

Prof. Francine M.J. Houben MSc HonFRIBA, HonFAIA, HonFRAIC Lead architect and creative director

Born Education Work experience Mecanoo Current position Sittard, The Netherlands, 1955 Delft University of Technology, Architecture (Hons), 1984

1981-present, officially founded in 1984

Owner, creative director, founding partner, architect Mecanoo architecten

"For me architecture is not a purely intellectual or conceptual game. In the end the result should touch all the senses."

Francine Houben, architect-director of Mecanoo architects in Delft (The Netherlands), is one of Europe's most active architects. She lectures all over the world and takes part as a jury member in many prestigious competitions. With her office Mecanoo Francine Houben is internationally active in the U.K., Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Albania, Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia. Her curriculum includes much talked-about projects such as the Faculty for Economics and Management in Utrecht (1995), the Library for the Technical University Delft (1998), Nieuw Terbregge in Rotterdam (2001), Chapel St Mary of the Angels in Rotterdam (2001), Montevideo in Rotterdam (2006) and FiftyTwoDegrees in Nijmegen (2007). In 2006 Mecanoo wins the competition for the Palace of Justice in Córdoba, Spain, that will be completed in 2011. In 2007 Mecanoo wins the competition for the National Kaohsiung Performance Art Center in Taiwan. Theatre and Congress Centre La Llotja in Lleida, Spain (2008) and Fox Hill in Sheffield, U.K. (2009) are under construction.

The work of Francine Houben is extremely wide-ranging: houses, schools and complete residential areas, theatres, libraries and skyscrapers, parks, squares and highways, cities, polders and 'Randstad', hotels, museums and even a chapel. Each project illustrates the three fundamental elements of her architectural vision: composition, contrast and complexity. In her design Francine Houben is looking for the secret of the location. Her work is based on both analyses and intuition. She enjoys interweaving social, technical, playful and humane aspects together to form a unique solution to each situation. Therefore she combines the disciplines of architecture, urban planning and landscape architecture in an unorthodox way and with sensitivity for light and beauty. Her use of material is expressive. Houben: "For me architecture is not a purely intellectual or conceptual game. In the end the result should touch all the senses."

In 1999 Francine Houben introduces the concept of the aesthetics of mobility as a new instrument for country and town planning. In the same year she is instated as professor in Architecture, chair Aesthetics of Mobility at the University of Technology in Delft, The Netherlands. She is professor at the Universitá della Svizzera Italiana, Accademia di architettura, in Mendrisio in Switzerland in 2000-2001. From her chair at the Delft University of Technology she became director of the First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2003 in 2002, with 'Mobility, a room with a view' as a theme. With this biennale she has brought mobility as part of our daily life under the attention of a large international audience. From 2003-2005 Francine Houben is a member of the International Design Committee of London. From 2002-2006 she is City Architect of Almere. Since 2007 Francine Houben has been appointed as visiting professor at Harvard University in the U.S.A.

In 2001 Francine Houben receives an honorary fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. On occasion of the Culture Award 2005 awarded by the Province of South Holland, Ireen van Ditshuyzen made the documentary 'Focused Insight' about the working method of Francine Houben. In 2007 she receives an honorary fellowship of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the American Institute of Architects. In 2008 Francine was awarded the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award.

In 2001 Francine Houben publishes her manifesto about architecture: 'Composition, Contrast, Complexity'. In 2008 a new Mecanoo monograph will be published in the series Masters of Architecture by The Images Publishing Group.

Work experience

1984-present	Founding partner/creative director/architect Mecanoo
2000-present	Professor in Architecture, Delft University of Technology
2007	Visiting Professor Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

2002-2006 Advisory City Architect for the city of Almere

2003-2005 Member International Design Committee, London, U.K.

2001-2003 Director/curator First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, The Netherlands 1997-2000 Member VROM Council (Council for Housing, Physical Planning and the Environment),

The Netherlands

1990-1996 Board Member of Netherlands Architecture Institute, The Netherlands

Selection of Awards

- Francine Houben Veuve Cliquot Business Woman of the Year Award 2008
- Dedallo Minosse for FiftyTwoDegrees, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 2008
- Francine Houben RAIC Award of Excellence of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, 2007
- Francine Houben Honorary Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects, 2007
- Building Quality Award for Montevideo, Rotterdam, 2006
- National Steel Prize for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2006
- International Highrise Award for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2006
- Dedallo Minosse for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2006
- Francine Houben Culture Award of the Province of South-Holland, 2005
- School Building Prize for Het Braambos, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands, 2004
- Dutch Building Prize for the National Heritage Museum, Arnhem, The Netherlands, 2003
- Francine Houben Honorary Fellowship Royal Institute of British Architects, London, UK, 2001
- A.M Schreuders Prize for Office Villa Maliebaan 16, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2001
- 4a Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura's Award for exhibition Mecanoo Blue, São Paulo, Brazil, 2000
- Corus Construction Award for the Millennium for Library Delft Technical University, The Netherlands, 2000
- TECU Architecture Award for National Heritage Museum, Arnhem, The Netherlands, 2000

Francine Houben is involved in all Mecanoo projects, a selection

- Municipal Offices and Train Station, Delft (2006-2014), 1st prize competition
- National Performing Arts Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (2007-2012), 1st prize competition
- Palace of Justice, Córdoba, Spain (2006-2011), 1st prize competition
- Theatre and Congress Centre La Llotja, Lleida, Spain (2005-2007), 1st prize competition
- Business Innovation Center FiftyTwoDegrees, Nijmegen (2001-2006), Dedalo Minosse Special Prize for Sustainability
- Chapel St. Mary of the Angels, (1998-2001)
- National Heritage Museum, Arnhem, (1995-2000), TECU Architecture Award 2000, Dutch Building Prize 2003
- Library Technical University Delft (1993-1997) Steel Construction Prize 1998, Corus Construction Award 2000
- Faculty for Economics and Management, Utrecht (1991-1995)

Personal data

Prof. Francine M. J. Houben MSc HonFRIBA Place of birth Sittard, The Netherlands Date of birth July 2nd 1955

Education

1984 Delft University of Technology, Department of Architecture

Recent positions, a selection

1984-present Founding partner/creative director/architect Mecanoo architecten 2000-present professor in Architecture and Aesthetics of Mobility, Delft University of Technology

Current positions

2007-present Member London Design Advisory Panel

2007-present Member Regieraad Bouw

2007-present Member Klankbordgroep Ruimtelijke Kwaliteit Rotterdam
2006-present Columnist for the newspaper Het Financieele Dagblad
2005-present Supervisory board Kröller Müller Museum, Otterlo
2005-present Board Member International Film Festival Rotterdam

2003-present Board Member Forum for Urban Renewal

Former positions, a selection

2006-2007	Columnist for the newspaper Het Financieele Dagblad
2002-2006	Advisory City Architect for the city of Almere
2003-2005	Member International Design Committee, London, U.K.
2001-2003	Director/curator First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, The Netherlands
1997-2000	Member VROM Council (Council for Housing, Physical Planning and the Environment),
	The Netherlands
1994-1996	Board Member of Fine Art, Design and Architecture Fund, The Netherlands
1990-1996	Board Member of Netherlands Architecture Institute, The Netherlands
1990-1992	Board Member of Arts Council, Architectural Events and Architecture Publications, The Netherlands
1987-1989	Member of Werkgroep 5x5, The Netherlands
1980-1984	Founding partner Döll-Houben-Steenhuis architecten

(Visiting) Professor, a selection

2007 Visi	iting Professor Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A.
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2000-2001 Professor Università della Svizzera Italiana, Accademia di architectura, Mendrisio, Switzerland

1996 Visiting professor Oxford University, U.K.

1994 Visiting professor Berlage Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1992 Visiting professor University of Calgary, Canada

1990 Visiting professor Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Jury member, a selection

2008 Kunstha	ius. Zurich.	, Switzerland
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2008 International Highrise Award, Frankfurt, Germany

2006 Unorthodocks, City Harbours, Rotterdam

2006 Architecture Award, Berlin, Germany

2005 rkitera, Europan 8, Turkey

2002 TECU Award, Osnabrück, Germany

2002 Design Award 2002, AIA New York, U.S.A.

2001 Ar+d Award, Architectural Review, London, U.K.

2001 Archiprix, Delft, The Netherlands

2000 Rotterdam Maaskant Prize, The Netherlands

1999 Europan 5, Germany

1998 Archiprix, Delft, The Netherlands

1998 E.O. Weijers Foundation, The Netherlands

1996 Awards of Excellence, Canadian Architect, Toronto, Canada

1991 Rietveld Prize, The Netherlands

1990 Prix de Rome architecture, The Netherlands

1989 Europan I, The Netherlands

Awards, a selection

- 2008 Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award
- 2008 Dedalo Minosse Special Eurotherm Prize for Sustainability for FiftyTwoDegrees, Nijmegen
- 2007 Brick Development Association Brick Award for Swimming Pool and Sports Centre het Marnix in Amsterdam
- 2007 Honorory fellowship for Francine Houben of the American Institute of Architects
- 2007 RAIC Award of Excellence for Francine Houben of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
- 2006 Building Quality Award for Montevideo, Rotterdam
- 2006 Nomination National Steel Prize for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- 2006 Commendation International Highrise Award for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2006 Commendation Dedallo Minosse for Montevideo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2005 Gezichtsbepalend 3, Culture Award for Francine Houben of the Province of South-Holland
- 2004 School Building Prize for Het Braambos, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands
- 2003 The Egg of Columbus for study Glass house as Energy Source
- 2003 Dutch Building Prize for the National Heritage Museum, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2002 2nd Prize Exceptional Idea for study Glass Village, Zuidplaspolder, The Netherlands
- 2001 Honorary fellowship for Francine Houben of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London, U.K.
- 2001 A.M Schreuders Prize for Office Villa Maliebaan 16, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- 2000 4a Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura's Award for exhibition Mecanoo Blue Composition, Contrast, Complexity, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2000 Corus Construction Award for the Millennium for Library Delft Technical University, The Netherlands
- 2000 TECU Architecture Award for National Heritage Museum, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2000 Building Quality Award for housing project Nieuw Terbregge, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 1998 National Steel Prize for Library Delft Technical University, The Netherlands
- 1996 School Building Prize for Isala College, Silvolde, The Netherlands
- 1996 Nomination Mies van der Rohe Pavilion Award for European Architecture for Faculty for Economics and Management, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- 1994 Jhr. Victor de Stuerspenning for housing project Herdenkingsplein, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- Hugo Häring Prize B.D.A. (Bund Deutscher Architekten) for Innovative high-rise buildings Internationale Gartenbau Ausstellung, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1993 Auszeichnung Guter Bauten B.D.A. (Bund Deutscher Architekten) for Experimental Housing Internationale Gartenbau Ausstellung, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1993 Berlagevlag for Gravura Lithographers, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 1990 New Maas Prize for housing project Hillekop, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 1987 Rotterdam Maaskant Prize

Books

- 2008 Aaron Betsky, Ruud Brouwers, Francine Houben, Mecanoo, Images Publishing Group, Victoria 2008
- 2004 Houben F., Mgr. A.H. van Luyn S.D.B., Jan van Adrichem, Max van Rooy, En het eeuwige licht verlichte haar, Kapel Heilige Maria der Engelen, Rotterdam 2004
- 2003 Houben, F., L. M. Calabrese (ed.), Mobility, A Room with a View, Rotterdam 2003
- 2003 Bilò, F., Mecanoo, Rome 2003
- 2003 Mecanoo architecten, 'Holland Avenue, Research Road Atlas; Holland Avenue, Design Road Atlas', Ministry for Transport, Public Works and Water Management, The Hague 2003
- 2002 Mecanoo architecten, TU Delft Vastgoed, ING Vastgoed, TU Delft Masterplan, DUP Satellite, Delft 2002
- 2001 Houben, F., Composition, Contrast, Complexity, NAi Publishers, Rotterdam 2001 / Birkhaüser, Basel, Boston, Berlin 2001
- 2000 Houben, F., Maliebaan, een huis om in te werken, Andersson Elffers Felix, Utrecht/ Mecanoo architecten, Delft 2000
- Houben, F., 'Ingenieurskunst en mobiliteitsesthetiek', in: Architectuur en de openbare ruimte, de dynamische delta 2, Ministry for Transport, Public Works and Water Management/ Mecanoo architecten, The Hague 1999
- 1998 Houben, F., Vollaard, P., Waaijers, L., Mecanoo architecten, Bibliotheek Technische Universiteit Delft, Rotterdam 1998
- 1994 Rood, L., Prat, N.T., Mecanoo architekten, Madrid 1994
- 1987 Cusveller, R. (ed.), Mecanoo, vijfentwintig werken, Rotterdam 1987

Tv-documentaries

- 2006 Focussed Insight, a documentary of Ireen van Ditshuyzen about Francine Houben, on occasion of the Culture Award of the Provence of South Holland 2005, broadcasted 2006 by AVRO
- 2003 Holland Avenue, documentary in 5 parts by AVRO/Palazzina Productions about mobility as the mirror of society, in which Francine Houben travels to Los Angeles, Tokyo, Djakarta, the Ruhr Area and the Randstad, broadcasted in 2003 and 2007 by AVRO
- 1989 Een Kans om te Bouwen (An Opportunity to build), documentary in which 4 architects tell about the past, present and future of the Dutch architecture, broadcasted by the VPRO