

ATELIER KEMPE THILL

ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

POSTBUS 13064
3004 HB ROTTERDAM NL

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DESIGN STATEMENT

Since the nineties, contemporary architecture is being confronted more and more with a contradictory phenomenon that appears on all scales and working fields. Architects are asked on one hand to produce very neutral and anonymous buildings that can be changed easily, are able to react on changing economic situations and are adaptable to different programs. On the other hand at the same time, they are asked to create very specific buildings that are easy to identify, possessing pleasant form with unique spaces and can be enjoyed by the users. Atelier Kempe Thill takes this modern paradox very consciously as the point of departure of the work. The office is by this able to create structures that are neutral and economic as well as being enjoyable and innovative. By doing so, architecture is free to express the hidden vitality of our time.

PROFILE

The working field of the office belongs within the realms of urban and landscape planning, public building and housing, interiors and exhibition design but also research, scenarios, education and publishing. Given the opportunity the office enters the design process earlier than normal shifting the emphasis from just solving problems to searching for the right questions. From an early stage the office is working closely together with various technical advisors to investigate all the design possibilities and push the project to its limits. By this we are able to offer new solutions for the spatial organization and a better detailing of the building within the given, often limited - budgets. The pleasure of designing is combined with professional management. The quality of our work is important, therefore, the office prefers to work on the basis of full commission during the whole process allowing the office to guarantee a good product.

SHORT OFFICE HISTORY

Atelier Kempe Thill architects and planners was founded in 2000 by the two German architects, André Kempe (1968) and Oliver Thill (1971), following their European 5 winning proposal of 300 dwellings in Kop van Zuid, Rotterdam. In the last two decades the practice has grown from a 'two-man band' to a stable, medium-sized office with around 30 employees.

The office's range of work has systematically broadened since its foundation. Beginning with collective housing and small public building commissions, the practice portfolio has developed to include large renovation, infrastructure and urban design projects. Single-sided specialization and the consequent limitations this brings have been avoided through the wide diversity of commissions; as a result the practice is also more economically stable. Since its foundation, Atelier Kempe Thill has tried to establish itself within the wider European market. Through its participation in more than 200 international competitions, the office has acquired commissions in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and Morocco.

Atelier Kempe Thill is becoming increasingly well known in architectural circles. In the last years the office has appeared in around 500 publications worldwide, amongst which were four monographs. In addition, the office's partners have given more than 300 lectures. This professional recognition enables the office to acquire increasingly complex projects and compete with the larger, more commercial practices.

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Selection of realized works:

Museum pavilion "light building", Rotterdam – NL, 2001
Dutch pavilion IGA 2003 "Hedge building", Rostock – Germany, 2003
Row houses Roosendaal – NL, 2005
Franz Liszt Concert Hall Raiding – AT, 2006
Apartment block Amsterdam-IJburg – NL, 2007
Museum for Traditional Crafts Veenhuizen – NL, 2008
Information centre Ministry of Justice Rotterdam – NL, 2008
Town houses Amsterdam-Osdorp – NL, 2008
Apartment tower Zwolle – NL, 2009
Open Air theatre and bridge Grotekerklein Rotterdam - NL, 2010
Remodeling 1100 Apartments Uithoorn – NL, 2010
Youth centre Amsterdam Osdorp - NL, 2011
600 bed-youth hotel Prora - Germany, 2011
110 houses Den Haag – Moerwijk - NL, 2012
Junkie Hotel Amsterdam-ZO - NL, 2012
Parliament of the German-speaking Community Eupen – Belgium, 2013
Refurbishment Town hall Borsele – NL, 2014
Apartment building Antwerp - Nieuw Zuid - Belgium, 2016
Smart Grid Laboratory Catholic university of Leuven – Belgium, 2016
Two apartment buildings Paris – Porte de Montmartre - France, 2016
Surgery department university hospital UMC Utrecht – NL, 2017
Housing estate Arnhem - NL, 2017
T2-campus school building Thorpark Genk - Belgium, 2018
Refurbishment of two slab buildings with 100 apartments, Antwerp - Belgium, 2019
Sint-Lucas School of Arts Antwerp – Belgium, 2019
Atrium housing with kindergarden Bremen, Germany, 2019
Master plan and ecological farm Kappel am Albis, Switzerland, 2019

Selection of work under construction:

Restoration Concert hall DeHarmonie and park DeHarmonie, Antwerp – Belgium, -2020
Apartment block and company headquarters Antwerp Nieuw-Zuid – Belgium, - 2020
Elderly housing estate with 120 housing units, Heist op den Berg - Belgium, -2022
Learning centre Infrabel Brussels – Belgium, -2021
Student housing Bard College Berlin, Germany, -2020
Extension and transformation Antwerp Maritime Academy - Belgium, -2022
Refurbishment of two slab buildings with 100 apartments, Brussels, Belgium, -2021
Herkenrode kazerne housing estate Hasselt, Belgium, - 2022

Selection of work in planning:

Master plan 400 houses Sint-Truiden - Belgium, 2013-
Faculty of economy Hasselt, Belgium, 2016-
Sheraton and Moxy hotel Cologne-Mülheim, Germany, 2017-
Company head quarters Group Pichet Paris, France, 2017-
Housing estate Vilvoorde, Greater Brussels, Belgium, 2018-
Social housing tower Bajeskwartier Amsterdam, NL, 2018-
Beaumont development Eurorennes Rennes, France, 2018-
Magnatower Hamburg, Germany, 2019-
Schuppen 3 mixed-use building, Bremen, Germany, 2020-

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Prizes / awards:

Winner European 5 Rotterdam / NL (1999)

Winner 'the house of the 21st century' Roosendaal / NL (2001)

Bauwelt Award / Germany (2003)

Detail award / Germany (2005 +2009)

Rotterdam - Maaskant Prize for Young Architects, Netherlands (2005)

Design Vanguard 2007 / USA (2007)

Burgenländischer Architekturpreis / Austria (2008)

Special Mention European Prize for Urban Public Space / Spain (2010)

AM-NAi Award / NL (2010)

Dutch Architect of the year / NL (2011)

Honorable mention Architecture of Necessity / Sweden (2012)

Ugo Rivolta European Award for social housing / Italy (2013)

Special Mention "Prix Phillippe Rotthier" / Belgium (2014)

Nomination Mies van der Rohe Award, Barcelona / Spain (2009-2011-2013-2015)

AIT award, Frankfurt / Germany (2016)

Nomination Schelling award, Karlsruhe / Germany (2016)

Nomination Équerre d'argent, Paris / FR (2017)

Technal Award, Paris / FR (2017)

"Dutch housing project of the year 2019", Amsterdam / NL (2019)