



## 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 (the Netherlands, 1955) is Founding Partner and Creative Director of Mecanoo. Her work ranges from theatres, museums and libraries to neighbourhoods, housing and parks. Each design is founded on the observations of people, location, culture and climate. This analysis amounts to designs that respond to current needs yet are also prepared for (un)predictable change. With her practice, she has gained international acclaim.

Francine holds Honorary Fellowships of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). Francine was granted lifelong membership to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and received the International Honorary Fellow Award by the Architecture Institute of Taiwan.

Francine Houben was professor of mobility aesthetics at Delft University of Technology and also taught at the universities of Harvard, Yale and Mendrisio. As curator of the First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (2003), she brought the theme of the aesthetics of mobility to the forefront of international design consciousness. 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). In 2018 Francine received the BNA Kubus Award for her oeuvre, in 2019 the International Prize, Prix des Femmes Architectes and she was distinguished with the TU Delft Alumnus of the Year in 2020. In 2021 Mecanoo and Francine were presented with the European Prize for Architecture.

### Selected projects



**New York Public Library, US**

Size: 68,500 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2015 - 2021



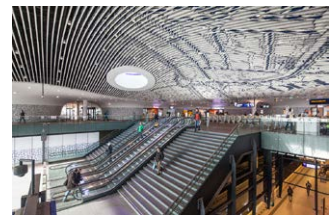
**Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington D.C., US**

Size: 37,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2014 - 2020



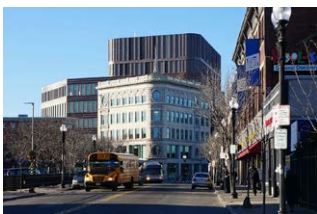
**National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts, Taiwan**

Size: 141,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2007 - 2018



**Municipal Offices and Train Station, Delft, NL**

Size: 28,320 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2006 - 2017



**Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Boston MA, US**

Size: 16,700 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2011 - 2015



**Library of Birmingham, UK**

Size: 35,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2008 - 2013



**La Llotja Theatre and Conference Centre, Lleida, Spain**

Size: 37,500 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 2004 - 2010



**Delft University of Technology Library, NL**

Size: 15,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Year: 1993 - 1998