



## WORLD ARCHITECTURE NEWS



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Mei Architects and Planners

### Rotterdam's first fully wooden 50m high residential building

Georgina Johnston

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#### Mei architects and planners design a unique wooden residential building 'Sawa' in the Lloydquarter in Rotterdam

Mei architects and planners have been commissioned by Nice Developers and Era Contour to build Rotterdam's first fully wooden 50m high residential building, in the heart of Lloydquarter. Exceptional to Sawa is that the building will be built entirely in cross-laminated timber (CLT). Furthermore, the building is distinguished by the generous green terraces, with which the building enhances the biodiversity of the neighborhood.

In the context of the European Green Deal, UN Sustainable Development Goals and objectives of the municipality of Rotterdam to reduce CO2 emissions, the client and architect share the ambition to fully execute the building, including the main support structure, in CLT. There are multiple advantages of building in CLT, in addition to the fact that it stores CO2 and reduces emissions, and shortens construction time compared to concrete construction and living comfort will increase. Sawa will be an exemplary project for new generations, an important step in the sustainability objectives and will be tangible evidence that things can be done differently.

Dutch cities continue to grow and experience increasing pressure, and the consequences of this urbanization on the human ecosystem, from flooding, heat stress and increasing CO2 emissions, are becoming increasingly noticeable. At the same time, the habitat of birds, bees and butterflies is being considerably limited by increasing urbanization and mineralization of the landscape. With the design for Sawa, Mei commits to changing this evolution and contribute to a healthy living environment. In collaboration with city ecologists, a building is designed in a way in which vegetation is integrated into balconies, terraces and decks, thus increasing the biodiversity of the neighborhood.

The Lloydquarter has a rich maritime history, dating back to around 1900. The Lloyd Pier owes its name to the Rotterdamsche Lloyd shipping company, that built a terminal on the pier from which its passenger ships departed to the east

of the world. The Sawa building owes its name to the trampled form with generous green terraces, as a reference to Eastern rice fields and the history of the place.



*As an architect, I believe we should take responsibility to create healthy societies. And this is the moment. The design for Sawa shows that things can be done differently.*

R. Winkel, owner, architect, Mei architects and planners

Sawa is being developed in the heart of the neighborhood and will, partly because of this central location, provide added value to the neighborhood by creating meeting areas and by connecting with existing local initiatives. Various facilities will be added to the ground floor of the building and the green deck will function as a green connector between the building and surrounding area, such as the communal garden, and add value for both residents and neighbours. The program comprises approximately 100 dwellings, of which 50 rental apartments in the modal segment, making it possible for people with indispensable professions to remain in the city. This living concept is enriched by various shared functions, such as shared mobility, tools and a vegetable garden, thus stimulating an lively community.

## Key Facts



### Brand:

Architecture

### Practice:

Mei Architects and Planners

### Project Category:

Sustainable Buildings

Branding and Wayfinding

Housing

Residential Developments

Future Projects

Residential

Residential

House

Apartment

Wood in architecture

### Location:

Netherlands

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