

PRESS RELEASE

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MAD Architects designs panoramic viewpoint on the Fenix warehouse in Rotterdam
Chinese architectural firm builds first cultural building in Europe



The Chinese architectural firm MAD Architects has been contracted by the Droom en Daad Foundation to design a panoramic viewpoint on top of the historic Fenix warehouse. The Rotterdam based company Bureau Polderman will be responsible for restoring the historic warehouse itself.

MAD Architects was founded in 2004 by the Beijing- born Ma Yansong. MAD Architects quickly became renowned as one of the world's most innovative and dazzling architectural firms. MAD Architects work is characterized by its use of organically and technologically advanced shapes in their designs. People, city and the environment are brought together seamlessly in their buildings.

China and Katendrecht

The Katendrecht peninsula, located on the southern banks in the port of Rotterdam once was one of the oldest Chinatowns in Europe. Around the 1900's it was here that one could find opium kits and that the first Chinese restaurant opened its doors in the Netherlands, and possibly in Europe. By choosing MAD Architects this forgotten part of history will be brought to life once more.

The commissioning of this platform on top of the Fenix warehouse II signifies the first public cultural building in Europe to be designed by a Chinese architectural agency. In addition to the platform MAD Architects will design a theatric staircase and a public atrium in the Fenix warehouse II which will merge the ground and first floors with the platform on the roof. The Fenix warehouse was once one of the biggest warehouses in the world. In the future the first floor will be used to highlight Rotterdam's history

of migration. Millions of migrants left Europe from these embankments, most of whom had Ellis Island as their final destination. The FENIX will be the place where a human face will be put to these stories.

Ma Yansong, founder of MAD Architects: 'We are proud to realize a dynamic transformation of the historical warehouse that will encourage people to move through the space, and be enjoyed by the community. It will lift body and mind, and be a place of pleasure and contemplation. The FENIX will inspire wonder and exploration about the past, the present, and the future.'

Wim Pijbes, director of the Droom en Daad foundation: 'The FENIX will become a *landmark* for all those millions who left Europe from the banks of the Maas, and for everybody arriving today. It offers a great future for Rotterdam's past.'

Note for the editor: info@stichtingdroomendaad.nl

Images: www.fenixrotterdam.nl/en/#press