

Project: De Kwekerij Apartments

Team: Arons & Gelauff architecten

Size: 17750 m²

Location: UTRECHT, NL



Feature:

Project - Arons & Gelauff Architecten has created a vibrant "Tiny Forest" of colorful residential towers for the De Kwekerij campus in Utrecht, Netherlands. The innovative housing development provides sustainable and affordable starter homes for young professionals and students through smart design moves.

Rather than placing several large monolithic blocks as originally planned, the architects conceived a playful cluster of six slender towers that better capture the spirit of community living. The towers range from 4 to 7 stories tall, with their varying heights allowing optimal sunlight to reach all dwellings.

A major design driver was maximizing efficiency and sustainability. The highly rationalized towers contain just two repeating apartment types of 45 square meters, with centralized mechanical systems eliminating the need for bulky utility spaces. Prefabricated components like kitchens and facades were simply slotted into the cast-in-place concrete frames.

The façades are a kaleidoscope of cheerful hues inspired by the flowering trees planted around the buildings, blending the vivid architecture into the verdant landscape. Rotating the volumes creates a dynamic visual composition while ensuring privacy between units.

Beneath this "Tiny Forest" lies an unexpected amenity - the remnants of an old atomic bunker repurposed as a rainwater storage pond, paying homage to the site's Cold War history. With integrated common spaces, bike facilities and upcoming museum, De Kwekerij is an exemplar of economical and community-focused urban living.

Design Team - Founded in 1996, Arons & Gelauff architecten provides unique and visionary solutions to complex urban issues with innovative and sustainable development concepts. The firm is led by Arnoud Gelauff, Floor Arons and Tjeerd Beemsterboer, having a multidisciplinary team of around 25 architects and architectural technicians.

Their design works seamlessly blend into the surrounding context, striking a balance between conceptual insight and architectural craftsmanship. Through close collaboration with developers, contractors, governments and residents, Arons & Gelauff is able to efficiently realize their ambitious plans. With extensive experience and expertise, the team organically combines innovative ideas with practical feasibility to create architectural masterpieces that stand the test of time.

Regardless of the budget, Arons & Gelauff deftly navigates between functionality and creativity, contributing intelligent solutions for urban development. With a passionate and professional work ethic, they strive to exceed expectations by delivering exceptional and distinctive architectural designs of the highest quality.