

The Yearbook Architects

Every year, the editors of the *Architecture in the Netherlands Yearbook* present a selection, in words and images, of the 30 best Dutch architecture projects.¹ In each case complete with all the relevant details, such as clients, architects and other designers who contributed to the successful outcome. The presentation of this 25th Yearbook provides an excellent opportunity to take a closer look at those architects.

The sum total of 744 projects were designed by 245 different practices, 36 of which were from abroad; all the projects and architects are represented here on the map of the Netherlands. Some 100 architects featured only once during those 25 years and for the sake of clarity they and the foreign practices will be excluded from further consideration.

The over 100 architecture firms that featured more than once can be classified in several different ways. For example, one could classify them according to the way they started out in practice: the lone practitioners, the architects who set up in practice with other designers, and the established firms who selected their successors from within their own circle (although established architects often manage their succession through an association or merger with one of the younger practices).

A second possible classification is geographical: it transpires that the vast majority of architects are based in the Randstad conurbation in the west of the country, and in particular in North-Holland (Amsterdam) and South-Holland (Rotterdam, Delft and The Hague), and only very sporadically in the northern, eastern and southern provinces. One might also consider a chronological classification or a grouping based on the architectural vision or style of the architects concerned, that is, to what extent they are compatible in terms of their view of the discipline, an approach taken in a survey presented in the 2009–2010 Yearbook.²

Finally, their education could play a role in a more specific clustering of architects. For example, one can discern differences or similarities between graduates (and/or teachers) from TU Eindhoven and TU Delft, although more specific shared characteristics are absent among graduates of the Academies of Architecture.

The accompanying tables (one line per architect with a chronological listing of featured projects) are the outcome of combinations of the possibilities outlined above, plus, where relevant, additional information regarding professorial or Government Architect appointments, and/or the award of a BNA Cube, the most prestigious Dutch oeuvre prize for architects.

Before discussing the architecture firms in more detail, a few general remarks about the projects of the past 25 years. Inclusion in the Yearbook was always the result of an editorial decision so that in retrospect one finds that some long-established or large firms, and some important buildings, are completely absent from the Yearbooks. For example, you will search in vain for projects by the country's largest architecture firm, Inbo (unless it is the work of Rowin Petersma, who recently joined the firm as partner) and in the case of Museum Belvédère in Heerenveen that can now be seen as an oversight. But even the extensive body of work by an established name like Broekbakema is represented by just one building. Successive editorial teams also showed no mercy for some of the controversial projects of their day, such as the Stopera complex, which opened exactly 25 years ago. The opera section, designed by Cees Dam, is held in high regard, especially in the cultural life of the capital. Looking back over the collection of buildings that did make it into the Yearbook, one also encounters many that have not stood the test of time. In retrospect they turn out to have been too fashionable or abominably executed while some have already been demolished. Which is a timely reminder that this review, too, is just the personal and present view of a single editor.

Amsterdam

The movements of the past 25 years are probably best described with reference to the visible changes in and around a number of prominent architecture firms, beginning with 'de architectengroep' from Amsterdam. After the departure of two of the three founding fathers, Joost Cannegieter and Jan Verster, the remaining partner, Tjeerd Dijkstra, teamed up with Ben Loerakker to build a new firm, Architectengroep VDL, but one with a rather atypical set-up: the eponymous architects drew a normal annual salary, the profit was reinvested and whatever was left over was shared with all the other members of the firm. When Dijkstra was appointed Government Architect he formally resigned from 'his' firm, in order to avoid any suggestion of a conflict of interest, whereupon Kees Rijnboutt, Hans Ruijssenaars and Gert-Jan Hendriks successively joined the practice, which was still simply called 'de architectengroep' followed by the names of the partners. After the death of Peter Loerakker, then the youngest partner, the firm incorporated the practice of two collaborating young architects, Dick van Gameren and Bjarne Mastenbroek, but they continued to be organized according to the principle introduced by Dijkstra. It was a

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totaal/total	Architects
												1	Reference de architectengroep
												2	Tjeerd Dijkstra
												2	Ben Loerakker
												2	Kees Rijnboutt
X												1	Gert-Jan Hendriks
				X								4	Hans Ruijssenaars
X X X	X X								X X		X	10	Dick van Gameren
X X X	X X	X		X			X	X	X			14	Bjarne Mastenbroek/SeARCH
										X X		2	Jan Bakers
												5	Reference Forum
												3	Aldo ↑ en Hannie van Eyck
												3	Theo Bosch ↑
		X		X						X		14	Herman Hertzberger/AHH
						X		X				2	Laurens Jan ten Kate/AHH
					X	X						2	Joop ↑ & André van Stigt
												5	Lafour en Wijk
												2	Paul de Ley
							X					3	Van Sambeek & van Veen
	X											2	Abel Cahen
								X				2	Merkx+Girod
										X		2	Maarten Min
												2	Alberts ↑ & Van Huut
												1	Reference de Architecten Cie.
												7	Frans van Gool
												4	Pi de Bruijn
	X											4	Carel Weeber
X			X		XX			X				13	Frits van Dongen
			X									1	Branimir Medic/ Pero Puljiz

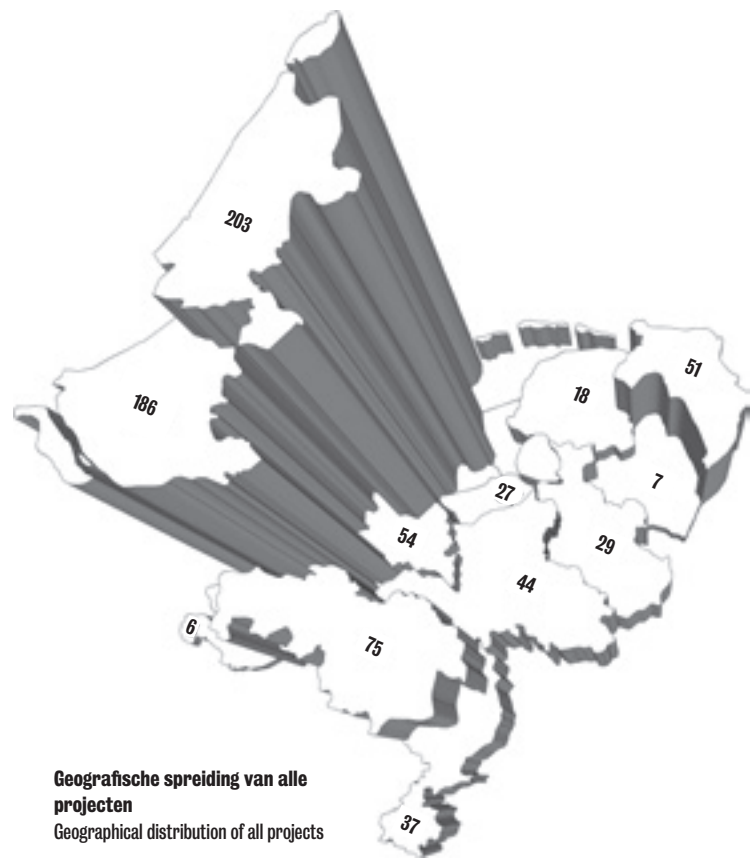
very successful formula and de architectengroep accordingly made a name for itself and grew quickly.

Differences of opinion about succession and the future led in the first instance to the choice of a number of new young partners, but soon afterwards Mastenbroek left the group and set up his own practice, SeARCH. In the following years de architectengroep slowly but surely unravelled, resulting in separate practices for the partners who had once collaborated so closely at Westerdokshuis: Rijnboutt (father Kees, son Matthijs and three other partners), Hans Ruijssenaars architecten, Locus architecten (Gert-Jan Hendriks et al.) and Dick van Gameren architecten, this last now also operating from a different address. And finally, Jan Bakers, an ex-associate of Loerakker, set up his own practice in Utrecht.

Recapping: begun by members of the 'established order' of architects who shaped the post-war reconstruction of the Netherlands, via the baby boomers who, having started out from that more idealistic collaborative form eventually preferred to reap the profit from their own efforts, to a successful youngest generation more geared to the 'singularity' of the architectural achievement.

A second group can be characterized with the reference 'Forum' – a generation of architects who made a name for themselves after having been the editors of this influential periodical of the Amsterdam association Architectura et Amicitiae during the 1960s. They included Aldo van Eyck and Herman Hertzberger as the leading exponents of a more socially engaged architecture, and Van Eyck's ex-assistants Theo Bosch (also briefly his partner), Lafour en Wijk, Paul de Ley, Joop van Stigt and René van Veen. *Forum* also published the first works of Ton Alberts, then still working with Har Oudejans. And finally, because of their similar fundamental attitude, Abel Cahen, Merckx+Girod and Maarten Min. A study of the Yearbook down the years reveals that their influence is very much on the wane. Some are no longer alive and most of those remaining have reached the end of their active career. Only Van Stigt (with son André), and Hertzberger (Patrick Franssen and Laurens Jan ten Cate) deliberately took a younger generation of architects into their practice. It is quite amazing, incidentally, to see how Hertzberger in particular, despite his advanced age, has kept on gradually reinventing himself over the past 25 years. And after the successful battle to preserve his great concert hall in Utrecht, he is now working closely with a few young colleagues – including some from outside his own practice – on the realization of the new Vredenburg music complex, currently under construction.

A final identifiable group in Amsterdam is de Architecten Cie. Having started life as Van Gool, De Bruijn & Peereboom Voller, after Van Gool's departure the remaining partners opted for what was then a fairly spectacular collaboration with Carel Weeber and Frits van Dongen, who until then had worked elsewhere, and a new name: de Architecten Cie. When their realized volume of work fell behind that of the other partners, Weeber and Peereboom Voller departed and a new partnership was formed with the Croatian-born duo, Branimir Medic and Pero Puljiz. de Architecten Cie. continued to reap success in this new configuration,



Geografische spreiding van alle projecten

Geographical distribution of all projects

securing a lot of foreign commissions and, in the person of Frits van Dongen, providing a third Government Architect. Finding able successors – they have already nominated associates – is probably the main concern for the immediate future.

The fourth table contains the remaining Amsterdam architecture firms. Starting with the original housing specialists and ending with the current younger generation. Worthy of mention here are five firms that have featured frequently in the Yearbook, such as the greatly expanded UNStudio that nowadays builds mainly abroad. But also Meyer en Van Schooten, a seasoned participant in large-scale PPP and DBFMO contracts, VMX and Marlies Rohmer as representatives of the middle generation, and finally Dok architecten. Unfortunately, the latter's merger with Blue Architects, intended as an infusion of young blood for the atelier headed by Herman Zeinstra and ex-Government Architect Liesbeth van de Pol, foundered after five years so they, too, must find new partners.

TU Delft – Southwest-Netherlands

A few Amsterdam firms turn out to fit better into another group with the reference 'Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft'. If not because their lead architect was or is a more or less prominent professor there, then because the basis for their no-nonsense attitude and their predilection for clarity and analysis, design process and technology, was laid during their studies there. Examples are Professor Cees Dam who, during a decade at TU Delft, left his mark on the faculty, Hubert-Jan Henket, who even swapped a professorship in Eindhoven for one in Delft, as well as Rudy Uytenga and his former associates Felix Claus and Kees Kaan, who relate more to the TUD than to the capital, the last as one of the recently appointed professors. It seems wise to add Benthem Crouwel Architecten, cepezed,

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totaal/total	Architects
												2	Reference Amsterdam/Other
												2	Hans Bosch
												3	Kees de Kat
												3	Hein van Meer
												3	Duinker Van der Torre
												2	Baneke, van der Hoeven
	X			X				X				11	Ben van Berkel/UNStudio
XX		X			X		X				X	8	Zeinstra van der Pol/Dok
X	X	X						XX				9	Meyer en Van Schooten
X					X			X				3	Herder Van der Neut/hvdm
								X			XX	3	Moriko Kira
								X				2	Köther Salman Koedijk
										X	X	3	OIII/E. & A. Paardekooper
		XX				X	XX			X	X	7	Marlies Rohmer
X								X				2	Tangram
X	X			X		X	X		X			7	Don Murphy/VMX
								X				2	John Bosch/Van den Oever, Zaaijer
										XX	X	3	Peer Glandorff/Fact
					XX							2	Rowin Petersma (nu: Inbo)

Hans van Heeswijk and Paul de Ruiter to this list, for although they have not (yet) produced a professor, this may still happen, although in the case of Benthem en Crowel an educational role would negate their repeated assertion that they themselves 'learnt nothing in Delft'. Joris Molenaar and Wilfried van Winden, with their eclectic architectural preferences, are probably the odd ones out, but their historical knowledge was garnered in Delft and they still have their office there.

In addition, a final and original group of Delft architects: Mecanoo, a five-partner practice established after winning the Rotterdam Kruisplein design competition. Roelf Steenhuis soon left to start his own practice, but the four remaining partners proceeded to build Mecanoo into a flourishing architectural practice. After the marriage between Houben and Van Egeraat broke up, the latter started his own firm which eventually had five offices, four of them abroad. Later on Chris de Weijer departed, too, to set up DP6 with Robert Alewijnse. Some time back the last partner, Henk Döll, left Mecanoo for his own Dollab. Some ex-assistants also set up in practice for themselves, such as in JSA, Rocha Tombal and GROUP A. But there is no reason to feel sorry for the remaining partner, Francine Houben. She has managed to put Mecanoo, now with ninety assistants, well and truly on the map, from England and Russia to distant Asia. And whereas Van Egeraat and Döll have both had to overcome a humiliating bankruptcy, Houben was declared national Business Woman of the Year in 2008. It remains, despite the centrifugal forces, a remarkable success story: in 25 years to grow from five beginners to five architecture firms with a total of over 250 assistants... And, last but not least, with a record number of listings in the Yearbook.

On to Rotterdam, where OMA/AMO (Office for Metropolitan Architecture), headed by Pritzker Prizewinner Rem Koolhaas, has grown into arguably the foremost architecture firm in the world. There too, probably partly owing to the highly intensive work methodology, the centrifugal forces proved to be very strong. Partner Kees Christiaanse left and other ex-associates also started their own practices, among them MVRDV and Neutelings Riedijk. Finally, the prominent project partners Floris Alkemade and Ole Scheeren also exited the OMA centrifuge. Bernard Colenbrander has already devoted an extremely insightful publication to OMA's spin-offs (*Referentie OMA*), hence the inclusion here of Kingma Roorda, DKV and Powerhouse Company.³

Interestingly, in the most recent period a reverse movement can be

detected at OMA, which may perhaps be attributable to the managing partner Victor van der Chijs. Nowadays, alongside Koolhaas, there are seven leading partners who are also increasingly representing OMA to the outside world. During the major 'OMA/Progress' exhibition in London in 2011 they were for the first time presented prominently as a group in a public debate and there was even indirect speculation about Koolhaas's possible departure. Whether that departure is imminent or not, OMA is organizationally prepared for it.

In the list of other Rotterdam practices, middle and younger generations predominate (also because other Rotterdam architects are listed under TU Delft or TU Eindhoven). The only real 'old hand', Kraaijvanger, merits a few more words. More than any other practice, it represents the old established order, although it has also tried out other forms of succession like the recently dissolved merger with urban designer Urbis (Donald Lambert). Interestingly, partner Rob Ligtoet is represented in both the first and the current Yearbook: in 1987 with an early 'atrium' office building for Esso in Breda, in this edition with the Rabobank administrative centre in Utrecht. Founded over fifty years ago by the Kraaijvanger brothers, when it was famous for among others the Doelen conference centre, the firm's new partners have come mainly from among its own circle. It is currently headed by Dirk Jan Postel, Hans Goverde and managing partner Hans van Schuylenburg and has a number of newly appointed associate partners, so that Rob Ligtoet had no qualms about retiring at age 65 in 2011.

Now for a brief pause in The Hague, whose leading architectural representative is Atelier PRO, established by Sjoerd Schamhart and Hans van Beek. The firm, which has its office in the former home of the architect Dirk Roosenburg, has more partners nowadays, although Leon Thier, for 25 years one of PRO's main designers, recently left to finally set up in practice for himself. Also in The Hague are the housing specialists Geurst & Schulze and, finally, in the neighbouring municipality of Rijswijk another older 'established order' firm worthy of mention: Ellerman Lucas van Vugt. Set up in 1947 by Professor Jan Lucas, carried on by Wout Ellerman and Jan Lucas jr. it eventually acquired a new lease of life under Eindhoven-educated Niek van Vugt.

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totaal/total	Architects
												5	Reference TU Delft
			X	X								6	Dam & Partners
											X	2	Hubert-Jan Henket
	X						X					5	Ector Hoogstad
										X		9	Van Herk De Kleijn
X	X	X	X	XX	X	X	XX	XX	X	XX	X	21	Rudy Uytengaak
		X			X							3	Claus en Kaan
						X						2	Kas Oosterhuis/ONL
												2	Zwarts & Jansma
	X			X			X			X		14	Adriaan Geuze/West 8
X			X					XX				7	Bentham Crowel
		X			X				X		X	6	cepezed
X		XX								X		5	Hans van Heeswijk
		XX		X	X					X		5	Molenaar & Van Winden/WAM
										X		5	Paul de Ruiter
X	X				X				X			15	Reference Mecanoo
X		XX				X			X		X	22	Francine Houben
		X		X			X					11	Erick van Egeraat
			X						X		X	6	Chris de Weijer/DP6
X								X				2	Henk Döll
							X	X				3	Jeroen Schipper/JSA
					X	X					X	3	Rocha Tombal
											X	3	GROUP A
			X	X								12	Reference OMA
X	X	X	X		X			X	X			15	Rem Koolhaas/OMA
			X				X					10	Kees Christiaanse/KCAP
XX	X	X	X	XX		X	XX		X			14	DKV
X		X	XX		X	X	X					14	MVRDV
								X				1	Neutelings Riedijk
												1	Powerhouse Company

strandde, begon de laatstgenoemde zijn eigen architectenbureau, met uiteindelijk vijf vestigingen, waarvan vier in het buitenland. Later stapte ook Chris de Weijer op, om samen met Robert Alewijnse architectenbureau DP6 te starten. Enige tijd geleden vertrok Henk Döll als laatste partner uit Mecanoo naar zijn eigen Dollab. En ook sommige oud-medewerkers begonnen voor zichzelf, zoals bijvoorbeeld in JSA, Rocha Tombal en GROUP A. Maar we hoeven geen medelijden te hebben met de achtergebleven partner Francine Houben. Zij slaagde erin om Mecanoo, nu alweer met negentig medewerkers, alsnog op te stuwen in de vaart der volkeren, via Engeland en Rusland tot in het verre Azië toe. En waar Van Egeraat en Döll kortgeleden nog een smadelijk faillissement moesten overwinnen, werd Houben in 2008 uitgeroepen tot nationaal Zakenvrouw van het Jaar. Het blijft, ondanks die centrifugale krachten een opmerkelijke successtory: in 25 jaar van vijf beginners uitgroeien tot vijf architectenbureaus met in totaal ruim meer dan 250 medewerkers... En last but not least: met een recordaantal vermeldingen in het Jaarboek.

Over naar Rotterdam, alwaar OMA/AMO (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) onder leiding van Pritzker Prize-winnaar Rem Koolhaas uitgroeide tot misschien wel het belangrijkste architectenbureau ter wereld. Ook daar bleken, wellicht mede onder invloed van de hoogintensieve werkmethode, de centrifugale krachten groot te zijn. Partner Kees Christiaanse stapte op en ook andere oud-medewerkers begonnen hun eigen praktijk, waaronder MVRDV en Neutelings Riedijk. Ten slotte stapten ook de prominente projectpartners Floris Alkemade en Ole Scheeren uit OMA's centrifuge. Bernard Colenbrander wijdde al eerder een uiterst inzichtelijke publicatie aan OMA's spin-off (*Referentie OMA*), vandaar dat hier ook Kingma Roorda, DKV en Powerhouse Company genoemd worden.³

Interessant is dat in de laatste periode juist een omgekeerde beweging bij OMA is waar te nemen. Wellicht is hierin de hand van managing partner Victor van der Chijs te herkennen. Inmiddels zijn er naast Koolhaas zeven belangrijke partners werkzaam, die ook steeds meer zelfstandig namens OMA naar buiten treden. Tijdens de grote expositie 'OMA/Progress' in Londen in 2011 werden ze in een publiek debat voor het eerst prominent als groep gepresenteerd en werd er tussen de regels door zelfs gespeculeerd op een mogelijk afscheid van Koolhaas. Of dat vertrek ophanden is of niet, organisatorisch is OMA daar nu wel op voorbereid.

In het schema met de overige Rotterdamse architectenbureaus zijn voornamelijk de midden- en jongere generaties vertegenwoordigd (ook al omdat andere Rotterdammers al bij de TU Delft en de TU Eindhoven zijn genoemd). Terwijl de enige aanwezige oude rot Kraaijvanger • Urbis nog wel enige bespreking verdient. Het vertegenwoordigt immers als geen ander de toen gevestigde orde, hoewel het met de inmiddels weer afgebroken fusie met stedenbouwer Urbis

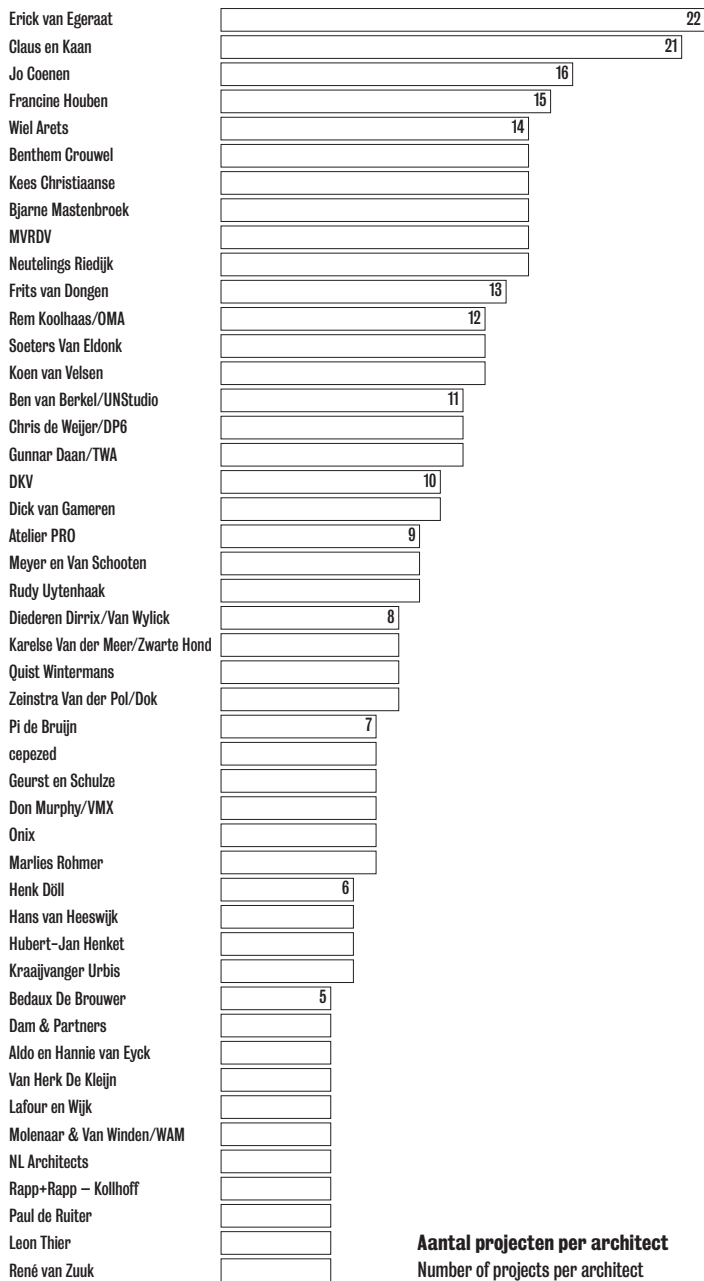
(van Donald Lambert) ook andere vormen van opvolging heeft uitgetest. Bijkomende bijzonderheid is dat partner Rob Ligetvoet zowel in het eerste als in het laatste Jaarboek is vertegenwoordigd. In 1987 met een eerste atriumkantoorgebouw voor Esso in Breda, deze editie met het bestuurscentrum van de Rabobank in Utrecht. Dit meer dan vijftig jaar geleden door de gebroeders Kraaijvanger opgerichte bureau, toen onder meer bekend met congrescentrum De Doelen, heeft zijn opvolgers vooral uit eigen kring gekozen. Actueel onder leiding van Dirk Jan Postel, Hans Goverde en managing partner Hans van Schuylenburg en met een aantal nieuw benoemde associate-partners. Vandaar dat Rob Ligetvoet in 2011 met een gerust hart op zijn 65e gewoon met pensioen kon gaan.

Nog een korte tussenstop in Den Haag, met als belangrijkste architectonische representant het door Sjoerd Schamhart en Hans van Beek opgerichte Atelier PRO. Dit in het oude woonhuis van Dirk Roosenburg gevestigde bureau kent inmiddels meer partners, hoewel Leon Thier, gedurende 25 jaar een van de dragende ontwerpers van PRO, kortgeleden vertrok en alsnog voor zichzelf begon. Verder hier de woningbouwspecialisten Geurst & Schulze en tot slot in de buurgemeente Rijswijk nog een ouder 'gevestigde orde'-bureau dat vermeldenswaard is: Ellerman Lucas van Vugt. In 1947 door hoogleraar Jan Lucas opgericht, voortgezet door Wout Ellerman samen met zoon Jan Lucas en de laatste tijd wederom verder gebracht door de in Eindhoven opgeleide Niek van Vugt.

TU Eindhoven – Zuid-Nederland

Daarom door naar het diepere zuiden van Nederland, in het betreffende schema gecombineerd met architecten die eerst als student en/of later als hoogleraar aan de bouwkundefaculteit van de TU Eindhoven verbonden waren of zijn. Met *éminence grise*, oud-hoogleraar en oud-rijksbouwmeester Wim Quist nu samen met de gebroeders Wintermans (QWA, Rotterdam) ook weer in zowel het eerste als het laatste Jaarboek opgenomen. En met het tot nu overstelpende aantal gepubliceerde gebouwen van gerenommeerde architecten als Bert Dirrix, Jo Coenen en Wiel Arets. De laatste twee kozen recent trouwens ook voor Amsterdam als nieuwe standplaats, alwaar Sjoerd Soeters al sinds jaar en dag zijn succesvolle praktijk samen met Jos van Eldonk uitoefent, evenals Ton Venhoeven. Het is moeilijk precies onder woorden te brengen wat die in Eindhoven opgeleide ontwerpers nu onderscheidt van de anderen (er is wel eens gesproken over een specifieke 'Eindhovense School'). Het zou kunnen zijn dat hun een diepgaander basiskennis omtrent het vak is opgediend, omdat ze niet slechts op het moderne zijn georiënteerd, maar ook onderhuids een grote liefde voor de klassieken tentoon spreiden. Vandaar dat hoogleraar Christian Rapp daar zo goed op zijn plaats lijkt te zijn, zeker met het bijzondere oeuvre dat hij ons tot nu voorschotelde. Hoewel het werk van de jongere representanten als Grosfeld van der Velde, Hilberink Bosch en René van Zuuk vanuit

Architecten	K*	R	H	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00
Referentie Rotterdam/Overig																
Kraaijvanger Urbis				XX							X			XX		
Lars Spuybroek/NOX			•											X		
Maurice Nio														X		
Wessel de Jonge	•															
NL Architects															X	
Atelier Kempe Thill																
Robert Winkel/Mei																
Diverse architecten/VHP																
Kortekmie Stuhlmacher																
Weeber Kloosterboer/MADE																
2012Architecten																
Referentie Den Haag																
Diverse architecten/RGD	•			X							X		X			
Ellerman ↑ Lucas ↑ van Vugt			•	X			X							X		
Atelier PRO				X		X						X	XXX	X		
Leon Thier													XXX	X		
Geurst & Schulze								XXX								X
Homan Osorio L./Yanovshchinsky								X								
Van Mourik Vermeulen												X				



Aantal projecten per architect
Number of projects per architect

TU Eindhoven – South-Netherlands

Which brings us to the deeper south of the Netherlands, in the relevant table combined with architects who have been or still are associated with TU Eindhoven, first as student and/or later as professor in the architecture faculty. The *éminence grise* here is one-time Government Architect Wim Quist, now in partnership with the Wintermans brothers (QWA, Rotterdam), who also featured in the first and the current Yearbook. Other luminaries, with an overwhelming number of featured buildings, are Bert Dirrix, Jo Coenen and Wiel Arets, although the last two recently opted to relocate to Amsterdam where fellow-alumnus Sjoerd Soeters has for many years run a successful practice with Jos van Eldonk, as has Ton Venhoeven. It is difficult to pinpoint what distinguishes these Eindhoven-trained designers from the others (there has been some talk of an ‘Eindhoven School’). It could be that they were given a more thorough basic knowledge of the discipline, for they are not oriented exclusively on the modern but also betray a great love of the classics – which explains why Professor Christian Rapp seems to be so much at home there, especially with the exceptional body of work he has given us to date. However, the work of younger representatives like Grosfeld van der Velde, Hilberink Bosch and René van Zuuk appears to moving from that solid basis in the direction of a new modernity.

Central and North-Netherlands

The last two groups of architects are located on the edge of the Randstad and in the North. Central Netherlands is so defined as to include not only the late Teun Koolhaas and Mart van Schijndel, with their singular position in Flevoland and Utrecht respectively, but also the Gooi/Hilversum, the home base of Koen van Velsen. He recently signed on for a second term as the Dutch railways architect, a role previously filled by the NS’s in-house station architects who, from their base in Utrecht, furnished the entire country with occasionally striking station buildings. The experienced Van Velsen has secured a permanent place in the Yearbook, initially with a frequently changing style, latterly with a more constant approach and a meticulous attention to materials, details and colour. The young generation here consists of brother and sister Snelder, and Marnix van der Meer of Zecc Architecten. The latter in particular shows us what the task of the future might look like: with infectious enthusiasm and innovative craftsmanship, he makes existing buildings suitable for a sustainable new life.

Lastly, the most northerly architectural practices, represented in the Yearbook with work by the region’s key pioneers, Gunnar Daan and Cor Kalfsbeek, and also Karelse Van der Meer (now De Zwarte Hond), Alex van de Beld and Haiko Meijer of Onix, up to and including the still relatively unknown work of the Jelle de Jong practice. The anniversary section contains a short appreciation of these architects from the land of the low horizon, with its grazing cows and endless potato fields (see p. 50). ‘Those are the taigas, the prairies and steppes of the Netherlands, that’s where our blues singers come from,’ Ruud Brouwers wrote recently and rightly so, because it says something about that indefinable but special atmosphere

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totaal/total	Architects
													Reference Rotterdam/Other
											x	6	Kraaijvanger Urbis
				x								2	Lars Spuybroek/NOX
		x										2	Maurice Nio
			x x									2	Wessel de Jonge
			x			x			x		x	5	NL Architects
x								x	x			3	Atelier Kempe Thill
x							x x x					4	Robert Winkel/Mei
	x x						x					3	Diverse architecten/VHP
	x						x					2	Korteknie Stuhlmacher
	x	x					x					3	Weeber Kloosterboer/MADE
			x			x				x		3	2012Architecten
													Reference Den Haag
												3	Diverse architecten/RGD
												3	Ellerman ↑ Lucas ↑ van Vugt
										x		9	Atelier PRO
										x		5	Leon Thier
	x						x x					7	Geurst & Schulze
	x											2	Homan Osorio L./Yanovshtchinsky
												1	Van Mourik Vermeulen

in the work of northerners. But there, too, the centrifuge is at work: Van de Beld has moved to Sweden from where he is expanding the Onix practice internationally, and De Zwarte Hond has a second office in Rotterdam partly so as to be able cater more efficiently to his Randstad clients.

In summary, this review of 25 years of architectural practices featured in the Yearbook shows that the individually named 'top echelon' of Dutch architectural practices are generally well regarded and professionally organized; with high-quality built results and the occasional stand-out project of international significance; at the beginning of that quarter century, still firmly supported by way of an active government architecture policy, later gradually embedded in the neo-liberal political climate, and today thrown back on their own resources and with stiff competition in the shrinking commissions market.

Whereas it used to be 'not done' to advertise, nowadays we are bombarded with PR messages from architects, sometimes even before they have secured the commission. But how could it be otherwise when architects' turnover has more than halved in the last five years? The resulting near stagnation in the uptake of young architects is affecting the educational institutions in particular and will necessarily result in a shift in emphasis in the study programmes.

And whereas in the past it was not uncommon for architects to collaborate disinterestedly, for example on joint enterprise plans or on alternative solutions for unwelcome development plans by property developers (e.g. the 'Build Something Different for a Change' event around Amsterdam's Kleine Gartmanplantsoen), today it is 'everyone for himself – and the BNA for all of us'...

Perhaps, partly under pressure from economic conditions, there will be a resurgence of centripetal forces in the sector, after a period in which the individualistic tendencies have evidently inhibited a more intensive collaboration between (and even within) architectural practices.

KH

- 1 De buitenlandse productie is inmiddels dermate groot dat het Jaarboek de daadwerkelijk gerealiseerde projecten van Nederlandse architecten niet compleet kan representeren. Er zijn al architectenbureaus die meer dan driekwart van hun omzet buitenslands genereren (waaronder OMA, MVRDV en UNStudio) en dat pleit voor een wellicht kansrijke extra Jaarboekproductie: *Nederlandse architectuur over de grens*.
- 2 K. van der Hoeven, 'Wel of geen stijl?', in: S. Bantal et al. (red.), *Architectuur in Nederland. Jaarboek 2009/10*, Rotterdam 2010, p. 34.
- 3 B. Colenbrander, *Referentie OMA. De sublieme start van een architectengeneratie*, Rotterdam 1995.

Notes

- 1 The volume of foreign production is now so great that the Yearbook no longer fully reflects the actuality of realized projects by Dutch architects. There are already architecture firms that generate over three-quarters of their turnover beyond Dutch borders (including OMA, MVRDV and UNStudio), which is an argument for a possible additional Yearbook: *Dutch architecture abroad*.
- 2 K. van der Hoeven, 'Style or no style?', in: S. Bantal et al. (eds.), *Architecture in the Netherlands. Yearbook 2009/10*, Rotterdam 2010, p. 37.
- 3 B. Colenbrander, *Referentie OMA. De sublieme start van een architectengeneratie*, Rotterdam 1995.

* K: BNA Kubus
R: Rijksbouwmeester
H: Hoogleraar

* K: BNA Cube
R: Government Architect
H: Professor

00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totaal/total	Architects
						X						5	Reference South/TU Eindhoven
											X	8	Bedaux De Brouwer
X		X	X	X			X		X			14	Quist Wintermans
	X				X							16	Wiel Arets
X			X		X			X			XX	12	Jo Coenen
		X		X	XX							8	Soeters Van Eldonk
			X		X	X					X	5	Diederien Dirrix/Van Wylick
	X		X			X						3	Rapp•Rapp/Hans Kollhoff
	X		X					X	X			5	Ton Venhoeven
X												2	René van Zuuk
		X				X	X					3	Marx & Steketee
			X	X				X	X			4	Han Westelaken/Architecten a/d Maas
				X						X		2	Grosfeld van der Velde
													Hilberink Bosch
											X	3	Reference Middle
												2	DHV (incl. Philips)
												2	Diverse architecten/NS
												2	Teun Koolhaas †
	X					X			X		X	12	Mart van Schijndel †
	X					X			X			4	Koen van Velsen
		XX										2	J. & M. Snelder
			X	X						X	X	4	Sluijmer en van Leeuwen
				X	X					X		4	Marnix van der Meer/ZECC
												2	Reference North
X					X				X			11	Holvast & van Woerden
						X						3	Gunnar Daan/TWA
		X	X				X	X				8	Cor Kalfsbeek/DAAD
			X									2	Karelse Van der Meer/De Zwarte Hond
					X							3	AAS
XX			X		X	X				X	X	7	J.P. Moehrlein/MAD
							X	X				2	Onix
												2	Jelle de Jong