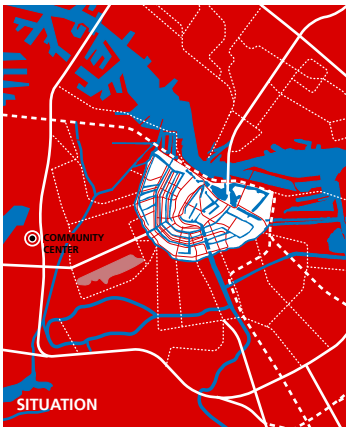
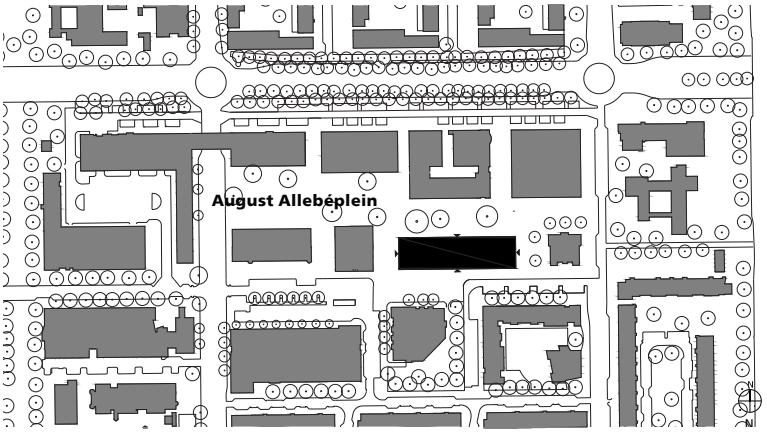
COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD
AUGUST ALLEBÉPLEIN, AMSTERDAM

S10
2009-2013

Het Meervoud Community School
August Allebéplein is a public plaza in Slotervaart, a district of Amsterdam that forms part of the Westelijke Tuinsteden area. The urban renewal of this whole area is in progress. One of the projects on August Allebéplein is Het Meervoud, a facility for primary education with a wide remit. Het Meervoud is dedicated to children aged from 0 to 14 years, to the families to which they belong and to the environment in which they grow up. Het Meervoud contains not just a primary school but a wide range of social, cultural and community functions such as a day care service, out of school care, pre-school with parents' room, parent and child centre, neighbourhood meeting space and a gym. It also has communal rooms for the staff of Het Meervoud, such as a team room and an expertise centre.

Urban design: modest volume with vertical accent
Het Meervoud conforms to the orthogonal plot pattern of August Allebéplein. Inside the rectangular building envelope – symmetrically in the centre of the building – there is a tall accent. It is the gymnasium, which towers above the rest of the building and marks the main entrance. This vertical accent also





brief
'Het Meervoud': primary school, out-of-school care with parent room, parent and child centre, neighbourhood social centre and gym

client
Woningstichting de Key, Amsterdam NL

architect
Marlies Rohmer Architects and Planners

team
Marlies Rohmer,
with:
Kirsten Gabriëls
Boris Briels
Ronald Hageman

structural engineering
Pieters Bouwtechniek, Eindhoven NL

building services
Merosch, Bodegraven NL

design date
2009

completion
2013

area / building cost
GFA 5,707 m² (excl. roof garden)
7,793,000 incl. services, excl. VAT (estimate)

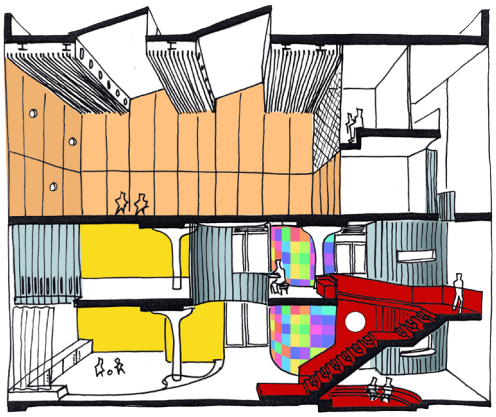
COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD

terminates the line of sight from Marius Bauerstraat. The public school grounds surround the building. Entrances, bench seats and plant containers visually anchor the building to the ground surface. The roof has room for school gardens and additional play space.

Design; building with a heart

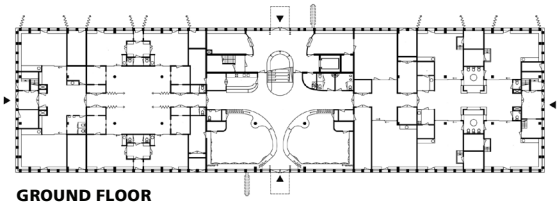
Not only urban design considerations but also functional aspects motivated Architectenbureau Marlies Rohmer to design a 22 m. wide generic building with a central (spatial) "heart". This heart is the brightly coloured "lining" of the otherwise modestly clad building. The ground floor has a large entrance foyer with a wide grandstand staircase. This provides a place for school festivities, for which the play rooms can be combined with the entrance foyer to form a large hall. The first floor houses the neighbourhood meeting space, parent rooms and a communal coffee corner where visitors and staff can meet informally. A spatial spectacle of multistorey spaces visually links the floors of the building. On the top floor is the double-height gym, which, because it has to serve evening users, is accessible from the "heart" independently from other organizations. Additional entrances for various organizations are located in the end faces of the building.

The adjoining wings form a contrast to the lively heart and provide a quiet home base for the different user groups. The school occupies space on three floors, mainly in the west wing, with the youngest pupils occupying the ground floor and the older children on the upper floors. The 22 m. deep building has a flexible zone of classrooms alternating with "à la carte" rooms behind the two facades, and a middle zone with other functions such as handicrafts workshops and a mediatheque. Two atriums introduce daylight deep into this zone. The ground floor of the east wing contains the day care facility and the toy library.

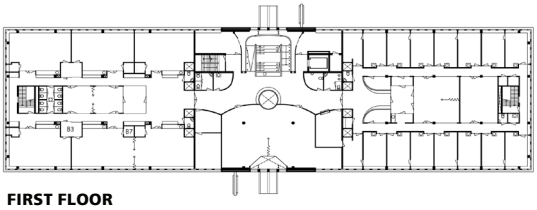


COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD

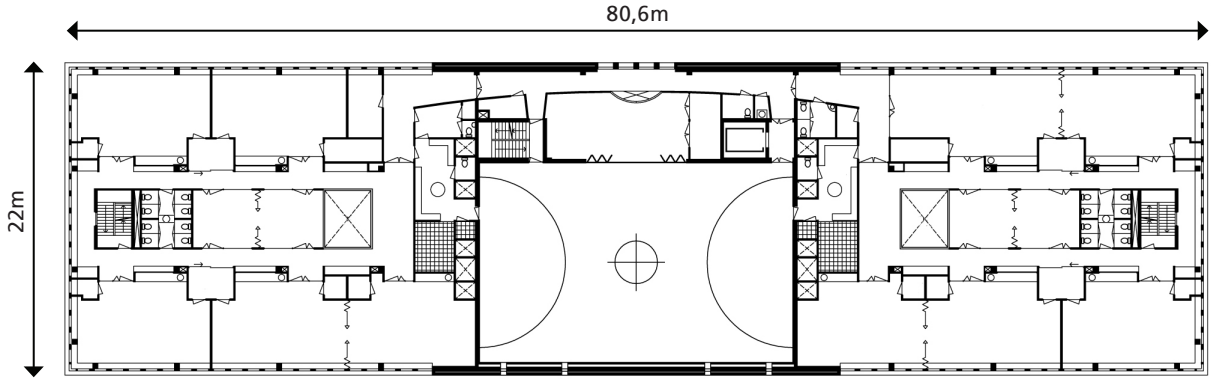
PRINCIPLE FLOOR PLAN



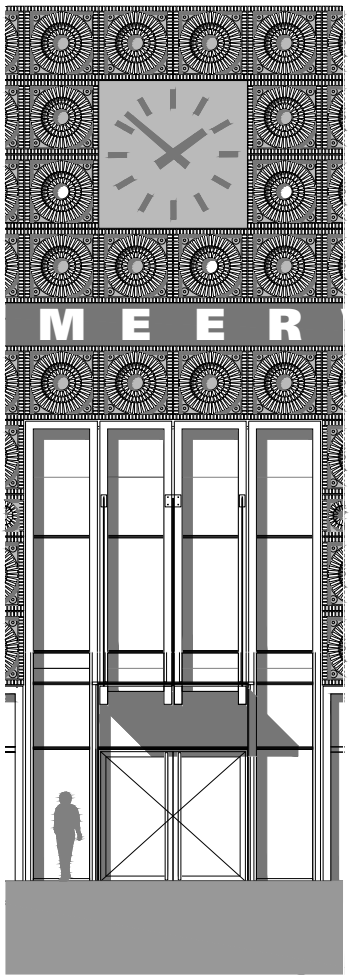
GROUND FLOOR

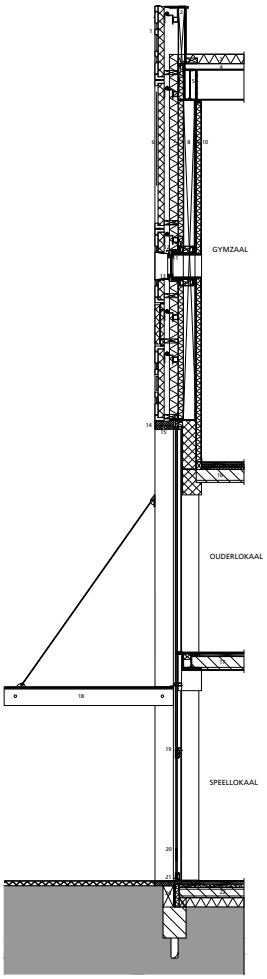


FIRST FLOOR

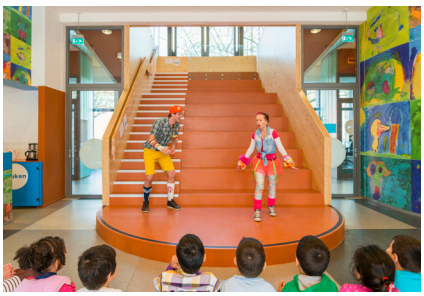


TWEEDE VERDIEPING





COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD



Facade: a composition of brickwork on the borderline between symmetry and asymmetry

Het Meervoud quietly blends with the surrounding buildings, which are mostly built in brick. The simple, classic mass of the building reveals more and more detail and asymmetry the closer one approaches. The facade design has a composition of horizontal brickwork bands and vertical accents. The horizontal bands are made up of prefabricated brick rosettes, with the yellowish brown bricks creating texture and a round pattern. This pattern hints at Arabic culture and the multicultural population that lives in the vicinity. The panels can be removed from the skeleton of the building, making the building easy to transform at some future date. Accents are provided by the grey concrete doorways, which give a sense of the building having its feet planted firmly on the ground. The plinth has an open, inviting ambiance.

Within the omnidirectional facade concept, the horizontal articulation is interrupted by vertical accents at points which are important from an urban design or functional viewpoint: the main entrance on Allebéplein and the secondary entrance on

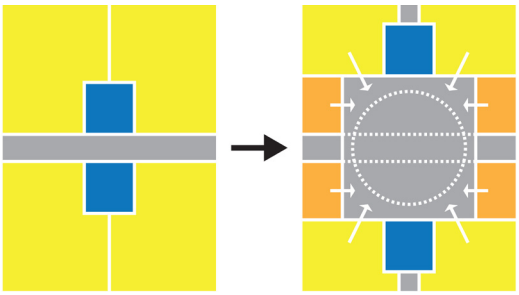
COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD

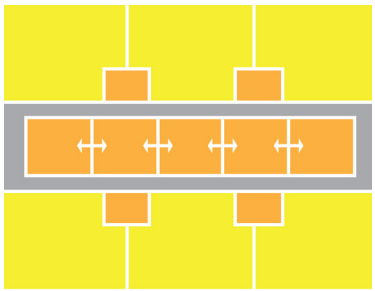
Marius Bauerstraat. The doorways are taller here and express the identity of a public building on both sides. A clock reinforces this effect.

Sustainability and energy saving: "Fresh School" Class B

"Low tech" measures (selection):

- The building is compact, heavy and heat-accumulating. Circulation space doubles as functional space ("discovery square", "learning street").
- Generic-specific. The building is flexibly partitionable owing to its column structure. Specific functions (play rooms, main hall, gym etc.) are clustered in the "heart" of the building.
- Multiple utilization of space. Stacked sports space and outdoor space on the roof.
- Tall windows and atriums allow daylight to penetrate deep into the building.
- Sunshades are mounted under the top ventlights so that daylight can always enter.
- Deep reveals provide natural solar shading above the top ventlights.





COMMUNITY SCHOOL HET MEERVOUD

- North light enters the gym through high portholes.
- High insulation values (Rc = 5). Triple glazing with high U-value.

<u>High-tech measures (selection):</u>

- Better performance of heat recovery from ventilation air. The heat recovery system draws heat from extracted used air and uses it to warm fresh air taken in from outside. The yield of the heat recovery system rises from 20% to 90%.
- Individually controllable ventilation and low-temperature floor heating systems support the flexible layout concept.
- The roof is suitable for mounting solar panels.