Sportcampus Zuiderpark

The Hague, Netherlands

Located at the heart of the historic Zuiderpark, the €50 million sports campus is an innovative collaboration of alliances between education, sport, sport science and the community, for both the municipality of The Hague and its private partners: the Haagse Hogeschool and ROC Mondriaan.

The overriding aim is to emphasize the importance of sport and exercise through learning and engagement, for the amateur as well as the elite athlete, using sport as the inspiration to deliver a healthier society. The 33,000 m² sports campus includes a gymnastics hall, beach sports hall, spectator arena and a multipurpose sports hall, as well as a variety of sports science and education spaces.

Environment: urban

Material: grade: 316

size: thickness 0.8 mm finish: polished with Inox spectral finish (gold-red) Faulkner Browns Architects

Photographs: Scagliola Brakkee,

Hufton+Crow. Arien Schmit

More information: faulknerbrowns.co.uk



Our design solution is an interpretation of the brief to embody within the campus the principles of 'motion and activity'. This is expressed externally in the fluid movement of the elevational treatment. At ground level, the curved form of the plan is expressed by a simple plinth constructed from textured precast concrete panels. The upper part of the elevation is expressed as a metallic 'ribbon' that narrows and twists to reveal glazing on the elevation. Constructed from brightly polished stainless steel, the dynamic ribbon changes colour with different lighting conditions and cloud patterns, as well as reflecting the animation of its natural setting.

The municipality of The Hague has the ambition to be climate neutral by 2040. This informed the client's desire for a sustainable campus.

The building is designed to be as compact as possible, whilst providing the necessary space for

the range of sport and education facilities. When combined with a well-insulated shell, energy loss is therefore minimised. The 20,000 m² roof is covered with over 15,000 m² of heat-regulating green sedum, as well as photovoltaic solar panels to generate energy for the building and solar collectors to produce hot water for the showers. The energy generated by the roof is supplemented by a ground water heating and cooling system which utilises two wells excavated to different depths. In the summer when there is a demand for cooling, groundwater is pumped from the shallower 'cold' water well and fed through a heat exchanger to provide cooling for the building. Due to this energy transfer the water returns warmed and is fed back into the deeper 'warm' water well. In the winter the system is reversed to provide heating to the building.