



Friso van der Steen

Technical Director/Director International Projects

With Mecanoo since 1999

Professional qualifications: Architectural Engineer, HTS Building Design, Haarlem, NL

“Working on complex projects worldwide allows you to learn about different cultures, people and environments. Knowledge transfer between countries is invaluable when designing a response to a project sympathetic to character and context.”

Friso holds a leading role in the practice as Technical Director and Director of International Projects. He is responsible for the quality control and architectural engineering of Mecanoo’s projects including design execution and management, coordination of technical disciplines, risk management and project specification.

Friso has considerable experience in directing large-scale projects, often with unique site constraints and intricate technical challenges such as the 141,000 m² National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts. The building’s monumental double curved facade is the result of multiple collaborations with contractors from the ship manufacturing industry in Taiwan and The Netherlands.

Friso visits Mecanoo’s Taiwan office on a regular basis to meet with the team and guide a growing number of projects in the region, ensuring that ongoing projects are delivered in line with client goals, budget and programme.

In addition, Friso plays a significant role in the renovation of heritage projects and has worked on the World Trade Center in Rotterdam (1938), World Forum Convention Centre in The Hague (1969), Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building (1895), Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington DC (1972) and New York Public Library (1911). He gives lectures internationally on a range of subject matters from the work of Mecanoo to restoration and sustainability.

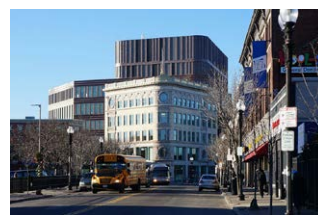
Selected projects



Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington D.C., US
Size: 37,000 m²
Year: 2014 - 2020



National Kaohsiung Centre for the Arts, Taiwan
Size: 141,000 m²
Year: 2007 - 2018



Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Boston MA, US
Size: 16,700 m²
Year: 2011 - 2015



Longgang Cultural Centre, Shenzhen, China
Size: 99,000 m²
Year: 2012- 2019



Hotel The Place, Tainan, Taiwan
Size: 14,500 m²
Year: 2011 - 2014



Whistling Rock Golf Clubhouse, Chuncheon, South Korea
Size: 7,500 m²
Year: 2007 - 2012



La Lotja Theatre and Conference Centre, Lleida, Spain
Size: 37,500 m²
Year: 2004 - 2010



Kaohsiung Train Station, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
Size: 182,000 m²
Year: 2014-2024