Team:

- **Architects:** INBO (Hans Toornstra) and Sweco Architects (Ad van Aert)
- **Interior Architect:** Ex Interiors (Odette Ex)
- **BSPL Supervisor:** Studio Hartzema (Henk Hartzema)
- **Structural Consultant:** Pieters Bouwtechniek
- **Acoustics, Building Physics, Fire Safety Consultant:** ABT
- **Installations Consultant:** ABT in collaboration with Huygen
- **Main Contractor (Construction and Installations):** Heijmans
- **Laboratory Equipment:** S+B Rotterdam
- **Construction Management and Supervision:** Stevens van Dijck

Sustainability

Phase 2 of the Gorlaeus Building, like Phase 1, has received a BREEAM 'Very Good' certification. Key sustainability measures include thermal energy storage for sustainable heating and cooling, 1,150 m² of solar panels, and high insulation values for the facade, roof, and floor to minimize heat loss and increase energy efficiency.

Art

In the new section, above the main staircase: The Cloud by Jos Agasi. The acoustic wall artwork in the lunch café in Phase 1 was designed by Martijn Sandberg.

Photography Credits:

- Marcel van der Burg
- Stijn Poelstra

More team information:

- **INBO:** <https://inbo.com>
- **Sweco Architects:** <https://sweco.nl>
- **Ex Interiors:** <https://ex-interiors.nl>