

Topping out ceremony new Amsterdam University College building

On 21 September, a topping out ceremony was held for the new Amsterdam University College (AUC) building in the presence of the contractor, subcontractors, builders, architects and the prospective users, the AUC students and staff. AUC is a joint initiative of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the VU University Amsterdam (VU).

Paul Doop, acting president of the UvA Executive Board, Francine Houben, founder and creative director of Mecanoo and Roelant Stegmann, president of the AUC Student Association, were full of praise for the new university building. This teaching facility, covering 5800 m², will include lecture rooms, a reading room, a common room, project rooms, conference rooms and workspaces. The large windows in the building offer ample light and a panoramic view of the Science Park complex.

The building will officially open September 2012. AUC is currently housed in a building in the Plantage district of Amsterdam, where the first batch of AUC students commenced their studies in September 2009.

The UvA commissioned the new AUC building. Mecanoo architects were responsible for the building design and the construction company M.J. De Nijs & Zonen BV was the main contractor.

About AUC

Amsterdam University College (AUC) was established in 2009 as a joint excellence initiative of the University of Amsterdam and VU University Amsterdam. AUC's motto is *Excellence and Diversity in a Global City*. It offers an international liberal arts and sciences programme that crosses the boundaries of languages, cultures and academic disciplines. As a selective and residential honours colleges, it attracts students from all over the world. They engage on a daily basis in intensive and small-scale seminars with high caliber international staff. Discussions start from 'Big Questions in Science and Society' and lead to in-depth study in a wide range of disciplines. For further information go to the AUC website: www.auc.nl