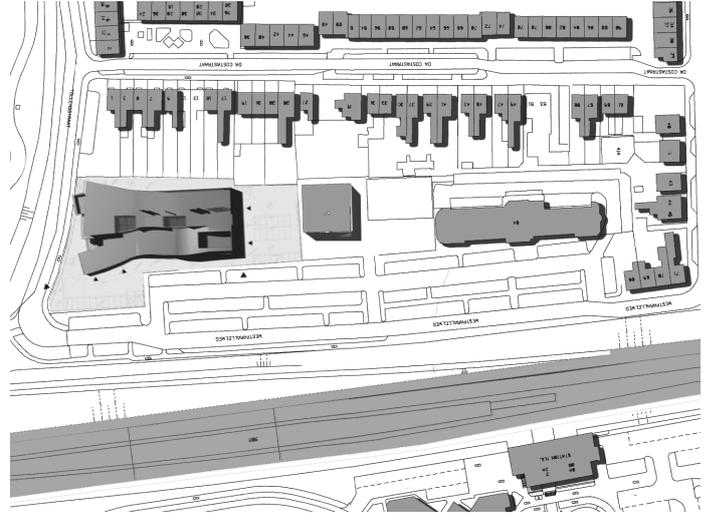


VWA LABORATORY

ZWIJNDRECHT, 2003

The construction of this laboratory is a direct consequence of a large-scale and difficult reorganization in the Inspectorate for Health Protection and Veterinary Public Health. This is one of the new buildings needed to make an important contribution to the working atmosphere within the organization. It is designed to enable the implementation of organizational changes and to provide a new identity for the new and improved, more transparent organization. Amidst the somewhat cluttered area around the railway station in Zwijndrecht, the new laboratory stands out like an alien. Its metal skin and relatively large bulk is reminiscent of the monumental shipyards nearby. The most prominent feature are the eastern terminal ends, which make the building look like a many-headed monster or a station for incoming flying saucers. This is where the offices are located



situation

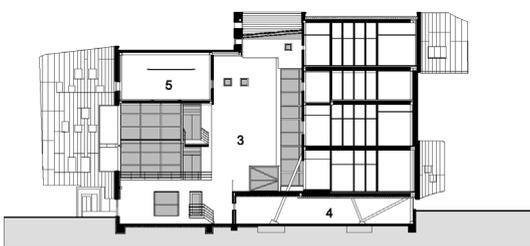


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VWA Laboratory



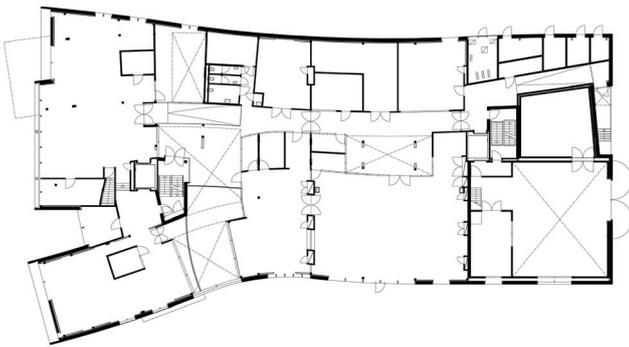
in which the inspectors gather after a day of catching monsters. It offers an expansive view of sports fields, the bridge to the north and the city of Dordrecht off in the distance. In view of the need for climate control in the laboratories, the rest of the building is fairly closed off. The windows placed seemingly at random, the fluid lines and the staggered levels make the building seem deceptively smaller. This effect is strongest on the south side, where the building borders on the backyards of local homes.



section



plan / ground floor



Once inside, it looks like in a James Bond movie: as if all kinds of scientists are working on some kind of surrealistic invention. But that is not the case. All kinds of tests are being carried out to determine whether goods or food samples are harmful for users. Lines of sight in the interior between offices, laboratories and research halls ensure that everyone can see what is happening throughout the building. Atria separate the different zones of the building and supply daylight and fresh air to the interior. The atrium in front is used as a village square, concert hall and exhibition room for personnel and visitors.

PROJECT DATA

Name	VWA Laboratory
Location	Parallelweg 4, Zwijndrecht (NL)
Program	Laboratories, offices, underground parking
Surface area	6,400 m2 gfa
Assignment	Schematic design, design development, specifications, construction supervision and management
Period	1998–2003
Client	Netherlands Government Buildings Agency, Southwest Directorate

CREDITS

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