



## Architecture Adaptive Re-Use

**Project** LocHal Public Library **Location** Tilburg, the Netherlands **Firms** Civic Architects (the Netherlands), Braaksma & Roos Architectenbureau (the Netherlands), Inside Outside (the Netherlands) and Mecanoo (the Netherlands)  
**Team** Gert Kwekkeboom, Ingrid van der Heijden, Jan Lebbink and Rick ten Doeschate with Angela Solis, Niels Boswinkel, Marco Alves, Joeri Sowka, Fernanda Romeu, Job Roos, Graeven and Emiel van Boxtel, Petra Blaisse, Laura van Santen, Peter Niessen, Francine Houben, Sander Hofman and Mark Wools  
**Photo** Stijn Bollaert

In a complete break from the traditional, book-centric typology, a team led by Amsterdam's Civic Architects converted a 1932 locomotive hangar in the city of Tilburg into a 21st-century library: a mixed-use and multi-functional venue that's inclusive and curatorial rather than hush-hush and archival. Although there may still be quiet nooks for reading in the new facility, its soaring 15-metre ceilings give the single-volume space a sense of being in a great public hall or covered square. A grand stairway leads to the second and third floors, each of which is set back from the one below it. Six changeable textile screens hang from rails and help with the acoustics. The librarians can also operate them to subdivide and reconfigure spaces as required by each day's programming.

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**Project** Bauman Corporate Retrofit **Location** São Paulo, Brazil **Firm** Studio Arthur Casas, Brazil  
**Team** Arthur Casas with Gabriel Ranieri, Regiane Khristian, Beto Cabariti, Luciano Sessa, Deborah Branca, Nathália Minas, Marcelo Beretta, Victória Chaves and Manuela Girardi

An abandoned neo-brutalist skeleton gets a new life in São Paulo, its sixties-era exposed-concrete frame having been judged too foreboding. Instead, the architects reclad the 17-storey, 9,444-square-metre one-time residential tower in business casual and converted it into an office building. The new interior's sparse material palette of wood and glass, its clean lines and its open spaces blend into a crisp yet cozy minimalism. This breezy feel eschews convention. For instance, the office tower floors have outdoor balconies, relics of the structure's previous function. Scrums in common areas with low-back, comfy armchairs and coffee tables, moreover, evoke living-room gatherings rather than break-out meetings. *Uma caipirinha, alguém?*



## Landscape Architecture

**Project** The Bentway **Location** Toronto, Canada **Firm** Public Work, Canada **Team** Marc Ryan, Adam Nicklin and Lauren Abrahams with Greenberg Consultants, Blackwell Structural Engineers, Tillett Lighting Design Associates, DPM Energy, e-Lumen, WSP, Bespoke Cultural Collective, Kearns Mancini Architects, Gensler, DEW and Smart Watering Systems

Part of Toronto's ongoing waterfront revitalization, this pioneering urban landscape planned and designed by local studio Public Work is a communal corridor running under the surprisingly majestic 15-metre-high exposed-concrete bents holding up the Gardiner Expressway near Exhibition Place. A \$25-million gift from a philanthropic private citizen funded this city-building initiative, which has transformed 1.75 kilometres of veritable wasteland from mono-functional infrastructure into a covered, multi-functional urban trail that crosses at least seven neighbourhoods. The architects used the highway's bents to break up the unique spatial environment into 55 "civic rooms" that delimit the park's different programs. Among them are a sloped-lawn amphitheatre, an ice skating trail, gathering places, gardens and – perhaps most crucially in the low-lying area – wetlands.