



mecanoo
architecten

Francine Houben

Founding Partner/Creative Director

With Mecanoo since 1984

Professional qualifications MSc in Architecture/Urban Planner, Delft University of Technology
Memberships Board Member Society of Arts, Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam (2015-present); Member International Council Van Alen Institute, New York (2015-present); Member Akademie der Künste, Department of Architecture, Berlin (2010-present); Board Member Carnegie Foundation, The Hague (2008-present); Supervisory Board Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo (2005-present)

“Architecture is never a solo act. I like to compare it to directing a symphony orchestra; it’s all about teamwork, about being visionary, sensitive and supportive at the same time.”

Francine Houben founded Mecanoo in 1984. She has since led the firm to success in The Netherlands and abroad, amassing a portfolio of work that is wide-ranging, inspired by global challenges and with a sustainable view on society. Mecanoo combines the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, interior design and landscape architecture to produce unorthodox design solutions born from a strong sensitivity to context and a highly interdisciplinary design process. Each of her projects illustrates the three fundamental elements of her architectural vision: People, Place, Purpose. She interweaves social, technical, playful and humane aspects together to form a unique solution to each assignment.

Francine maintains an active presence in academia and culture, regularly publishing and giving lectures worldwide. She has performed in many academic and professional capacities throughout her career, including Chair of Architecture and Aesthetics of Mobility at Delft University of Technology, visiting professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design, and as director of the First International Architecture Biennale in Rotterdam. Francine has received honorary fellowships from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. In 2014 Francine was named Woman Architect of the Year by the Architects’ Journal and in November 2015 Queen Máxima of The Netherlands presented Francine with the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Prize for her wide-ranging career. Francine was awarded Honorary Doctorates from the Université de Mons, Belgium (2017) and the Utrecht University (2016).

Selected projects



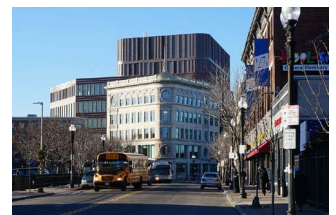
New York Public Library, US
 Size: 68,500 m²
 Year: 2015 - 2019



Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington D.C., US
 Size: 37,000 m²
 Year: 2014 - 2019



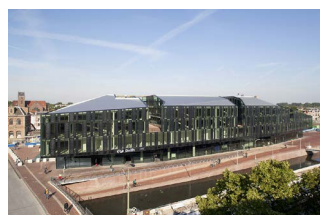
Library of Birmingham, UK
 Size: 35,000 m²
 Year: 2008 - 2013



Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Boston MA, US
 Size: 16,700 m²
 Year: 2011 - 2015



National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts, Taiwan
 Size: 141,000 m²
 Year: 2006 - 2016



Municipal Offices and Train Station, Delft, NL
 Size: 28,320 m²
 Year: 2006 - 2017



La Lotja Theatre and Conference Centre, Lleida, Spain
 Size: 37,500 m²
 Year: 2004 - 2010



Delft University of Technology Library, NL
 Size: 15,000 m²
 Year: 1993 - 1998