

New Sports centre building

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KICK-OFF

It is with great pleasure that I write the kick-off for the first edition of the newsletter of the jointly (RUG, Hanze and ACLO) newly built Sports Center for students and employees of the RUG and Hanze on the Zernike Campus.

Following the positive decisions on the supplementary budget in December 2023, we diligently got to work over the past year. With a new project organisation, we have worked hard to further develop the plans for the new building.

The first impressions are in, as shown in this newsletter. We are now a few steps further on and are happy to update you on the progress of the new building project.

The design team is currently busy converting a preliminary design into a final design. This design will be tested and further developed in various ways in the coming period. The final design will be ready in early 2025; for the follow-up planning, see the timeline in this newsletter.

The design team is collaborating with various function teams, including representatives from the ACLO, the Sports Centre and teaching staff. This is how we are bringing together our subject matter knowledge, including in the area of sports, and ideas to make the new Sports Centre a success for our future athletes.

The idea is to update you regularly on the developments via a newsletter. In it, we will try to show not only the new building, but also who is actually working on this big project and what is involved. For any questions about or requests for the newsletter, please refer to the contact details in the publication details.

Happy reading!



Niels van den Bovenkamp
Directeur Sportcentrum



Hannek Höwler | Jan Bosch
AGS Architecten

Who are you?

AGS is an architecture firm with a very diverse portfolio. We do not limit ourselves to a set field of work or architectural style, but we do very much enjoy designing social real estate. For each task, we create powerful and sustainable buildings in which the user and function are the central focus. We do this from two branches, with the Sports Centre being managed from the Amsterdam branch. Hannek Höweler is branch manager and Jan Bosch is project architect; both of us have extensive experience in realising sports and education buildings.

How do you two view this assignment?

It is nice to design an assignment on this scale. Many different users are going to make use of this building. Remarkably, we have a decisive role in realising the environment in which new memories will be made and the foundation for sports performance will be laid. The Sports Centre has an extremely varied programme. To design this according to the principles, we have to put together quite a complex puzzle. The incorporation of the functions (i.e. large and angular halls) largely determines the shape and appearance of the building. In putting this puzzle together, we are keeping in mind that we want to create an inspiring environment where meeting people is the central focus. And on the Zernike Campus, we want to add the most powerful building possible.

What is the biggest challenge of this assignment?

The biggest challenge is to logically integrate the numerous functions and the strict dimensions and requirements placed on sports halls. The quality of the design lies in creating a human scale, logical routing and an identity for the building as a whole. However complex the design task, the aim is for the building to be perceived as clear and powerful both in terms of its use and with regard to architecture.

What do you like best about this assignment?

The scope and diversity of the programme is special for us as well. It is fun to integrate components such as the climbing hall into the project, something we have less experience with. The contact with all the users and staff working on the project is great fun, especially given the collaboration between the University of Groningen, Hanze and the ACLO in this project.

We are trying to listen as well as possible so that everyone will be able to make the building their own soon.

How do you find the collaboration with the University of Groningen/Hanze?

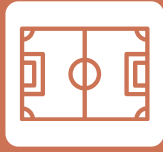
We had a dialogue session with the project organisation during the architect selection process, and we immediately clicked. The open attitude and directness of the project organisation suits us very well. We have noticed that all stakeholders are getting excited about the new building, and with the input we get from the users, we can add value and meaning to the building.

ARTIST IMPRESSIONS



NEW SPORTS CENTRE BUILDING PLANNING

Converting grass pitch into artificial turf



Finished
September 2024

New Sports Centre building



Design phase + tendering process
January 2024 - June 2025
Construction period
April 2025 - September 2027

Demolition of existing Sports Centre



Demolition period
October 2027 - June 2028

Redesign of outdoor layout



Layout period
Starts in July 2028



Nynke Edelman
ACLO president

How do you feel about the prospect of a new Sports Centre? / What are you most looking forward to?

The prospect of a new Sports Centre offers fantastic opportunities for student sport in Groningen. I would like to see the new Sports Centre attract top athletes as well as beginners and have an inclusive sports culture. It would be great to see more students get out of their comfort zone and try new sports. In addition, I hope to see the joy of moving and playing sports together again. That sport can form the basis for new friendships.

Many students combine their studies and sports. In fact, it has been happening for years. Which makes perfect sense, as sport not only has a positive impact on students' physical health, but also on their mental well-being. Regular exercise reduces stress, promotes social ties between students and makes you feel better about yourself. This is made all the more important by the mounting pressure under which students have to perform in today's society.

What do you hope to see in the new Sports Centre?

A new Sports Centre that is accessible to all offers the ideal opportunity to escape from one's studies for a while. It creates an environment in which students can relax and blow off steam. We want to create an open atmosphere and a building that invites movement. So that all of Groningen's students feel welcome to gain experiences through sport, push boundaries and feel that they are part of the community.

How do you think the new Sports Centre will change the student experience on the Zernike Campus?

By making sport part of everyday life in an accessible way on the campus, I hope that all students can create a more athletic student life for themselves in their own way. In which the student, the community and inclusiveness are the central focus. A Sports Centre that emphasises these aspects can really make a difference in students' lives and help them grow, not only study-wise, but also on a personal level.