NIDERA IN ‘DE ROTTERDAM’
A perfect merging of building and corporate identity

At the 5th floor of the new skyscraper ‘De Rotterdam’, Fokkema & Partners designed a new office for the international trade company Nidera. The interior celebrates the scale and character of the building, but above all it identifies with the characteristics of the company, where ‘bold’ and ‘corporate’ meet.

The company is a global commodity service and solutions provider for agricultural markets, founded in Rotterdam in 1920, and moved into the office in November 2015. Important was to create a characterful workplace where every department would feel at ease and employees would be encouraged to collaborate.

Embedded in, and around the massive building core the meeting spaces are situated. The core was also opened up in the middle, to link both sides of the enormous floor of 50 x 100 m, to get the daylight from one side to the other and to make a visible connection. This area acts as an adventurous living room with enormous bales to sit on, a self-service coffee bar and has its wall clad with ‘hangzakken’ or hammocks. The interior of each room in and around the core has been made grain yellow. Due to the special attention payed to lighting, these reflect a warm glow, which forms a rich backdrop to the workstations. With simple means like fiber glass wallpaper, different types of jute, accents of brass and use of special plasters, the office was cost efficient to obtain a unique atmosphere. Variations in texture add layers and human scale.

All workplaces are placed in an open setting, as close to the façade as possible. The remarkable construction is left visible between the acoustic ceiling islands. To bring diversity to the work area, glass boxes for meetings and open podia are placed in between the workstations. Curtains are added to give a warm and soft touch to the design, to optimize the acoustics of the rooms and provide more privacy when needed.

Along the public atrium near the entrance we made a restaurant with an elongated bar in the center where employees of different departments can work and meet each other and guests can be welcomed. The designers at Fokkema & Partners introduced a special lighting solution to express the stamina of the agricultural business and the warmth of the restaurant at the same time. A cloud of 61 ‘zaklampen’ made out of jute identifies with the characteristics of the old harbor dock location and lights up the heart of the office.
Nidera, trade company in 'De Rotterdam'
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‘The office is spread out over the complete base of the so called ‘vertical city’, with access from the public area with escalators that run right through the middle of the building.’

Set in the former harbour area, surrounded by renovated warehouses and new skyscrapers, the vertical city by O.M.A. has become a new landmark for Rotterdam. The entire 5th floor of the base of the building is occupied by the trade company Nidera. With the aim to stimulate chance meetings and collaboration, the designers at Fokkema & Partners were challenged to interconnect the office despite the massive concrete cores with its lifts and shafts for the upper building volumes. Clever programming, lighting solutions and materialisation have made the interior area’s into exiting spaces that are the warm hearts of the building and intensively used.
Hammocks made out of jute clad the interior space around the coffee bar.

Special attention to lighting and materialisation extends to the lavatories.

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"Clever planning in combination with the ceiling system have made the office flexible and transparent."
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Walls fiber glass wallpaper with gold metallic paint, coloured stuc | Custom Hammocks and Lamps jute | Separation walls black steel frames and glass up to the ceilings, curtains | Upholstering fabrics in various shades of grain yellow and earth colours, with various textures, and leathers | Bar brass-look metal sheets, Quarella

Main Structure concrete | Floors Bolon, Viroc, oak wood, project carpet | Bespoke Furniture Arpa Fenix Black, oak wood, chains, brass accents | Ceilings suspended acoustic islands, oak wooden lamella, carefully allocated exposed installations | Expanded Metal

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‘Challenged to introduce a special lighting solution in the restaurant, a cloud of 61 lamps was developed to express the stamina of the agricultural business and to intensify the warmth of the restaurant at the same time.’

FOK-lab, Fokkema’s own research platform for innovation and tailor made architectural solutions, developed this unique lamp made out of jute. Large jute bags were once the means of transport for grain and other agricultural products. The rough and natural fabric identifies with the company, the harbour dock location and the design for the office. A simple fabrication method was developed in order to produce the lamp within the tight building schedule.
interior design for a trade company in ‘De Rotterdam’

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