

Project: Marga Klompé Building

Design Team: Powerhouse Company

Size: 5000 m<sup>2</sup>

Location: TILBURG, NL



#### Feature:

**Project** - Powerhouse Company's Marga Klompé Building sets a new benchmark for sustainable university architecture in Europe. This nearly energy-neutral complex at Tilburg University in the Netherlands is the first college building constructed entirely from solid wood.

The project's circular ambitions are embodied through its innovative use of renewable materials like wood, terrazzo and plasterwork throughout. A unique dry construction system utilizing wooden ribbed floors allows large free spans while meeting stringent acoustic requirements for the lecture halls and auditorium spaces.

The exterior form pays homage to the campus' iconic 1962 Cobbenhagen Building with its cubic massing clad in Portuguese natural stone facades with deep reveals. But the building transcends mere imitation through thoughtful sustainable strategies like integrated photovoltaics, efficient climate systems, and insulation partly made from recycled denim jeans.

Indoors, the material palette cultivates a serene atmosphere for the 1,000 students the building serves. Exposed wood beams work in concert with warm terrazzo flooring and furniture to create tranquil study areas flooded with natural light.

With its BREEAM Outstanding certification, the Marga Klompé Building represents a holistic vision for the future of education facilities. Its name honors the first female Dutch minister who championed social equity - values this environmentally-progressive project admirably upholds.

**Design Team** - Founded in 2005 and rooted in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Powerhouse Company has emerged as a pioneering international architectural practice. Under the leadership of founder Nanne de Ru alongside partners Paul Stavert, Stefan Prins, Albert Takashi Richters, Sander Apperlo, and Johanne Borthne, the firm has assembled a multidisciplinary tour de force of over 100 professionals.

Powerhouse Company's portfolio exemplifies a profound commitment to timeless design imbued with innovation. Their diverse body of work spans transformative urban interventions, bespoke residences seamlessly integrated with nature, future-proof workspaces, and mixed-use developments that redefine cityscapes. Each project is a testament to the firm's comprehensive approach, synthesizing in-depth contextual research with aesthetic vision and functional performance.

At the core of their practice is a collaborative ethos that actively engages clients to coalesce economic, social, and sustainable objectives. This inclusive spirit extends to co-creating with other design practices, fostering creative synergies. Powerhouse Company's work elevates architecture beyond mere structures, crafting narratives that transcend the ordinary and shape meaningful spaces to enhance lives.