

2011 Design Vanguard

A FAULT LINE RUNS through the architectural profession separating academics from practitioners, thinkers from doers, those who imagine from those who build. Straddling this line, and connecting the realms on either side, are emerging architects who both teach and practice. It's a difficult balancing act to pull off, but it often spurs an exciting form of creativity shaped by tension and risk-taking. Many of the architects in this year's Design Vanguard epitomize this kind of back-and-forth career, combining academic research with the nuts and bolts of delivering real buildings to real clients. From Berkeley to Barcelona, and Glasgow to Winnipeg, partners in many of this year's firms have established a fluid relationship between intellectual exploration and making projects happen. In doing so, they enrich both spheres of work. Firms shown here are bridging other types of divides, too, crossing national boundaries, for example, and connecting eras by tapping the spirit of traditional buildings in works of modern design. *Clifford A. Pearson*

FEATURED FIRMS

JOHNSEN SCHMALING
ARQUITECTURIA
DOEPEL STRIJKERS
ATELIER DESHAUS
IÑAQUI CARNICERO
IWAMOTOSCOTT
5468796 ARCHITECTURE
LEONG LEONG
KOJI TSUTSUI & ASSOCIATES
NORD (ROBIN LEE/ALAN PERT)

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TRACY MITZ, Amsterdam-based RECORD correspondent

THIS PAGE: PAVILION 96,
OLD SLAUGHTER HOUSES,
BY IÑAQUI CARNICERO

Doepel Strijkers Architects Rotterdam

Duzan Doepel and Eline Strijkers transform sustainable into desirable with, among other projects, a garage-turned-house and a green tequila distillery. *Salud!*

FOUNDED 2007

DESIGN STAFF 10

PRINCIPALS Duzan Doepel, Eline Strijkers

EDUCATION Doepel - Rotterdam Academy of Architecture, M. Arch., 1999; University of the Witwatersrand, B. Arch, 1995. Strijkers - Willem de Kooning Academy, B.A.A., 1995; Ichthus Hogeschool, Design and Communication, B.Comm, 1992

WORK HISTORY Doepel - MVRDV, 1996-2002. Strijkers - MVRDV, 1994-99

KEY COMPLETED PROJECTS Korea National Housing Corporation Office, South Korea, 2010; HAKA Recycle Office, Rotterdam, 2011

KEY CURRENT PROJECT NAI Climate Square, Rotterdam, 2012

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oepel Strijkers Architects is revving up to conquer the world, starting with the first-ever sustainable, socially minded, zero-waste tequila factory. Organic tequila, mind you.

Doepel Strijkers is the Rotterdam-based firm of architect Duzan Doepel (born in South Africa in 1971) and interior architect Eline Strijkers (born in the Netherlands in 1969). They met while working at MVRDV in the 1990s, and in 2007 joined forces. They now

employ nine people. Both have won the AM NAI Public Prize for young talent and a Dutch Design Award. Both also teach, he as a lecturer on sustainable architecture and urbanism at the Research Institute for Sustainable Solutions and she at the Academy of Architecture.

So what is their take on the generic term "sustainability"? "We want to make sustainability into business as usual, but also link it to top design. In order to get mass culture behind you, you have to create an element of desire. It has to look good," says Doepel. "In light of the resource and energy crises we are facing, sustainability has to be about reconfiguring and repurposing the buildings we already have."

For the 2012 International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, Doepel Strijkers is exploring how to double the inhabitants in the city's center. "In a vibrant city, about 10 percent of the inhabitants live in the center," says Doepel. "In Rotterdam it's 5 percent." The firm is looking at densification strategies such as converting empty offices into housing, building on water, adding floors to existing buildings, and infilling.

An example of the latter is their project Parksite, the conversion of a former ambulance garage on the edge of a secluded park into a single-family home. Another is the 1930s Haka building in the old Rotterdam harbor area, which is being resuscitated as an incubator for start-ups dealing with climate, energy, and water. "It was only logical," says Strijkers, "that the interior be made of waste materials harvested from demolition sites."

And then there is the tequila factory in the Mexican state of Jalisco. Everything Doepel Strijkers stands for comes together in this design. A closed production cycle, for example: The fibers from the agave cactus will be turned into clothes and furniture, and waste from the production process will be used to generate energy. "The building has a circular metabolism; that means that all waste streams are put to use. In addition to tequila, honey and furniture are made from the agave fibers. And as part of the energy strategy, the organic waste is fermented to make bio-gas," says Doepel. In addition to the factory, the complex is designed to house a hacienda with a school, a library, offices, a museum, a chapel, studios for artists in residence, and housing.

The design is bioclimatic: The movement of the sun determines the massing, orientation, and the shape and size of the windows. "This is an aesthetic that is derived from the climate, the location, and the local vernacular," Doepel says. As if to prove their dedication to this philosophy, they are (small) project shareholders. No wonder Doepel and Strijkers are called "design activists." *Tracy Metz*



Parksite

Doepel Strijkers transformed a former ambulance garage into a single-family home. By replacing the back wall with sliding-glass doors, they brought in both daylight and a view of the secluded park, hence the name.



HAKA Recycle Office

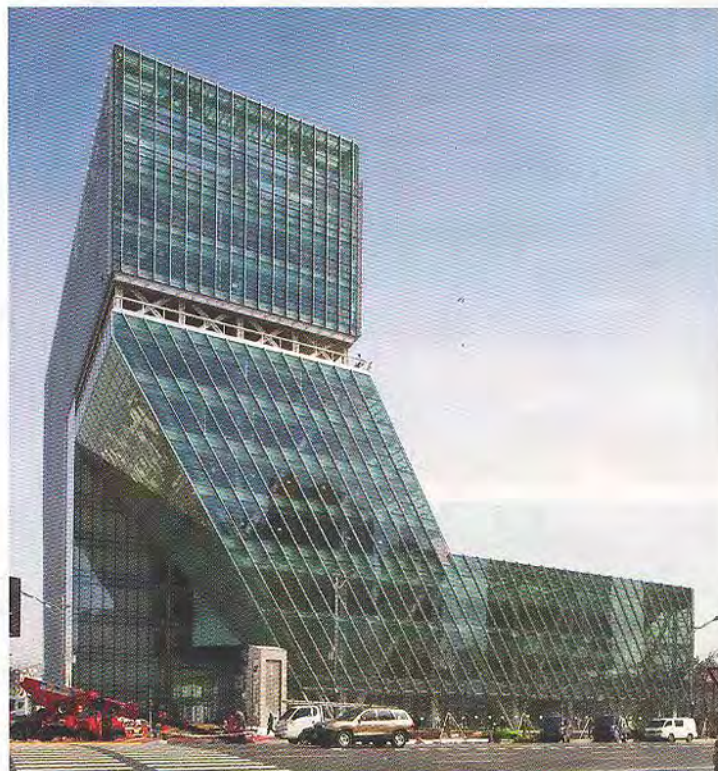
This office is on the ground floor of a 1930s harbor storage and distribution facility in Rotterdam, which stood empty for decades. The facility is now being repurposed as an incubator for startups dealing with climate, water, and energy. The architects used existing materials to furnish the office, café, and auditorium, including old doors and greenhouse frames. The acoustic panels are made of rags sorted by color by ex-convicts on parole. "Working with unskilled labor made it necessary to streamline and simplify the production process," says Strijkers. "There was one thing we hadn't taken into account: Some of the guys sorting the rags were color-blind."





Lensvelt Expo Farm

Doepel Strijkers converted former farm buildings in Meer, Belgium, into a compound for a furniture designer and artist. The new complex includes a residence, showroom, theater, guest lodging, and a bathhouse. The architects removed floors to create open spaces and used extensive glass on the main building's eastern facade to take advantage of views. This building is not only the client's residence, but also can be used as a theater or showroom.



Korea National Housing Office

A building for the Korea National Housing Corporation in Jeonju, South Korea, consists of offices (220,000 square feet) and a cultural center (80,000 square feet). Rather than restricting the cultural area to the ground floor, as is common, it flows up and into the office building. By turning the cultural leg of the building in the direction of an adjacent park, two public spaces are connected.



Macuil Tochtli Hacienda

The architects created this scheme for an organic tequila distillery in Jalisco, Mexico, as a modern-day interpretation of the hacienda. The plan includes using waste from the production process to generate energy for the factory. One of the two halves of the building will be dedicated to a chapel, a library, artists' studios, and housing for the workers and their families.



Lute Restaurant

The restaurant is located in what was once a dairy stall on land owned by the former Royal Dutch Gunpowder Factory in Ouderkerk on the Amstel, the Netherlands. The current owner gained permission to build an additional 2,000 square feet, leaving the main space entirely available for the restaurant. The expansion consists of a corrugated metal building for the bathrooms, a wooden building for the dishwashers, and a greenhouse for private parties.