

HofmanDujardin

subject Press release for immediate publication
contact Willem Wopereis | press@hofmandujardin.nl | +31 (0)20 528 64 20

HofmanDujardin rethinks the way we say goodbye with design for new Funeral Centre

HofmanDujardin initiated the design of a contemporary Funeral Ceremony Centre to give the deceased a beautiful farewell celebrating their life. A personal experience made the founding partners, Michiel Hofman and Barabara Dujardin, rethink the way we say goodbye to our loved ones. The resulting design for a new funeral centre consists of a sequence of three rooms which connect timeless values of our existence to our modern ways of life.

Three rooms

Contemporary funerals can be seen as a memorial of the life of the deceased. However, being less ceremonial than in the past, a clear sequence of moments characterises these meetings. The first moment is the gathering of friends and family, the actual ceremony of remembrance forms the second, followed by a third moment of social encounter. HofmanDujardin translates this in a series of three carefully shaped rooms around an epicentre: the place for the coffin.

Michiel Hofman: "The lack of places for worthy send offs results in unease feelings during crucial moments in our lives. Naturally following our design philosophy *Shaping Intuition®*, focusing on the intuitive values of human beings, we designed a Funeral Centre which tries to break this discomfort. The design combines timeless qualities with elements of our modern ways of life."

Sharing memories

In the first room, the assembly of relatives, friends and known associates is enclosed by a memory wall. This multimedia screen, on which family and friends can share videos and photographs of moments with their loved one, forms a lively collage celebrating their life. The images form a background to the silence and might be translated in a downloadable video clip. The wall allows to create a sublime, shared moment of collectively reliving stories.

HofmanDujardin

Saying goodbye

The space for the actual remembrance ceremony defines the shape of the three rooms. Its triangular plan creates intimacy in both small and bigger groups. The two curved walls and the ceiling bend inwards to define a passage as the centre for the coffin. Behind, an expansive empty space opens towards a panorama of the surroundings. The shape implies a flow back towards nature, closing the circle of life.

Celebrate life

After the ceremony, a third space offers the opportunity to enhance social relations. The timber clad walls and floor create a warm and comfortable atmosphere. The neutral round serving tables make the room suitable for formal and informal events. Barbara Dujardin: "The way we say good bye to our loved ones is a very personal decision. We designed a Funeral Centre which is specifically suitable for its function, and at the same time leaves room for interpretation. We think that sad moments in our life should be beautiful at the same time."

Project credits

Design HofmanDujardin

Team Barbara Dujardin, Michiel Hofman, Fabian van den Bosch, Theo Brouwer, Iker Hernández

Area 1600 m²

Period 2018

Renderings VERO Visuals

Drawings HofmanDujardin

About HofmanDujardin

HofmanDujardin was founded by the architects Barbara Dujardin and Michiel Hofman in 1999. The international team of architects, interior architects and designers works on a variety of architecture, renovation and interior projects. Their design philosophy Shaping Intuition® is the guiding concept of all projects: a personal approach to architecture which focuses on the well-being of the human being in his environment. Visit [HofmanDujardin.nl](https://www.hofmandujardin.nl) for more information.

Image credits

If credited accordingly, all imagery can be used free of charge in relation to the topic of this press release.

Credits renderings: *VERO Visual*

Credits drawings: *HofmanDujardin*