

MASTER PLAN VU

TRANSITION OF THE CITY CAMPUS

LET'S MEET ON CAMPUS



VU  **UNIVERSITY
AMSTERDAM**

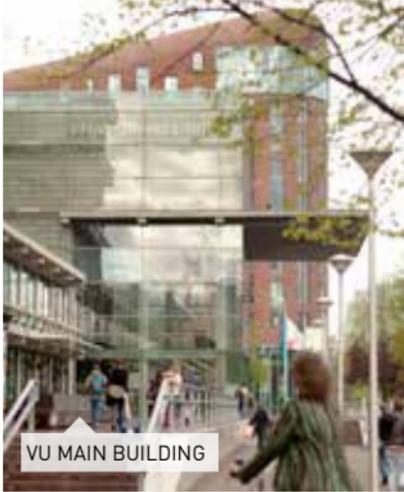


CAMPUSPLEIN, THE CENTRAL SQUARE OF THE CAMPUS

VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM HAS AN ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY. IT NOW EXISTS WITHIN A HIGHLY DYNAMIC WORLD AND IS CONTINUING TO WORK ON BUILDING A UNIVERSITY THAT IS INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED FOR ITS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

The Strategic Plan 2011-2015 sets out how the University plans to do this. Four clear research themes bring consistency and create a clearer profile for the University within the academic world. This is necessary because the University is cooperating ever more closely with other scientific institutions and universities of applied science. For instance, our partnership with the University of Amsterdam in the Amsterdam Faculty of Science means an impulse for research and education. We are also co-operating more closely with the VU University Medical Center.

After the growth of recent years (80% growth in student numbers between 2000 and 2011), the emphasis for the coming years will be on stabilizing student numbers and improving the quality of education and research. The city campus also provides for the right conditions for this.



THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY CAMPUS IS BASED ON FOUR MAIN PILLARS:

1. CONNECTIONS WITH THE CITY

VU University Amsterdam is developing ever closer links with its home city. For example, there is intensive cooperation between FEWEB and the financial institutions located in the Zuidas area. The same is true for cooperation with other knowledge and research institutions. The city campus will therefore benefit from ever better connections with the city, especially the Zuidas district. Also walking routes and cycle paths, as well as public transport connections and the A10 orbital motorway will be improved.

2. ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES

The public spaces around the city campus are already changing rapidly. The area is becoming greener, even the rooftops – there is a large roof garden on the Main Building. There is beautiful street furniture, and facilities like public Wi-Fi. With the central open area of Campusplein as its focal point, VU University Amsterdam is working on a vibrant city campus where there is always a lot to do and see, both during the day and in the evenings and weekends.



MAIN BUILDING 2014



3. SMALLER BUILDINGS WITH A HUMAN DIMENSION

Many of the buildings from the early days of the campus are characterized by the massive scale that was common in 1960s architecture. It seemed more efficient at the time, but we now know that smaller buildings provide greater flexibility, which allows us to respond more appropriately to the needs of today. This more human scale makes for a more pleasant atmosphere inside the buildings as well as higher-quality public spaces between the buildings. Where possible, the buildings are clustered according to specific research themes.

4. VERSATILE BUILDINGS

From an area that was dedicated purely to the University, the city campus is being transformed into a lively urban environment in its own right. There are already shops, sports facilities and cafés alongside the educational buildings and research laboratories. In 2017 cultural center De Griffioen will also be housed on campus.

SITUATION IN 2013

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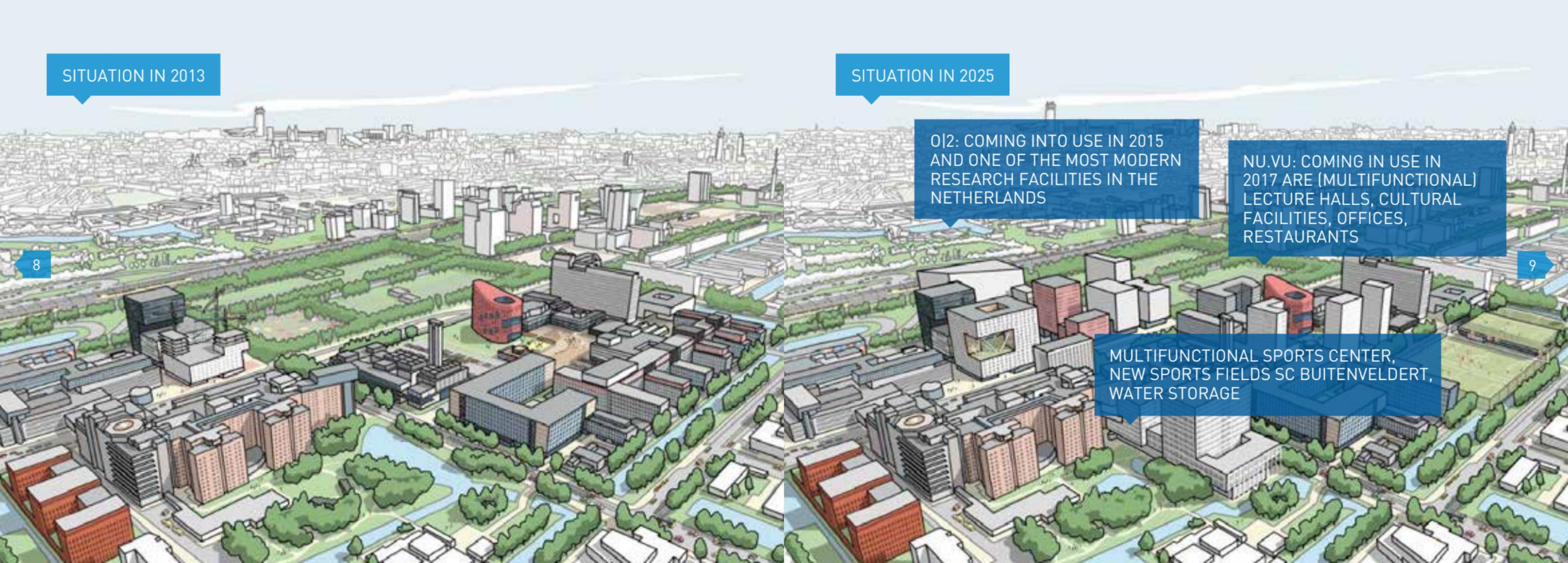
SITUATION IN 2025

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O|2: COMING INTO USE IN 2015 AND ONE OF THE MOST MODERN RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

NU.VU: COMING IN USE IN 2017 ARE (MULTIFUNCTIONAL) LECTURE HALLS, CULTURAL FACILITIES, OFFICES, RESTAURANTS

MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPORTS CENTER, NEW SPORTS FIELDS SC BUITENVELDERT, WATER STORAGE





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DE BOELELAAN, ON THE LEFT O|2

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMES

The city campus is one of the largest construction sites in Amsterdam. Existing buildings like the Main Building and the Faculty of Medicine are undergoing major renovation work. A great deal of construction work is also being carried out on the new O|2 research building. The University is working with the VU Medical Center, the AMC and the University of Amsterdam on this. In 2014 work will also start on constructing the NU.VU building. As soon as this building has been completed and new buildings are available on the site of the Schoolwerktuinen, demolition work will start on the current W&N building. The SC Buitenveldert playing fields will be relocated to where that building now stands, creating space for new buildings on the other side of the De Boelelaan. This will not only create more space for the University itself, but also for its partners and for buildings with other functions such as homes. VU University Amsterdam will have the opportunity to create over 1,000 homes on the city campus. And there will also be room for businesses. These will be high value-added businesses in knowledge-intensive sectors, as well as start-ups by (student) entrepreneurs.

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CITY CAMPUS

LIFE ON THE CITY CAMPUS

It is not just the buildings, but also the space between the buildings, that will be transformed. The city campus will be the first choice as a place to meet up. At the same time, thousands of parking spaces for bicycles will need to be created for all the cyclists that will arrive here daily. That will be made possible over the next few years by building an underground bicycle parking space under the NU.VU building, for example. The Campusplein, the open area at the centre of the University, will be an important focal point. Particularly on Campusplein, but also elsewhere on campus, the ground floor of the buildings will be made more inviting and accessible to the public. Local residents and business people can mingle with students and research staff while enjoying their lunch and espresso.

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“LET’S MEET ON CAMPUS”



QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

As it redevelops the city campus, the University will use a range of methods to ensure that the campus contributes ever more to the quality of education and research and becomes an attractive meeting place. Two aspects will be the focus of particular attention. First of all, aesthetic quality. Very high standards will be applied when it comes to the visual design of our new buildings. They will need to be distinctive and have their own identity, but also to fit in well with the city campus as a whole, for example. Equally important is the street plan and the design of open areas and public parks. VU University Amsterdam will employ an aesthetic plan that will go above and beyond the standard city-wide criteria for Amsterdam. The second crucial aspect is sustainability. As a university, stewardship and consideration for future generations is obviously a high priority for VU University Amsterdam. This is achieved on the one hand by buildings that all meet the BREEAM standard - the very highest standard for sustainable buildings. At the same time, energy consumption will be minimized and renewable energy sources will be used wherever possible.

“AS A UNIVERSITY, STEWARDSHIP AND CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IS OBVIOUSLY A HIGH PRIORITY FOR VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM”

An aerial, isometric view of a city campus, rendered in various shades of blue. The buildings are represented as 3D blocks of varying heights and shapes. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text. The text provides information about a master plan for VU University Amsterdam, dated May 2013, and includes a website URL and an email address for comments and questions. The background shows a dense urban layout with streets and building footprints.

This booklet summarizes VU University Amsterdam's master plan, as of May 2013. The full version of the master plan can be found at www.vu.nl/campusontwikkeling, which includes the latest information about the development of the city campus. Comments and questions can be sent to: vu-campusontwikkeling@vu.nl

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