

bird's-eye view

# de toneelschuur

## a cartoon comes to life

The Toneelschuur in Haarlem is a prominent theatre housing the avant-garde of the Dutch drama, dance and film worlds. The well-known comic strip artist Joost Swarte made the initial sketches for the new building in his own inimitable style. Henk Döll worked further on the design and ensured that it became a functioning building. Each section of the building is given a different atmosphere through variations in height, form and use of materials. Despite its size, the building sits naturally in its surroundings.



### De Toneelschuur - Haarlem

Client: Municipality Haarlem  
section social development on behalf of  
Vereniging de Toneelschuur, Haarlem

Consultants: Halmos b.v., Den Haag (installations)  
ABT adviesbureau voor bouwtechniek b.v., Delft (structural)  
Dorsser Blesgraaf, Den Haag (acoustics)  
Basalt bouwadvies b.v., Nieuwegein (construction cost)  
Roukens + van Gils, Gouda (interior)

Contractor: M.J. de Nijs en Zn b.v., Warmenhuizen

Area: ca. 5.400 m<sup>2</sup> b.v.o.

Design: 1996-1999

Execution: 2001-2003

Project i.c.w. cartoonist Joost Swarte

Photography: Christian Richters  
Janine Schrijver

This is a project of Henk Döll from his Mecanoo-time.



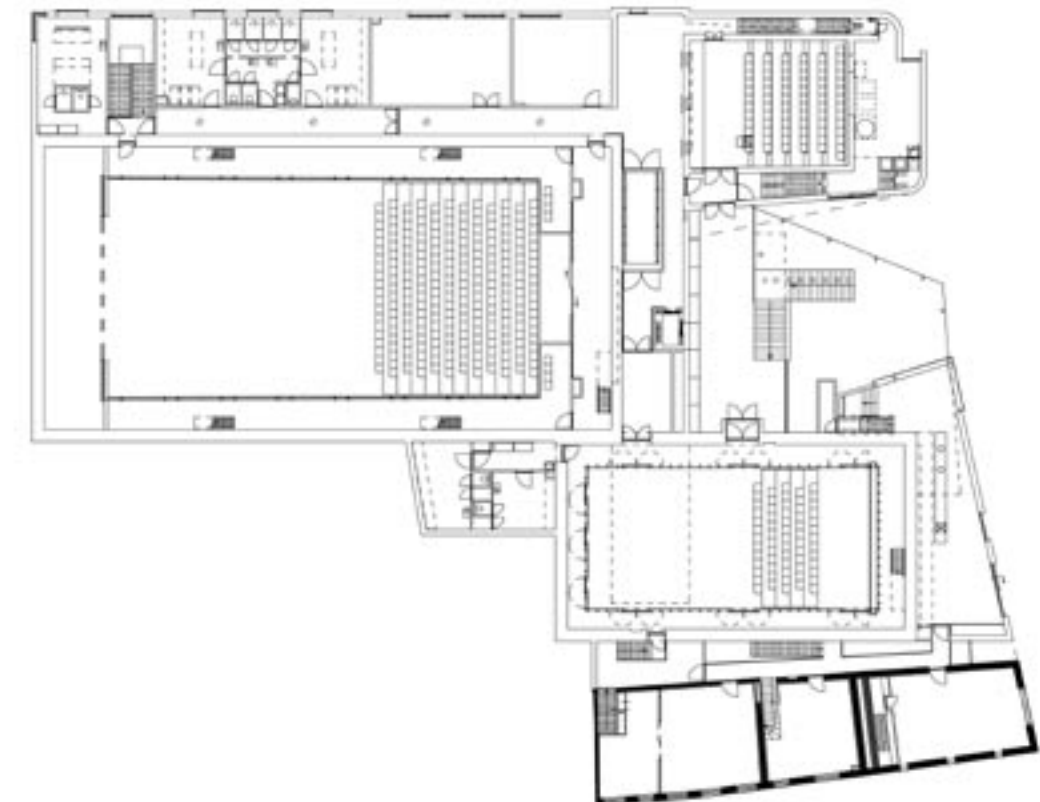




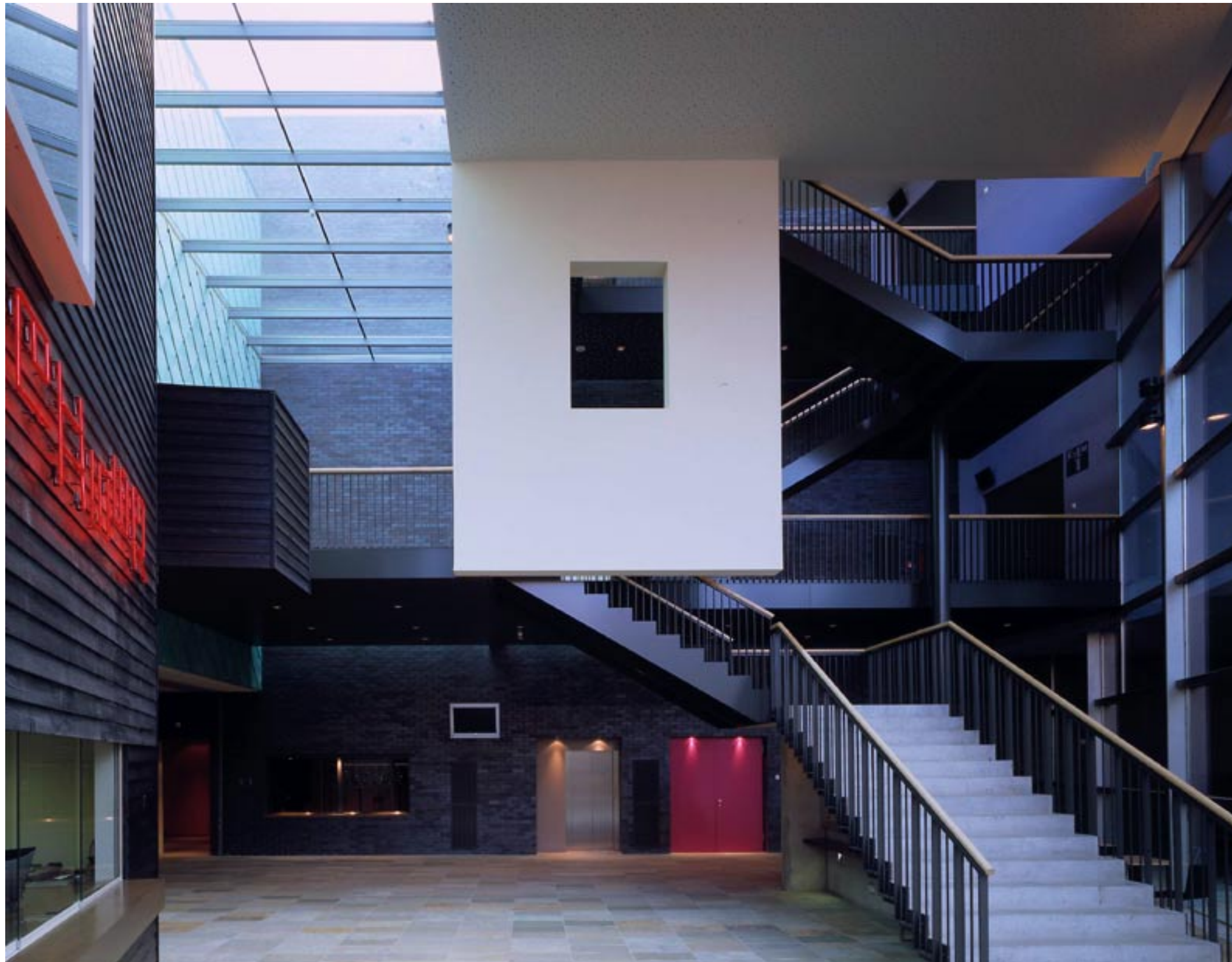
Commissioned by the Toneelschuur, cartoonist Joost Swarte made a sketch design for 'a new home for the Toneelschuur'. Based on this sketch study, Henk Döll further developed the design for the Toneelschuur in collaboration with Joost Swarte.

In the design the different functions of the theatre complex are located in different building parts. The new building is dominated by an inclined glass front. The intention of this glass wall is to separate the building from the city whilst simultaneously creating a mutual connection.

In order to function smoothly the Toneelschuur requires practical solutions for the theatre technique and the handling of public crowds. Loading and unloading before and after the performances is also crucial: strict regulations have to be accorded with to limit inconveniences for the district. Therefore all building parts are physically connected to the 'technical slice'. This slice is the back-bone of the building. All technical services are located here. The two theatre halls, the two movie theatres, the refreshment room, the theatre bar and the garage are situated on both sides of the technical slice.

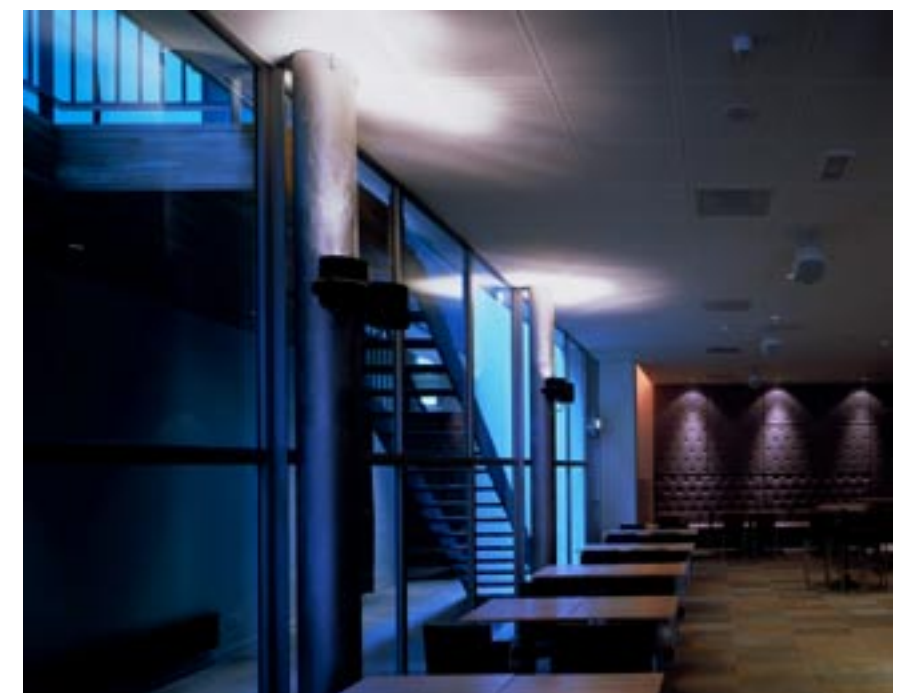




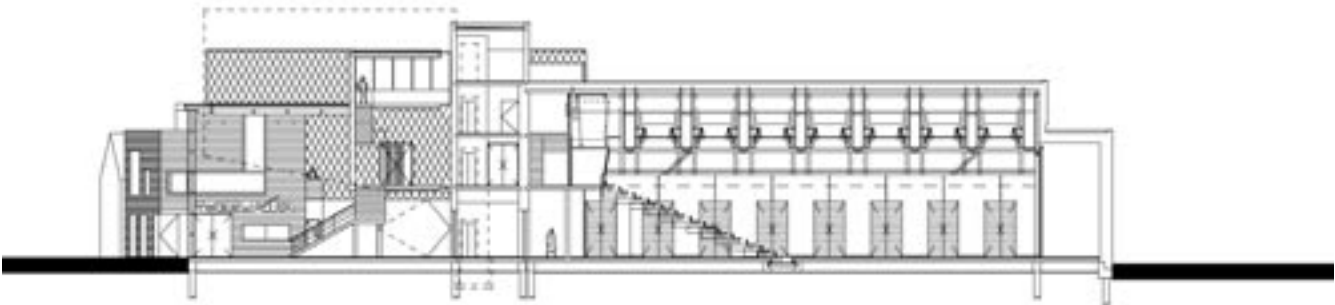
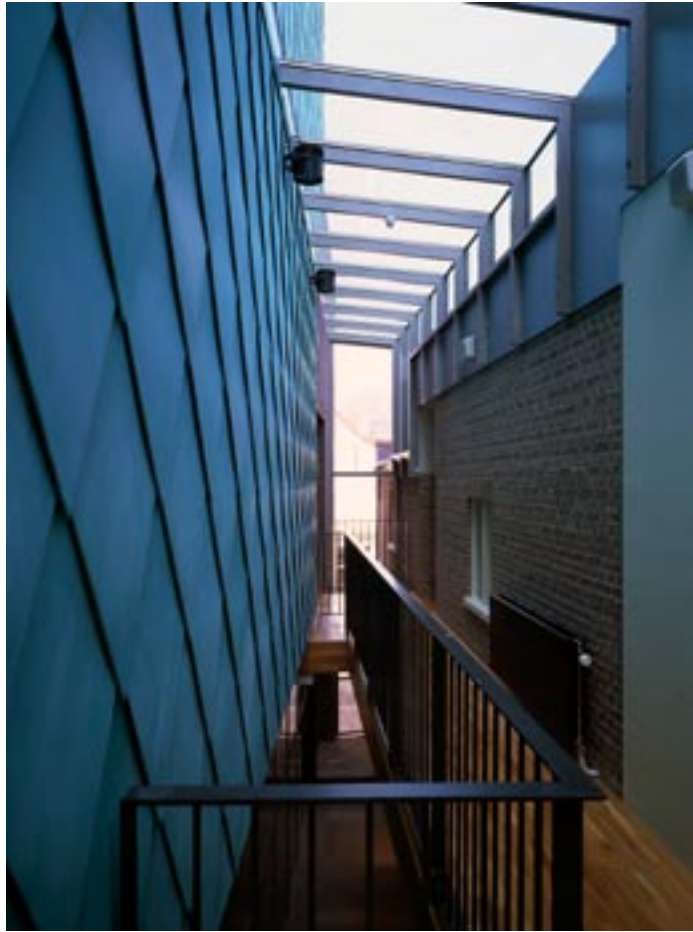


The offices are situated in several existing buildings surrounding the theatre, which will be visually integrated with the complex. The wide foyer on the ground floor forms the heart of the building. Because of the sloping glass façade foyer and street are connected with each other. The foyer not only provides entrance to the halls, but also to the theatre bar.

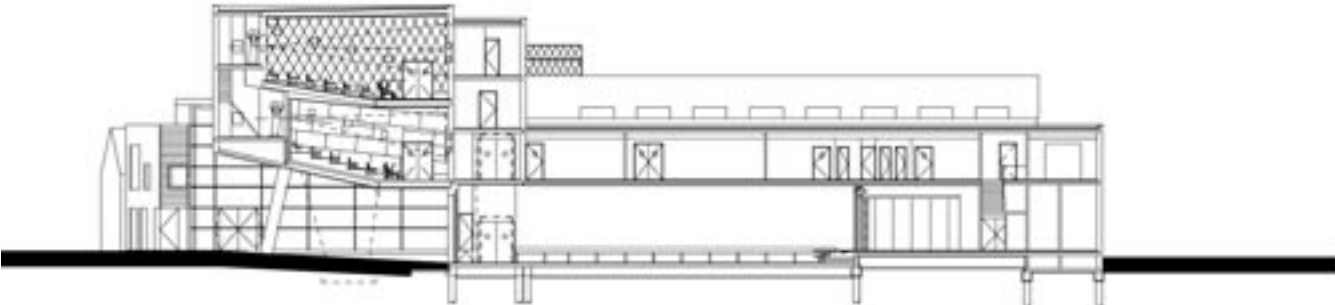
The different building parts each have their own expression with a variation in height and form. This effect is emphasised by using different materials such as glass, brick, plaster, wood, concrete panels, zinc and copper. In this way the building nestles itself in its neighbourhood. It makes a connection with both the dimensions and scale of the adjacent concert building and the delicate, small-scale surrounding urban structure.







longitudinal section foyer and main theatre



longitudinal section cinemas and garage