The new academic library that functions on all scales

A new building for the University of Amsterdam will house a library and study center for the University of Amsterdam. The building will be an urban library and study center in the heart of Amsterdam. In its streetscape, it will be a façade, a landscape for the streets of the city. Open spaces created operate according to the demands of this urban setting.

The 14,320 m² building hosts functions that are combined for student use of the 19th and 20th century: reading rooms with a circular void, angular reading rooms with a radial set-up of the bookstacks. The literally and figurally position of the books is shown in the reading rooms. The reading rooms are surrounded by books. Theme, scale and individuality is brought to life with natural light.

Passages are developed for use in the 19th century and after. Clear organiza-
tion: Essays, books, computer and reading rooms are clearly separated.

Surrounded by different types of housing, retail & leisure and academic libraries, the building itself is a single component, but of the same size as residential. In rhythm and scale it communicates on one hand with the typical Amsterdam housing: narrow windows with strong repetition. On the other hand the position of the building structures the experience of the street.

Concrete, sandstone and stone create a sense of identity on the Sarphатраstrat. The rough material that appears in a small box sets a big point of the exterior, offering a shelter. The concrete and natural stone emphasize the reality and importance of the library as a public interior providing a tribuned exercise and activity.

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