

The Mecanoo Doughnut

Regenerative by design

Our built environment should empower people and nature to thrive. Grounded in the Doughnut Economy, our vision balances human well-being with ecological health. Through a holistic approach aligned with our office philosophy, we create regenerative designs that go beyond reducing harm to actively drive positive change.

Social Sustainability



- Community building
- Mixed program
- Accessibility

Health & Well-being



- Fresh air, daylight, green
- Movement and recreation
- Non-toxic materials

Healthy Ecosystems



- Space for green and water
- Increased biodiversity
- Biobased materials

Climate Stability



- Energy neutral
- Adaptive and demountable
- Circular use of materials

The Mecanoo Doughnut: Balancing Social and Environmental Needs Through Architecture and the Built Environment



People

Thriving communities

We engage everyone affected by our work—from users to passers-by and local communities. The spaces we design are inclusive, healthy, and equitable, fostering connection and belonging. Aware of our broader responsibilities and wider impact, we strive to advance social equity locally and globally.



Place

Healthy environments

We design for the well-being of people and nature alike. The environments we create enable urban life and ecosystems to support one another as part of a living whole, strengthening biodiversity. By aligning architecture with local culture, history, and climate, we shape spaces that are rooted, resilient, and full of life.



Purpose

A climate-positive future

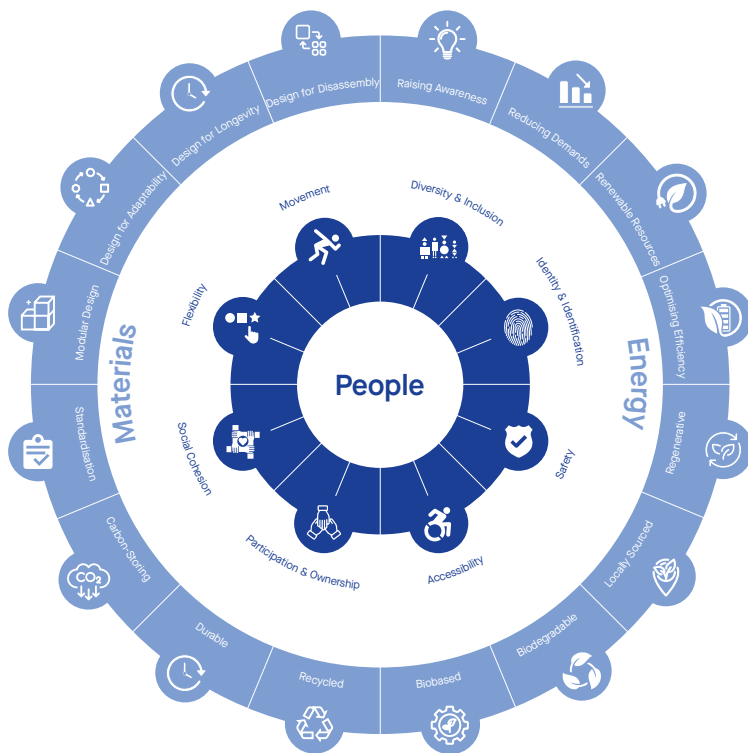
From buildings to masterplans, we shape programmes around real social and ecological needs. Our designs are flexible and adaptable, evolving with changing uses and climates. By reducing resource demands and applying circular strategies, we help create a climate-positive future.



Poetry

Renewing the cycles of life

Poetry is found in beauty, in meaning, in the way architecture can uplift and restore. We design with sensitivity to emotion, place, and time—creating regenerative environments that give back more than they take. In doing so, we help renew the cycles of life, inspiring a deeper connection between people and nature.



Paris Proof by Mecanoo: Empowering People to Drive Impact

Mecanoo's Perspective on Paris Proof

Beyond climate-neutral

Paris Proof aligns the built environment with the carbon budget required to stay within the 1.5°C warming limit. Mecanoo's approach combines social sustainability, energy efficiency, and material circularity to create regenerative environments that go beyond climate neutrality—enhancing social and ecological well-being.



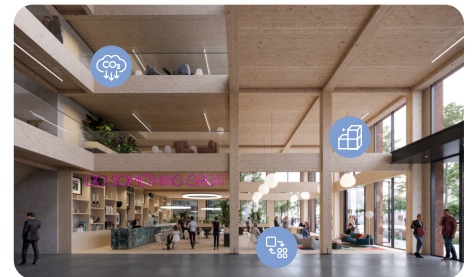
People —Empowering communities for lasting impact

A truly Paris Proof approach goes beyond technical targets for energy and materials—it empowers users to engage with their environment, fostering a culture of awareness and responsibility. By prioritizing inclusivity, accessibility, and well-being, every design encourages communities to take an active role in sustainability, reducing their footprint while enhancing quality of life.



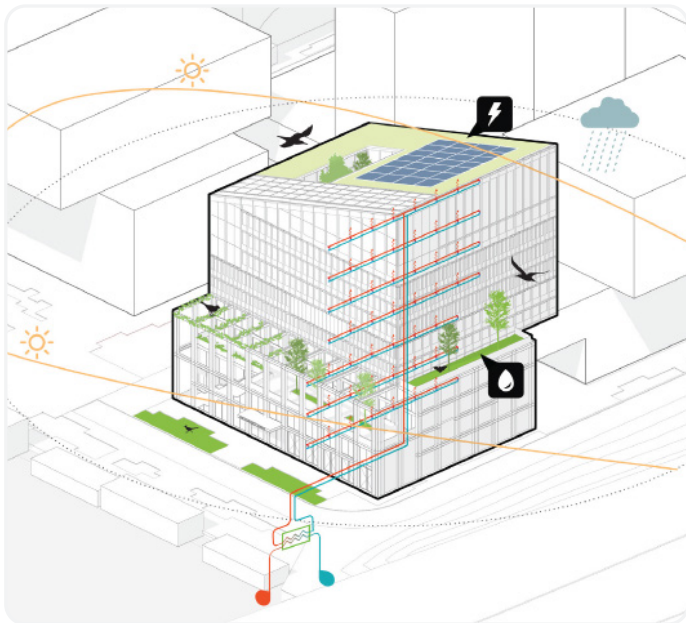
Energy —Bridging the gap to a carbon-neutral future

Mecanoo prioritizes passive design, working with nature to reduce reliance on mechanical systems. Compact buildings minimize heat loss while maximizing efficiency, leaving space for nature. Natural ventilation, daylight, and thermal mass regulate indoor climates with minimal energy use. Passive solutions lay the foundation for an energy-efficient, sustainable future.



Materials —Rethinking emissions for a climate-resilient future

Staying within the 1.5°C warming limit requires building within a strict carbon budget. Beyond cutting operational energy, Mecanoo reduces material-related emissions through resource efficiency—maximizing reuse, sourcing locally, and designing for longevity. Circular strategies regenerate materials, eliminate waste, and transform buildings into a force for restoration.



Paris Proof in Architecture and Urban Design

A holistic approach at every scale and typology

Mecanoo designs across all scales— from buildings and interiors to districts and cities—tailoring circular strategies to the diverse needs of people and places. Whether designing offices, housing, or public spaces, we aim to align every project with the carbon budget while fostering vibrant, resilient communities.



Architecture—Regenerative Buildings Buildings & Interiors

At the building scale, Mecanoo designs with nature, using strategies such as natural ventilation, thermal mass, and daylight optimization to minimize operational energy. Circular material flows and adaptive reuse strategies further reduce embodied carbon, ensuring that each building not only conserves resources but actively restores the environment.



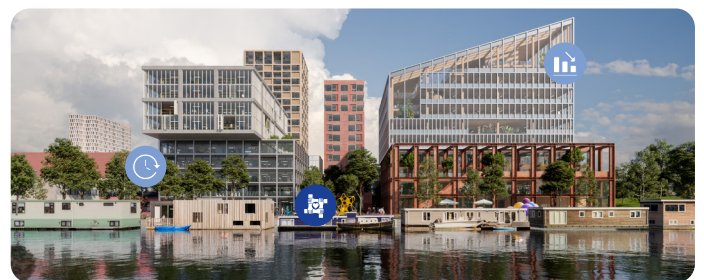
Urbanism—Resilient Communities Districts & Cities

At the urban scale, the focus expands beyond individual buildings to the integration of energy-sharing networks, mobility strategies, and climate adaptation measures. Mecanoo applies Paris Proof principles by designing mixed-use districts with short supply chains, nature-based solutions, and public spaces that enhance ecological and social resilience.



Offices—Flexible, Low-Energy Workspaces Workspaces & Campuses

Offices often have high energy loads due to lighting, ventilation, and equipment. Mecanoo prioritizes flexible, adaptive workspaces that maximize daylight, integrate smart climate control, and encourage energy-conscious behavior. Durable, modular, and demountable design allows office spaces to evolve with changing needs while reducing waste and embodied carbon.



Housing—Sustainable Living, Built to Last Homes & Neighbourhoods

In residential buildings, energy efficiency is achieved through compact layouts, passive heating and cooling, and durable, low-carbon materials. Mecanoo's housing designs empower residents to adopt sustainable lifestyles by integrating shared resources, community spaces, and energy-efficient systems. Every home is designed to be resilient, comfortable, and future-proof.